

The logo for the Federation of European Accountants (FEE) features the letters 'FEE' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a dark blue background. A thick, orange, curved line sweeps across the bottom of the letters, starting from the left and curving upwards towards the right.

**Federation of European Accountants
Fédération des Experts comptables Européens**

XBRL Europe Day

**FEE Offices, Brussels
18 February 2010**

FEE involvement in XBRL

Olivier Boutellis-Taft and Lotte Andersen

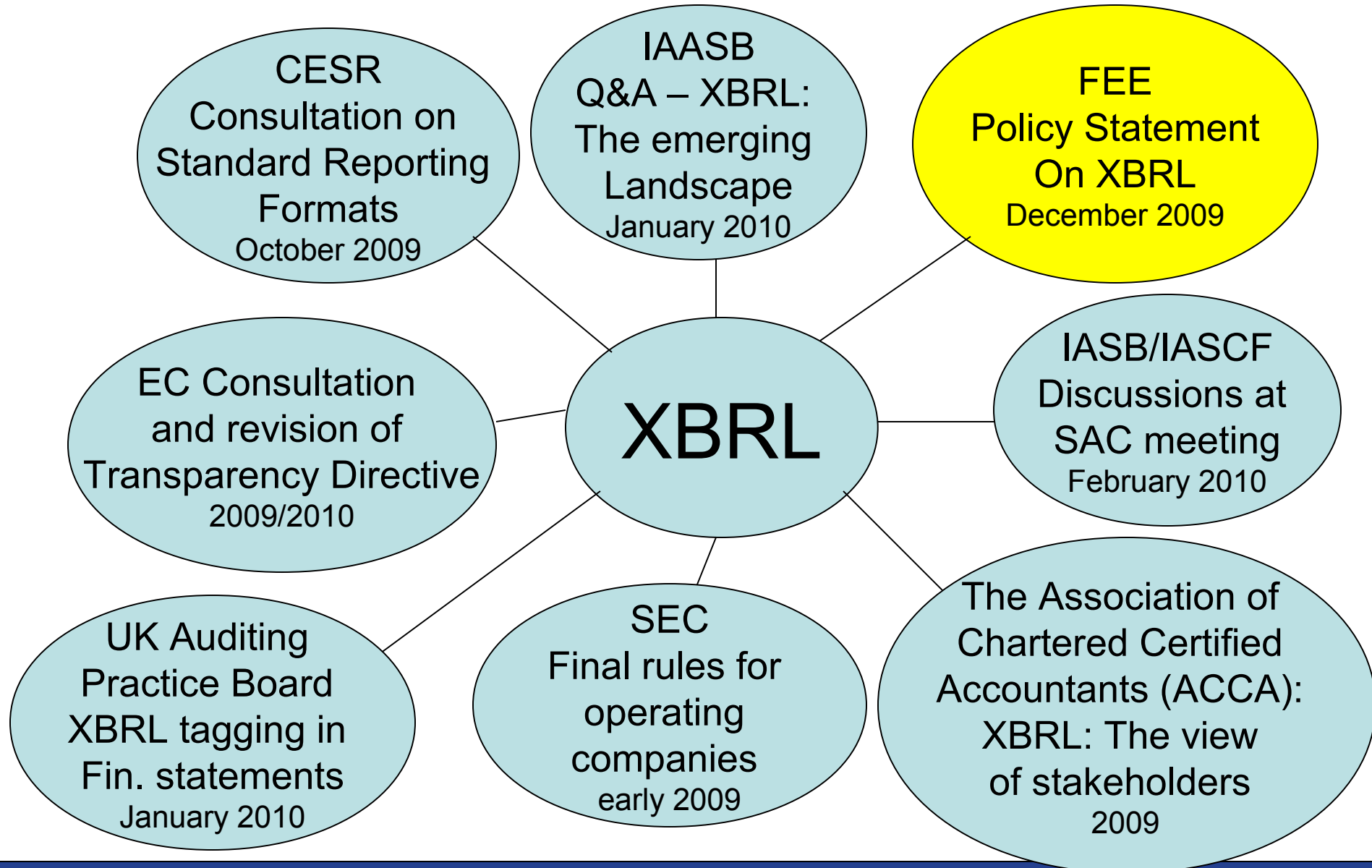
- About FEE
- XBRL activities
- XBRL and accountants – the paradox
- FEE XBRL Policy Statement
- Stakeholders' information chain
- Contribution from the accountants
- Implications/challenges for auditors



➤ 43 professional institutes of more than 500.000 accountants all contributing to a more efficient, transparent and sustainable European economy

➤ 32 European countries, including all 27 EU MS

XBRL – accounting and auditing



The paradox

XBRL

Accountants are founding / funding / active members of all XBRL jurisdictions in Europe. However, XBRL is not yet mainstream and more efforts on awareness are required.

XBRL is enhancing reporting, supported by the accountancy profession. However not always clear on the different functions of the financial reporting chain.

Accountants

FEE position on XBRL

FEE supports

- XBRL while acknowledging challenges
- widespread adoption of XBRL where appropriate circumstances prevail
 - a clear lead and support from the relevant authorities
 - robust cost-benefit analysis that justifies the implementation of XBRL.



FEE XBRL Policy Statement (2)

Roundtable to launch FEE XBRL Policy Statement “eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) – The impact on accountants and auditors”

Friday 26 February 2010, 10.00 – 13.00 hrs

This Roundtable will focus on enhancement of awareness of accountants, auditors, and others about the use of XBRL in financial reporting, its benefits and its challenges and facilitating a debate about the next steps.

➤ Speakers

- ↪ Jan Pasmooij, Chair XBRL Europe
- ↪ Olivier Servais, Director XBRL activities, IASCF Foundation
- ↪ Christine Helliard, Professor, University of Dundee
- ↪ Luc Defresne, Deputy Director, National
- ↪ Jeff Smith, Her Majesty’s Revenue of Customs, HMRC, UK
- ↪ Kathleen Healy IAASB XBRL Taskforce
- ↪ Piotr Modziar, European Commission

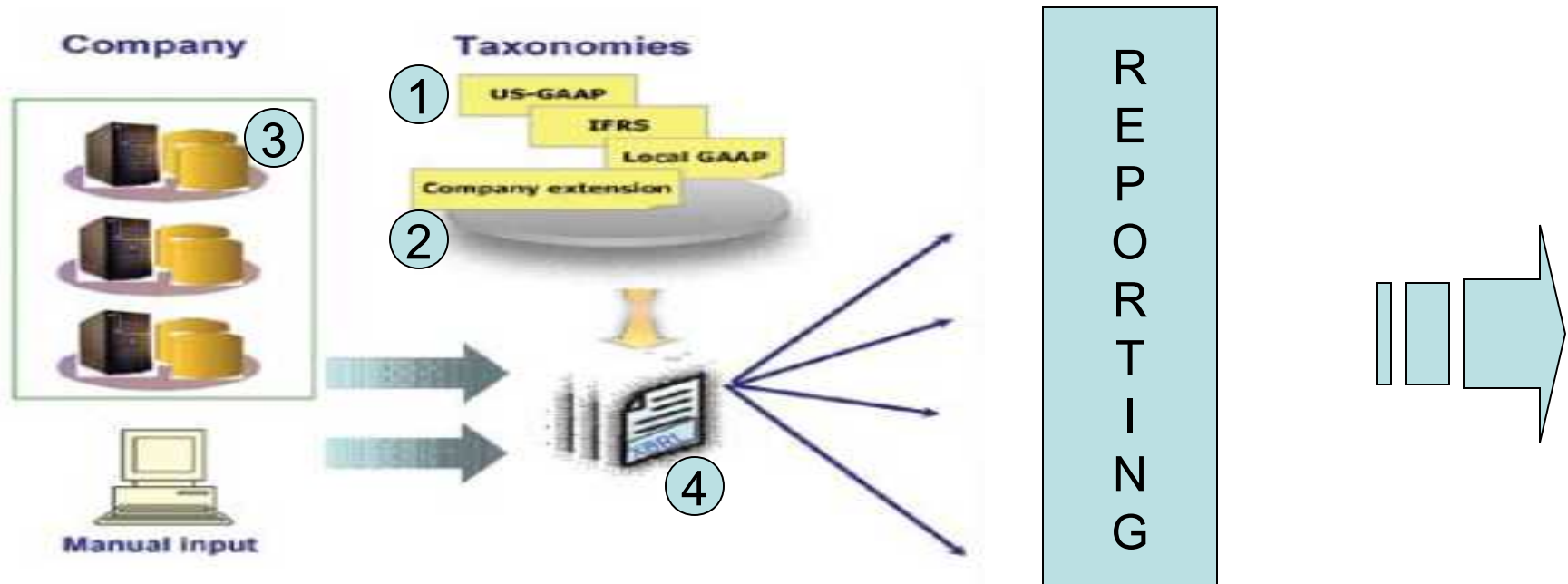
Stakeholders' Information Chain



- What are the information needs of each of the stakeholders?
- How does each stakeholder channel their information needs to others?
- How does each stakeholder contribute to the cooperation between them?
- Is the contribution being recognised by the other stakeholders?

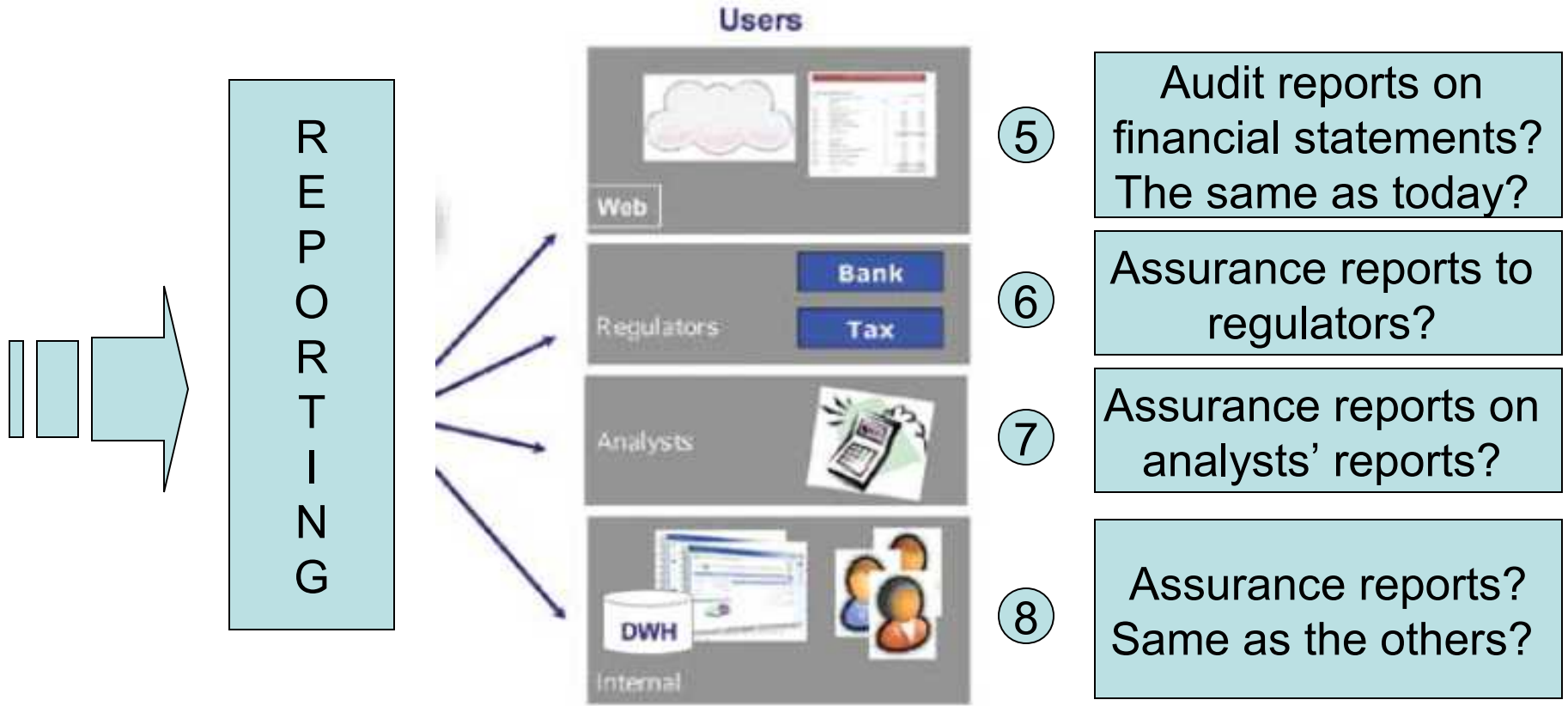
Accountants' contribution (1)

Accountants' involvement?



1. Assurance on the various taxonomies used?
2. Assurance on company extensions?
3. Assurance on internal control environment using XBRL?
4. Assurance on tagging data?

Accountants' contribution (2)



Accountants' involvement?

- Consequences for the audit opinion as the IFRS taxonomy is currently not fully comparable with EU financial statements
- Current lack of standards for auditors to perform assurance work on XBRL data
 - ↪ Annual financial statements
 - ↪ Interim financial statements
 - ↪ Analysts' presentations/briefings
 - ↪ Reports to regulators (banks)
 - ↪ Tax returns
- Would the audit opinion cover dynamic information in the future?
- Audited and unaudited financial information can be mixed in XBRL generated documents

- Different levels of assurance in various parts of the XBRL process
- Uncertainties about stakeholders' requirements or expectations, taken the public interest into account
- Involvement in auditing of XBRL data beyond current financial statements
- Changes in the audit approach and/or audit opinion
- Issues related to electronic signatures
- Managing specific risks related to the audit opinion and the financial statements in electronic and dynamic format
- Managing the expectations gap

Standing for trust and integrity

FEE



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