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## Quorum 15 Equities Trading forum | London | 2 December 2025

**Themes:** Consolidated tape implementation | Post-trade reporting consistency | Tokenization

### Summary

- Members examined progress with UK and EU consolidated tapes, with a focus on scope, data quality controls, and adoption dynamics.
- Participants highlighted that tape success will depend on consistent post-trade reporting conventions, enabling a reliable view of addressable liquidity.
- Discussion explored tokenization of equities as an emerging market structure pathway, but stressed the need for a comprehensive rulebook and regulatory oversight.
- Investor protection, AML/KYC, and market integrity remain non-negotiable requirements for scaled adoption.

### Consolidated tape: Value depends on data quality and market practice

The consolidated tape is increasingly viewed as a foundational building block for European equity market transparency, but participants stressed that its impact will be determined less by architecture and more by data quality, usability, and market practice alignment.

Updates on the EU tape highlighted scope that combines pre-trade top-of-book data with post-trade attributed reporting, alongside governance mechanisms and revenue redistribution. The design was described as capable of supporting deeper order book data if required, but the discussion reinforced that expanded scope should be driven by end-user value rather than theoretical completeness.

A recurring concern was that inconsistent reporting conventions across venues and firms risk undermining the tape's utility. If the market cannot agree on what should be reported and how, the tape may amplify inconsistencies rather than resolve them.

### Reporting consistency: Prerequisite for addressable liquidity

The forum repeatedly returned to the question of addressable liquidity, and the need for consistent post-trade reporting flags and definitions to ensure that the market is measuring the same thing in the same way.

Participants noted that addressable liquidity is not an abstract transparency goal; it underpins risk metrics, capacity assessments, and confidence in market functioning during stress. Without consistency, the industry risks basing decisions on liquidity signals that are incomplete or misclassified.

Cross-border complexity adds pressure. Divergent UK and EU reporting requirements and the risk of duplicated reporting could increase cost while reducing clarity, reinforcing the need for common standards and practical guidance.

## **FCA equity market direction: Competition, transparency, resilience**

The FCA's equity market work was framed around promoting competition and innovation while strengthening transparency and resilience. Participants acknowledged that technology and fragmentation have increased trading choice, but also raised the threshold question: whether sustained liquidity migration away from transparent order books could weaken price formation and market robustness in volatility.

The discussion suggested that next-stage reforms are likely to focus on practical improvements - such as reporting consistency and tape usability - rather than wholesale redesign of market structure.

## **Tokenization: Promising, but only with a full rulebook**

Tokenization was positioned as a credible longer-term trend rather than a near-term replacement for current equity market structure. Potential benefits include faster settlement, reduced operational friction, and broader investor access, particularly if tokenization enables new distribution models and digital-native ownership experiences.

However, participants stressed that tokenized equities cannot scale without a fully formed rulebook ensuring continuous two-sided markets, robust governance, and regulatory oversight equivalent to today's listed markets. This includes AML/KYC, surveillance, protections against market manipulation, and clarity on how tokenized instruments interface with existing custody and settlement frameworks.

The forum concluded that tokenization is ultimately a market structure question: the technology is only one component. Credible adoption will depend on investor protection, integrity, and regulatory design that avoids creating parallel markets with uneven standards.

## **Looking ahead**

The session reinforced that Europe's equities reform agenda and tokenization debates are converging on a common requirement: Trusted data and trusted rules. The consolidated tape will only be transformative if it becomes a reliable reference that supports consistent market practice. Tokenization will only be sustainable if it is implemented with the same discipline around integrity, oversight, and investor protection that listed markets require.

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