

## **Independent Auditor's report to the general meeting of Foundation for European Progressive Studies AISBL for the year ended 31 December 2015**

In accordance with our service contract dated 7 December 2012 with the European Union represented by the European Parliament, we report to you on the performance of our audit which was entrusted to Ernst & Young Réviseurs d'Entreprises scrl. This report includes the opinion on the balance sheet as at 31 December 2015, the income statement for the year ended 31 December 2015 and the Notes (all elements together "the Annual Accounts") and on the final statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred as well as on compliance with rules and regulations applicable to funding of political parties and foundations at European level.

### **Report on the Annual Accounts - Unqualified opinion**

We have audited the Annual Accounts of Foundation for European Progressive Studies AISBL ("the Entity") as of and for the year ended 31 December 2015, prepared in accordance with the financial-reporting framework applicable in Belgium, we have audited the final statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred for the period of eligibility defined by the grant award decision of Foundation for European Progressive Studies AISBL, and prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations applicable to funding of political parties and foundations at European level.

The Annual Accounts show a balance sheet total of € 1.696.138 and the income statement shows a profit for the year of € 145.315. The profit of the year, transferred to the reserve account, is used to reduce the losses carried forward. Accumulated losses (including the result of the year) amount to € 48.542.

### *Responsibility of the Members of the Board for the preparation of the Annual Accounts*

The Members of the Board are responsible for the preparation of Annual Accounts that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial-reporting framework as applicable in Belgium. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation of Annual Accounts that give a true and fair view and that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the given circumstances.

The Members of the Board are responsible towards the European Parliament for the use of the grant and must comply with the provisions of the Regulation EC (No) 2004/2003 and the underlying acts.

### *Responsibility of the Auditor*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these Annual Accounts, based on our audit. Furthermore, with respect to the final statement of eligible expenditure, it is our responsibility to express an opinion on the compliance with rules and regulations applicable to funding of political parties and foundations at European level.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing ("ISAs"). Those standards require that we comply with the ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the Annual Accounts are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and Notes in the Annual Accounts. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Annual Accounts, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Entity's preparation and fair presentation of the Annual Accounts that give a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used, the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Members of the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Annual Accounts.

We have obtained from the Members of the Board and the Entity's officials the explanations and information necessary for performing our audit procedure and we believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our audit work included specific procedures to gather sufficient and appropriate audit evidence that the financial provisions and obligations of the grant award decision, Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 and the underlying acts have been met.

#### *Unqualified Opinion*

In our opinion, the Annual Accounts (i.e. balance sheet, income statement and Notes) give a true and fair view of the Entity's net equity and financial position as at 31 December 2015 and of its results for the year ended, prepared in accordance with the financial-reporting framework applicable in Belgium and the final statement of eligible expenditure has been prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations applicable to funding of political parties and foundations at European level.

#### *Emphasis of certain matters*

Notwithstanding the loss carried forward and the fact that the foundation could incur cash flow problems, the Annual Accounts are prepared under the assumption that the activities will be continued. This assumption is sustainable as long as the Foundation will receive financial support from the European Parliament or other financing sources. Without altering our audit opinion, we draw your attention to the Notes in the Annual Accounts in which the Foundation justifies the application of accounting policies under the assumption of going concern.

#### *Report on other legal and regulatory requirements*

The Members of the Board are responsible for the compliance by the Entity of the law of 27 June 1921 on not-for-profit associations, international not-for-profit associations and foundations, its articles of association, the legal and regulatory requirements regarding bookkeeping and the provisions of the European Parliament's grant award decision, Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 and the underlying acts.

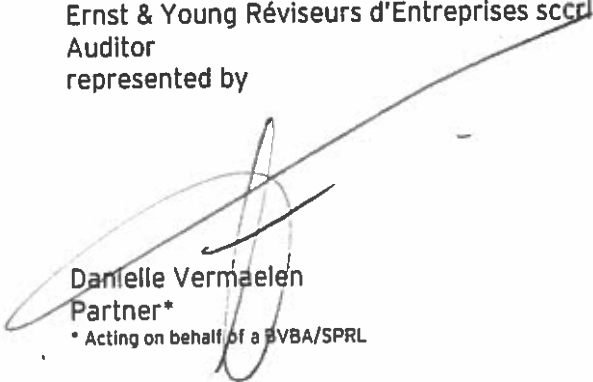
We make the following additional statements, which do not modify the scope of our opinion on the Annual Accounts:

- ▶ without prejudice to certain formal aspects of minor importance, the accounting records were maintained in accordance with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium;
- ▶ we do not have to report any transactions undertaken or decisions taken in violation of the Entity's articles of association or the Law for not-for-profit associations;
- ▶ the financial documents submitted by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies AISBL to the European Parliament are consistent with the financial provisions of the Bureau's grant award decision;

- ▶ the expenditure declared was actually incurred;
- ▶ the statement of revenue is exhaustive;
- ▶ the obligations arising from the Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 have been met;
- ▶ the obligations arising from the Bureau decision of 29 March 2004 have been met;
- ▶ the obligations arising from the grant award decision, in particular from Article II.7 - Award of contracts and Article II.11 - Eligible expenditure, have been met except for 1 supplier (total contract value € 120.055) for which Article II.7 was not complied with;
- ▶ the contributions in kind have actually been provided to the beneficiary and have been valued in compliance with the applicable rules.

Diegem, 27 April 2016

Ernst & Young Réviseurs d'Entreprises scrl  
Auditor  
represented by



Danielle Vermaelen  
Partner\*  
\* Acting on behalf of a BVBA/SPRL

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