

Karel Goossens, Vice-Chairman of the Groupe Consultatif, Chairman of the Insurance committee

Question 1:

Personal background

I have been an actuary since 1980. I entered the Groupe as Chairman and membre titulaire for the Institute of Actuaries in Belgium in 2001. Since May 2007 I have acted as the Chairman of the Insurance Committee, and as of October 2011 I am also the Vice-Chairman of the Groupe.

Question 2:

What kind of aim does the Groupe have, what are the objectives and what role does it play?

The Groupe organises and represents the profession on a European level, as well as promotes the role of the actuary as widely as possible. The mutual recognition agreement helps to realise the European principle of free movement of persons and goods in the European Union. The Groupe is a platform for information, discussion and research for the member associations.

The Groupe represents the active participation and, where appropriate, lead the debate in the European legislative environment in those fields where actuaries are active. The Groupe has a permanent relationship with the European Commission and the supervisor (EIOPA). Furthermore, the Groupe has bilateral exchanges with other European stakeholders such as CEA, Amice, EFRP, FEE, CRO Forum, and consumer organisations. Also the Groupe approaches the MEPs who are involved in the relevant domains.

Together with the increasing role of the European Union, the Groupe is becoming an increasingly important channel for the actuarial profession where the Groupe has been able to be recognised as a full stakeholder and is increasing its impact.

Question 3:

What are the priorities?

As Vice-Chairman I am supporting the further development of the Groupe both externally and internally. More systematic involvement of the Groupe in a European context leads to an increasing need for professionalism. This evolution requires a stronger environment to be created by the organisation and its officers. The past chairman, the chairman and the vice chairman have to assure a consistent and continuous development of the Groupe.

I have chosen the further elaboration and promotion of the role of the actuary and more specifically making a success of the Actuarial Function under Solvency II and Solvency for Pensions as personal accent as Vice-Chairman.

Question 4:

What are the future challenges and activities for the Groupe?

The immediate challenges for the Groupe are: Continue and strengthen the Solvency II activities; assure and develop the Solvency for Pensions activities; promote the profession more widely and make sure that the voice of the actuary is heard at all European levels; and strengthen the organisation of the Groupe.

The longer term challenges are: together with member associations become a real professional organisation where possible with full (legal) recognition; create the conditions that eliminate obstacles such as insufficient actuarial resources in Europe and insufficient professional organisation; increase the perceived added value for the individual actuary in Europe; combine ambitions with financial and practical constraints. The activities facing those challenges are:

- Strong SII project
- Increasing efforts in Solvency for Pensions
- Growing strength of Groupe organisation
- Involvement of local organisations and members