

News release

3 June 2022 - EFAA for SMEs Welcomes Three New Members

During its Annual General Meeting of 3 June, EFAA for SMEs voted to admit three new members – [Association of International Accountants \(AIA\)](#) from the UK, [Conseil National de l'Ordre des Experts-Comptables \(CNOEC\)](#) from France, and [Instituut van de Bedrijfsrevisoren - Institut des Réviseurs d'Entreprises \(IBR-IRE\)](#) from Belgium.

[AIA](#) is a UK Recognised Qualifying Body (RQB) regulated by the FRC, a Prescribed Body in the Republic of Ireland and a supervisory body under the UK and ROI Money Laundering Regulations. AIA's qualification has been independently assessed by the UK National Information Centre for qualifications as equivalent to Level 7 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework. AIA is a Commonwealth Accredited Organisation. [Shahram Moallemi](#), AIA President, said: **“AIA’s mission is to enhance and sustain responsible, ethical, professional accountancy education and practices and work in the public interest, and it is in this context that AIA is delighted to align itself with the European profession serving the interests of SMEs/SMPs. SMEs are the backbone of Europe’s economy and SMPs are their most important partners. AIA looks forward to working with EFAA in supporting and promoting SMPs, contributing to the work of promoting professional standards, and advocating for sustainable SMPs.”**

[CNOEC](#) is the only institute of chartered accountants (expert-comptables) in France. It is placed under the auspices of the Ministry of Finance and gathers 21,000 individuals and 22,000 firms, the vast majority SMPs, who are all chartered accountants in practice. Its purpose is to represent the profession before the public authorities, to ensure its promotion, its defense, and its outreach not only in France but also abroad. The CNOEC is a founding member of IFAC. The CNOEC contributes to the making of proposals before the public authorities, sets professional standards and publishes recommendations, and oversees the compliance by the profession with the professional standards and the Code of Ethics. [Lionel Canesi](#), who has been President since December 2020 said: **“CNOEC campaigns tirelessly to have the central role of Chartered Accountants recognized in the public debate. We believe that the voice of professional accountants in the future must be stronger and that their proposals be carefully considered by the public authorities. Convinced of the need for the digital independence of chartered accountants we created Drakarys, the first investment fund in start-ups dedicated to chartered accountancy. The use of data is the primary focus of our policy.”**

[IBR-IRE](#) is a mandatory membership organization for auditors and audit firms established in accordance with the Belgian Audit Act of 2016. The Act Regarding the Organization and Supervision of registered Auditors of 2016 grants IBR-IRE, under the supervision of the Belgian Audit Oversight College, with the authority to: (i) approve and register statutory auditors and audit firms; (ii) provide continuing professional development for auditors; and (iii) draft auditing and ethical standards for the High Council for the Economic Professions and Minister of Economy’s approval and endorsement. IBR-IRE is a member of IFAC. President [Patrick Van Impe](#) said: **“Bearing in mind that SMPs are an important part of our national professional landscape and that our members serve SMEs in different roles and capacities, we look forward to joining our efforts as we strongly believe that there are many areas of mutual interest.”**

Salvador Marin, EFAA President said: **“Our fast-growing membership is testimony to the value of our work and the need for a strong voice representing small- and medium-sized practices (SMPs) in Europe. All three new members are a natural fit for EFAA. Most of the members of these PAOs work in or as SMPs. We look forward to admitting more members, European professional accountancy organizations (PAOs), keen to contribute to our mission to support and strengthen SMPs.”**

For more information contact the Secretary of the European Federation of Accountants and Auditors for SMEs
T: +32 2 736 88 86 | F: +32 2 736 29 64 | E : secretariat@efaa.com