

## 2. SECTION I: ABOUT THE RESPONDENT

---

### 1. From which perspective are you providing this feedback?

The view of an organization

#### Please complete:

Your name:

Your organization (if applicable):

E-mail address:

#### Please complete:

Organization:

ITAA - Belgian Institute of Tax Advisors and Accountants

Name(s) of contact(s) for this submission:

Fien Mertens

E-mail address(es) of contact(s):

fien.mertens@itaa.be

### 2. Please select from the following options to which stakeholder group you or your organization belongs:

IFAC Member Body or Other Professional Accountancy or Professional Organization

#### Please specify the type of accounting firm:

#### Please specify:

IFAC Member Body or Affiliate

#### Please specify:

#### Please specify:

#### Please specify:

### 3. Please select from the following options the geographical region that best matches you or your organization:

**3. Please select from the following options the geographical region that best matches you or your organization:**

Europe

#### 4. SECTION III: SSBs' STRATEGIC POSITIONING FOR 2028–2031

---

**4. As the SSBs look toward the 2028–2031 period, they are reflecting on how to position their strategies and work plans to best serve the public interest within a rapidly changing global environment. This involves careful consideration of how the SSBs remain relevant, responsive, and impactful in their standard-setting and other related work. In that context, what do you believe the SSBs should aspire to achieve during their next strategy period, 2028–2031?**

**Your answer may touch on different dimensions, for example:**

**The relevance, responsiveness and impact of the SSBs' standard-setting and related activities.**

**Broader adoption and effective implementation of the SSBs' standards.**

**The SSBs' interaction and engagement with key stakeholder groups.**

**The SSBs' ability to serve the public interest.**

**The examples above are for illustrative purposes only and should not limit, direct, or otherwise influence your response.**

**Your answer should address the IAASB and IESBA collectively; however, you may wish to also highlight matters specifically for the IAASB or IESBA (if applicable, you could use separate headings to address such matters).**

This would be particularly valuable for European institutes, which operate on a much smaller scale compared to those in other regions of the world. Guidelines based on the "think small first" principle would provide significant support.

#### 6. SECTION IV: KEY TRENDS IMPACTING THE SSBs

---

##### **A.1 Digital Transformation – Increasing Use of Emerging Technologies**

5 – Increasing in importance

**Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:**

**Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts,**

## or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?

Accounting tools and sustainability reporting tools are being created left and right.

### A.2 Digital Transformation – Digital Assets and Institutionalization of Digital Assets

4 – Slightly increasing in importance

**Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:**

**Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?**

Trading of digital information is happening constantly and is very worrisome for the secret of the profession.

### A.3 Digital Transformation – Financial Crimes Enabled by Technology

5 – Increasing in importance

**Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:**

**Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?**

Hacking and the security of our online data is a very big threat to our profession.

## 7. SECTION IV: KEY TRENDS IMPACTING THE SSBs

### B.1 Changes in the Geopolitical and Regulatory Landscape – Regulatory Changes

6 – Strongly increasing in importance

**Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:**

**Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?**

A lot of regions in Europe are trying to dial back the regulation, and try to simplify the regulation. This is an important competitive advantage but a threat for the quality of the profession.

### B.2 Changes in the Geopolitical and Regulatory Landscape – Risk of Fragmentation

4 – Slightly increasing in importance

**Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:**

**Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?**

In Europe is, at the moment, a different trend occurring. The focus lies on further standardisation so professions call practice in different countries.

### **B.3 Changes in the Geopolitical and Regulatory Landscape – Call for Greater Agility in Standard Setting**

5 – Increasing in importance

**Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:**

**Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?**

In Europe alone is the content of each type of profession in each country very diverse. "One size fits all" will be very difficult.

### **B.4 Changes in the Geopolitical and Regulatory Landscape – Greater Diversity of Voices Sought**

3 – Slightly decreasing in importance

**Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:**

**Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?**

A lot of the professions and voices of emerging economies have already been added to the scope.

## **8. SECTION IV: KEY TRENDS IMPACTING THE SSBs**

### **C.1 Evolving Expectations Concerning Sustainability Information – Continuing Demand for Sustainability Reporting and Assurance**

5 – Increasing in importance

**Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:**

**Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts,**

## **or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?**

Yes, we can see this in the EU as well, certainly for the large corporations. It is something we try to inform our members about as well.

## **C.2 Evolving Expectations Concerning Sustainability Information – Regulatory and Geopolitical Changes**

5 – Increasing in importance

**Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:**

**Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?**

With the launching of Omnibus, Europe wants to come back on a part of the previous regulations put in place. This is to improve competitiveness and give some breathing room for the companies and different sectors.

## **9. SECTION IV: KEY TRENDS IMPACTING THE SSBs**

### **D.1 Evolving Structure and Business Models of Accounting Firms – Alternative Ownership Structures**

5 – Increasing in importance

**Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:**

**Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?**

It has come to an uprise and seems to stay very relevant in the future. Private equity is taking over the market in Europe.

### **D.2 Evolving Structure and Business Models of Accounting Firms – Increased Involvement of Non-Professional Accountants in the Accounting and Auditing Profession**

5 – Increasing in importance

**Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:**

**Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?**

The profession had become very complex, there are more specialised experts needed, more than one generalist.

## D.3 Evolving Structure and Business Models of Accounting Firms – Challenges to Attracting and Retaining Talent

6 – Strongly increasing in importance

**Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:**

**Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?**

This trend has been going on for al lot of years. We are actively leading campaigns to attract the youth and different talents.

## D.4 Evolving Structure and Business Models of Accounting Firms – Non-Assurance Service Line

3 – Slightly decreasing in importance

**Please explain why you do not believe this should be considered a relevant trend for the SSBs:**

**Do you wish to highlight any matters relating to this trend or identified impacts, or any additional impacts, for the IAASB or IESBA or both the SSBs?**

It is already popular in the Belgian market for the moment. Probably won't chance in the future.

## 10. SECTION IV: KEY TRENDS IMPACTING THE SSBs - OTHER TRENDS AND RANKING

**6. Are there trends or related areas or matters that you believe the SSBs should consider that are not covered? If so, please provide details.**

No

### Additional trends

**Please number your additional trend (O.1, O.2, O.3, ...)**

**Please describe the additional trend**

**On a scale of 1 to 6, indicate the extent to which you believe this trend will increase or decrease in importance for the SSBs for their next strategy period starting in 2028.**

**Do you wish to explain your rating or highlight any matters relating to this trend for the IAASB, IESBA, or both the SSBs?**

**7. Based on your evaluation of the identified trends, please rank what you believe are the TOP FIVE most important trends for the SSBs to consider for their next strategy period starting in 2028.**

Rank 1 : B1

Rank 2 : D3

Rank 3 : A1

Rank 4 : C1

Rank 5 : C2

#### **11. SECTION V: AREAS FOR JOINT ACTIONS IN SSBs' WORK PLANS**

---

**8. Please share your views about areas of common interest and possible joint or parallel work plan topics (e.g., standard-setting or non-authoritative materials), or other initiatives or activities.**

As mentioned before is standard-setting for smaller SMEs an important request that we are not getting for the moment.