

IFRS Briefing Sheet

IFRSs and the E.U. endorsement process: a status report

Issue 18

This *IFRS Briefing Sheet* addresses the implementation of IFRSs in the European Union (E.U.) and the current status of the endorsement process that underlies that implementation.

It analyses the adoption, by the E.U., of an amended version of IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement* and identifies a number of practical issues related to the implementation of an amended standard.

International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) must be *adopted* into E.U. law *before* its use becomes mandatory under the IAS Regulation. The adoption process is sometimes referred to as 'endorsement'.

IFRSs are adopted using a legislative procedure that allows the European Commission (EC) to adopt an individual standard or interpretation, provided that it meets the criteria for endorsement set out in the IAS Regulation and subject to a certain level of support from member states of the E.U. (see box, 'The E.U. endorsement process'). Once adopted, the standard overrides any conflicting national legislation.

The EC decides whether these criteria are met, based in part on technical advice provided to it by the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG). The support of the member states ordinarily would be confirmed in a vote taken in a committee set up for the purpose, the Accounting Regulatory Committee (ARC).

In effect, the IAS Regulation delegates responsibility for adopting an IFRS to the EC. It usually takes about six months to complete the endorsement of an individual standard. However, as we have seen in practice, adoption can take much longer.

Background – The IAS Regulation

In 2002, the E.U. passed legislation on the application of international accounting standards (the IAS Regulation, EC/1606/2002). This legislation requires E.U. companies that are listed on an E.U. regulated market to comply with **international accounting standards adopted for use in the E.U.** (E.U. adopted standards). Accordingly, a standard (or interpretation) issued by the

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The E.U. endorsement process

The **IAS Regulation** empowers the European Commission (EC) to adopt implementing measures necessary to meet the objectives set out in that legislation. The IAS Regulation defines the nature of the implementing measures and the criteria for their acceptability (see below).

Implementing measures are adopted as EC Regulations and contain as appendices the text of the relevant standard or interpretation.

The criteria for the adoption of a standard or interpretation are that it:

- is not contrary to the 'true and fair' principle set out in the E.U. Accounting Directives;
- is conducive to the European public good; and
- meets the criteria of understandability, relevance, reliability and comparability required of the financial information needed for making economic decisions and assessing the stewardship of management.

The EC can adopt an implementing measure only if it has the support of a regulatory committee, the ARC, set up for the purpose. The ARC contains representatives of the E.U. member states. Each member state has a different number of votes and voting requires a qualified majority. As a result a small number of large countries can establish a blocking minority. If the ARC fails to support the EC's decision, then the Commission can ask the full European Council (composed of government ministers from the member states) to do so. Proposals for implementing measures also are delivered to the European Parliament for its comments.

Adopted standards and interpretations become part of European Community law and are published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* and translated into all of the E.U.'s official languages. EC regulations adopting standards can be accessed via the EC Web site at http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/accounting/ias_en.htm#2002_1606

Which standards have been endorsed?

As of 1 January 2005 all documents issued by the IASB have been endorsed except for the following recent documents which have yet to be considered for endorsement:

- IFRS 6 *Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources* (December 2004);
- IFRIC 5 *Rights to Interests arising from Decommissioning, Restoration and Environmental Rehabilitation Funds* (December 2004);
- IFRIC 4 *Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease* (December 2004);
- IFRIC 3 *Emission Rights* (December 2004);
- Amendments to IAS 19 *Employee Benefits – Actuarial Gains and Losses, Group Plans and Disclosures* (December 2004);
- Amendments to IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement – Transition and Initial Recognition of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities* (December 2004);
- IFRIC 2 *Members' Shares in Co-operative Entities and Similar Instruments* (November 2004); and
- Amendments to the scope of SIC-12 *Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities* (November 2004).

In addition, IFRS 2 *Share-based Payment* is awaiting the final step of

endorsement but has received the support of the ARC.

IAS 39 has been adopted with amendments to the original IASB version of the standard.

See Appendix A for a listing of the endorsement status of each standard and interpretation.

Financial instruments – IAS 32 *Financial Instruments: Disclosure and Presentation* and IAS 39

Following the publication of revised versions of IAS 32 and IAS 39 by the IASB in December 2003 and March 2004, the EC discussed endorsement with representatives of the E.U. member state governments in the ARC.

In December 2004, the EC adopted IAS 32 as revised by the IASB. This followed the publication of IFRIC 2.

Unfortunately, the adoption of IAS 39 has been more difficult.

The EC proposed to the ARC the adoption of an amended version of IAS 39. The amendments to the original version of IAS 39:

- remove the fair value option to designate liabilities as measured at fair value; and
- amend the interest rate hedge accounting requirements so that certain elements no longer will be compulsory. Some of the rules on measurement of ineffectiveness in a portfolio hedge of interest rate risk would be removed, allowing for the inclusion of demand deposits in such a model.

This amended version often is referred to as the 'carve-out' version of IAS 39.

The proposal was supported by the ARC, although not unanimously.

On 19 November 2004, the EC announced that it had endorsed the carve-out version of IAS 39. The text of the adopted standard has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

The EC has provided some clarification of its views regarding the impact of these changes and a number of related issues in the legislation that adopts the amended standard (Commission Regulation (EC) 2086/2004) and in a Frequently Asked Questions paper (dated 19 November 2004, see http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/accounting/ias_en.htm#news), though some important questions remain unanswered (see below). Our understanding of the amendments is that an entity:

- may not use the fair value option in IAS 39 for *most* liabilities, though some liabilities still may be measured at fair value; and
- may subject itself voluntarily to the more stringent hedging requirements contained in the IASB's version of IAS 39.

These are discussed further below. There is no amendment to the fair value option for financial assets.

Fair value of liabilities

Both the original and carve-out standards require certain liabilities to be measured at fair value through profit and loss. Fair value measurement is mandatory for liabilities that are held for trading and financial liabilities that are derivatives. Derivatives that are hedging instruments in a cash flow hedge or a hedge of a net investment in a foreign operation that are accounted for using hedge accounting are measured at fair value, but changes in their fair value are not recognised immediately in profit or loss. Both the original and carve-out versions of the standard also

require that part of a financial liability is measured at fair value through profit or loss if, for example, a risk arising from that financial liability is hedged and that hedge is accounted for as a fair value hedge.

The IASB's standard also permits any other financial liability to be designated at fair value through profit or loss. This option has been deleted in the carve-out version.

However, the EC has indicated separately that the option to designate a financial liability as 'at fair value through profit or loss' is available to an entity preparing financial statements in accordance with E.U. adopted standards to the extent that the entity would be permitted to do so by national law, had the entity been required to apply national law rather than the IAS Regulation. The extent to which this option is available will depend upon national law, in particular how the E.U. *Fair Value Directive* (2001/65/EC) was transposed into national law. This may be particularly relevant for insurance entities which fall under a special E.U. directive, and therefore national law, which generally permits more liabilities to be measured at fair value.

The application of these requirements in some areas remains unclear and it is hoped that further guidance will be provided in the near future.

Hedging requirements

While E.U. law does not require the application of the more stringent requirements of the IASB standard, an entity may comply with those requirements voluntarily. An entity that did so then would be in compliance in this area with both the IASB and the E.U. endorsed standards.

The EC has indicated that individual member states will be able to

require compliance with the more stringent hedging requirements of the IASB standard for the near term. Presumably, any such requirement will be subject to applicable national legislative processes. This may prolong the uncertainty as to the requirement that will be mandatory for 2005.

In practice, the impact of the 'carve out' will be limited to a relatively small number of financial institutions. The vast majority of entities applying the endorsed standards will be unaffected by the carve out.

First-time adopters

The legislation that adopts the carve-out version of IAS 39 (EC 2086/2004) confirms the EC's view that an entity that is applying E.U. adopted standards for the first time will be able to apply adopted IFRS 1 *First-time Adoption of IFRSs*, provided that a statement of full compliance with *adopted* standards is given.

Practical issues of partial endorsement

The application of IAS 39 as issued by the IASB poses many challenges.

In addition, the use of the carve-out version will require careful consideration. The following paragraphs explain a number of issues related to the amendments made to create the carve-out version.

Embedded derivatives

The fair value option was created by the IASB to provide entities with a pragmatic solution to the requirements of IAS 39 regarding the separation of embedded derivatives. The fair value option permits entities to avoid requirement to recognise embedded derivatives separately by designating an entire combined financial instrument as 'at fair value through profit or loss', and measuring

it at fair value. This may be beneficial when the fair value of the combined instrument is easier to determine than that of the embedded derivative.

The deletion of this option for at least some financial liabilities means that an entity will be required to identify separable embedded derivatives. This may require a detailed analysis of all financial liabilities, which is potentially a complex and costly exercise.

Furthermore, identified, separable embedded derivatives will have to be measured at fair value in subsequent reporting periods. It may be difficult for entities to determine such fair values since embedded derivatives themselves generally are not actively traded and there may not be substantial data on similar, actual derivatives on which to base fair value. While both the IASB and carve-out versions of IAS 39 provide some relief in cases when the fair value of an embedded derivative cannot be determined, such cases are assumed to be rare.

Hedge accounting – natural offsets

The fair value option also provides entities with an opportunity to achieve the same income statement accounting effect as a fair value hedge, without having to meet the extensive hedge accounting requirements of IAS 39. When IAS 39 was revised by the IASB, preparers of financial statements had indicated that this is desirable, particularly for an entity's exposure to the change in fair value of a financial asset that is offset by its exposure to a financial liability, and *vice versa*.

For example, even if the relationship between a financial asset and a financial liability would qualify for fair value hedge accounting, the alternative of applying the fair value option to both instruments avoids the requirement to comply with the extensive documentation and effectiveness testing requirements.

The deletion of the fair value option for at least some financial liabilities removes this approach and these potential benefits. Instead, a similar accounting effect can be achieved only by designating the relationship as a hedge, and by complying with all of the hedging requirements. Accordingly, it will not be possible to rely solely upon the effect of any natural offset of movements in fair value.

In some cases a relationship between a financial asset and financial liability may be such that their respective fair value changes offset one another, but not sufficiently to meet the effectiveness requirements of IAS 39. The fair value option would allow for the offset to be reflected, however removal of the fair value option for liabilities makes this no longer possible.

In other cases the restrictions of IAS 39 on what may qualify as a hedged item and hedging instrument respectively might prohibit the application of hedge accounting to a relationship between a particular financial asset and financial liability. In this case, neither the natural offset nor hedge accounting will be available. For example, IAS 39 prohibits a non-derivative financial liability (or asset) from being designated as a hedging instrument, except in the case of a foreign currency exposure. This means that a naturally offsetting position may not be reflected symmetrically when that position does not include a derivative and does not comprise a foreign currency exposure.

Contractually linked assets and liabilities

Some entities have liabilities that are contractually linked to particular financial assets, for example, unit-linked liabilities issued by insurers for which the amount payable to the holder is linked to the performance of a specified portfolio of assets. The normal measurement

requirements of IAS 39 would result in a mismatch when the assets are measured at fair value while the liabilities are measured at amortised cost. The fair value option offered a pragmatic solution, allowing both the asset and liability to be measured at fair value through profit or loss. The deletion of the fair value option for liabilities reintroduces the measurement mismatch problem.

As noted above, the EC has indicated that the fair value option is available to the extent that the option would be available under Community law. One example cited by the EC is the Insurance Accounts Directive which allows liabilities under unit-linked contracts to be measured by reference to the underlying units or assets. It is expected that the EC will explain shortly how it believes that this interaction should be interpreted.

Accounting framework

The legal requirement in the E.U. is the application of accounting standards adopted for use in the E.U., not IFRSs as issued by the IASB ('full IFRSs').

Accordingly, **accounting standards adopted for use in the E.U.** is the accounting framework for E.U. companies complying with the IAS Regulation and any statement of compliance included in the basis of preparation and the description of accounting policies will need to refer to, and adequately describe, this framework.

The transition from national GAAP to IFRSs is a significant communication challenge. Companies will need to explain clearly to markets and analysts the change and its effect. Explaining transition to accounting standards adopted in the E.U. – an accounting framework that is likely to be less well defined and understood than full IFRSs – can only increase that challenge.

A description of the major differences between endorsed IFRSs and full IFRSs may assist understanding. When an entity voluntarily complies with full IFRSs in addition to the endorsed standards (see *Concurrent compliance* below), the description of the accounting framework should state separately compliance with the legal requirement and compliance with IFRSs.

Concurrent compliance

As described below it is possible that the adopted carve-out version of IAS 39 will permit an entity to comply concurrently with the IAS Regulation (accounting standards adopted in the E.U.) and full IFRSs.

- **Fair value option:** While the fair value option will not be wholly available, this is only an option in IAS 39 and an entity could claim compliance with full IFRSs in this area whether it uses the option or not.
- **Hedging requirements:** An entity that voluntarily subjects itself to the more stringent requirements of IAS 39 would be in compliance with both the IASB and carve-out version of IAS 39. Further, the narrow scope of the requirements to which the 'carve out' applies means that there will be no impact on the majority of entities that are required to apply the amended standard.

Concurrent compliance may be particularly important for those entities that wish to use their E.U. financial statements for the purposes of a securities listing on a non-E.U. market that gives IFRSs a different status from

accounting standards adopted in the E.U.

This may be the case for non-U.S. companies registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), if the SEC grants certain exemptions only to a first-time adopter of full IFRSs. For example, the SEC's March 2004 rule proposal on relief for first-time adopters of IFRSs from restating multiple comparative years proposed requiring use of IFRSs as published by the IASB.

In our view, any statement of compliance with full IFRSs should be in addition to any statements of compliance relevant to the legal requirement of the IAS Regulation for entities subject to the IAS Regulation.

While concurrent compliance with both full IFRSs and accounting standards adopted for use in the E.U. may be possible in 2005, concurrent compliance may not be possible in the future. This could arise, for example, if the EC does not adopt a revised standard issued by the IASB but had previously adopted the earlier version of the same standard.

Convergence of adopted IFRSs and full IFRSs

The adoption by the EC of amended standards leaves the question of convergence of IFRSs and adopted IFRSs.

At the ARC meeting on 1 October 2004, the adoption of a carve-out version of IAS 39 was described by

the EC as an 'exceptional situation' and a 'temporary solution'.

The EC indicated its hope that continued discussions between the IASB and interested parties, together with any necessary amendments to the relevant standards by the IASB, will allow the EC to adopt revised versions of IAS 39 in full.

In the case of the fair value option, the EC has expressed its hope that a revised version of IAS 39 will be available by April 2005. In the case of the hedging requirements, the EC hopes that a revised version may be available before the end of 2005.

However, given the controversy that has surrounded these issues, it may be unwise for companies that are required to adopt IFRSs in 2005 to rely on these timetables. Instead, it would be safer to assume that the currently adopted versions will be applicable in 2005.

In our view, the adoption of all IFRSs is the appropriate route to a set of global financial reporting standards. We encourage all interested parties to work together to help ensure that partial adoption is indeed an exceptional and temporary situation.

If you would like further information on any of the matters discussed in this issue of *IFRS Briefing Sheet*, please talk to your usual local KPMG contact or call any of our member firms' offices.

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Appendix A

Status of endorsement of IFRSs by the E.U. at 20 January 2005¹

	Issued / Revised / Amended ²	Endorsement Status	Date	Commission Regulation
IAS 1 <i>Presentation of Financial Statements</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2238/2004
IAS 2 <i>Inventories</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2238/2004
IAS 7 <i>Cash Flow Statements</i>	December 1992	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IAS 8 <i>Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2238/2004
IAS 10 <i>Events after the Balance Sheet Date</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2238/2004
IAS 11 <i>Construction Contracts</i>	December 1993	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IAS 12 <i>Income Taxes</i>	November 2000	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IAS 14 <i>Segment Reporting</i>	August 1997	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IAS 16 <i>Property, Plant and Equipment</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2238/2004
IAS 17 <i>Leases</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2238/2004
IAS 18 <i>Revenue</i>	December 1993	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IAS 19 <i>Employee Benefits</i>	May 2002	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
Amendments to IAS 19 <i>Employee Benefits</i> – Actuarial Gains and Losses, Group Plans and Disclosures (including consequential amendments to IAS 1, IAS 24 and IFRS 1)	December 2004	Awaiting endorsement decision ³		
IAS 20 <i>Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance</i>	1994	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IAS 21 <i>The Effect of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2238/2004
IAS 23 <i>Borrowing Costs</i>	December 1993	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IAS 24 <i>Related Party Disclosures</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2238/2004
IAS 26 <i>Accounting and Reporting by Retirement Benefit Plans</i>	1994	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IAS 27 <i>Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2238/2004
IAS 28 <i>Investments in Associates</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2238/2004
IAS 29 <i>Financial Reporting in Hyperinflationary Economies</i>	1994	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IAS 30 <i>Disclosures in the Financial Statements of Banks and Similar Financial Institutions</i>	1994	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IAS 31 <i>Interests in Joint Ventures</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2238/2004
IAS 32 <i>Financial Instruments: Disclosure and Presentation</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2237/2004

1. Does not include previous versions of standards and interpretations if they are superseded by new or revised versions that also have been adopted.

2. The date is not altered in case of subsequent consequential amendments.

3. Unless otherwise noted, "Awaiting endorsement decision" means that EFRAG has not yet issued its endorsement advice and therefore the formal process has not yet started.

	Issued / Revised / Amended	Endorsement Status	Date	Commission Regulation
IAS 33 <i>Earnings per Share</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2238/2004
IAS 34 <i>Interim Financial Reporting</i>	February 1998	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IAS 36 <i>Impairment of Assets</i>	March 2004	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2236/2004
IAS 37 <i>Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets</i>	July 1998	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IAS 38 <i>Intangible Assets</i>	March 2004	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2236/2004
IAS 39 <i>Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i> a Portfolio	March 2004 (i.e., including Amendment on Fair Value Accounting for Hedge of Interest Rate Risk, issued in March 2004) ⁴	Endorsed	19 November 2004	(EC) 2086/2004
Amendments to IAS 39 <i>Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i> – Transition and Initial Recognition of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities (including consequential amendments to IFRS 1)	December 2004	Awaiting endorsement decision		
IAS 40 <i>Investment Property</i>	December 2003	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2238/2004
IAS 41 <i>Agriculture</i>	February 2001	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IFRS 1 <i>First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards</i>	June 2003	Endorsed	6 April 2004	(EC) 707/2004 (Applicability clarified in (EC) 2086/2004)
IFRS 2 <i>Share-based Payment</i> (including consequential amendments to IAS 12, IAS 16, IAS 19, IAS 32, IAS 33, IAS 38, IAS 39 and IFRS 1)	February 2004	Awaiting endorsement decision (supported by the ARC)	20 December 2004	
IFRS 3 <i>Business Combinations</i>	March 2004	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2236/2004
IFRS 4 <i>Insurance Contracts</i>	March 2004	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2236/2004
IFRS 5 <i>Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations</i>	March 2004	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2236/2004
IFRS 6 <i>Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources</i> (including consequential amendments to IFRS 1, IAS 16 and IAS 38)	December 2004	Awaiting endorsement decision		
SIC-7 <i>Introduction of the Euro</i>	October 1997	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
SIC-10 <i>Government Assistance</i> – No Specific Relation to Operating Activities	January 1998	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003

⁴ IAS 39 contains carve outs in the following paragraphs:

Standard: Paragraphs 9b, 35 and 81A

Application Guidance: 31, 99A, 99B, 107A, 114 (c) and (g), 118 (b), 119 (d), (c) and (f), 121, 122, 124 (a) and (d), 126, 127, 129 and 130.

	Issued / Revised / Amended	Endorsement Status	Date	Commission Regulation
SIC-12 <i>Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities</i>	June 1998	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
Amendments to the scope of SIC-12 <i>Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities</i>	November 2004	Awaiting endorsement decision (recommended by EFRAG)	4 January 2005	
SIC-13 <i>Jointly Controlled Entities – Non-Monetary Contributions by Venturers</i>	June 1998	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
SIC-15 <i>Operating Leases – Incentives</i>	June 1998	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
SIC-21 <i>Income Taxes – Recovery of Revalued Non-Depreciable Assets</i>	July 2000	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
SIC-25 <i>Income Taxes – Changes in the Tax Status of an Entity or its Shareholders</i>	July 2000	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
SIC-27 <i>Evaluating the Substance of Transactions Involving the Legal Form of a Lease</i>	December 2001	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
SIC-29 <i>Disclosure – Service Concession Arrangements</i>	December 2001	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
SIC-31 <i>Revenue – Barter Transactions Involving Advertising Services</i>	December 2001	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
SIC-32 <i>Intangible Assets – Web Site Costs</i>	March 2002	Endorsed	29 September 2003	(EC) 1725/2003
IFRIC 1 <i>Changes in Existing Decommissioning, Restoration and Similar Liabilities</i>	May 2004	Endorsed	29 December 2004	(EC) 2237/2004
IFRIC 2 <i>Members’ Shares in Co-operative Entities and Similar Instruments</i>	November 2004	Awaiting endorsement decision (recommended by EFRAG)		
IFRIC 3 <i>Emission Rights</i>	December 2004	Awaiting endorsement decision		
IFRIC 4 <i>Determining whether an Arrangement Contains a Lease</i> (including consequential amendments to IFRS 1)	December 2004	Awaiting endorsement decision		
IFRIC 5 <i>Rights to Interests arising from Decommissioning, Restoration and Environmental Rehabilitation Funds</i> (including consequential amendments to IAS 39)	December 2004	Awaiting endorsement decision		

For additional information on the E.U. endorsement process see *IFRS Briefing Sheet* – issue 18, February 2005.

EC regulations adopting standards can be accessed via the EC Web site at http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/accounting/ias_en.htm#2002_1606.