# Risk and Governance

Independent intelligence on fund governance issues

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## Offshore directors to the rescue?

Fund directors who are resident in offshore jurisdictions will be critical in determining the outcome of the substance challenge coming from the EU. They will also be key to BEPS. As well as being residents they will need to be decision-makers on boards.

Offshore jurisdictions, especially those in the Caribbean, are going to have to jump through a lot of hoops to avoid being blacklisted by the EU. The role that directors can, or could, play is going to be vital in preventing Cayman and other offshore jurisdictions meeting the EU's substance test for this blacklist. Each offshore jurisdiction is probably going to have to commit to finding more locally resident directors, ones who are doing more than rubber-stamping decisions made elsewhere.

Offshore jurisdictions have until December to demonstrate to the EU that they are taking action on substance. If they do not satisfy the EU then they will likely to be blacklisted.

As a result, Cayman, Guernsey and Jersey are currently consulting with local organisations on making regulatory changes to require more substance for their businesses, including for funds. After several months of total silence on this topic the EU's Code of Conduct Group finally provided some information on what it wants to see on substance in June. It seems to be following the OECD's BEPS agenda here.

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# The governance of co-investing

Very few have any knowledge of the extraordinary growth in co-investing over the decade to date, especially over the last two to three years when it has really taken off. It is beginning to change the structure of the alternative fund industry and it presents a number of governance challenges that have not yet been considered, at least outside the US.

In addition to these governance challenges, see below for more, the co-investing boom has consequences for directors of private equity and real estate funds. And it might also be of significance for directors of hedge funds too as the boom in co-investing in private markets looks like it might move on over into public markets too.

That's because the trend to co-invest threatens the traditional blind pool, third party fund model that the industry has become so reliant on over the last few decades.

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