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PRESS RELEASE

AAE response to EIOPA consultation on transfers of pension rights

Brussels, 14 April 2015:

Commenting on the consultation on individual transfers of supplementary occupational pension rights, Falco Valkenburg, Chairperson of AAE's Pensions Committee, said:

"The paper seeks to set out Good Practices which should apply when individuals seek to transfer their occupational pension rights to another pension arrangement, either within the same Member State, or cross-border to a pension arrangement in another EU Member State."

The Portability Directive stopped short of requiring individuals to be given a right to transfer and hence this EIOPA report will not be binding on Member States. Many of the Good Practices identified already apply in some Member States, but the Report identifies some aspects where the transfer process could be made easier and more efficient. In general, the AAE supports the Good Practices (GP) identified.

Falco Valkenburg: "We welcome the EIOPA approach that a rights transfer is not a must, but a choice for individuals, based on their own personal preference and depending on the details of the pension arrangements. As a consequence of individual freedom the AAE would not support a recommendation that small DC accounts should be forced to transfer."

In general all individuals with pension rights should be able to keep track of their pension entitlements and to obtain updated information on request. This would be facilitated if there were national/EU wide tracking or tracing services¹ which enabled individuals to get details of their pensions from previous employments (and indeed ideally their personal pension policies and State pension entitlements as well).

- End of press release -

Notes for editors

¹ For further reference: AAE reports on national tracking services within the European Union, published in <u>2013</u> and <u>2015</u>

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^{2.} Copies of all AAE press releases are available on the AAE website (<u>www.actuary.eu</u>)

^{3.} The Actuarial Association of Europe (AAE) was established in 1978 under the name Groupe Consultatif to represent actuarial associations in Europe. Its purpose is to provide advice and opinions to the various organisations of the European Union - the Commission, the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Supervisors and their committees – on actuarial issues in European legislation. The AAE currently has 37 member associations in 35 European countries, representing over 20,000 actuaries. Advice and comments provided by the AAE on behalf of the European actuarial profession are totally independent of industry interests. The Actuarial Association of Europe is registered in the EU Transparency Register under number 550855911144-54