

Biography of Gordon Kerr



Debt Capital Markets – career highlights:

- **2001**; applied credit derivative technology to convert Abbey (Santander)'s multi-billion insured bond portfolio into derivative exposure for regulatory capital purposes. The effect of this was to bring forward profits and substantially re-leverage the bank's equity. This structure was then quickly copied by multiple banks throughout Europe, enhancing their instability.
- **1998 – 2004**; pioneered the development of derivatives in the UK home equity release (for people aged 65+) market.
- **1991 – 1996**; designed and structured residential mortgage and home rental securitization eurobonds in Sweden, Finland, the UK and other European countries.

Further Background

From 1983 Gordon Kerr worked as a capital markets investment banker for Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, Nomura Securities, Abbey National (now Banco Santander), and General Re Financial Products (a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway).

Cobden Partners Background and Company Information

In 2011 Kerr established **Cobden Partners** as a financial consultancy specialising in both banking crisis advice, and investment opportunities arising from the re-alignment of financial markets resulting from the Great Financial Crisis (GFC). Cobden Partners have completed a small number of private assignments for political parties and government entities in Europe.

Cobden Partners Limited is a privately-owned UK registered company. Its registered office is: c/o Keith Graham Chartered Accountants, Wesley Chambers, Suite 2, Queens Road Aldershot, Hants GU11 3JD.

The Company Number is 07782836 and its accounts are publicly available on the Companies House website. There are two shares in issuance, one owned by each of the directors:

Mr Gordon Alexander Kerr

Mr Charles Ramon de la Fuente (also the company lawyer)

The Company has been granted office space; Suite 2.09, 80 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5BJ, by **GPIM Limited**, an investment management firm, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and a member of the London Stock Exchange.

Using this brand, Kerr has undertaken education and training assignments, mainly on a pro bono basis, and presented at a range of public and private events and business schools in endeavouring to promote awareness that European banking is in a much weaker condition than is publicly realized, and now threatens to disrupt the structure of the euro.

Cobden Partners Bulgaria OOD

Having been attracted to teach at the first edition of the Sofia Business School (SBS1) and attend various economics conferences in France and Bulgaria initiated by Professor Nikolay Nenovsky, a key individual at the BNB (central bank) involved in the design of the Currency Board in 1997, Kerr in partnership with Ms Slavyanka Stoykova, an entrepreneur, former student at SBS1 and chair of the Bulgarian Association of Female Entrepreneurs decided in 2016 to establish a Sofia office and company in order to explore the commercial opportunities mentioned above.

Cobden Partners Bulgarski OOD has company number 204470298 and is registered at its physical office, 29 Tzar Asen Str. Sofia 1000.

Gordon Kerr – Public Profile

Since the Financial Crisis of 2008 Kerr has been asked for input on derivatives, accounting and general banking ‘instability issues’ by UK institutions; Her Majesty’s Treasury, the Bank of England, and Parliament’s – Treasury Select Committee. He has also been asked for advice by two committees in Brussels focussed on derivatives and accounting; one under the purview of the European Parliament, the other reporting to the European Commission (minutes available upon request).

Early publications (many co-authored) are on topics such as derivatives and loan loss accounting, the creation of false solvency metrics for banks and flaws in the capital rules for banks - the “Basel Rules”. In 2012 Kerr was appointed a Senior Fellow with the Institute for Research in Economics and Fiscal Issues, a pan-European organisation (IREF). Kerr lead authors IREF’s monthly Newsletter, which reports developments in central banking policy and likely impact on banking/ financial markets. The Newsletter is distributed to some 500 continental European institutions, ‘think-tanks’ and universities.

Papers:

September 2019; “The Broken Road to European Federalisation” (in French) *Journal des Libertés*:

<https://cobdenpartners.co.uk/pdf/JDL6-limpasse-de-la-federalisation-de-lunion-europeenne.pdf>

December 2018 “Cybersecurity in Banking and Payments in the United Kingdom”
The Visio Journal 3 “*The Future of Europe: Security and Privacy in Cyberspace*”

<http://visio-institut.org/visio-journal-3/>

June 2016; “Stress Tests Show UK Banks Remain Subsidized but Unreformed” for
Institute for Research in Economic and Fiscal Issues, Luxembourg.

http://en.irefeurope.org/SITES/en.irefeurope.org/IMG/pdf/stress_test_show_uk_banks_have_been_subsidized_but_remain_unreformed.pdf

March 2014; “The Case for Systemic Banking Reform” for Institute for Research in
Economic and Fiscal Issues, Luxembourg. This paper (30 pages) analyses
research-based evidence of the decline of integrity in banking, and sets out a
proposal to reverse this trend.

<http://en.irefeurope.org/The-Case-for-Systemic-Banking-Reform,a1034>

2012 Summer Edition, Cato Journal: “Monetary Reform in the Wake of the Crisis”,
Chapter Co-Author “The Coming Fiat Money Cataclysm.”

<http://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/serials/files/cato-journal/2012/7/v32n2-11.pdf>

December 2011 “The Law of Opposites, Illusory Profits in the Financial Sector”,
Adam Smith Institute, London.

https://www.adamsmith.org/s/ASI_Law_of_opposites.pdf