

Meeting: IESBA
Meeting Location: New York, NY
Meeting Date: March 12-14, 2018

Agenda Item

8

eCode

Objective

1. To obtain Board members' views on possible features in an International eCode, in light of the recently approved [International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants \(including International Independence Standards\)](#) (the "restructured Code").¹

Background

2. The eCode initiative is a pre-existing commitment in the IESBA's 2019-2023 Strategy and Work Plan (see Agenda Item 4).
3. Since 2014 the IESBA has had an electronic version of the Code available on its website. This web-based Code has been updated as needed and is available to visitors to the IESBA web pages. This version of the Code is available at [2016 Handbook of the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants](#) (the "2016 web-based Code").
4. At its December 2017 meeting, the IESBA approved the text of the restructured Code – the culmination of a years-long project to revamp the Code. During that process, it became clear that enhancements to the existing electronic Code could improve the user experience. Upon approval of the restructured Code, the Board appointed a Working Group (WG) to consider what improvements might be made to the 2016 web-based Code.
5. The eCode is not intended to replace the traditional print format of the Code. Rather, the WG believes that having an international eCode is an innovative way to increase the functionality, accessibility and ease of use of the restructured Code, thus creating an improved user experience.

Progress to Date

6. The WG is considering whether to undertake outreach to better understand whether, and how the Code is used by different groups of stakeholders. These stakeholders might include national standard setters, regulators, IFAC member bodies, ethics personnel at multi-national firms, corporate users, etc.
7. To date, the eCode WG held two teleconferences, including one with representatives of an IFAC member body discussing the approach to their eCode.

¹ Subject to Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB) approval, the restructured Code is expected to be released by early April 2018. Additional information about the restructured Code, including its effective date is available at: www.ethicsboard.org/restructured-code.

8. The eCode initiative was presented to the CAG at its March 5, 2018 meeting for discussion. The Chair of the WG will brief the Board on the outcome of the CAG discussion during the Board meeting.
9. Informed by input and suggestions from the CAG, the Board, and the annual IESBA National Standard Setters Liaison Group in May 2018, the WG will hold a two-day meeting in May 2018 to consider the scope and timing for each phase of the eCode.

Action Requested

10. IESBA members are asked to consider the WG Chair's presentation and share their views and perspectives.

Timing

11. The WG anticipates launching the eventual eCode in multiple phases. It is envisaged that Phase 1 will include features that are similar to those in the 2016 web-based Code. The planned timing for the release of Phase 1 is June 2019. Subsequent phases will be undertaken as appropriate to further enhance the functionality and usability of the restructured Code.

Material Presented

Agenda Item 8-A Slide Presentation, eCode