

PensionsEurope publishes Position Paper on PRIPS

On 31 January 2014, PensionsEurope published a [position paper](#) on the proposal for a Regulation on key information documents for investment products (commonly known as “PRIPS”).

In its position paper, PensionsEurope calls for a full and unambiguous exemption of occupational pensions from the scope of PRIPS, as it was the case in the original Commission proposal and the Council General Approach of 26 June 2013. Occupational pensions are not a “financial product” and are not directly marketed to retail investors, but are a social benefit the employer offers with an employment contract. Due to the specific characteristics of occupational pensions in Europe, key information documents on occupational pensions, as they exist already in many European countries, should provide tailor-made and comprehensive information to the beneficiary. Finally, PensionsEurope also considers that although there might be scope to include personal pension products into the PRIPS project, at this stage the PRIPS Regulation should also not apply to personal pensions.

Trilogue negotiations between the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission are well advanced. Sources involved in the negotiations inform that there is a “broad consensus” to exclude 2nd pillar pensions from the scope of PRIPS. On the other hand, contrary to the position of the Council, the European Parliament would like to include in the scope of PRIPS those 3rd pillar pensions where the consumer is exposed to a choice. A final political agreement on PRIPS could be reached during the next trilogue meeting scheduled for 11 March.