

BACKGROUND NOTE ON ACTION PLANS

The SMO Action Plan is intended to provide a summary of:

- The legal and regulatory environment for the profession;
- The status of adoption of international standards and best practices in the jurisdiction; and
- The level of a Member's or Associate's fulfillment of IFAC membership requirements.

IFAC [Statements of Membership Obligations](#) (SMOs) require IFAC Members and Associates to support the adoption¹ and implementation² of international standards and other pronouncements issued by independent standard-setting boards under the auspices of IFAC as well as by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB); and to establish a quality assurance (QA) review and investigation and disciplinary (I&D) systems. The SMOs are recognized as the international benchmarks for credible and high-quality PAOs that are focused on and have the necessary expertise to serve the public interest and meet the market demands of their respective jurisdictions.

IFAC Members and Associates conduct a self-assessment against the requirements of SMOs and identify areas where, if any, improvements are needed. Members and Associates should develop an Action Plan to (a) demonstrate how they fulfill the requirements of the SMOs (revised in 2012), and (b) where some requirements are not yet addressed, to present plans towards their fulfillment. Action Plans are designed to be **ever-green** documents that take into consideration IFAC recommendations. Depending on the PAO's level of fulfillment (see *IFAC's Summary Assessment* – page 2), an Action Plan may not be necessary for each SMO section and instead the 'Attestation of Ongoing SMO Compliance' is used to confirm their ongoing commitments. However, PAOs may wish and are welcome to utilize the Action Plan as a tool to demonstrate how they are using 'best endeavors' and going beyond their mandate with innovative approaches to fulfilling the SMOs and strengthening the national profession.

The specific details of each organization's actions will vary even where two PAOs are involved in the same SMO area. Each PAO operates in its own unique regulatory and standard-setting framework and has different operating, technical, and resource capacities. Moreover, in deciding when and how a particular SMO requirement is to be addressed, PAOs might have differing timeframes and objectives to achieve. Notwithstanding these inevitable differences, seeking the advice and assistance of other PAOs who have already faced and dealt with similar challenges can save significant time and resources. IFAC staff will offer assistance as needed.

Regular updates of the SMO Action Plans are required as part of the [IFAC Member Compliance Program](#).

Use of Information

Please refer to the [Disclaimer](#) published on the IFAC website.

¹ *Adoption* is concerned with the decision that international standards are appropriate for use in specific national financial reporting environments and with the actions necessary to affect those decisions, including incorporation into national requirements or requiring the use of international standards through law. Adoption may include a process to review draft international standards, translation, public exposure of proposed standards, approval, incorporation into national requirements as necessary, and promulgation of final standards, and, where applicable, a convergence process to eliminate or minimize differences between international and national standards.

² *Implementation* may include a process to build awareness of the adopted standards, provide relevant education and training, develop, or disseminate implementation guidance and any other activities that promote proper understanding and use of the standards in practice.

ACTION PLAN

IFAC Member: Instituut van de Bedrijfsrevisoren / Institut des Réviseurs d'Entreprises (IBR-IRE)
Approved by Governing Body: Board of IBR-IRE
Last Update: April 2024
Next Update:

IFAC's Summary Assessment: IFAC staff will complete this section at the conclusion of each SMO Action Plan review and update process. PAOs are encouraged to take staff's recommendation into consideration as part of future strategic planning conversations at the PAO.

For more information on [IFAC Member Compliance Program](#) and the legends used to describe the status of adoption of international standards, best practices, and fulfillment of SMO requirements, please refer to the Status of Adoption [methodology](#) and SMO Fulfillment [methodology](#).

FOR IFAC COMPLETION	PAO Level of Responsibility for Adoption	Adoption Status as of 2023	Level of SMO Fulfillment as of 2023
QA / SMO 1			
IES / SMO 2			
ISA / SMO 3			
IESBA / SMO 4			
IPSAS / SMO 5			
I&D / SMO 6			
IFRS / SMO 7			

Attestation of SMO Compliance

The **Instituut van de Bedrijfsrevisoren / Institut des Réviseurs d'Entreprises (IBR-IRE)** has developed an Action Plan to demonstrate how it fulfills the requirements of the SMOs (revised in 2012). The abovementioned [Governing Body](#) has reviewed the information contained within the SMO Action Plan and affirms that the **IBR-IRE** continues to undertake these and other relevant actions to maintain ongoing compliance and fulfillment of the membership obligations where IFAC's assessments are at *Review & Improve* and/or *Sustain*. In areas where IFAC's assessments are at *Execute, Plan, Consider, or Not Active* the **IBR-IRE** has updated the Action Plan to reflect the specific actions to adopt or support adoption and support implementation that must be taken to achieve the improvement accompanied by a timeline.

On behalf of the **IBR-IRE**, the *Governing Body* endorses the information contained within the SMO Action Plan as of the publication date and its publication on the IFAC website in the interests of transparency and to demonstrate our commitment to enhancing the quality and credibility of the accountancy profession worldwide.

GLOSSARY

ASC	Advisory and Supervisory Committee
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
CSOEC	Conseil Supérieur de l'Ordre des Experts-Comptables
EC	European Commission
ED	Exposure Draft
EU	European Union
FEE	Federation of European Accountants
GAAS	Generally Accepted Auditing Standards
HCEP	High Council for the Economic Professions
IAASB	International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board
IASB	International Accounting Standards Board
IAESB	International Accounting Education Standards Board
IESBA	International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants
IES	International Education Standard
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standard
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standard
ISQC 1	International Standard on Quality Control 1
I&D	Investigation and Discipline
ISA	International Standard on Auditing
NASC	National Accounting Standards Commission
PIE	Public Interest Entity
QA	Quality Assurance
SMO	Statement of Membership Obligation

Action Plan Subject: SMO 1–Quality Assurance
Action Plan Objective: Further Improvements of the Quality Assurance System

Background:

The Law of December 7, 2016 on the organization of the profession and the public oversight of registered auditors (hereinafter “Audit Act of 2016”) stipulates that a quality assurance (QA) review system for all audits be established and operated by the Belgian Audit Oversight College” (BAOC).

The BAOC conducts quality assurance reviews as a minimum every three years on auditors of public interest entities (PIEs) and every six years on non-PIE auditors. BAOC reports in its [annual report](#) that it conducts risk-based quality control and that reviewers are either members of the Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA) or ‘are bound by a collaboration with the FSMA’. For PIEs, quality control is conducted by reviewers that are external to the profession.

Prior to the enactment of the Audit Act of 2016, the Belgian Institute of Registered Auditors (IBR-IRE)—the professional accountancy organization for auditors—was responsible for conducting a mandatory QA review system in the jurisdiction for all audits. When functioning, it was in line with SMO 1 requirements.

The ISQM standards (ISQM 1 & ISQM 2) have been adopted as quality management standard (in replacement of the previous ISQC1) in Belgium as from 15 December 2023. IBR-IRE has developed specific activities, such as a training program and implementation guidance, to assist audit firms with the implementation of these standards.

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
<i>Adopting New Quality Assurance Standards</i>					
1.	October 2019	Organize training sessions for the profession on the expectations and the methodology of the BAOC relating to quality assurance reviews.	16 October 2019 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	IBR-IRE Board Member and President of BAOC
2.	May 2022	Entry into force of the ISQM-standards & ISA 220 (Révised).	December 2023 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	IBR-IRE Board Member and President of BAOC
<i>Adoption and Implementation of ISQC1/ISQM</i>					
3.	2018	A revised handbook " ISQC 1" was issued This handbook has been reviewed for update in 2019.	Completed 21/11/2018 Updated 26/11/2019	IBR-IRE Board	Commission SMP/SMP and 2 staff members
4.	2019	Deliver education program, which includes training on ISQC 1.	Completed 3/10/2019	IBR-IRE Board	Education Commission, 2 members of staff
<i>Maintaining Ongoing Processes</i>					
5.	2020	Deliver Continuing education program, which includes training on ISQC1.	Completed June 2023	IBR-IRE Board	Education Commission and 2 staff members
6.	2023	Deliver education program, which includes training on ISQM.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	Education Commission, 2 members of staff

Appendix I—Main Requirements of SMO 1 (2016)

Requirements	Y	N	Partially	Comments
Scope of the System				
1. At a minimum, mandatory QA reviews are required for all audits of financial statements.	X			
Quality Control Standards and Other Quality Control Guidance				
2. Firms are required to implement a system of quality control in accordance with the quality control standards.	X			
3. Most up to date versions of ISQC 1 and other relevant ISA are adopted as the quality control standards.	X			
4. Member Body assists firms in understanding the objectives of quality control and in implementing and maintaining appropriate systems of quality control.	X			
Review Cycle				
5. A cycle-based, risk-based, or a mixed approach for selecting firms for QA review is used.	X			
6. For cycle-based approach, quality control reviews are required to take place at least every six years (and every three years for audits of public interest entities).	X			
QA Review Team				
7. Independence of the QA Team is assessed and documented.	X			

Requirements	Y	N	Partially	Comments
8. QA Team possesses appropriate levels of expertise.	X			
Reporting				
9. Documentation of evidence supporting the quality control review report is required.	X			
10. A written report is issued upon conclusion of the QA review and provided to the firm/partner reviewed.	X			
Corrective and Disciplinary Actions				
11. Reviewed firms/partners are required to make timely adjustments to meet recommendations from the review report.	X			
12. QA review system is linked to the investigation and discipline system.	X			
Consideration of Public Oversight				
13. The body responsible for QA reviews cooperates with its oversight body and shares information on the functioning of the QA review system, as needed.	X			
Regular Review of Implementation and Effectiveness				
14. Regular reviews of implementation and effectiveness of the system are performed.	X			

Action Plan Subject: SMO 2–International Education Standards for Professional Accountants and Other Pronouncements Issued by the IAESB
Action Plan Objective: Continue to Use Best Endeavors to Satisfy the Requirements of International Education Standards

Background:					
<p>IBR-IRE sets the Education requirements for candidates for membership as well as members, in accordance with the Audit Act of 2016 and the Royal Decree on the access to the profession of August 17, 2018. Candidates for IBR-IRE membership are required to hold a Master's degree (not necessarily in accounting), complete 23 theoretical training exams (before or during the training) and 11 practical exams, have three years of practical experience (but shortening of the duration of the practical training is possible if 15 years of professional experience) and complete a final assessment (written and oral).</p> <p>In addition, IBR-IRE proposed a standard on Continuous Professional Development (CPD) which is in line with the International Education Standard (IES) 7, which has been approved mid June 2021 by the High Council for Economic Professions and the Minister of Economy. Compliance with CPD requirements is monitored through the QA review system carried out by the BAOC.</p>					
#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
<i>Further Development of the Continuous Professional Development System</i>					
7.	Since 1991	IBR-IRE organizes each year +/- 85 conferences and information sessions in French and Dutch (notably on ISAs & International Financial Reporting Standards, IFRS, on ethics, on audit & assurance engagement, on legal issues) as part of the requirement of CPD (Registered Auditors are required to follow 120 hours of CPD training over a three-year period).	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	Education Commission (12 members) + 3 members of IBR-IRE staff
8.	Ongoing	Audit firms may also organize seminars for the CPD of their members but the education programs must previously be approved by the Education Commission of IBR-IRE through a written procedure.	Ongoing	Education Commission, 12 members	3 members of IBR-IRE staff
9.	March 2009	A further analysis of IES 8 is carried out by the Education Commission - A proposal will be made to amend the IBR-IRE standard relating to CPD. No amendments were proposed.	Completed December 2009	IBR-IRE Board	Education Commission, 1 member of staff
10.	July 2012	Analysis of the Exposure Draft of IES 7 relating to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) of Final Pronouncement. An analysis was carried out by the Education Commission which concluded that the Belgian requirements largely respond to the requirements set out in the Exposure Draft IES	Completed December 2012	IBR-IRE Board	Education Commission, 1 member of staff

		7 relating to continuing Development of Professional competence. IBR-IRE Board decided that there was no need to issue comments on the exposure draft of IES 7 related to a Program of Lifelong Learning and Continuous Development of Professional Competence.			
11.	June 2011	Analysis of the Exposure Draft of IES 4 relating to Professional Values, Ethics and Attitudes was carried out by the same Education Commission of the IBR-IRE and comments were sent to IFAC by the Education Commission.	13/07/2011 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Education Commission, 1 member of staff
12.	August 2012	Analysis of the Exposure Draft of IES 8 relating to Professional Development for Engagement Partners Responsible for Audits of Financial Statements. The analysis was carried out by the Education Commission of IBR-IRE. No comments were issued.	Completed December 2012	IBR-IRE Board	Education Commission, 1 member of staff
<i>Maintaining Ongoing Processes</i>					
13.	June 2004	Monitor and incorporate new and amended pronouncements issued by the International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB) into IBR-IRE's education standards. <i>IBR-IRE has reviewed the International Education Standards (IES) issued by the International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB) in 2015 but didn't have to take specific action to incorporate the new requirements considering that the existing requirements are even more stringent.</i>	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	Education Commission, 2 members of staff

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
14.	2015	Participate in the work of the Common Content http://commoncontent.com/about-us/	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	1 member of IBR-IRE Board and 1 member of staff
15.	Ongoing	Update the Action Plan for future activities as necessary.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Secretary General	Secretary General, Education Commission, 4 staff members

Action Plan Subject: SMO 3–International Standards and Other Pronouncements Issued by the IAASB
Action Plan Objective: Further Develop the Ongoing Convergence Process with IAASB Pronouncements

Background:

According to the Act Regarding the Organization and Supervision of Statutory Auditors of 2016 (hereinafter “Audit Act of 2016”), audits must be conducted in accordance with the standards set by the Belgian Institute of Registered Auditors (IBR-IRE) and approved by the Belgian Audit Oversight College” (BAOC) and Minister of Economy. The application of these standards is subject to the condition that they are translated into Dutch and French and published on the IBR-IRE website.

IBR-IRE reports on its [website](#) that ISA have been applicable in Belgium since 2009 and the *2022 Handbook of International Quality Control, Auditing, Review, Other Assurance, and Related Services Pronouncements* are now applicable in the jurisdiction.

IBR-IRE completed a [French](#) and [Dutch](#) translation of the 2022 Handbook.

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
<i>Establishing the Ongoing Convergence to IAASB Pronouncements</i>					
16.	June 2012	Review of the translation of ISAs into French by the EC.	18/06/2012 Completed	European Commission	European Commission

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
17.	March-2013	After a second public consultation on the adoption of a complementary Belgian standard (on top of ISAs within Belgian GAAS) relating to the second part of the Auditor's report, the Auditor's verification of compliance with formalities (annual and consolidated accounts), and the consistency check between the financial statements and the Director's Report, this standard has been approved by the HCEP and the Ministry of Economy.	22/08/2013 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 1 staff member)
18.	March 2013	Non-approval by the public oversight bodies of the draft standard on the adoption of ISAEs and ISRS. The public oversight bodies urge IBR-IRE to develop more guidance on the application of these standards.	01/03/2013 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 1 staff member)
19.	April 2013	IBR-IRE developed the Pack PE-KE (Petites Entités-Kleine Entiteiten), based on the Pack PE from CNCC. This is a tool developed in order to allow the Belgian registered auditors to structure the different phases in an audit of a small entity in the context of the ISAs applicable in Belgium with the objective of facilitating the execution of the requirements.	02/05/2013 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 1 staff member)
20.	January 2014	An update of the Pack PE-KE was published in cooperation with CNCC (Pack PE version ISA).	21/08/2014 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 1 staff member) Commission SMP/SMP (12 Registered Auditors and 1 staff member)

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
21.	Early 2016	An update of the Pack PE-KE is foreseen.	17/11/2016 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 1 staff member) Commission SMP/SMP (12 Registered Auditors and 1 staff member)
22.	January 2016	Ongoing translation of the New and Revised ISAs into Dutch and French (in cooperation with NBA and CNCC), which will be used as a basis for the adoption of the New and Revised ISAs into Belgian law, as well as for the possible adoption by the European Commission (EC). The translations respect the IFAC Translations Policy.	15/08/2016 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 1 staff member) Commission SMP/SMP (12 Registered Auditors and 1 staff member) Cooperation with NBA and CNCC
23.	June 2016	A public consultation was held on a draft Standard on the adoption of the New and Revised ISA's	16/08/2016 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 1 staff member)
24.	November 2016	Approval by the HCEP of the Standard on the adoption of the New and Revised ISA's but non-approval by the ministry of Economy. The Ministry of Economy has obliged IBR-IRE to first draw up a standard for contractual audits of SMEs, in agreement with IAB-IEC	31/07/2017 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 1 staff member)
25.	January 2017	A public consultation was held on a draft complementary Belgian standard (on top of the New and Revised ISAs within Belgian GAAS) relating to the second part of the Auditor's report, the Auditor's verification of compliance with formalities (annual and consolidated accounts), and the consistency check between the financial statements and the Director's Report	17/03/2017 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 1 staff member)

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
26.	December 2017	A second public consultation was held on the draft Standard on the adoption of the New and Revised ISA's	25/01/2018 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 1 staff member)
27.	February 2018	A second public consultation was held on the draft complementary Belgian standard (on top of the New and Revised ISAs within Belgian GAAS) relating to the second part of the Auditor's report, the Auditor's verification of compliance with formalities (annual and consolidated accounts), and the consistency check between the financial statements and the Director's Report	05/03/2018 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members)
28.	March 2018	A public consultation was held on a draft Common Standard on contractual audits of SMEs	22/05/2018 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 1 staff member) Commission SME/SMP (12 Registered Auditors and 2 staff members)
29.	August 2018	The Pack PE-KE was updated	15/01/2019 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members) Commission SME/SMP (12 Registered Auditors and 1 staff member) Cooperation with NBA and CNCC
30.	December 2018	A tool "revidocs" was developed to guide auditors when preparing the audit report. This tool automatically generates a draft audit report based on the provided answers on certain questions. This tool is based on the NBA tool "Verklaringengenerator".	15/03/2019 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members) Cooperation with NBA

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
31.	June 2019	Approval by the public oversight bodies, the HCEP and of the ministry of Economy, of the Standard on the adoption of the New and Revised ISA's	12/03/2019 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 12 staff members)
32.	June 2019	Approval by the public oversight bodies, the HCEP and of the ministry of Economy, of the complementary Belgian standard (on top of the New and Revised ISAs within Belgian GAAS) relating to the second part of the Auditor's report, the Auditor's verification of compliance with formalities (annual and consolidated accounts), and the consistency check between the financial statements and the Director's Report,	12/03/2019 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members)
33.	June 2019	Approval by the public oversight bodies, the HCEP and of the ministry of Economy, of the Common Standard on contractual audits of SMEs	12/03/2019 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members) Commission SME/SMP (12 Registered Auditors and 1 staff member)
34.	September 2019	Public consultation on a new draft standard on the adoption of ISAEs and ISRS.	12/10/2019 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members)
35.	January 2020	In the light of the received comments on the exposure draft of the Standard on the adoption of ISAEs and ISRS, the IBR-IRE Board decided that further clarification was necessary before continuing the adoption process.	19/01/2020 Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members)
36.	February 2020	The tool "revidocs" was updated	28/02/2020	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members)

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
37.	June 2019	Translation of ISA 250 (Revised), 540 (Revised), 315 (Revised) and ISRE 2400 into French and Dutch which will be used as a basis for their adoption into Belgian law, as well as for the possible adoption by the European Commission (EC). The translations respect the IFAC Translations Policy.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members and 2 staff members) Cooperation with NBA and CNCC
38.	January 2021	Translation of ISQM 1 & 2, as well as ISA 220 (Revised) into French and Dutch which will be used as a basis for their adoption into Belgian law by end 2022. The translations respect the IFAC Translations Policy.	Completed June 2023	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members and 2 staff members)
39.	January 2021	Communicating to the profession, and especially small and medium-sized practices, to make them aware of the upcoming implementation of ISQM 1 & 2 and ISA 220 (Revised). Development of tools and other supporting material to help auditors implement ISQM 1 & 2 and ISA 220 (Revised).	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members and 2 staff members) Commission SME/SMP (12 Registered Auditors and 1 staff member)
40.	December 2021	Approval by the public oversight bodies, the HCEP and of the ministry of Economy, of the Standard on the adoption of the ISAE 3000 (Revised) and ISAE 3400	17/11/2023 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members)
41.	June 2022	Approval by the public oversight bodies, the HCEP and of the ministry of Economy, of the Standard on the adoption of the ISQM-standards and ISA 220 (Revised)	17/11/2023 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members)
42.	September 2022	Approval by the public oversight bodies, the HCEP and of the ministry of Economy, of the Standard on the adoption of the ISAs 250 (Revised), 315 (Revised 2019) and ISA 540 (Revised)	17/11/2023 Completed	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and staff members)
43.	March 2024	Public consultation on a Draft Standard on the adoption of the ISRS 4400 5revised)	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members)

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
44.	March 2024	Public consultation on a Draft Standard on sustainability reporting (ISAE 3000 and anticipating ISSA 5000)	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members)
<i>Supporting Implementation of IAASB Pronouncements</i>					
45.	2004	Update the continuing education program to increase training of auditors about auditing standards (including Clarified ISAs and other IAASB pronouncements). The introductory session of the education program addresses the ISA Guide of the IFAC SMP Committee, to be used by Small and Medium practices.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	Education Commission, 3 staff members
46.	2014	Workshops for Small and Medium practices are included in the education program.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	Education Commission, 3 staff members
<i>Maintaining Ongoing Processes</i>					
47.	May 2003	Continuously monitor new and amended standards from the IAASB, including newly published ISAs. Provide comments to exposure drafts of the IAASB, including through representation of IBR-IRE into the FEE Auditing Working Party.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members)
48.	2003	Continue to translate new and amended IAASB pronouncements issued by the IAASB.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	Standard Setting Commission of IBR-IRE (12 members among whom 11 registered auditors, and 2 staff members), cooperation with CNCC/CICA and NBA
49.	Ongoing	Update the Action Plan of IBR-IRE for future activities.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Secretary General	Secretary General

Action Plan Subject: SMO 4–IESBA Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants
Action Plan Objective: Promoting Adoption by the Government of Ethical Requirements Consistent with the IESBA Code of Ethics and Organizing Relevant Training

Background:

The Belgian legislator has explicitly made the choice to gather the ethical provisions applicable to the registered auditors in the Audit Act of 2016. The Audit Act of 2016 contains the general ethical rules applicable to the registered auditor (with respect to any engagement) as well as the conceptual framework approach. Furthermore, additional ethical provisions applicable to the statutory auditor are included in the Belgian Code for Companies and Associations.

In the context of the European audit reform, it is useful to refer to an opinion issued by the High Council for the Economic Professions on December 22, 2015, which highlights that the European legislator explicitly opted for legislation at European level to be implemented at national level instead of referring to the IESBA Code. The IESBA Code could, according to the High Council for the Economic Professions, be considered by the Belgian legislator as guidance without it being compulsory in part or in whole.

As of the date of the assessment, ethical requirements for auditors set by the Audit Act of 2016 are compulsory for registered auditors in Belgium as opposed to the IESBA Code which can be considered as useful guidance.

Reference is also made during seminars organised by the ICCI to IESBA revised and restructured Code of Ethics, effective as of June 2019.

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
<i>Promoting Ethical Requirements to the Government</i>					

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
50.	16/04/2014	Following the European Audit reform and in particular the adoption of Directive 2014/56/EU and Regulation No 537/2014, the Government decided to implement the ethical requirements and address it in the Audit Act of 2016 which contains the general ethical rules applicable to the registered auditor (with respect to any engagement) as well as the conceptual framework approach. Furthermore, additional ethical provisions applicable to the statutory auditor are included in the Belgian Code for Companies and Associations. IBR-IRE provided its input upon request of the government.	Completed 7/12/2016	IBR-IRE Board	Delegate general for European and international affairs.
<i>Supporting Implementation of the New Ethical Requirements</i>					
51.	21/12/2016 7/11/2017 26/2/2019 11/2/2020	Seminars were organized on the applicable ethical requirements for the registered auditors. Reference was made to and information was shared on the IESBA Code of Ethics	completed 21/12/2016 7/11/2017 26/2/2019 11/2/2020	IBR-IRE Board	Delegate general for European and international Affairs and a registered auditor
52.	2009	Delivering CPD courses on the revised ethical requirements, including the IESBA Code of Ethics requirements.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	Education Commission, 3 staff members
<i>Maintaining Ongoing Processes</i>					
53.	2003	Provide comments to exposure drafts of the IESBA through representation of IBR-IRE into the Accountancy Europe PEC Working Party.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	IBR-IRE registered auditor and Delegate General for European and international Affairs
54.	Ongoing	Update the Action Plan of IBR-IRE for future activities including promotion of the aforementioned ethical provisions in line with the revised Code of Ethics, taking into consideration the requirements set by the European audit reform.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Secretary General	Delegate General for European and international Affairs

Action Plan Subject: SMO 5–International Public Sector Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements Issued by the IPSASB
Action Plan Objective: Promote the Use of IPSAS and Raise Awareness about the Work of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board

Background:					
<p>The Belgian government accounting landscape is diversified, with accounting practices ranging from accrual accounting to modified accrual/modified cash. At the federal level, the Belgian Government has not yet established convergence with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) as an objective. For the Flemish local authorities, the legislator imposed in June 2010 an accounting reform based on IPSASs. This regulation is effective as from 2014. IBR-IRE, which is involved in public sector accounting, is planning to further promote IPSASs.</p> <p>IBR-IRE is now also closely following the developments at the level of the European Commission in respect of the EPSAS (European Public Sector Accounting Standards) project and the envisaged requirements in terms of harmonized accrual accounting by all tiers of government in Europe. IRE-IBR encourages alignment of EPSAS to IPSASs.</p>					
#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
<i>Promoting IPSASs</i>					
55.	2008	Promote the use of IPSASs in governmental accounting reforms and raise awareness about IPSAS.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE	IBR-IRE Secretary General and selected Belgian registered auditors
56.	2012	IPSAS training is given from 2012 onwards as part of the auditors' permanent education program. Same is done for SEC 2010. The audience mostly consists of Belgian registered auditors.	2018	IBR-IRE	Belgian registered auditors and selected Belgian public finance experts
57.	End 2013	An IPSAS/EPSAS working group has been created within the IRE/IBR to coordinate all IRE/IBR activities in the IPSAS/EPSAS space, including promotion of IPSAS/EPSAS in Belgium. The group is composed of registered auditors with a specific knowledge in local and/or international public sector accounting.	2018	IBR-IRE	Belgian registered auditors
58.	2013 and Onwards	Regular publication of articles in the IRE-IBR, Tax, Audit and Accountancy magazine promoting the use of IPSAS/EPSAS by public sector entities.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE	Selected Belgian registered auditors and public finance experts

		<p>SEC 2010 (2019) : https://doc.icci.be/nl/Documents/publicaties/tijdschrift-taa/TAA-64-2019-def.pdf</p> <p><u>Roundtable: accounting and audit in the public sector (2020):</u> https://doc.icci.be/nl/Documents/publicaties/tijdschrift-taa/TAA_59_2018_3de_proef.pdf</p> <p>Single audit and a comparison with other countries (2016): https://doc.icci.be/nl/Documents/publicaties/tijdschrift-taa/TAA_51_def_proef-4-7.pdf</p>			
<i>Maintaining Ongoing Processes</i>					
59.	2014 and 2016	The IRE/IBR organised study days in September 2014 and in March 2016 on independent audit of governments and reporting by local governments. Transparent government accounting and reporting based on IPSAS was promoted at these events.	Completed March 2016	IBR-IRE	IBR-IRE and selected Belgian registered auditors

Action Plan Subject: SMO 6—Investigation and Discipline
Action Plan Objective: Continuously Develop Investigation and Disciplinary Mechanisms

Background:

Under the “Audit Act of 2016”, investigation and discipline (I&D) of auditors is performed by the Belgian Audit Oversight College (BAOC) who may conduct investigations and then refer cases for sanctioning to the Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA) as needed.

The BAOC is in charge of the quality assurance and surveillance of all the Belgian registered auditors (carrying out the statutory audit of PIES and non-PIES).

Disciplinary measures and sanctions can be imposed by the Commission of Sanctions of the FSMA - replacing the Disciplinary Commission and the Commission of Appeal - which is responsible for the ultimate decision about the imposition of sanctions against registered auditors, including removal from the public register of auditors;

Prior to the enactment of the Audit Act of 2016, the Belgian Institute of Registered Auditors (IBR-IRE)—the professional accountancy organization for auditors—conducted I&D procedures in the jurisdiction for auditors. When functioning, it was mostly in line with SMO 6 requirements.

○

#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
<i>Maintaining Ongoing Processes</i>					

Appendix II—Main Requirements of SMO 6 (2016)

Requirements	Y	N	Partially	Comments
Scope of the System 1. A system of investigation, discipline and appeals exists for the accountancy profession. The system is operational.	X			

Requirements	Y	N	Partially	Comments
2. Information about the types of misconduct which may bring about investigative actions is publicly available.	X			
Initiation of Proceedings				
3. Both a “complaints-based” and an “information-based” approach are adopted.	X			
4. Link with the results of QA reviews has been established.	X			
Investigative Process				
5. A committee or similar body exists for performing investigations.	X			
6. Members of a committee are independent of the subject of the investigation and other related parties.	X			
Disciplinary Process				
7. A separate disciplinary committee/entity exists to make disciplinary decisions on referrals from the investigation committee.	X			
8. Members of the committee/entity include professional accountants as well as non-accountants.	X			
9. The tribunal exhibits independence of the subject of the investigation and other related parties.	X			
Sanctions				
10. The disciplinary system allows imposing an extensive range of penalties. It is particularly important to include (a) loss of professional	X			

Requirements	Y	N	Partially	Comments
designation; (b) restriction and removal of practicing rights; and (c) exclusion from membership.				
Rights of Representation and Appeal				
11. A third appeals body exists which is separate from both the disciplinary committee and investigative committee.	X			
Administrative Processes				
12. Timeframe targets for disposal of all cases are set.		X		
13. Tracking mechanisms to monitor progress in investigation and discipline and related procedures are established.		X		
14. Records of investigations and disciplinary processes are established.	X			
Public Interest Considerations				
15. Activities are supported to ensure that the public is aware that an investigative and disciplinary system exists in the jurisdiction.	X			
16. A process for the independent review of complaints on which there was no follow-up is established.		X		
17. The results of the investigative and disciplinary proceedings are made available to the public.	X			
Liaison with Outside Bodies			X	

Requirements	Y	N	Partially	Comments
18. There is an appropriate process for liaison with outside bodies on possible involvement in serious crimes and offences.				
Regular Review of Implementation and Effectiveness 19. Regular review of implementation and effectiveness of the system are performed and corrective actions are implemented.			X	

Action Plan Subject: SMO 7–International Financial Reporting Standards and Other Pronouncements issued by the IASB
Action Plan Objective: Assist the National Accounting Standards Commission with the Adoption and Implementation of IFRSs in Belgium

Background:					
<p>As a member of the European Union (EU), Belgium is subject to the accounting, auditing and financial reporting requirements established in EU Regulations and Directives as transposed into national laws and regulations.</p> <p>EU-endorsed IFRS are required for the preparation of separate and consolidated financial statements of all companies whose securities trade in a regulated market. Belgium also used the option to require EU-endorsed IFRS in the consolidated financial statements of credit institutions, insurance companies, and investment firms whose securities do not trade in a public market. It also permits EU-endorsed IFRS in the consolidated financial statements of other companies whose securities do not trade in a public market.</p> <p>The Belgian Accounting Standards Board (BASB) is responsible for enacting financial reporting standards in Belgium in accordance with the Accounting Act of 1975 as amended in 2015 for all other entities. Entities that are not required to use EU-endorsed IFRS must use Belgian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) issued by the BASB.</p> <p>IFRS for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) is not adopted in the jurisdiction and there are no known plans for adoption.</p>					
#	Start Date	Actions	Completion Date	Responsibility	Resource
<i>Promoting the Implementation of IFRS</i>					
60.	2013 and Onwards	<p>Regular publication of articles in the IRE-IBR, Tax, Audit and Accountancy magazine promoting the use of IFRS.</p> <p>IFRS 16 Leases (car and real estate) – Implementation considerations • IFRS 2018: Periodical information: https://doc.icci.be/nl/Documents/publicaties/tijdschrift-taa/TAA-62-def.pdf</p> <p>Review of the opinions of the Belgian Accounting Standards Board of 2017 : https://doc.icci.be/nl/Documents/publicaties/tijdschrift-taa/TAA-61-2018.pdf</p> <p>IFRS 2017: Periodical information: https://doc.icci.be/nl/Documents/publicaties/tijdschrift-taa/TAA_58_def_proef.pdf</p>	Ongoing	IBR-IRE	Selected Belgian registered auditors

		IFRS16: https://doc.icci.be/nl/Documents/publicaties/tijdschrift-taa/TAA_55_def_proef.pdf			
61.	21 December 2018	Appointment of IBR-IRE Board Member as a member of NASC.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Board	IBR-IRE Board Member
<i>Supporting Implementation of the Standards</i>					
62.	January 2016	Organize CPD relating to IFRS. Each year, the most recent IFRSs as approved by the IASB are addressed within the CPD-program. The audience mostly consists of Belgian registered auditors.	Ongoing 2 seminars on IAS-IFRS are planned in 2020	IBR-IRE Board	Education Commission, 3 staff members
<i>Maintaining Ongoing Processes</i>					
63.	Ongoing	Update the Action plan by IBR-IRE for future activities as necessary.	Ongoing	IBR-IRE Secretary General	IBR-IRE Secretary General