



17th plenary meeting of the Committee of European Auditing Oversight Bodies (CEAOB)
Webex call
Summary of operational conclusions

Chair: Patrick Parent, Senior Advisor to the Chair of H3C, France's Audit Oversight Body (H3C)

Vice-Chair: Alain Deckers, Head of Unit 'Corporate Reporting, Audit and Credit Rating Agencies', DG FISMA replacing Director of Financial Markets, DG FISMA

23 November 2021

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 17th plenary meeting of the CEOB.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Decision: The agenda was adopted.

3. Adoption of the minutes and the summary of operational conclusions of the previous meeting

Decision: The minutes and the summary of operational conclusions of the previous call held on 22-23 June 2021 were approved.

4. Chair's introductory remarks

He briefly updated the CEOB members on developments since the latest CEOB plenary meeting and provided them with an overview of the main topics included in the plenary's agenda.

5. Vice-Chair's introductory remarks

The Vice-Chair provided members with an update on the current state of play of several activities under preparation by the Commission.

6. Approval of the proposals resulting from the work of the ad-hoc task force:

- **Revised mission for the CEOB**
- **Amended list of stakeholders**
- **Communication platforms with stakeholders**

The CEOB fosters convergence of practice by European audit regulators and the improvement of audit quality in Europe through the development of expertise in its members, the sharing of experience and expertise, and the involvement of stakeholders in the field of audit.

After a presentation from the Chair, CEOB members discussed different elements of the core strategies as modified after June 2021 Plenary meeting, in particular those related to the communication platforms and tools to better spread the CEOB activities.

Decision: The proposals resulting from the work of the ad-hoc task force concerning the revised mission for the CEOB, the amended list of stakeholders and the communication platforms with stakeholders were adopted.

7. Discussion on the CEAOB's contribution to the EC consultation on "Corporate reporting - improving its quality and enforcement" and on a draft mandate to the Consultative Group

A public consultation related to audit and audit supervision is expected to be launched in the coming months. The Commission services are currently working in the problem definition. The whole process aims to present a legislative proposal in order to improve the regulatory framework as regards quality audit reporting and its enforcement.

8. Approval of mandate to the Consultative Group on ad-hoc work on Revision of Audit Regulation and Directive

Given the tasks of the CEAOB under Art. 30 (7) b), e) and f) of the Audit Regulation, the Consultative Group has taken the view that the CEAOB should play a vital role in the assessment in the framework of the Commission's initiative called "Corporate reporting - improving its quality and enforcement".

Decision: The Terms of reference for the Consultative Group ad-hoc work on Revision of Audit Regulation and Directive were adopted.

9. Presentation of a summary of the November 2021 CEAOB-ESRB meeting

The Chair presented the main outcomes of the 5th ESRB/CEAOB Meeting (15-16 November 2021), in particular as regards the thematic reviews on COVID-19 - impact on audit firms & the audit of loan loss provisions.

**10. Educational qualifications of auditors in the EU after UK having left the EU:
- Results of the survey performed within the CEAOB membership (Slovenia)
- Way forward**

The Slovenian representative presented the compilation and brief analysis regarding minimal requirements on educational qualifications for statutory auditors in Member States following by a Q&A session.

24 November 2021

11. Stakeholders outreach with Accountancy Europe

Accountancy Europe representatives provided members with an overview of its work on audit policy and Less Complex Entities, as well as the assurance of sustainability information.

**12. CEAOB Work Programme and Sub-Groups Work Plans
- Reporting on Sub-Groups activities by their Chairs
- Modification of terms of reference within the Inspection Sub-Group (creation of a Training task force and termination of the Smaller regulator inspectors task force)
- Presentation of the Sub-Groups Work Plans for 2022
- Presentation of the CEAOB Work Programme for 2022**

The Chair presented the main points of the CEAOB Work Programme for 2022.

The Enforcement sub-group Chair reported on updated members on the next year proposed priorities that would inter alia be focussed on examining the real effects of sanctions to auditors' and audit firms' behaviour and the link to audit quality.

The International Adequacy and Equivalence sub-group Chair updated members on the desirable activities to be performed during 2022-2023 with the goal to continually support the cooperation between European and third country audit regulators through the equivalence and adequacy of third country audit regulatory framework.

The International Auditing Standards sub-group Chair updated members on the key activities planned for the year 2022 aimed to further enhance cooperation and consistency in audit oversight regarding the standards on professional ethics, internal quality control of audit firms and auditing, and to better communicate with the international standards setters.

The Inspections sub-group Chair reported on the sub-group meeting held between 17 and 19 November 2021, introduced the focus points for 2022 according to its work plan and presented the new work programme on Information Security and Cybersecurity inspection.

The Market Monitoring sub-group Chair gave an update on the key priorities and activities for the period to the end of 2022 that would be focussed on the development of the indicators to be used for the 4th market monitoring report.

13. Approval of:

- **The CEAOB Work Programme for 2022**
- **The Sub-Groups Work Plans for 2022**
- **The creation of a Training TF within the Inspection Sub-Group**
- **The termination of the Smaller regulator inspectors TF**

Decision: The CEAOB Work programme, the 2022 Sub-Groups Work Plans and the CAIM public work program on Information security and Cyber Security were adopted without objections. They will be published on CEAOB’s website. In addition, it was adopted the creation of a Training TF within the Inspection Sub-Group and the termination of the Smaller regulator inspectors TF.

14. Appointment of the Chair of the Enforcement SG

The members elected Ms Koprowska, Senior Legal Expert from the Polish Agency for Audit Oversight, as new Chair of the Enforcement sub-group for a term of four-years starting in November 2021.

15. Approval of the technical assessment performed by the IEA SG on the United States regulatory framework

The International Adequacy and Equivalence sub-group Chair presented the main outcomes of the technical assessment performed by the IEA SG on the United States regulatory framework.

Decision: The technical assessment regarding adequacy and equivalence performed by the IEA SG on the United States regulatory framework were adopted.

16. Stakeholders outreach with the Chair of the EFRAG Project Task Force on European sustainability reporting standards

EFRAG representative provided members with an overview about the EU Sustainability Reporting Standards and the future of sustainability reporting.

17. Discussion on takeaways from the two outreach sessions

Members held a discussion on the main conclusions of the presentations and Q&A session held with Accountancy Europe and EFRAG representatives under the agenda points above.

18. Any other business

The dates for next 2022 CEAOB plenary meetings are:

- 8 March PM and 9 March,
- 4 July PM and 5 July.