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Dear Mr. President,
Distinguished colleagues,

Warm congratulations on the Conference dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the Chamber of Auditors of the Republic of Azerbaijan and best wishes for your future success! Thank you for the honour of inviting me to your most important event and please receive my excuses for not being able to participate.

It gives me great pleasure to address you a few words and to salute your initiative to organize such a valuable professional event, despite all the impediments we are currently facing.

These two years have been an unexpected period of adaptation and change for our profession. It was the time in which the auditors had to rethink their strategy and adapt their activity and way of working in order to streamline their services and align with the new socio-economic context.

The COVID-19 pandemic severely affected and continues to affect the world economy. Its consequences are complex, creating challenges for humanity and, inherently, for our profession. Some activities were suspended, we had to adapt to the new working conditions and communication with customers, we significantly reduced our interpersonal physical activity, and there were additional expenses with the operations and reorganization of the activity through digitization, which implied additional time and implementation efforts. With all the turmoil caused by the COVID-19 crisis, forcing companies to their limits, it is imperative that we remain alert to market needs and legislative variations.

Our concern during this period was to convince our customers that we will provide them with quality, transparent and timely services. Moreover, we tried to adapt our services to market needs, especially to smaller companies facing additional difficulties. The restrictions imposed by the pandemic have greatly influenced the communication between auditors and their clients. Of course, all these restrictions overlap with the specific legal changes that took, with which we must constantly comply.

Financial audit, like the other sectors of society, needs a certain period of time to be able to adapt and then return to the situation before this pandemic. I am convinced that life after this health crisis will be different than before. The year 2020 will go down in history as a milestone and an example in terms of human and business attitudes.

I conclude with the hope that we will positively overcome all challenges encountered and triggered by this socio-medical crisis and that, in the not too distant future, we will have again the chance to meet face to face and discuss the difficulties and opportunities of the time.

I wish you continued success both in the Conference proceedings and in the intense work carried out in support of the profession!


CAFR President,
Adrian POPESCU
ROMANIA
