

The **Financial Law Institute** is a research and teaching unit within the Law School of Ghent University, Belgium. The research activities undertaken within the Institute focus on various issues of company and financial law, including private and public law of banking, capital markets regulation, company law and corporate governance.

The **Working Paper Series**, launched in 1999, aims at promoting the dissemination of the research results of different researchers within the Financial Law Institute to the broader academic community. The use and further distribution of the Working Papers is allowed for scientific purposes only. Working papers are published in their original language (Dutch, French, English or German) and are provisional.

For more information and a full list of available working papers, please consult the **homepage** of the Financial Law Institute at:

http://www.law.rug.ac.be/fli

© Financial Law Institute, Universiteit Gent, 2001



## Abstract

Like in other European countries, Belgium has developed a set of corporate governance principles during the nineties. This article summarizes the different corporate governance codes and their most important governance rules. Further it sheds some light on the implementation of these rules by stock exchange listed companies.

Early 2000 a government commission published a report to change the Belgian company law and to legally implement some corporate governance rules. This report resulted in a proposal for a new bill, introduced in Parliament in April 2001. The most important features, rules on a specific kind of two tier board structure, conflicts of interest and independence of statutory auditors will be briefly discussed.

Published in: A shorter version of this article has been published in Ondernemingsrecht (NL), 2002-1, p. 14-20.

As this working paper has been published in the abovementioned journal, it is no longer available in working paper format. Readers are kindly referred to the published article.

© Financial Law Institute, Universiteit Gent, 2001