



Press Release

16 June 2020

JONATHAN JONES BECOMES THE INTERIM CHAIR OF COMMON CONTENT PROJECT

In response to the globalisation of business activity, the EU single market and regulatory harmonisation, leading accountancy Institutes, set out below, have brought their professional accountancy qualifications closer together through the Common Content Project by developing, maintaining and unifying high quality professional accountancy education benchmarks reflected in the distinct qualifications of these bodies and recognised internationally as meeting the challenges posed by globalisation and the needs of diverse stakeholders. The successful implementation of this convergence of national qualifications was evidenced by the application of a rigorous review process under public oversight. The Common Content Project seeks to further internationalise and harmonise the high-quality educational outcomes for relevant skills of professional accountants, of premier accountancy bodies, that are subject to globalisation and changing public expectations, while retaining the strengths of local educational structures, qualifications and designations.

The Oversight Committee, one half of which are fully independent members, is responsible for ensuring that the membership and compliance processes of the Project are carried out fairly and in accordance with the requirements of the Project. The Oversight Committee reports publicly on its findings in this respect.

The 16 leading accountancy Institutes from 12 major European member states are:

Belgium	Instituut van de Bedrijfsrevisoren / Institut des Réviseurs d'Entreprises
France	Compagnie Nationale des Commissaires aux Comptes Ordre des Experts-Comptables
Germany	Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer Wirtschaftsprüferkammer
Ireland	Chartered Accountants Ireland
Italy	Consiglio Nazionale dei Dottori Commercialisti e degli Esperti Contabili
Romania	Camera Auditorilor Financiari din România
The Netherlands	Koninklijke Nederlandse Beroepsorganisatie van Accountants
United Kingdom	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland
Austria	Kammer der Wirtschaftstreuhänder (associate member) Institut Österreichischer Wirtschaftsprüfer (associate member)
Poland	Polska Izba Biegłych Rewidentów (associate member)
Portugal	Ordem dos Revisores Oficiais de Contas (associate member)
Spain	Instituto de Censores Jurados de Cuentas de España (associate member)

The Steering Group, the governing body of the Common Content Project, would like to inform its stakeholders that Hans van Damme has resigned from the office of Chair of that Group. Upon a vote by the Steering Group, Jonathan Jones of the ICAEW accepted the responsibility to act as Chair on an interim basis until a new chair is selected.

Hans van Damme, the former Chair of the Steering Group explained: “It had become apparent to me that the time had come for the Project to consider its future strategy and governance and therefore for me to make way for a new Chair on that basis. I had been Chair for eight and a half years and look back with great satisfaction on the progress the Project had made in its recognition by important stakeholders and increasing membership during my term as Chair. It is challenging to moderate a group of Institutes in Europe with different histories, languages, cultures, modes of operation, and remits in the area of education, but I believe that I can claim to have made a significant contribution to the growing success of the Project. I sincerely hope and expect that the Steering Group will build on the successes achieved so far given the importance of the Project to the quality and convergence of the education of accountants and auditors in Europe.

Jonathan Jones, Director, Policy and Strategy at the ICAEW and newly elected interim Chair of the Steering Group stated: “I would personally like to thank Hans van Damme for his long and fruitful term of service as Chair of the Steering Group. Under his leadership, the Project increased its membership from 6 to 12 countries and from 9 to 16 Institutes, successfully completed its dialogue with the European legislators to take the convergence of education achieved by the profession into account in any convergence sought by European law, and commenced a serious dialogue with European national standard setters in the area of auditor education in Europe. I will have great shoes to fill in my term as interim Chair and recognize the responsibility entrusted to me by the Steering Group until a new Chair has been selected. Speaking on behalf of the Steering Group, we wish Hans van Damme well both personally and in his future endeavours.”

Jens Wüstemann, independent Chair of the Oversight Committee added: “On behalf of the Oversight Committee, I would like to express my thanks to Hans van Damme for having led the Common Content Project so successfully over many years. As Chair of the Oversight Committee, I greatly appreciate his work to help the Oversight Committee fulfil its oversight role, and in particular to ensure that the Project’s due process for accepting new members and the performance of self-assessments and reviews was followed as required. I urge the Project to continue its successful work in maintaining and augmenting the quality of the education of accountants and auditors in Europe.”

The approved Common Content Project documents can be accessed at www.commoncontent.com

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