



Federation of European Accountants
Fédération des Experts comptables Européens

FEE Communiqué

May 2009

FEE Executive met on 12 May 2009 under the chairmanship of President Hans van Damme.

ETHICS

The Executive received a report on the preparation of a FEE discussion paper on Integrity in Professional Ethics. IFAC will soon approve its new Code of Ethics but the principle of Integrity is not discussed in details in the Code. The paper raises a number of questions that might be useful to stimulate a debate on the understanding of this essential principle. The paper was considered to be sufficiently developed to be proposed to Council for approval in July.

FIGHT AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING

The Executive received a report on the preparation of a FEE Survey on European and National Legislation and Guidance on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing. This paper describes the main features of the Third EU AML Directive which should be transposed in all Member States since December 2007. It highlights some important differences in the implementation of the Directive. The draft was considered to be sufficiently developed to be proposed to Council for approval in July.

FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Executive received a report of the President on the Conference on Financial Reporting organised by the European Commission on 7-8 May. He emphasised the growing concerns that governments in the EU want further initiatives to be taken urgently by IASB to restore a level playing field between US and EU in the banking sector. This could be seen as a race to the bottom and undermine the serenity which is necessary to revisit IAS 39 as announced by IASB.

The Executive also discussed further initiative to be taken as a reaction to the publication of the G-20 and de Larosière reports on the financial crisis. The Executive decided that additional Policy Statements should be proposed for adoption to the FEE Council in order to be fully prepared to discuss with the new Parliament and the new European Commission on the future of the financial supervisory architecture in Europe.

AUDITING

The Executive welcomed the publication of the Policy Statement on ISAs in the EU and the formation of the “Guidance on Implementation of Clarified ISAs Task Force”. The focus of the project should be on the needs of SMPs as well as on smaller FEE Member Bodies, of which many might be situated in new European Union (EU) Member States including many Eastern European countries. The World Bank has been offered to send an observer in the Task Force.

The Executive received a report on the organisation of a **Conference on Audit Regulation** and decided that it should not take place in 2009 due to the change of the EU Commission.

The Executive also approved a comment letter to IAIS on its Issues Paper on the Roles of and Relationship between the Actuary and the External Auditor in the Preparation and Audit of Financial Reports.

GOVERNANCE

The Executive decided to prepare a Policy Statement on FEE proposals to the newly elected European Parliament. It discussed the key messages to be included in this paper. The draft will be circulated to the main working parties for comment and be submitted for approval to Council on 1 July. Member Bodies will be invited to use the paper (is possible a translated version) to contact their local MEP.

Michel Barbet-Massin was appointed as deputy chair of the Banks Working Party.

The Executive approved the agenda of the next Council meeting and received a progress report on recruitment of staff. It also decided some initiatives to help promoting the World Congress of Accountant 2010 in Kuala Lumpur.

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.