



13th International
Anti-Corruption Conference
IACC

Global Transparency:
fighting corruption for a sustainable future.
Athens, Greece | 30 October - 2 November 2008

WORKSHOP REPORT FORM

Number and title of workshop: Closing the credibility gap – external assurance of anti-bribery programmes.

Coordinator: Susan Cote-Freeman, TI

Date and time of workshop: 30.10.08 – 17:30-19:30

Moderator (Name and Institution) : Ronald E. Berenbeim, The Conference Board

Rapporteur (Name and Institution) : Peter Wilkinson, TI

Panellists (Name, institution, title)

Hans Christoph Hirt, Associate Director, Hermes Equity Ownership Services

Jean-Pierre Méan, Managing Director, Ethic Intelligence Suisse

Martyn Jones, National Audit Technical Partner, Deloitte

Main Issues Covered

- Presentation of assurance framework for informal discussion.
- Assurance as a new tool to improve transparency on implementation and build credibility of companies' efforts.
- Importance of question of credibility of assurance and certification.
- How to ensure that we do not apply a double standard of behaviour in developing and developed countries.
- Example given of application of verification using the International Federation of Inspection Agencies and its requirement for members to be verified against its code.
- How a fund manager would view use of verification by a company.



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Main Outcomes

Discussion of issues around assurance and certification.

- 1) How can you develop a common template for so many areas, large/small companies, countries, etc.?
- 2) The importance of getting small and medium enterprises involved.
- 3) How can companies sign up if competitors do not?
- 4) Are there too many codes and frameworks already?
- 5) It is important to certify the certifiers.
- 6) How do you measure quality of compliance and the political will behind it?
- 7) Above all, leading by example is the key.

Main Outputs

- Distribution at meeting and also by email of consultation draft of assurance framework.
- Distribution of presentations by email.

Recommendations, Follow-up Actions

- Circulation of the consultation draft of the framework to those attending the workshop once the document is issued for public consultation.



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Workshop Highlights (including interesting quotes)

The meeting identified that:

1. A framework should cover all cultures and sizes of companies.
2. A policy will not be credible unless you implement it and it is supported by verification.
3. All the certification in the world will not do what leading by example can achieve.

Signed

Peter Wilkinson