



Date: 25 June 2004
Ref.: CESR/04-325

Public announcement

Co-ordinating enforcement of Financial Information ~ Guidance for implementation of co-ordination mechanisms

CESR publishes today guidance for implementation of co-ordination of enforcement of financial information (implementation of CESR standard no 2 on financial information – co-ordination of enforcement activities). The guidance deals mainly with the organisational aspects of the European Enforcer Coordination Sessions (through which EU National Enforcers will discuss enforcement decisions) and provides practical guidance on the functioning of the database that EU National Enforcers will feed and use as a practical reference tool providing a record of previous decisions reached in particular cases. Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on the guidance by 6 September 2004. All responses can be submitted directly to CESR through our web site at www.cesr-eu.org under the heading “consultations”.

In April 2003, CESR published its first standard on financial information 'Enforcement Standards on Financial Information in Europe' which set out the basic principles for a robust and consistent enforcement of the internationally recognised set of accounting standards (IAS/IFRS as published by the International Accounting Standards Board [IASB] and endorsed by the European Commission) to be implemented in Europe by 2005.

Building on this first standard on enforcement, CESR published, in April 2004, its second standard on financial information 'Co-ordination of Enforcement Activities', whose specific objective was to establish the framework of a co-ordination mechanism of enforcement at a pan-European level. To that end CESR has established “European Enforcers Coordination Sessions and through this mechanism, CESR members and non-CESR members (EU National Enforcers) will discuss enforcement issues in order to achieve a high level of co-ordination and convergence of their supervisory activities and to foster greater consistency of accounting treatment across Europe and the necessary level playing field.



Notes for Editors:

1. The work related to the CESR Standards on enforcement of financial information and in particular the guidance published today was developed by CESR-Fin's Sub-Committee on Enforcement (SCE).
2. CESR-Fin is a permanent operational group of CESR members active in the area of financial reporting. CESR-Fin plays a key role in the endorsement and enforcement of IFRS standards as well as in the area of audit in Europe. CESR-Fin is chaired by Mr John Tiner, Chief Executive of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in the UK. CESR-Fin has established two permanent sub-committees, one dealing with issues related to the enforcement of financial reporting under IFRS (the Sub-Committee on Enforcement [SCE]), and the other one dealing with issues related to the endorsement of IAS/IFRS in Europe (the Sub-Committee on International Standards Endorsement [SISE]). CESR-Fin has also recently set up an Audit Task Force to deal with issues related to the audit of financial statements. SCE is chaired by Mr Lars Østergaard, Director at the Finanstilsynet in Denmark (Danish Financial Supervisory Authority [DFSA]). SISE is chaired by Mr Paul Koster, Commissioner at the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM). The Audit Task Force is chaired by Philippe Danjou, Director of Corporate Accounting at the French Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF).
3. CESR is an independent Committee of European Securities Regulators. The role of the Committee is to:
 - Improve co-ordination among securities regulators;
 - Act as an advisory group to assist the EU Commission, in particular in its preparation of draft implementing measures in the field of securities;
 - Work to ensure more consistent and timely day to day implementation of community legislation in the member states.
 - The Committee was established under the terms of the European Commission's decision of 6 June 2001 (2001/1501/EC). It is one of the two committees envisaged in the Final Report of the group of Wise Men on the regulation of European securities markets. Baron Alexandre Lamfalussy chaired this group. The report itself was endorsed by the European Council and the European Parliament. The relevant documents are available on the CESR website.
4. Each Member State of the European Union has one member on the Committee. The members are nominated by the Member States and are the Heads of the national public authorities competent in the field of securities. The European Commission has nominated the Director General of the DG Market, as its representative. Furthermore, the securities authorities of Norway and Iceland are also represented at a senior level.
5. For further information please contact:

CESR Fabrice Demarigny
 Secretary General of CESR

Or Victoria Powell
 Communications Officer

Tel : +33 (0) 1.58 36 43 21
Fax: +33 (0) 1.58 36 43 30
Email: secretariat@cesr-eu.org
Web site: www.cesr-eu.org