ASIC Viewpoint – Our contribution to the global regulatory agenda

In a world where markets are becoming increasingly interconnected, it is important for ASIC to remain globally engaged and proactive.

International engagement is crucial to help ASIC keep abreast of global regulatory developments that may affect our local markets. However, in addition to monitoring changes in the world around us, ASIC also seeks to ensure that Australia’s interests are represented on the world stage. We do this by working with international organisations responsible for shaping the global policy agenda.

One of the main international organisations ASIC is a member of is the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). IOSCO is recognised as the global standard setting body for the securities sector, and works intensively in that capacity with the G20 and the Financial Stability Board on the global regulatory reform agenda.

The IOSCO Board comprises 34 regulators and is the primary decision-making body of IOSCO. Eight policy committees covering different areas of expertise operate under the Board’s guidance and direction. It is these policy committees, together with the IOSCO Secretariat, that are responsible for much of the day-to-day work of the organisation.

ASIC is a permanent member of the IOSCO Board and is represented by the ASIC Chair or a Commissioner when the Board meets in-person, three times a year. At its most recent meeting in May 2018, the IOSCO Board considered a range of issues, including how best to approach the continuing growth of Initial Coin Offerings. Board members also shared their experiences regarding non-financial reporting, sustainability disclosures and other aspects of sustainable finance. An information-sharing network will be established among IOSCO members to gain further insight into issues around sustainability. The issue of how to address challenges related to fintech and digitisation continues to be an area of focus for all IOSCO members. A discussion on this topic was held at the IOSCO public conference that followed the Board meeting.

ASIC actively participates in policy areas that we would like to influence. Senior ASIC staff sit on each of IOSCO’s policy committees, and often lead IOSCO work streams and make substantive contributions to policy analysis as part of project teams. We also assist with work at IOSCO level to identify and assess emerging risks to global markets.

One example of current IOSCO policy work that ASIC is very closely involved with is the consultation report on Conflicts of interest and associated conduct risks during the equity capital raising process. ASIC’s Greg Yanco, Senior Executive Leader, Market Supervision, is the Vice-Chair of the IOSCO Committee 3 undertaking this work, and is leading this project. ASIC’s Oliver Harvey, Senior Executive Leader, Market Infrastructure, is the representative on IOSCO Committee 2 (secondary markets) and Committee 7 (derivatives), and the work undertaken on those committees was
instrumental in shaping ASIC’s approach to recently modernising the market licensing framework in Australia (see Regulatory Guide 172).


IOSCO also works closely with the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures (CPMI), the standard setter for payment, clearing, settlement and related arrangements worldwide. Joint CPMI-IOSCO work is intended to enhance coordination of standards and policy development and implementation, including for financial market infrastructures. For example, CPMI and IOSCO recently issued a Framework for supervisory stress testing of central counterparties (CCPs).

ASIC will be hosting the IOSCO Annual Conference in Sydney in May 2019. This is a major event in the international regulatory calendar where we come together to share ideas and enhance co-operation between regulators from around the world. ASIC’s Annual Forum will be held immediately after the IOSCO Annual Conference next year, providing an ideal opportunity for Australian participants to engage with thought leaders, industry experts and global regulators.