

ICAEW COUNCIL ELECTIONS

George Kourris BSc BFP FCA

Business Appointment: Director, Commercial General Insurance Ltd

Personal introduction: I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Accounting from the University of Manchester. I trained with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. in London and was admitted to ICAEW in 1983.

I joined Ernst & Whinney in Cyprus in 1983 and was admitted to partnership in 1987. In 1999 I was elected Managing Partner of Ernst & Young in Cyprus, a position I held until I resigned in December 2012.

I am currently a non-Executive director in a family group of companies mainly involved in general insurance as well as a non-Executive director in a privately-owned retail bank in Cyprus. As from last year I am the Vice Chairman of a locally listed investment company.

I served for twenty-three years, the last three as Chairman, on the standing committee on International Business, Shipping and Foreign Investments of ICPAC and for two years on the Council of ICPAC. I also served for five years as the first Chairman of the Cyprus UK Business Association.

Your involvement with ICAEW: I joined the ICAEW Council in June 2012 as a co-opted member and served on Council ever since. Initially I was one of two Council members of ICAEW representing Europe including Cyprus. While serving on Council and for a number of years I served as a member of the Committee of Council of ICAEW. Also I am one of two Contact Members of ICAEW in Cyprus. As from July 2017 I was elected to the ICAEW Council for Cyprus. While on Council I supported several initiatives undertaken by ICAEW for the international members including, inter alia, the promotion of the Institute's international strategy, the enhancement of the Institute's brand and profile in Cyprus and the holding of direct elections for a Council member by the Cyprus-based members. In addition, and with the help of the local ICAEW team, a significant number of member events were organised in cooperation with ICPAC covering both technical and non-technical subjects. Lastly CABA has been supporting the local members on a range of topics.

Motivation and ability to be a member of Council: My priorities for the next four years include (i) further enhancing public awareness of ICAEW and its values in Cyprus (ii) improving the relevance of ICAEW communications to members in Cyprus (iii) supporting the application of the Joint Examination Scheme between ICPAC and ICAEW ensuring the continuation of the ICAEW training in Cyprus as well as strengthening the co-operation between ICAEW and ICPAC and (iv) addressing the impact of Brexit and the reforms of the audit profession in the UK and how these affect the Cyprus-based members.

Strategic focus: The next four years are expected to bring a number of challenges to our profession including our members. The audit profession is under severe

criticism for its failure to avert corporate failures leading to a thorough challenge of the entire business model of public accounting firms. Undoubtedly these challenges will affect our local audit firms and profession. In addition, there is a fundamental challenge to integrity and ethics within our local society. Our members will be challenged more than ever before and be expected to demonstrate practically how they uphold these values in their daily work. The objective included in ICAEW's Royal Charter of upholding the public interest will become even more crucial in the years ahead. Members locally will be required to show the way that they endorse and apply this objective. I believe that the combination of my professional experience so far combined with my years of service on the ICAEW Council will stand in good stead to our local members facing these challenges. Lastly the implementation of the recently announced Joint Examination Scheme between ICPAC and ICAEW will bring its own challenges which will need to be addressed in an independent way for the further development of our profession locally.

Communication with members in your constituency: In the years that I served as a Council member I used several different ways of contacting members locally. The last such contact was by way of a virtual meeting with an open agenda which was very warmly welcomed by those attending. This forum gave the opportunity to members to voice issues that concerned them particularly during this testing time of the pandemic. This initiative proved so useful that I will definitely carry on using. Additionally, the events organised with the support of CABA on non-technical matters received very complimentary feedback comments from members and thus I will exercise every effort for these to continue to be held.

Nominators

Christis Christoforou

Stavros Pantzaris

Nicolas Syrimis

Andreoulla Pittas

Evgenios Evgeniou

Declaration of interests which are relevant to the business of ICAEW

Membership of, or interests in, formal bodies or groups, including other professional bodies ⁱ :	NONE
Membership of ICAEW Council, ICAEW Boards and other ICAEW committees:	ICAEW Council member until June 2021
Partnerships, Directorships or beneficial interests in companies:	NONE
Professional or social relationships with individuals who have business relationships or who compete with the ICAEW:	NONE
Any other matters you feel should be identified:	NONE

ⁱ This includes employment by a professional body.