

Accreditation of Member Associations of the AAE

To be members of the AAE, full member associations require to have a Code of Conduct, a Disciplinary Scheme and an education syllabus and, where a standard setting process exists, a due process. These must all, as a minimum, comply with the [Statutes of the AAE](#) (see Articles 3,4 and 5). Observer members require to have many fewer credentials.

On entry to the Groupe Consultatif, the credentials of the various member organisations were examined. However no further work has been done to check that associations continue to comply.

The International Actuarial Association (IAA) has similar requirements for associations' membership. In fact the model code for the IAA was, I understand, originally based on the Groupe Consultatif Code. Like the AAE, the IAA has an Education Committee. The IAA Education Committee looks at prospective members' education syllabi, and any syllabus changes are indicated to the IAA by an annual return by each association. Similarly the Accreditation Committee (which has no direct parallel in the AAE) looks at the Code of Conduct, Discipline Process and (if relevant) the due process for setting standards on initial application and following any changes indicated by annual return.

While not every full European member of IAA is a full member of the AAE (eg Serbia) and not every full member of the AAE is a member of IAA (eg Channel Islands), the vast majority of associations are in both international organisations. Also there are strong similarities in the criteria for membership. It therefore makes sense for duplication of accreditation process to be avoided between the IAA and AAE. However, unlike the IAA, at present the AAE does not have an annual return asking, among other matters, about changes to Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Scheme, Due Process for setting standards and Education syllabus.

At the recent Accreditation Committee Meeting of the IAA in London in September this year, I raised – as a member of that committee, representing the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries - the question of either one or other of the bodies looking at all the criteria. The response from the chairman of that committee (himself a European actuary) was that the IAA could consider using the education criteria decisions of the AAE, reducing workload for the IAA Education Committee, but that – in the absence currently of a process in the AAE of an Accreditation Committee or a process for annual returns – that the IAA Accreditation Committee should continue considering the credentials of European associations and make available their considerations to the AAE. Part of his thinking on the education issues was that the criteria for a Fully Qualified Actuary in Europe are higher than those of the IAA. No one in the ensuing short discussions differed from this view.

A discussion in this Helsinki meeting of this AAE committee of the above suggestion would be useful before proceeding to prepare a protocol for this matter in conjunction with the IAA. The criteria for Observer members of the AAE are so simple that, in my view, no special arrangements are needed in relation to a comparison of the IAA criteria for associate member associations.

David Martin, Chairperson of the AAE Standards, Freedoms and Professionalism Committee.

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