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Mr. Stig Enevoldsen Chairman Technical Expert Group EFRAG Avenue des Arts 13-14 B-1000 BRUXELLES

24 October 2008

E-mail: commentletter@efrag.org

Dear Mr. Enevoldsen,

# Re: EFRAG's assessments of the amendment to IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement "Eligible Hedged Items"

- FEE (Fédération des Experts Comptables Européens Federation of European Accountants) appreciates the request to comment on the assessments of the amendment to IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement "Eligible Hedged Items".
- We support EFRAG providing a positive endorsement advice and we broadly agree with the
  assessments formulated by EFRAG, without detailed examinations of the proposals and
  underlying assumptions.

## EFRAG's assessment of the amendment to IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement* "Eligible Hedged Items" against the endorsement criteria

- 3. In our letter to the IASB dated 27 February 2008, we detailed our comments regarding the IASB Exposure Draft of Proposed Amendments to IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement Exposures Qualifying for Hedge Accounting.
- 4. With the publication of the amendment to IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement* "Eligible Hedged Items", we support EFRAG's assessments against the endorsement criteria, recommending its adoption.

## EFRAG's evaluation of the costs and benefits of the amendment to IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement "Eligible Hedged Items"

5. We broadly agree with the evaluation of the costs and benefits of the amendment to IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement "Eligible Hedged Items" as provided by EFRAG but have not carried out a detailed examination.

#### **Assessment Process**

6. As set out in our letter of 24 January 2008 to the European Commission (EC) we believe that, in the current financial reporting environment, Europe needs to make every effort to prevent the creation of new deviations from IFRS. Furthermore, it needs to avoid to the extent possible any timing differences caused by delays in the endorsement mechanisms. Non-endorsement would call into question the EU commitment to the transatlantic dialogue with the US and may lead to less rather than to more EU influence in the standard setting process.

- 7. In our letter to the EC we underlined our understanding that the EC will only undertake effect studies for potential sensitive changes of standards, new standards and new interpretations during an interim period, until the IASB itself develops impact assessments and feedback statements. In future, we recommend such impact assessment be undertaken early in the standard setting process and not when the actual Standard is issued.
- 8. An enhanced due process for the IASB and IFRIC, improved governance of the IASB and timely and high quality European influence early in the standard setting process should result in international standards and interpretations that are acceptable for Europe. This European influence is expected to be exercised at, or before, exposure draft stage. EFRAG was created for that purpose and has the full support of FEE. As a due process is in place, at both IASB and EFRAG levels, these processes are expected to result in standards that are suitable for positive endorsement.

#### **Endorsement**

9. FEE supports the endorsement of the amendment to IAS 39 *Financial Instruments:* Recognition and Measurement "Eligible Hedged Items".

We would be pleased to discuss any aspect of this letter you may wish to raise with us.

Yours sincerely,

Jacques Potdevin President

Ref: ACC/JP/SS/LF