

The European Group of Auditors' Oversight Bodies

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/auditing/egaob

The European Group of the Auditors' Oversight Bodies (EGAOB) was set up by the Commission Decision of 14 December 2005. Its objective is to advise the Commission on statutory audit matters, but also to facilitate coordination of new public oversight systems for statutory auditors and audit firms within the European Union.

The establishment of the EGAOB resulted from a number of changes in the regulation of the audit profession in the EU and at a worldwide level. The creation of the public bodies to oversee the auditors in different jurisdictions around the world, the modernisation of the 8th Company Law Directive were key factors necessitating to set up a new forum with new active players – public oversight bodies.

The EGAOB is composed of representatives from national public oversight bodies of 27 Member States and chaired by the Commission. There are currently 24 Member States, which have a public oversight body legally established. It is expected that the remaining three Member States will establish independent oversight in 2009. Moreover, membership of the EGAOB is not open to third countries (USA, Canada, Japan, etc.) but only to EU Member States and EEA countries (Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland).

The Commission ensures the secretariat and prepares working documents to be discussed at the EGAOB meetings. At the meetings of the Group there is no voting and no official decisions are taken, but the Group discussions are a significant contribution to the working documents, produced by the Commission. After discussion with the EGAOB, the Commission consults extensively and at an early stage with market participants, the audit profession and end-users in an open and transparent manner.

The EGAOB Activity is mainly focused on the following tasks to:

- Facilitate cooperation between public oversight systems of Member States and to bring about an exchange of good practice concerning the establishment and ongoing cooperation of such systems;
- Contribute to the technical assessment of public oversight systems of third countries and to the international cooperation between Member States and third countries in this area;
- Contribute to the technical examination of international auditing standards, including the processes for their elaboration, with a view to their possible adoption at the community level.

Bulgarian Commission for Public Oversight of Statutory Auditors participates in the EGAOB Activities from December 2008. The representatives of the CPOSA join in the plenary sessions and the EGAOB subgroups on IAS and Intra EU Cooperation.