

INTOSAI



*Foreword to  
ISSAI 5230*

INTOSAI PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

---

PSC-SECRETARIAT

RIGSREVISIONEN • LANDGREVEN 4 • P.O. Box 9009 • 1022 COPENHAGEN K • DENMARK  
TEL.:+45 3392 8400 • FAX:+45 3311 0415 •E-MAIL: INFO@RIGSREVISIONEN.DK

# INTOSAI



INTOSAI General Secretariat - RECHNUNGSHOF  
(Austrian Court of Audit)  
DAMPFSCHIFFSTRASSE 2  
A-1033 VIENNA  
AUSTRIA

Tel.: ++43 (1) 711 71 • Fax: ++43 (1) 718 09 69

E-MAIL: [intosai@rechnungshof.gv.at](mailto:intosai@rechnungshof.gv.at);  
WORLD WIDE WEB: <http://www.intosai.org>

## **FOREWORD**

by Sir John Bourn  
Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom  
Chairman of the Working Group on the Audit of Privatisation

One of the most striking off-shoots of privatisation is the developing role of economic regulation as a means of checking the power of monopolistic or dominant suppliers of vital utilities now in private ownership. The regulators face a difficult task in balancing the legitimate interests of the consumer against those of the supplier: how to secure a fair service for a fair price. And of course economic regulation takes a variety of forms and is applied across economic sectors, including industries in public as well as private hands.

The guidelines on the audit of economic regulation set out in this document represent the experience not only of the SAIs who are Members of the Working Group on the Audit of Privatisation, but also of the many other SAIs who contributed to the 1998 INTOSAI survey of economic regulation and its audit, which forms the basis of the guidelines. It is clear from these experiences that across a widening range of countries the performance of regulated businesses and their impact on the lives of citizens is a matter of keen interest and debate. And SAIs are increasingly being expected to evaluate and publicly report on the effectiveness of these regulatory systems. The guidelines are intended to be a practical aid to SAIs as they set about this challenging task. I commend them.

John Bourn  
Seoul  
October 2001

