



Standing Technical Committee

Ethics Committee (EtC)

Founded on March 31, 2001 by the GCPAS Nominating Committee in Stuttgart, Germany

Terms of Reference

Gemäß § 2 Abs. 3 (e) Satz 1 der Satzung der GCPAS in der Fassung vom 31. März 2001 legt das CPA-Panel im Einvernehmen mit dem Ethics Committee die folgenden Terms of Reference fest.

Den Terms of Reference wurde – dem Erfordernis des § 2 Abs. 3 (e) Satz 2 der Satzung der GCPAS entsprechend – am 18. Juli 2001 vom Council zugestimmt. Sie sind mit dieser Zustimmung in Kraft getreten.

Terms of Reference – Ethics Committee (EtC)

The objective of the Ethics Committee (EtC), on behalf of the GCPAS Council, is:

- The GCPAS Ethics Committee (EtC) reports to the CPA-Panel and to the Council. It will consult with and advise the CPA-Panel and the Council on all aspects of ethical issues and develop appropriate guidance on these issues for CPA-Panel's approval and Council's ultimate approval. It will also actively promote good ethical practices to GCPAS members and to the public at large.
- To support the compliance of professional accountants with the *AICPA Code of Professional Conduct* and with the *IFAC's Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*, thereby ensuring that the public interest is protected.
- To increase the public awareness of the value of the CPA.
- To provide timely and quality guidance to enable GCPAS members to be the premier value providers in their fields.

The aforementioned objective of the Ethics Committee should be translated into action by:

- Scheduling working sessions at appropriate locations and including seminars/consultation with the host GCPAS Members, Accounting Firms and Professional Organizations.
- Organizing, at its discretion, Ethics Fora to broaden discussion, attempting to coordinate such activities with other GCPAS-wide activities.
- Providing comments on standards and guidance of the Professional Ethics Team of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Ethics Committee of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) with regard to ethics matters for professional accountants.

- Providing comments on standards and guidance of the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer in Deutschland e.V. (IDW) and the Wirtschaftsprüferkammer (WPK) with regard to ethics matters for professional accountants.
- Performing research with regard to ethics matters regarding the accounting profession and their implementation worldwide and, especially, in Germany and publishing the results in "The GCPAS Newsletter" and other technical accounting and auditing journals and transmitting the results to the Professional Ethics Team of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the Ethics Committee of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), to the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer in Deutschland e.V (IDW) and to the Wirtschaftsprüferkammer (WPK) in order to share the achieved knowledge with the aforementioned professional organizations.
- By making use of the practice experience of the members of the EtC with professional ethics issues: issuing (noncommittal) guidance and practice aids regarding ethics with respect to the accounting profession.
- Promoting the worldwide harmonization of ethics standards for the accounting profession.
- Promoting debate with practitioners, users, regulators and other professional accounting organizations throughout the world and, especially, in Germany, to identify the needs of users and the accounting and auditing community for new standards and guidance with regard to ethics matters.
- Providing (noncommittal) technical and – if requested strictly confidential – advice to GCPAS members in order to support their compliance with relevant Ethics Standards and to assist them in resolving potential difficulties occurred.

As long term aim, the EtC intends to provide the accounting and auditing community with a commentary-textbook on the Ethics Standards and Guidance of the accounting and auditing profession applied worldwide.

With regard to EtC due process in preparing comments and research to be published the following rules are valid:

Each member of the EtC shall have one vote. The affirmative vote of at least three-quarters of the members, represented at a meeting, shall be required to approve a proposed comment or technical article to be published and/or to be transmitted to the related professional organizations. For any comment or technical article to be officially transmitted or published under the name of the GCPAS, the approval of the CPA-Panel is required.

Approval of the *EtC Terms of Reference* by

- GCPAS CPA-Panel
- GCPAS Standing Technical Committee EdC (Chairman)
- GCPAS Council

The approval includes the permission and the commitment to publish the *EtC Terms of Reference* on the Internet-Homepage of the GCPAS.

CPA-Panel:

Steve Staresinic CPA
Director General des CPA-Panel
Mitglied des Executive Committee

Datum

Dipl.-Oec. Klaus Wendlandt CPA

Datum

Dipl.-Oec. Peter Leibfried MBA CPA
President des Executive Committee

Datum

Dipl.-Kfm. Jörg Müller WP StB CPA
Deputy President des Executive Committee

Datum

Dipl.-Kfm. Ralph Brinkmann
Mitglied des Executive Committee

Datum

Ethics Committee (EtC)

Dipl.-Kfm. Jörg Müller WP StB CPA, EtC Chairman

Datum

Council

Der Council stimmt den Terms of Reference des Standing Technical Committee der GCPAS in der vorliegenden Form uneingeschränkt zu.

Dipl.-Oec. Klaus Wendlandt CPA

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Steve Staresinic CPA

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Dipl.-Kfm. Ulrich Sommer CPA

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Dipl.-Kfm. Jörg Müller WP StB CPA

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Dipl.-Oec. Peter Leibfried MBA CPA

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Dipl.-Betriebswirt (FH) Rainer Köhler

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Dipl.-Kfm. Ralph Brinkmann

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