



Dear valued member of ACCIS,

2020 will be an important year. For the first time, a member of the European Union will abandon the club. The implications of Brexit at political, economic and social levels are not clear and fill the air with a feeling of unease and anxiety. To make matters worse, Brexit will happen against a backdrop dominated by profound changes in climate, technology and demography. 2020 will be marked by the way Europe responds to these multiple and interconnected challenges.

Moving closer to our industry, we will be significantly impacted in 2020 by enhanced policy and regulatory activity in Brussels and beyond. We expect (i) the completion of the evaluation of the Consumer Credit Directive and the Mortgage Credit Directive – which are likely to lead to legislative proposals; (ii) the adoption of the Guidelines on Loan Origination by the European Banking Authority; (iii) the adoption of a common European approach / regulatory framework to Artificial Intelligence; (iv) the presentation of a new strategy for Europe to get the best out of FinTech and compete globally; (v) the preparation of a first report on the evaluation of the EU General Data Protection Regulation; (vi) the roll-out of the AnaCredit feedback loop; and (vii) the focus of the International Committee on Credit Reporting on cross-border credit data sharing.

In order to respond to those challenges, ACCIS needs to continue profiling itself as the industry leader on credit referencing issues. In addition to its existing portfolio of services and recurrent activities i.e. responses to policy consultations webinars, roundtables, Annual Conference, etc., in 2020 we will also launch a website on information for consumers about credit reports, scores, consumer rights, etc. and will produce a new edition of the 2020 Annual Membership Survey.

In 2020, ACCIS becomes 30. Industry veterans will agree that ACCIS has had a momentous impact on the credit information industry, providing leadership, resources and support to credit reference agencies across Europe and beyond. We want to mark the way ACCIS has stood by its members by talking more about us, about you and about ACCIS's objectives and achievements. Building on our 2020 Communications Work Plan, ACCIS will deepen its communications footprint, with a specific approach to social media. If you do not want to miss out, follow ACCIS on its Twitter and LinkedIn channels.

We also want to make ACCIS stronger in 2020. In the last quarter of 2019, the Management Board outlined the next phase in the evolution and expansion of the Association. We plan to implement important changes for the association in the context of a reinforced and longer-term budgetary planning cycle. In this regard, the election of new leadership at the ACCIS Presidency and the reflections towards a more inclusive and balanced Management Board will represent important milestones. I look forward to providing more details of these developments in the coming months, ahead of the AGM in May 2020.

To succeed in our activities, we need your financial support. But equally important, we also need your personal involvement. I would like to end this short note with a note of gratitude for the colleagues in your organizations that have in 2019 devoted part of their experience, enthusiasm and commitment to supporting ACCIS.

With your contribution, we will continue moving ACCIS forward in 2020.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vez', with a stylized flourish extending from the bottom.

Enrique Velázquez