Press Release

PensionsEurope answers the European Commission's call for evidence on the Savings and Investments Union

Brussels, 11 March 2025 – PensionsEurope welcomes the European Commission's consultation on the Savings and Investments Union (SIU) and has responded by assessing potential initiatives that could enhance the development of funded pensions in the EU and support pension funds and their activities.

Developing capital markets
We support the European Commission's efforts to complete the Capital Markets Union (CMU). While progress has been made, including the adoption of Faster and Safer Relief of Excess Withholding Taxes (FASTER), further actions are needed to improve market integration and enhance cross-border investment efficiency.

Contribution to the European economy
The SIU seeks to channel private investments into Europe's economy and key growth sectors. Pension funds, as long-term investors, can positively contribute to this objective. However, the fiduciary duty is part of their legal obligations and must not be compromised for other policy goals.

Auto-enrolment: expanding pension coverage
Auto-enrolment has successfully increased participation in occupational pensions in countries such as the UK and Lithuania. We call on the European Commission to include auto-enrolment in its country-specific recommendations under the European Semester to increase pension coverage across the EU.

Developing long-term savings products and/ or personal pension products
We support the development of long-term savings and/or personal pension products, which should be distinguished as they often have different tax treatments in Member States. Given PEPP's limited uptake due to obstacles like the fee cap, we believe that endorsing and enhancing national products is a more effective approach.

Tax incentives
Tax incentives are important to boost participation in occupational and personal pensions. The EU should encourage Member States to implement them through the country-specific recommendations of the European Semester. Well-designed tax benefits can also channel savings into productive, high-return assets, making personal pensions more attractive to citizens.

Simplifying regulation for pension funds
We support the European Commission's agenda for simplification. The impacts of horizontal legislation are significant for pension funds. In particular, smaller and cost-efficient pension funds have been largely impacted by broad legislative and Level 2 measures.

PensionsEurope remains committed to working with the European Commission and other stakeholders to strengthen retirement security for European citizens, with funded pensions playing a key role in achieving this goal.

Our full answer is available here.

For further information, please contact us at info@pensionseurope.eu.

About PensionsEurope

PensionsEurope represents national associations of pension funds and similar institutions for workplace and other funded pensions. Some members operate purely individual pension schemes.

PensionsEurope has **25 member associations** in 19 EU Member States and 3 other European countries[1].

PensionsEurope's member organisations cover different types of workplace pensions for approximately over **90 million people.** Through its Member Associations PensionsEurope represents approximately **€ 5 trillion of assets** managed for future pension payments. In addition, many members of PensionsEurope also cover personal pensions, which are connected with an employment relation.

[1] EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden. Non-EU Member States: Iceland, Norway, Switzerland.

PensionsEurope also has **Corporate and Supporter Members** which are various service providers and stakeholders that work with IORPs.