

Meeting: IESBA

Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting

Meeting Date: June 8 - 15, 2020

Agenda Item

3

Tax Planning and Related Services

Objective of Agenda Item

1. To receive an update from the Tax Planning and Related Services Working Group (TPWG) on its recent outreach activities and fact-finding work to date.

Working Group

2. Members:
 - Jens Poll, Chair, IESBA Member
 - Sanjiv Chaudhary, IESBA Member
 - Robert Juenemann, IESBA Member
 - Andrew Mintzer, IESBA Member

Working Group Activities Since Last IESBA Discussion

3. Members of the TPWG met in person in Q1 2020 to continue analysis of information, views and comments collected through research and outreach. The TPWG had the opportunity to meet with, in person or via teleconference, stakeholders in Belgium, France, Malaysia and United Kingdom. The Chair of TPWG also presented at [Accountancy Europe's Tax Planning Day](#) attended by stakeholders across a range of disciplines. Please refer to the Appendix for a list of the outreach sessions conducted to date.
4. The TPWG Chair provided an update to the IESBA CAG at the March 2020 CAG meeting and the IESBA-National Standard Setters (NSS) meeting in May 2020. The TPWG Chair will then brief the Board on the input received from the CAG and NSS during the June 2020 Board meeting.
5. The TPWG continues to conduct "desk research" in the area of tax planning, including reviews of publicly available reports, articles, podcasts, webinars and other relevant material.
6. A specific focus of the TPWG for Q3 2020 will be meeting with regulatory and professional accountancy organization stakeholders.

Analysis to Date

7. Using insights gained from its research and outreach, the TPWG has been performing an analysis of the implications of tax planning activities for each of the fundamental principles (FPs) and the conceptual framework (CF). The purpose of this exercise is to develop a view as to whether the FPs

and CF are sufficient to address behavioral issues associated with professional accountants' (PAs') activities related to tax planning and related services.

8. Whilst not yet complete, the analysis to date has yielded several observations that the TPWG is now evaluating further in terms of what, if any, responses would be appropriate for the IESBA to consider.

Next Steps

9. The TPWG will continue outreach to stakeholders as part of its research to solicit views on key issues and share knowledge with stakeholders in different jurisdictions. The TPWG is sensitive to the fact that stakeholders will be preoccupied with their business continuity agenda during the COVID-19 pandemic. The TPWG has therefore postponed some of its planned outreach activities to Q3 of 2020.
10. At its next meeting in July/August 2020, the TPWG will continue its systematic walk-through of the remainder of the Code to identify any potential gaps in dealing with the ethics issues observed during its information gathering. As part of this analysis, the TPWG will continue to consider relevant comments from respondents to the IESBA's [2019-2023 Strategy and Work Plan](#)¹ consultation paper.
11. At the September 2020 IESBA meeting, the TPWG intends to brief the Board on its preliminary recommendations for the next phase of the IESBA's Tax Planning and Related Services initiative.

Actions Requested

12. IESBA members are asked to note and provide input on the matters covered in **Agenda Item 3-A**.

Material Presented

Agenda Item 3-A Tax Planning and Related Services: Fact Finding

For Reference Only

Agenda Item 3-B 2019 GRI 207

Agenda Item 3-C PRI Evaluating and Engaging on Corporate Tax Transparency Investor Guide

¹ The [IESBA Strategy and Work Plan 2019-2023](#) was released in April 2019.

List of Stakeholders and Outreach Events Conducted to Date

Who did we speak to?

-  Accountancy Europe Tax Policy Group
-  American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
-  Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (UK)
-  Tax Leaders (GPPC)
-  Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia
-  Head of Global Tax Policy (KPMG)
-  Head of Global Tax Policy (Deloitte)
-  Head of International Tax (Iberdrola)
-  Partner Global Tax Policy Leader (PWC)
-  Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
-  Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland
-  Kevin Dancey (IFAC CEO)
-  Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants
-  Malaysian Institute Accountants
-  Member of the Board of Trustees of International Bureau of Fiscal Documentator
-  Member of the European Parliament - Spain
-  Member of the European Parliament - Germany
-  Tax Leader (Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand)
-  Personnel from OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration
-  Various stakeholders from Accountancy Europe Tax Planning Day

