



Federation of European Accountants
Fédération des Experts comptables Européens

INFO

Standing for trust and integrity

For immediate use: 7 January 2010

COP 15: not the success hoped for!

FEE continues to communicate its strategies on sustainability to help SMEs, the public sector and accountants drive sustainable change

Brussels, 7 January 2010 – Following the issuance in 2009 of eight policy statements on core issues in relation to sustainability and the accountancy profession, FEE (Fédération des Experts comptables Européens – Federation of European Accountants) issues three further policy statements contributing to the debate on the challenges of sustainability. FEE believes that the accountancy profession, small and medium-sized enterprises and the public sector will have a critical role to play if we are to deliver on the necessary changes toward a sustainable economy, in particular in the aftermath of the results of the Copenhagen summit.

Accountants within and outside organisations should help to translate and put into operation sustainability when organisations are considering formulation of strategy, process improvement and performance measurement. Sustainability requires more attention than before and the accountancy profession has a contribution to make.

FEE reports its strategy on sustainability in a series of policy statements; the three latest cover the following issues:

- Small and sustainable: opportunities for SMEs;
- Equipping Accountants for a sustainable future;
- Accountants driving sustainable changes in the public sector.

FEE President, Hans van Damme, underlined that: “Sustainability information is of increasing importance to management and external stakeholders. Accountants and auditors need increased awareness and specific competencies in the area of sustainability. FEE calls on its Member Bodies to review aspects of (continuing professional) education of their members to ensure that they are aware of the sustainability challenge and adapt their skills to it.”

Paul Druckman, Chairman of the FEE Sustainability Policy Group, underlined that: “Accountants have a role and a responsibility in helping small enterprises achieve long-term prosperity. Accountants must encourage smaller enterprises to embed sustainable business practices and to seize business opportunities associated with a green economy.”



Caroline Mawhood, Chair of the FEE Public Sector Committee, emphasised: “As shown by our Roundtable on the Public Sector and Sustainability in July 2009, public sector organisations have a vital part to play in addressing sustainable development by embedding sustainability in their operations and procurement strategies. FEE believes that the accountancy profession can, by sharing its expertise and experience, help public sector organisations to achieve greater sustainability in their activities and actions.”

These policy statements aim at raising awareness of a wider audience inside and outside of the accountancy profession on the importance of sustainability.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The policy statements can be downloaded from the FEE website:
http://www.fee.be/publications/default.asp?library_ref=4&category_ref=235&private=False
2. The policy statements issued on sustainability and the accountancy profession:
 - The Contribution of the Accountancy Profession, January 2009
 - Cost Internalisation, January 2009
 - Non-Financial Information, January 2009
 - Multiple-Stakeholders: The Essence of Multidisciplinary Teams, January 2009
 - Shaping a Sustainable Economy, July 2009
 - Towards a Sustainable Economy: the Contribution of Assurance, July 2009
 - Carbon Emissions Information, July 2009
 - Embedding Sustainability into Corporate Governance, July 2009
 - Small and Sustainable: Opportunities for SMEs, January 2010
 - Equipping Accountants for a Sustainable future, January 2010
 - Accountants Driving Sustainable Changes in the Public Sector, January 2010

About FEE

FEE (Fédération des Experts comptables Européens - Federation of European Accountants) represents 43 professional institutes of accountants and auditors from 32 European countries, including all 27 EU Member States.

In representing the profession, FEE recognises the public interest. FEE has a combined membership of more than 500.000 professional accountants working in different capacities in public practice, small and larger firms, business, public sector and education, who all contribute to a more efficient, transparent, and sustainable European economy.

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