

**Annual report of the Professional Accountancy Education Europe
Oversight Committee**

July 2024 to June 2025

Introduction

This annual report is addressed to the Chair and members of the Steering Group of Professional Accountancy Education Europe.

The report sets out the observations of the Oversight Committee for the period between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025. The Oversight Committee has had broad oversight of all activities of the PAEE during this period and has specifically reviewed the PAEE recognition and compliance processes. There have been delays to the expected timetable for completion and presentation of documentation and as a consequence the role of the Oversight Committee during this period has been more restricted than had been planned.

The Oversight Committee supports the overarching objectives of the PAEE to further develop, maintain and unify high quality professional accountancy education benchmarks reflected in the distinct qualifications of participating bodies.

Purpose and scope of the Oversight Committee

In line with the PAEE Organisational Document the Oversight Committee has been formed to: *provide assurance that the compliance process and the admission of new members (whether Participating Institutes or Associate Members) has been properly carried out.*

The Oversight Committee may also, where requested, provide support and advice to the Steering Group on matters related to the review process, compliance and the admission of new members.

Through invitation to, and attendance at, all meetings of the steering group, and by the provision of all materials, relevant project documentation and other intellectual property, the members of the Oversight Committee should have the opportunity to provide observations to the Steering Group on aspects of the PAEE activities within its scope, and other areas as requested.

The Oversight Committee is independent of the PAEE Steering Group and is not involved in decision making or administrative matters of PAEE. Any expenses of the Oversight Committee are met by the PAEE. The Independent members of the Oversight Committee do not receive fees for this role.

The annual report will be presented to the Steering Group for review and will be made available to stakeholders and the wider public through being published on the PAEE website

Membership and meeting of the Oversight Committee

The Oversight Committee membership consists of a minimum of 4 and maximum of 5 members. Members are appointed through the PAEE Nominating Committee processes. Membership during the period was as follows:

Mark Allison (Chair, Independent member) - Scotland
Anne Le Manh (Independent member) - France
Paul Hurks (Independent Member) - Netherlands
Fernand Maillard (IBR-IRE) - Belgium
Will Holt (ICAEW) - England

Jen Sherwood (ICAEW) is Secretary to the Oversight Committee.

The Oversight Committee met in June 2024 and had agreed to plan to meet every six months going forward thereafter, with in principle one meeting being in person and one meeting being virtual. During the period a planned meeting for October 2024 was postponed due to delays in the PAEE review process and rescheduled for March 2025. However the Oversight Committee concluded that there was insufficient progress at that point, and so a meeting was organised for September 2025.

Activities undertaken by the Oversight Committee and its members between July 2024 and June 2025

Interaction with the Steering Group

During the period the Steering Group met on four occasions –

- July 2024 London (Mark Allison and Will Holt attended)
- October 2024 Amsterdam (Mark Allison and Paul Hurks attended)
- January 2025 Bucharest (Mark Allison attended)
- April 2025 Brussels (No attendees)

In all of the meetings full agenda materials was provided to the members, and the comments and observations of the members were invited, and notes taken, as appropriate.

The agenda for the meeting in April 2025 was strategic and administrative in nature and none of the expected items fell under the scope of the Oversight Committee, so no attendance was scheduled.

Compliance process

Comments on the PAEE compliance process, including Framework document , were received by the Steering Group in July 2024 and considered at their meeting in London. In particular the Oversight Committee stressed the importance of setting a cycle for reviews based on an annual self -assessment of risk and change in qualification by each full member.

The Oversight Committee confirmed their involvement in the forthcoming series of review presentations , planned at that point for October 2024 and January 2025.

During the period it became clear that delays in the self- assessment process were emerging .These were related to the following –

- EU changes to sustainability reporting requiring to be adapted into National regulations changing priorities of key staff in PAEE members
- Significant changes to qualifications
- Concern at the volume of work required by the approved self- assessment process
- Structural changes within two PAEE member bodies

Strategy

A key part of the strategy relates to membership and the strength of the PAEE. It was observed that the interaction with potential future members continued and would be clearer once the new documentation on the competency framework and quality assurance process was approved and issued. The emergence of structural changes within the Accounting and

Auditing profession and in particular the role of PAEE member bodies in the qualification process was noted.

PAEE activity and coverage

During the period the PAEE covered a broad range of activity affecting the Education and Training of future Professional Accountants with full discussion of the following matters –

- Technology and Sustainability Education
- Input to Ifac consultation
- Integrity (Cheating) within the exam process
- Member categories

The Steering Group met with the regulators in Rumania and the UK during the period , with the IFAC education team , with EFAA, and with the leadership of several PAEE member bodies. It was encouraging to see the strategy of interacting with key regulators and other stakeholders being put into action.

Annual report

An Annual Report for the period 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024 was approved by the Steering Group in October 2024.

Oversight Committee closing comments

The Oversight Committee recognises the work that has been carried forward by the Steering Group throughout 2024 and 2025. Plans for future work and interaction with stakeholders are ambitious and appropriate. Successful implementation of the strategy will require engagement in the workplan from all Participating Institutes and Associate Members.

The Oversight Committee appreciates the constructive way the Steering Group continues to work with the Oversight Committee and looks forward to supporting the Steering Group through the next period of expansion , and rapid change in Education, Assessment and Competency Development.