

RESUMO

As a result of the ever-growing complexity of the financial reporting, which in turn results from the more complex nature of commercial transactions and ways of structuring business, users of financial statements have long sought a simple and concise means of assessing a company's progress and performance.

The thematic of earnings per share doesn't only interest the present and future shareholders, but also all those interested in evaluating the profitability of the companies. Earnings per share indicate the profit (loss) attributed to each ordinary share. The purpose of this ratio is to evidence, in an easily understood and readily comparable manner, how effective an enterprise has been in using the resources provided by shareholders.

Therefore, it is understood that earnings per share has deserved special attention on the part of several standard setters. As normative of references we have International Accounting Standard (IAS) n.º 33, Earnings per Share, emanated by International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) and Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) n.º 128, of the responsibility of Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), with the same designation. Both standards were issued in February 1997 as a result of 3 years of effort and cooperation between IASC and FASB.

The main objective inherent to the publication of these standards was to prescribe principles for the determination and presentation of earnings per share, which will allow performance comparisons among different companies in the same period and among different accounting periods for the same entity to improve.

Within the Portuguese context, we realised that the thematic of earnings per share has not yet been studied. Therefore, this dissertation aims to analyse the determination, presentation and disclosure of basic and diluted earnings per share.