Introducing a Standardised Pan-European Personal Pension Product (EIOPA Public Event)
7 September 2015
Frankfurter Hof Steigenberger Hotel, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Speakers and Moderators

Gabriel Bernardino

Gabriel Bernardino is Chairman of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA). He is responsible for the strategic direction of EIOPA and represents the Authority at the Council of the European Union, the European Commission and the European Parliament. Mr Bernardino prepares the work of EIOPA’s Board of Supervisors and also chairs the meetings of the Board of Supervisors and the Management Board.

Mr Bernardino is the first Chairperson of EIOPA. He was elected by the Board of Supervisors of EIOPA on 10 January, 2011. His nomination followed a pre-selection of the European Commission and was confirmed by the European Parliament after a public hearing held on 1 February, 2011. Mr Bernardino assumed his responsibilities on 1 March, 2011.

Prior to his current role, Mr Bernardino was the Director General of the Directorate for Development and Institutional Relations at the Instituto de Seguros de Portugal (ISP). He has served in several positions of increasing responsibility since he joined the ISP in 1989 and represented EIOPA’s preceding organisation, CEIOPS, as Chairman between October 2009 and December 2010.
Nathalie Berger

Nathalie Berger, Head of Unit, Insurance and Pensions, DG Financial Stability, Financial Services, and Capital Markets Union, European Commission

Nathalie was appointed Head of the Unit in charge of Insurance and Pensions on 16 May 2015. Prior to taking up this position, Nathalie was since July 2012 Head of Unit responsible for Audit and Credit Rating Agencies. She previously worked as an expert in company law and corporate governance and from 2007 onwards as a Deputy Head of Unit in charge of Relations with the European Parliament and Council as well as Policy Coordination. Nathalie started her career as a lecturer and consultant for a banking group. She joined the European Commission in 2000, mainly responsible for the development of Commission implementing powers in the field of financial services. She was a member of the Commission Task Force on the Future of the European Union and an advisor to the Commission representatives at the European Convention. A French national, Nathalie holds a Ph.D. Doctorate in Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Politics. She is the author of several articles and a book on European law and policies.

Ambrogio Rinaldi

Ambrogio I. Rinaldi is Central Director at COVIP (Commissione di Vigilanza sui Fondi Pensione), the Italian Supervisory Authority on pension funds. He has been working at COVIP since 1997, with senior managerial responsibility in the fields of day-by-day supervision, economic and financial analysis, and international relations.

He has been involved for many years in the activity of several international organizations. Since 2003 he is Chair of the OECD Working Party on Private Pensions. Since its foundation in 2005, he has played a key role in the IOPS, the International Organization of Pension Supervisors. At EIOPA, from 2010 to 2014 he was Vice-Chair of the Occupational Pensions Committee; he now chairs the Task Force on Personal Pensions.

Before joining COVIP, he worked many years at Banca d’Italia, the Italian Central Bank, first in the Research Department and then in the Supervision Area.

He graduated from Università di Roma "La Sapienza" and attended the Ph.D. in Economics at Harvard University, Cambridge, USA. Ambrogio is a regular speaker in international conferences and is author of several papers in the field of pensions.
Justin Wray

Justin Wray, a UK national, is Head of the Policy Unit of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA). He is responsible for pensions, insurance, external relations and impact assessment.

Prior to joining EIOPA in May 2011, Mr Wray worked at the UK Pensions Regulator in a number of operational and policy roles including as Head of Pensions Administration and Governance. Before that he worked at the UK Treasury on financial services regulation and international debt issues, and at the UK Department for International Development.
Guillaume Prache

Guillaume Prache is the Managing Director of BETTERFINANCE, the European Federation of Investors and Financial Services Users. Better Finance federates the associations of shareholders, investors, savers and other financial services users in Europe, counting more than four million individuals. He is also one of the experts representing financial services users before the European Commission (as member and vice chair of the Financial Services User Group – FSUG), before the European Securities & Markets Authority (as member and former chair of the ESMA Securities & Markets Stakeholder Group), before the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (as member of the EIOPA Occupational Pensions Stakeholder Group) and before the French financial regulator AMF.

He started as a magistrate at the French Court of Auditors, and has an extended and international experience in financial matters, most recently as Chief Financial Officer of US-based Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, Inc., a “Fortune 500” publicly-listed pharmaceutical company (today Sanofi) from 1997 to 2000, and then as Managing Director of the European subsidiary of the Vanguard Group, Inc., a global leader in asset management, from 2000 to 2006.

He has taught asset management for the CIWM (Certified International Wealth Manager) program, and wrote two books (Politique économique contemporaine in 1989, Les Scandales de l’épargne retraite in 2008) and various articles on economics and finance.

He graduated from the University of Paris-Sorbonne (France, major in History), from the Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris (France, major in Economics) and from the Ecole Nationale D’Administration (ENA, France) in 1985.

Bernard Delbecque

Bernard Delbecque is Director of Economics and Research at EFAMA (The European Fund and Asset Management Association). He is responsible for monitoring industry and market trends, and for producing EFAMA’s monthly and quarterly statistical releases, as well as EFAMA’s annual Fact Book and Asset Management report.

Bernard is also responsible for supporting EFAMA’s activities in the area of money market funds, fund classification, investor education and long-term savings and pension. In this capacity, Bernard has contributed to all the initiatives taken by EFAMA to promote the strengthening of the EU single market for pensions, including the publication of two reports on the creation of a European Personal Pension Product.
Bernard is a member of ESMA’s Group of Economic Advisers. He is also a member of the EU Pensions Forum.

Prior to joining EFAMA, Bernard was a policy adviser to the Belgian Minister of Belgium and previously he worked as an economist at the International Monetary Fund in Washington. Bernard holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and he is also a part-time Professor of economics at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium.

Michaela Koller

Michaela Koller is Director General of Insurance Europe, the European Insurance and Reinsurance Federation. She is currently also secretary of the Global Federation of Insurance Associations (GFIA). Michaela has worked in Brussels for the last 23 years. Prior to joining Insurance Europe in February 2007, she was a member of the management committee of the European Savings Banks Group and the World Savings Banks Institute. Michaela has served as a member of various consumer/industry groups and advisory groups established by the European Commission. She chaired the insurance and reinsurance stakeholder group of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) during its first two-and-a-half-year mandate. She is currently a member of EIOPA’s occupational pensions stakeholder group and testifies regularly at hearings organised by EU institutions. Michaela is a German national and holds a law degree from Augsburg University.
Matti Leppälä

Secretary General/CEO, PensionsEurope

PensionsEurope is the leading voice for workplace pensions in Europe. It represents 24 European national associations of pension funds and other IORPs. PensionsEurope’s members cover pensions of more than 70 million European citizens and € 3.5 trillion of assets. In addition to its full members PensionsEurope has 24 Corporate & Supporter members who are various service providers who work with workplace pensions. PensionsEurope has a Central & Eastern European Countries Forum to discuss issues common to pension systems in that region and an advisory group for multinational companies. Prior to joining PensionsEurope in 2011 Matti worked for almost 11 years for The Finnish Pension Alliance, an industry association which represents all Finnish pension institutions. From 1990 until 2000 Matti was with the Finnish employee unions, first at the Union of Health and Social Care Professionals and then for seven years at the Finnish Confederation of Professionals, where he was Director responsible for collective bargaining and social policy. From 1986 until 1990 Matti worked in the Finnish Ministry of Justice in the law drafting department with public law issues. Matti has a LLM from the University of Turku, Finland, 1987. He is also Executive MBA in Insurance and Financial services from the University of Tampere, Finland, 2007.
Katja Würtz

Katja Julie Würtz is Head of EIOPA’s Cross-Sectoral and Consumer Protection Unit. She is responsible for EIOPA’s activities and initiatives related to consumer protection, the Joint Committee along with the organisation of EIOPA’s committee meetings and public events.

Before joining EIOPA at the end of 2011, Ms Würtz had extensive working experience as Principal Legal Counsel and team leader in the area of financial law and legal oversight. In this respect she began her career first at the European Commission, followed by a few years at the Danish central bank (Danmarks Nationalbank), subsequent to which she worked for more than a decade at the European Central Bank (ECB). She has authored and co-authored a number of academic articles related to financial legislation, legal oversight and the ECB’s advisory competence in its fields of competence.

Ms Würtz has Danish nationality and studied EU law at the University of Copenhagen, from where she obtained her Master degree in law in 1995.

Claudia Lang

Managing Director, Community Life GmbH

Dr. Claudia Lang is one of the founders of a novel life insurance model for the German market. The company’s approach is a purely online proposition: life insurance made simple and transparent for the digital customer. She has held various senior management positions in the international life insurance industry. As board member of Canada Life Europe, she was one of a small management team that launched the company into Germany in 2000 and transformed Canada Life into a strong player in Germany’s broker market. She has also held management positions in the Prudential (UK) Group, including Head of International Development.

Claudia Lang was also previously Chairman of the Association of International Life Offices, an organisation that represents the interests of the cross-border life insurance industry. This role was important in providing her with insights from stakeholders outside of the industry, also at an EU level. These insights contributed to the development of Community Life and the idea of creating new ways for the customer in the world of insurance.

Claudia Lang studied law at the University of Toronto Law School, where she received a doctor juris. She was admitted as barrister and solicitor in Ontario in 1985. After practicing securities law and specialising in IPOs, she moved to Europe in 1995. She is also admitted as solicitor in England and Wales.
Manuela Zweimueller

Dr. Manuela Zweimueller assumed her new position as Head of Department Regulations in September 2013. In this function, she is a member of EIOPA's Senior Management and reports directly to the Executive Director. She is responsible for EIOPA's regulatory and policy tasks in the fields of insurance, pensions, consumer protection and financial innovation, related impact assessments and peer reviews, external relations, trainings & events as well as for cross-sectoral topics dealt with by the ESA's Joint Committee. Before, Ms Zweimueller coordinated the External Relations Team at EIOPA for two years.

Prior to EIOPA, Ms Zweimueller was a member of Senior Management at Munich RE. In her last task until July 2011 she led the implementation of Solvency II at ERGO International and set up a Risk Management Hub in London for Munich RE. From 2008 to 2010, she was the Managing Director of Munich RE's branch office in France. In 2007, Manuela Zweimueller chaired the Emerging Risks Initiative of the CRO Forum. A year before, she was promoted Head of Department Risk Identification and Control. Ms Zweimueller has extensive work experience in the (re)insurance business and particularly in risk management, and served in several positions at Munich RE and Allianz, also in Paris, London and Sydney.

In 2013 and 2014, she was nominated to the Financial News FN100 Women in Finance list, depicting the most influential female executives working in European financial markets.

Ms Zweimueller holds a PhD in biochemistry and a Certificate in Economics for Scientists by the University of Hagen (Germany).