

NOTES OF A CONFERENCE CALL OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SUB-COMMITTEE HELD AT 11.00 HRS CEST ON TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2018

Participants:

Chris Daykin (Chair) – UK
Séverine Arnold – Switzerland
David Bogataj – Slovenia
Philippe Demol – Belgium
Maria Economou – Greece
Rafaello Marcelloni – Italy
Tibor Párnitzky – Hungary
Costas Stavrakis – Cyprus
John Woodall – United Kingdom

Apologies:

Peter Gatenby – UK
Ismo Risku – Finland
Marianna Papamichail – Greece

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Chris opened the meeting and the agenda was adopted.

2. Notes of conference call held on 13 July 2018

The notes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

3. Preparation of response to the Ageing Report 2018

Chris had circulated a draft response paper for discussion. Maria had circulated a draft chapter on the Pension Adequacy Report, which Chris had inserted as Chapter 6 of the combined document, although more work was needed to make the style consistent and to follow through from questions of adequacy raised by the Ageing Report and the increasing number of pension reforms addressing adequacy issues. Tibor offered to provide some text linking reforms and adequacy. David offered to contribute some material by the end of the week commenting on the long-term care cost projections. Chris would check with Peter Gatenby, who had not been able to join this call, whether he would be able to draft some material on the health care projections. Chris had made a start on the chapter commenting on the Table 29 disclosures of pension liabilities and discussing the different approach of the cash-flow projections in The Ageing Report in order to provide a more meaningful assessment of sustainability. Costas agreed to look at this and develop the chapter further, particularly with regard to the limitations of the Table 29 disclosures.

Contributions were invited from members of the subcommittee on the progress of reforms in their own countries, including in particular Belgium, Greece, Italy and Slovenia, and any information they may have about reforms in other countries.

The next draft of the paper will be circulated prior to the Utrecht meeting, after which the aim would be to develop a final draft of the paper by the end of October, with publication planned for the end of November or early December.

4. Task Force on Adequacy of Pensions

Maria had drafted the section of our response paper on adequacy aspects. For consistency with the sections on the Ageing Report 2018 this should probably make more direct links to the conclusions of the Pensions Adequacy Report 2018. John agreed to work with Maria on the next draft. Chris thanked Maria for the work already done on this and the useful papers prepared by Tibor on pension reforms and on automatic adjustment mechanisms. Chris had already used some of this material in the draft paper but more of the pension reform material could perhaps be incorporated.

5. Pension liabilities in national accounts (Table 29 disclosures)

Costas was concerned that the distribution of the questionnaire to members of SSSC who had not responded previously did not seem to have taken place yet. Chris would follow up with Monique and Costas would also provide a covering note to targeted members of the Pensions Committee who might be able to fill the gaps for some other countries. Costas reported that all but 2 of 28 countries had already published their results and it was expected that the rest would be published soon, whereupon Eurostat would be able to publish a summary. It was still expected that Eurostat would organise a seminar in October or November to discuss the Table 29 disclosure exercise, and that the AAE would be invited.

6. Future meetings

There would be a face to face meeting in Utrecht on the morning of 20 September, chaired by Maria. This would be followed by a conference call in the middle of October.

The plan would be to set up meetings with DG Ecfm and DG Employment once we had published our paper in the autumn. There may then be other opportunities to promote our work with MEPs and other audiences.

Chris Daykin
Chairman, Social Security Sub-committee
Actuarial Association of Europe