

European Commission
Brussels

Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer
in Deutschland e. V.

Roßstraße 74
40476 Düsseldorf
Postfach 32 05 80
40420 Düsseldorf

TELEFONZENTRALE:
+49 (0) 211 / 45 61 - 0

INTERNET:
www.idw.de

E-MAIL:
info@idw.de

BANKVERBINDUNG:
Deutsche Bank AG Düsseldorf
IBAN: DE53 3007 0010 0748 0213 00
BIC: DEUTDE33XXX
USt-ID Nummer: DE119353203

June 3rd, 2026

[705]

IDW comments on the Commission’s Draft Delegated Regulation supplementing Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing sustainability reporting standards for voluntary use by undertakings protected by the value chain cap (Ares(2026)4624010 and Annex)

Dear Madam or Sir,

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the European Commission’s Draft Delegated Regulation supplementing Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing sustainability reporting standards for voluntary use by undertakings protected by the value chain cap (hereinafter: “Voluntary Standard”).

The Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer in Deutschland e.V. [Institute of Public Auditors in Germany, Incorporated Association] (IDW) is a privately run organisation established to serve the interests of its members who comprise both individual Wirtschaftsprüfer [German Public Auditors] and Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften [German Public Audit firms]. The IDW represents approximately 80% of all German Public Auditors. The auditing profession plays an important role in the green transformation by supporting companies in the implementation of ESG initiatives and by providing high-quality assurance services on sustainability reporting. Accordingly, the auditing profession has a strong interest in closely following ongoing developments in this context.

GESCHÄFTSFÜHRENDER VORSTAND:
Melanie Sack, WP StB, Sprecherin
des Vorstands;
Dr. Torsten Moser, WP;
Dr. Daniel P. Siegel, WP StB

Amtsgericht Düsseldorf
Vereinsregister VR 3850

page 2/3 to the letter to the European Commission, June 3rd, 2026

We welcome that the Voluntary Standard aims to facilitate voluntary reporting of sustainability information by providing undertakings not subject to mandatory sustainability reporting requirements with a simplified and standardised framework. Furthermore, we support the objective of the Voluntary Standard to tackle the so-called ‘trickle-down effect’ of value chain reporting by limiting the information that may be required for the purposes of sustainability reporting from undertakings in the value chain which do not have more than 1000 employees.

We do also welcome the public consultation on the Voluntary Standard as a further step towards establishing revised rules for sustainability reporting. In our view, the timely completion of the revision initiated by the European Commission’s “Omnibus I Package” is essential to ensure the acceptance of sustainability reporting, establish a stable legal framework, and thus provide clarity regarding the reporting requirements.

We appreciate the European Commission’s efforts to reduce reporting burdens. In this context, we believe that ensuring a high level of legal certainty in the application of the new regulations is a key factor in alleviating the burdens on undertakings. To enable undertakings to apply the rules with legal certainty, we therefore suggest the following clarifications:

Regarding the **scope of application of the Voluntary Standard**, para. 2 of Annex I (“This Standard is [...] intended for undertakings which, on their balance sheet dates, do not exceed an average number of 1000 employees during the preceding financial year”) is not aligned with para. 2 of the main text of the Voluntary Standard, which states that it applies to undertakings not subject to mandatory reporting requirements under Articles 19a and 29a of Directive 2013/34/EU (hereinafter “Accounting Directive”) – and therefore also includes undertakings that do exceed the average number of 1000 employees threshold but not the turnover threshold. As the scope of undertakings not subject to the reporting requirements under Articles 19a and 29a of the Accounting Directive and undertakings subject to the value chain cap protections differs, the Voluntary Standard should clearly distinguish between the two in order to avoid confusion. Furthermore, it should be clarified how “preceding financial year” should be understood in the context of para. 2 of Annex I.

Regarding the **inclusion of subsidiaries** in the reported data, para. 17 of Annex I states that “If the parent undertaking has prepared its sustainability report on a consolidated basis, including information from its subsidiaries, the subsidiary undertakings are exempted from reporting.” As the rules for the exemption of subsidiaries from reporting are set out in Articles 19a and 29a of the Accounting Directive and are transposed into national law, mentioning an exemption in the

page 3/3 to the letter to the European Commission, June 3rd, 2026

Voluntary Standard may lead to confusion and uncertainty. We therefore recommend clarifications which exemptions are addressed or referring to the rules of the Accounting Directive (if applicable). In this context, it could be clarified how the **value chain cap** operates in cases where information is requested from a subsidiary undertaking with fewer than 1000 employees that does not report itself because it is included in the voluntary reporting of another undertaking with fewer than 1000 employees. If para. 17 is intended to mean that such subsidiaries have thereby fulfilled their obligations under the value chain cap through the consolidated report, we request clarification on this point.

We trust that you will find our comments in this letter helpful. We would be pleased to answer any questions you may have and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our views.

Yours sincerely

Sack

Siegel