



Federation of European Accountants
Fédération des Experts comptables Européens

FEE Communiqué

February 2009

FEE Executive met on 10 February 2009 under the chairmanship of President Hans van Damme. It also held its annual meeting with Chairs of Working Parties on 11 February.

AUDITING

Consultation on Control Structures in Audit Firms and their Consequences on the Audit Market

The Executive held a strategic discussion on the European Commission's consultation. The FEE response, to be approved by Council, is prepared by the Qualification and Market Access Working Party, with input from the Ethics Working Party and the Auditing Working Party. The Executive provided guidance to the Working Parties to develop the FEE position.

FEE Survey on Alternative Assurance Services

Further to the decisions in certain Member States to raise the audit thresholds, the issue of the provision of alternative assurance services or assurance-related services to smaller entities is increasingly being addressed by professional accountancy bodies, regulators, national and international standards setters and European Institutions. A FEE survey confirms that a wide variety of alternative services are performed in the 25 countries that so far responded to the survey. The Executive discussed the preliminary results and decided that IAASB should also be urged to enter this debate in order to maintain a consistent application of its framework. FEE will engage with stakeholders and regulators in Europe on this matter by means of a discussion paper.

FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Executive received reports on the meetings of the General Assembly and Supervisory Board of EFRAG and on the last meeting of the Informal Group on the Revision of the 4th and 7th Directive. It was confirmed that a consultation on this topic can be expected by the end of February.

COMPANY LAW AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Executive approved a comment letter on the consultation document of the Joint Working Group on Market Standards for General Meetings. Shareholder voting is one of the cornerstones of effective corporate governance. FEE welcomed the introduction of standards for General Meetings, which are becoming more important in the current climate of the financial crisis. Comments are provided on the detailed proposals of the Joint Working Group.

TAXATION

The Executive approved a letter to Commissioner Kovacs commenting on the “VAT package”, in particular Council Directive 2008/8/EC of 12 February 2008 amending Directive 2006/112/EC as regards the place of supply of services

GOVERNANCE

The Executive agreed to submit the 2008 Financial Statements to the next Council meeting.

The Executive welcomed the approach of the Task Force in charge of the preparation of the next meeting of the Presidents of FEE Member Bodies that will take place on **Friday 23 October 2009 in Lisbon** (Portugal). The overall theme of the meeting will be "the future of the profession".

MEETING WITH WORKING PARTY CHAIRS

The purpose of this annual meeting is to exchange views and coordinate the work of the different working parties. Each Working Party chair had the opportunity to develop the short term and longer term agenda in their respective areas.

Horizontal issues were also considered, in particular SMEs and Sustainability, the financial crisis and priorities to be suggested to the next European Commission.

This Communiqué is intended for the sole benefit of FEE Member Bodies. It is not an official record of the meeting or of the decisions taken and has not been approved by the Executive. The agenda and the minutes of the meeting can be found on FEE Extranet as soon as they are available. For further information, please contact the FEE Secretariat.