



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New Direction for International Auditor and Training Certification Association**

The Chairman of the International Auditor and Training Certification Association (IATCA), Dr George Anastasopoulos, announced a new direction for the Association today.

“I am delighted to announce a number of exciting initiatives for the Association which, in conjunction with the release of the new personnel certification standard, ISO/IEC 17024:2003, will ensure our Association’s relevance to industry in years to come”, said Dr Anastasopoulos.

“These initiatives include a name change to more accurately reflect our interest in promoting personnel certification criteria beyond our traditional market of management systems as well as the re-location and alignment of our secretarial functions to provide more cost effective services to members”.

Dr Anastasopoulos went on to announce that IATCA had been legally re-established as the International Personnel Certification Association (IPC) a non-profit organisation incorporated in Greece. “Thanks to the support of the Greek Government, IPC will have a funded Secretariat, based in Europe, providing cost effective support services to members. Funds once required for Secretarial support will now be directed to further development of industry schemes and programs”, said Dr Anastasopoulos.

Dr Anastasopoulos advised that draft criteria defining competencies and associated assessment requirements for certification had been developed and endorsed at IATCA’s plenary meeting in Singapore in September 2004. “These criteria provide guidance and increased flexibility for our certification members to assess competence of their auditor members in a more relevant, cost effective manner”.

“IPC has successfully provided guidance for its members to meet the requirements of ISO 17024, and thus increase the value of the certified professionals globally”, he said.

Dr Anastasopoulos indicated that IPC would be seeking Association Membership of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). “Talks so far have been very constructive and we believe IPC would provide valuable, ongoing input to IAF to represent our members’ interests and continue to build the professionalism of the auditing profession”.

Dr Anastasopoulos did not rule out IPC establishing criteria beyond its traditional membership base of management systems auditing professionals. “There are many opportunities for IPC to grow its personnel certification activity, to meet industries’ needs for consistency and professionalism”, he said.

Transition plans, including moving membership from IATCA to IPC and the IAF application process, were well underway, Dr Anastasopoulos confirmed.

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