

Closing Presentation by Jean-Paul Gauzès, EFRAG Board President

It is a great pleasure for me to be the final speaker at this conference. This is my first presentation in my new function as EFRAG Board President. It is a great opportunity to meet with so many famous names in financial reporting. Not only from Europe but from all over the world. Both as speakers and in the audience.

I want in particular to thank Matthew Baldwin, Head of The Cabinet of Commissioner Hill for his contribution to our celebration and his stimulating words for EFRAG. I personally regret the circumstances which made Lord Hill to decide to leave.

I want to express my thanks to Roger Marshall. Roger acted almost two years as EFRAG Board President after the implementation of the Maystadt recommendations. He has been instrumental in making the new structure operational together with Francois Flores. I am grateful for Roger's continued support for EFRAG and the EFRAG Board in the coming time. I am looking forward to working together with him.

We have celebrated today 15 years of EFRAG. It was an afternoon in which we reflected on the past – how EFRAG has developed and adapted since 2001. But even more, it was an afternoon of looking into the future: to the nearby future and the further horizon of EFRAG's activities. We asked ourselves the question what and where EFRAG will be in 15 years. Andrew and I will bring our leadership to EFRAG. We will work together on EFRAG's future.

We had today roundtables on effects analyses and financial reporting by small listed companies. These topics are relatively new to EFRAG. We discussed how important effect analysis is in the standard setting process. Effect analysis plays an increasing role in the EFRAG's endorsement advice. The European public good assessment addresses possible behavioural changes and economic

impacts. This included considerations of financial stability and economic growth. IFRS 16 on Leases will be our pilot case. Today's debate has shown the importance.

For the smaller listed companies financial reporting, our debate focused on the alternative markets. We learnt that financial statements are important. Transparency is key. Different views are held on whether harmonised standards are needed. And, if so, what those standards should be. This debate is important for Europe's capital market union and EFRAG stands ready to contribute further.

You will expect me to say something about my plans for the near future for EFRAG. Let me start by saying that I want to be modest. I have to learn a lot about EFRAG, its functioning and its activities. I want to stress that it is important to me that all levels in EFRAG form one cooperative team. We should move together.

It is important that EFRAG makes sure the European voice heard – loud and clear - at the IASB. EFRAG should defend European interests and needs. EFRAG's proactive work is essential to bring European thought leadership to the international table at an early stage. It gives Europe weight in the international discussions. EFRAG needs input from all stakeholders to identify the issues that are most important for Europe. I mentioned already the importance of effects analysis. In particular the macro economic implications of standards. EFRAG needs to develop with help of others expertise and experience in this area.

You will not be surprised that one of my first initiatives will be to enhance the relationships with my former colleagues in the European Parliament. The European Parliament and more in particular ECON and ECON's Permanent IFRS Team should be involved in the discussion of main accounting standards. I envisage a regular dialogue with them. This dialogue will give EFRAG the possibility to give more consideration to the European Parliament views, earlier in the process.

Also on my wish list is establishing closer links with the European Supervisory Authorities and the European Central Bank. A relationship built on trust and coordination is essential. We need to work together towards consensus and harmonisation of the views held in Europe.

I cannot close this conference without a big thanks to the EFRAG Secretariat for all their support to EFRAG and its activities over so many years. Andrew and I count on their continuing support.

Today's conference would not have been possible without Andrew and his team: a special thanks to Emanuela, Sara and Neha for the organisation: I hope that you agree with me that we had a perfect afternoon.

For today we have only one more item on the agenda. I invite you all to join us for drinks in the hall to celebrate the last 15 years of EFRAG and look forward to the next 15.

Thanks to you all for the warm welcome you gave to Andrew and me at EFRAG!