



## **EFAA Welcomes New Members and Board of Directors at Successful AGM in Madrid**

*- Please find additional high resolution images of the event [here](#) until Tuesday 12 July 2016 -*

The European Federation of Accountants and Auditors for SMEs (EFAA) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday 24 June 2016 at the headquarters of its Spanish Member CGE-REA Auditores in Madrid, Spain. 2016 was a special year for the assembled delegations from 16 national accounting, auditing and tax advisor bodies, representing more than 360.000 European professionals, since EFAA held its biannual presidential and Board elections and welcomed three new Ordinary and one new Observer Member to EFAA. Apart from these special agenda points, the EFAA AGM holds important statutory rights and duties, such as the approval of the budget and activity plan of the coming year.

“It is a sad day for Europe but it is too early to make sound judgements about the situation” said EFAA President Bodo Richardt welcoming all participants only a few hours after the first results of the UK’s EU referendum were announced. Turning to EFAA he continued with his opening address: “We have achieved a lot over the past twelve months, thanks to the great cooperation between EFAA and you, our members. We have improved our visibility in Brussels and our contacts to the European Commission, to EFRAG and to other stakeholders significantly and I am very happy – and a little bit proud – that five new member organisations joined EFAA in 2016 alone. Small- and medium-sized practices rely on successful networking – in their business as well as in their political representation. The cooperation of your organisations in and with EFAA is the platform for the protection of the interests of SMPs, the vast majority of practitioners, who otherwise would not be able to speak up for themselves effectively in Brussels, New York or London.” The

president then demonstrated the significantly increased volume of internal and external publications of EFAA as well as the many events in which EFAA was present or even presenting during the past 18 months.



EFAA welcomed the leadership and experts of its members to the CGE-REA Auditores Headquarters in Madrid for its 2016 Annual General Meeting.



Thomas Kölblinger (KWT), Bodo Richardt (EFAA), Aleksander Stefanac (CCIS-CAS) and Nuriyya Novruzova (APFM) signed the membership agreements after introducing the new members.

Marie Lang, EFAA Director of Professional Development reiterated during her presentation of EFAA's professional activities that "our success for the past twelve months does not rely on one person, or one organisation, but is very much a team effort." She highlighted that active participation by members and their representatives encourages the exchange of ideas and best practices and provides EFAA with specific and valuable input for its operations.

The leadership of EFAA then discussed with the leadership of EFAA's member organisations the upcoming projects and how to adjust and increase EFAA's resources and operations sustainably to the new opportunities for the benefit of Europe's SMPs. Subsequently the budget for 2017 was approved unanimously and so were the financial statements of 2015.

EFAA President Bodo Richardt then asked the representatives of

EFAA's new members to join him on the stage. Thomas Kölblinger, Vice President of the Austrian Chamber of Public Accountants and Tax Advisers (KWT, Ordinary Member), Aleksander Štefanac, President of the Slovenian Chamber of Accountant Services (CCIS-CAS, Ordinary Member) and Nuriyya Novruzova, President of the Association of Professional Financial Managers Azerbaijan (APFM, Observer Member) introduced their respective organisations and were warmly welcomed by EFAA's President and its members. So was the Society of Certified Accountants and Auditors of Kosovo (SCAAK, Ordinary Member) who's delegates were not able to travel to Spain due to visa restrictions. SCAAK was nonetheless introduced to EFAA's members, as Hysen Cela, President of IEKA, Albania kindly presented the organisation. The representatives of EFAA's new members then celebrated their accession with the EFAA President with the signing of a membership agreement.

The positive momentum of EFAA was also felt in this year's election for the EFAA Board of Directors. Seven highly regarded candidates applied for the five open seats on the EFAA Board of Directors. But before the election started, it was time for an appreciation of the work of the Board Members and a farewell to two members of the outgoing board: Hans Rijkse who had been representing the Dutch NBA on the EFAA Board since 2010 and Michele Testa who had been a Board Member for the Italian CNDCEC since 2012 both did not stand for re-election. EFAA President Bodo Richardt thanked them for their support and dedication to EFAA. The other two members of the outgoing Board, José Maria Hinojal (CGE-REA Auditores, Spain; since 2014) and Ezequiel Fernandes (OCC, Portugal; since 2015) stood for re-election. Both were successful in retaining their seat and will keep on working on the Board with their new colleagues Lamiya Bayramova (CAAR, Azerbaijan), Maurice Buijs (NBA, the Netherlands), and Marcus Tuschen (DStV, Germany). The election for the presidency of EFAA had been uncontested and the re-elected EFAA President thanked the membership for its trust in and the support of the new course of EFAA.



The EFAA President thanked the outgoing Board for its dedication and handed a gift to Ezequiel Fernandes (OCC, Portugal), Hans Rijkse (NBA, the Netherlands) and José Maria Hinojal (CGE-REA Auditors, Spain). Michele Testa (CNDCEC, Italy) had to leave early but received his token of gratitude from the Italian delegation.



The new EFAA Board: Maurice Buijs (NBA, the Netherlands), EFAA President Bodo Richardt, José Maria Hinojal (CGE-REA Auditores, Spain), Ezequiel Fernandes (OCC, Portugal) and Marcus Tuschen (DStV, Germany). Lamiya Bayramova (CAAR, Azerbaijan) was unfortunately unable to attend the EFAA AGM.

After the closing of the EFAA 2016 AGM, EFAA invited its member representatives to join a social program in the late afternoon. The group enjoyed a guided tour through Madrid's magnificent Prado Museum and a walking tour through Retiro Park in the center of Madrid. A long and successful day for EFAA ended on the roof terrace of Palacio Cibeles, the seat of Madrid's city council, with pleasant conversations amongst colleagues and friends with a common objective.

- Please find additional high resolution images of the event [here](#) until Tuesday 12 July 2016 -

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