



Federation of European Accountants
Fédération des Experts comptables Européens

INFO

Standing for trust and integrity

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Call to Enhance Sustainability in the Public Sector

Brussels, 8 July 2009 – FEE (Fédération des Experts comptables Européens – Federation of European Accountants) organised a Roundtable discussion on “Accounting, Sustainability and the Public Sector – policy and accountability, a route map” with a keynote speech provided by MEP Richard Howitt, European Parliament Rapporteur on Corporate Social Responsibility, and a Roundtable panel with high level experts.

In the current climate of financial and economic crisis, FEE wishes to raise the strategic importance of sustainability in the private and public sector and also the role public sector organisations can play. The debate with senior experts from national governments, GRI (Global Reporting Initiative), auditors, academics and FEE focused on four topics:

- Policy and Accountability,
- Reporting on Sustainability,
- Operational Excellence by government and government agencies,
- Role of EU in Climate Change.

The objective of the Roundtable was to identify how sustainability in the public sector can be improved and integrated into policy-making and reporting with the help of best practice examples in individual countries and at European level.

Hans van Damme, FEE President, observed that “Public sector organisations have a vital role to play in addressing sustainable development, within their organisations and, in particular, in the current crisis by setting an example for the market as a whole”.

Paul Druckman, Chairman of the FEE Sustainability Policy Group and Facilitator of the Roundtable, emphasised: “Governments and public sector organisations claim to embrace sustainability. This raises the challenge of reporting on sustainability in public sector organisations and to the reliability of such information. Our profession can contribute to this debate”.



Caroline Mawhood, Chair of the FEE Public Sector Committee, observed that “previously attention in the public sector focused on the efforts made by the government, the focus is now on results with implications for the measurement of operational excellence by using financial and non financial performance indicators.”

This Roundtable has demonstrated to FEE the beginning of an interesting venue both for our sustainability and public sector activities and further FEE pronouncements on the public sector and sustainability may be expected.

– ENDS –

NOTES FOR EDITORS

About the Event

Further information about the Roundtable of 8 July 2009 including the supporting documents can be found at: http://www.fee.be/news/default.asp?library_ref=2&content_ref=1063

Speakers and Panellists included:

Hans van Damme, FEE President

Richard Howitt, MEP, European Parliament Rapporteur on Corporate Social Responsibility

Paul Druckman, Chairman FEE Sustainability Policy Group

Anatoli Bourmistrov, Associate Professor, Bodø Graduate School of Business, Norway

John Conway, Sustainable Product Standards and Product Carbon Footprinting, Defra, UK

Martin Dees, Netherlands Court of Audit

Roberto Giacomelli, Director of Climate Change & Sustainability Services, Ernst & Young, Italy

Nancy Kamp-Roelands, Chair FEE Sustainability Working Party

Ernst Ligteringen, GRI Chief Executive, Netherlands

Caroline Mawhood, NAO, Chair FEE Public Sector Committee

Larry Pinkney, HM Treasury, UK

Lisa Scott, Environmental Management Accountant, Highways Agency, UK

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 of the 27 EU Member States.

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

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