



COMMITTEE OF  
EUROPEAN  
AUDITING  
OVERSIGHT  
BODIES

CEAOB 2021-020  
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## CEAOB Enforcement Sub-group Work Plan 2022 and Outlook 2023



## 1. Introduction

This work plan sets out the key priorities and activities for the period to the end of 2022.

The purpose of the sub-group is to facilitate the exchange of information, expertise and best practices in the area of investigations and sanctions and to collect and annually publish aggregated information on all administrative measures and sanctions imposed by competent authorities.

Enforcement sub-group enhances by its work the overall CEOB's objective to support audit quality and consequently to keep and increase confidence and trust of investors and the broader public in financial reporting in the European Union.

## 2. Objectives

Through its ongoing work, the sub-group facilitates in particular the aims of the following pillar objectives of the CEOB:

1. **Cooperation:** Collect and share information, expertise and best practices among competent authorities regarding enforcement activities. Interaction and cooperation with other CEOB sub-groups in order to share and analyze information of regulation and auditor oversight. Interaction with other enforcement organizations (eg. IFIAR's Enforcement working group).
2. **Communication:** Transparency regarding the activities of the sub-group and the information collected by the sub-group. The annual CEOB Enforcement Report covers statistics of administrative measures and sanctions through the EU and useful information on functioning of the enforcement bodies and their practices. The Enforcement Report is targeted to CEOB members, authorities and to the general public.
3. **Interconnectivity:** Enforcement sub-group focuses on actual topics in audit market. Sub-group will collect and share information, which is useful not only to audit regulators within the EU but also third country regulators in the area of auditor oversight, bearing in mind the objective to support audit quality.

## 3. Activities in year 2022

The sub-group will work on the following specific activities:

- Conduct an Enforcement Survey to collect Member States' information on a) statistics on administrative measures and sanctions imposed and a) on the current state of the administrative and disciplinary regimes.
- Issue an annual Report of Enforcement Survey on data from year 2021 pursuant to Article 30 f (1) of the Audit Directive.



- Identify and create other information channels and effective mechanisms to share information on best practices.
- Explore the functioning, effectiveness and robustness of the enforcement and sanctioning systems in Member States.
- Examine the enforceability of International Auditing Standards through investigations.
- Study real enforcement cases.
- Organize a workshop addressing central topics of enforcement.
- Contribute to the CEOB annual report.

#### **4. Longer term outlook**

The general activities of the sub-group will include:

- Discuss the link between enforcement and audit quality.
- Contribute to the development of the auditor oversight system in EU (organisation, functions and substance).
- Exchange of information, expertise and best practices as regards enforcement related issues.
- Exchanges with other CEOB sub-groups where appropriate.



## Timeline

The table below sets out the proposed timings for specific CEOB Enforcement sub-group tasks in 2022.

|   | Q1<br>2022 | Q2<br>2022 | Q3<br>2022 | Q4<br>2022 |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Topics for 2022</b>  |            |            |            |            |
| Survey 2022 on Enforcement, drafting and finalising questionnaire   |            |            |            |            |
| Survey 2022 on Enforcement, delivery of questionnaire to CEOB members   |            |            |            |            |
| Consolidate responses and issue a CEOB Enforcement report pursuant to Article 30 f (1) of the Audit Directive                                       |            |            |            |            |
| Learn and understand the enforcement and sanctioning regimes in EU member states. Exchange of information through a workshop (virtual or physical). |            |            |            |            |
| <b>Other matters</b>  |            |            |            |            |
| Input into annual CEOB report   |            |            |            |            |
| Interaction with the CEOB to contribute the hearing about regulation / oversight of the financial sector in Europe                                  |            |            |            |            |
| Interaction with other sub-groups, where there is a link to Enforcement   |            |            |            |            |