



Special Issue in *ACCOUNTING IN EUROPE*

**“Accounting and Politics”**

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From the viewpoint of the economic and social consequences of accounting, it is hardly possible to argue that the accounting standard setting process is exclusively technical, but should it be? Or even could it be? On the contrary, it is now accepted widely that accounting decisions are political, they benefit some stakeholders but might penalize others. Traditionally the IASB was centred in the satisfying the needs of investors. To what extent should other stakeholders be considered? Is that a responsibility of the IASB? Or should that be decided at the governmental level? Another aspect to consider is the rationale and legitimacy of a private standard-setter body. Indeed, the IASB has added layers to its working system in order to be accountable to high level groups. It has a defined and transparent due process, but how does that due process work in practice?

Currently “public interest” objectives are intended to lie at the heart of the regulatory, standard setting and the endorsement processes, which has been commonly used as an argument for lobbying by different stakeholders, for political and governmental interference and for the existing differences in enforcement behaviors at national level.

The aim of this Special Issue is to stimulate a debate about the standards setting process by analyzing and understanding the role of the political process in both, shaping the standards and accounting practices, in a global international context.

We invite papers within the broad area of politics in accounting, which may have policy relevant implications and/or a better understanding of the standards setting process and practice in a global context. The following are possible questions that could be addressed in the papers. This list is not exhaustive.

## Possible Topics

- The politics of private rulemaking in the public interest, a mechanism to articulate a political view?
- Legitimacy of private accounting standard setters
- Accounting standard setting and accountability
- Private vs public accounting standard setting bodies
- Lobbying on accounting standard-setters
- Political pressures on the accounting standard setting process
- Should the economic consequences of accounting be taken into account when issuing accounting standards?
- Should all stakeholders be considered equally when issuing accounting standards?
- European institutions vs international accounting standard setter
- International standards vs US GAAP
- In the light of Trump, Brexit and the EU fitness check, has the local versus global pendulum turned its swing against the role of the IASB?
- The role on national enforcers
  - ° Financial reporting/accounting as a mechanism to affect behaviour
- Accounting as a political tool
- In 2019 does the world need international accounting standards?
- How should we undertake international accounting standard setting in the digital age?
- Several notable scholars have concluded that the IASB has been a successful international organisation. What can other entities (eg international organisations in business with a public policy role) learn from the IASB about the factors that contributed to its success?

Authors should submit their papers by **15<sup>th</sup> October 2019** to *Accounting in Europe* (<http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=raie20&page=instructions>) according to the journal guidelines indicating it is submitted to a special issue.