

September 13, 2021

To the AAE General Assembly

Dear Membres titulaires,

The exposure period for the consultation on the amended Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA), Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Guidelines and amended Statutes ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2021.

We received several valuable contributions from Member Association on which we worked in parallel during the consultation period in order to be able to vote on those documents during the General Assembly taking place in Sursee, Switzerland on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2021. In fact, after having to postpone the vote for two years, it is now time to move ahead. We have been working constantly during the summer being in contact with various Full Member Associations (FMA) in order to find the best compromise based on the feedback we received from them in order to have a successful General Assembly.

From the various exchanges and feedback received, it was clear that for several FMAs, the MRA is the cornerstone of the AAE and everything should be done to avoid an FMA leaving the MRA. In fact, the MRA is one of the most important benefits for AAE's FMAs and its Members and therefore it is the duty of the FMAs to cultivate and promote it. Consequently, in case an FMA leaves the MRA, it also means it leaves one of the most important agreements and gives one of its most important duties away. Therefore, there must be a cost to it, which is a change of Membership from FMA to Observer Member. Of course, an FMA may be forced to leave the MRA for some valid reasons (e.g. legal risk) beyond its will and control, and the goal of the AAE is to find solutions before having to change the Membership Status. Consequently, the idea is that any FMA who has to leave the MRA for a valid reason has five years to find a solution with the AAE to re-enter the MRA before having to change its Membership Status.

The second important feedback we received is that the valid reason to leave the MRA should be defined in more detail, which is now incorporated in Article 6 of the proposed amendments to the Statutes.

The third important feedback we received was about the voting process and the cooling-off period. In fact, if an FMA has to leave the MRA and a solution with the AAE is found close to the 5 years deadline, the General Assembly will have the possibility to extend the resolution period. Moreover, if for some reason, the AAE is unable to vote unanimously, there is the possibility to decide with a 75% majority after a cooling-off period. Therefore, we decided to specify that the deadline to change Membership Status is suspended during the cooling-off period in order to avoid a scenario where an FMA would lose its Full

Membership because the 5 years deadline would expire before the second vote after the cooling-off period has taken place.

Last but not least, we received several valuable comments on typos and phrasing, which we also incorporated in the various documents.

You will find in attachment:

- the updated documents for approval in Sursee and
- the tracked version of those documents comparing with the original consultation documents and also comparing with the documents currently in force.

Finally, these versions have been reviewed by an external law firm and you will find in the Legal Memorandum an overview of the legal risks and how they are mitigated, by re-phrasing certain sentences in the aforementioned document. All documents have been revised accordingly to make sure they don't contain any material legal risk.

The MRA Review Task Force unanimously believes that the new versions of the Statutes (Article 6), the MRA itself and the Q&A document take all concerns into account adequately, and hope that the General Assembly will approve all in our forthcoming Annual Meeting.

In case you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,  
Birgit Kaiser and Christophe Heck  
On behalf of the MRA Review TF