

Robert Peirce

Robert Peirce is Chairman of Euroclear Bank and chairman of the audit committees of several institutions active in the money market and micro credits. He is a former Senior Partner at PWC, as well as Honorary Chairman of the Registered Auditors accredited for Financial Institutions and fellow of the European Corporate Reporting Policy Group. He led the Belgian PWC audit firm, managed its financial services practice, launched its forensic practice and thereafter chaired the firm's governance board. He has lectured in Belgian and US universities.

Course Outline

This course provides an overview and analysis of the current state of corporate external information, in its international dimension, as well as its use and misuse, changes currently being debated, and its role in meeting the demand for greater societal needs. It has been designed against the background of significant changes in the corporate external reporting environment after the crisis, including a variety of new information types to be reported, in particular forward-looking, non-financial and soft information.

The course covers amongst others:

- The underlying general theory of corporate reporting
- The European regulatory framework and current statutory reporting trends and forces, including narrative reporting, corporate governance statements, risk management information, social and environmental reports, and corporate responsibility
- The roles and responsibilities in the reporting chains and the expectations of users and potential recipients of information
- The failures of accounting, the missing metrics, and the earnings game
- The information, expectation gaps, and catalysts for changes
- The new means of disseminating information and the rethinking of the way forward, as well as integrated reporting.

Bank reporting, hedge accounting, financial instruments and other recent market value issues are also analysed.

The course is built around quoted companies corporate reporting and other public information in a way providing Participants with practical business case material.

Participants perform group work on corporate reporting matters relating to actual companies. The course includes keynote presentations from guest experts (e.g., European Commission official, Investor Relations Officer, etc).

At the end of the course, Participants will be able to:

- Identify and understand the whole spectrum of corporate reporting
- Understand some valuation concerns raised by the financial crisis
- Challenge the information in a way that will suit their future professional needs
- Apprehend current stewardship trends and forces
- Connect theory to practice in this particular field.

Course structure

- I. Introduction
 - a. History of financial accounts and reporting
 - b. Accounting rules diversity
 - c. Development of accounting practices in Europe
 - d. IFRS – why market rather than book value?
 - e. Milestones of IAS/IFRS
- II. Financial reporting – Conceptual Framework
 - a. Objectives and underlying assumptions of financial reporting
 - b. Qualitative characteristics of financial statements
 - c. Key components of financial statements
 - i. Balance sheet
 - ii. Income statement
 - iii. Statement of comprehensive income (OCI)
 - iv. Cash flow statement
 - v. Notes and key disclosures
 - vi. Measurement of trends of financial statements
- III. Selected Corporate Accounting Topics
 - a. Intangible assets
 - b. Impairments
 - c. Provisions
 - d. Deferred taxes
 - e. Principles of consolidation
 - f. Goodwill
- IV. Selected Banking Accounting Topics
 - a. Bank financial statements
 - b. Accounting for financial instruments
 - c. Hedge accounting

- V. Financial Statements Analysis – Some reminders
 - a. Purposes of analysis
 - b. Cash flow analysis
 - c. Ratios analysis
 - d. Ratios specific to bank accounts
- VI. Use and Misuse of Financial Information
 - a. Opportunistic accounting policies
 - b. Creative accounting
 - c. Earnings management
 - d. Earning game
- VII. Financial Reporting Fraud
- VIII. Role of reporting in financial crisis
- IX. Integrated Reporting
 - a. Shortcomings of unintegrated model
 - b. Integrated reporting model
 - c. Examples
- X. Narrative Corporate Reporting
 - a. Value reporting
 - b. Regulatory reporting
 - c. Sustainability reporting