

„The Accountancy Profession in Europe: Exchange of experience from the professional bodies of EU Member States“

28th – 29th October, Kiev, Ukraine

On the 28th and 29th of October 2006 the South Eastern European Partnership on Accountancy Development (SEEPAD) organised in Kiev its 5th regional seminar on “The Accountancy Profession in Europe: exchange of experience between the professional bodies of EU Member States”.

The purpose of this seminar was to exchange experience between the experts from France and Italy and the representatives of South Eastern European countries concerning the organisation and functioning of the profession in the EU Member States and also to exchange experience on a regional level.

This seminar was attended by representatives from the executive structures of professional bodies from the SEEPAD member countries, and two representatives of important organisations from the European Union were present as speakers: Mr. Bernard Kleiner, Director of the International Development and Partnerships Department of OEC, France and Mr. Federico Diomeda, representative of the Italian profession.

In organising the seminar SEEPAD received the local support of the Ukrainian Federation of Professional Accountants and Auditors represented by President Sergii Golov and Executive Director Mrs. Valentina Legka.



The importance of the seminar resides also in the fact that it was held for the first time in Ukraine, a newly accepted country in SEEPAD, and it focused on exchanging experience and an active participation of the professional bodies representatives in the debates of the seminar.

The first presentation was sustained by Mr. Bernard Kleiner, Director of International Development and Partnerships Department of OEC, France. The presentation was structured in three main parts: the Order of Expert

Accountants of France, the National Company of Auditors, and the Diploma of Expert Accountant in France.

In the second part of the first day of seminar followed the presentation of the Italian lecturer, Federico Diomeda.

Mr. Diomeda started his presentation by reviewing shortly the history of accountancy in Italy. He mentioned that the unification of the two professional bodies is in progress.

In the interactive debate session the lecturers and participants discussed on subject like auditors' independence in the Italian profession, and Mr. Giuseppe Messina mentioned that it was provisioned by Law and the Code of Ethics is much severe than that of IFAC. At the same time, the overlapping services provided by the auditors and other professions were discussed.

Discussions were also focused on standard setting and the involvement of the professional institute in this process.

The SEEPAD President brought into discussion the public oversight that was assumed very easily by the South Eastern Europe. The Governments have understood that they must supervise themselves the profession and this is how the separations in the profession occurred.

The idea that president Toma introduced was that the endorsement of the 8th Directive provisions should be done on two levels and with two speeds: at EU level and at national level; also the speeds should be different depending on the level of development of the profession – one speed for the countries where the profession is strong and another speed for the countries with a young democracy where the professional bodies are weak or they have not appeared yet.