



To: Members and Substitutes of the European
Parliament
Employment and Social Affairs Committee

17 January 2011

Dear Members and Substitutes of the EMPL Committee,

The European Parliament's Employment and Social Affairs Committee is due to vote on a draft report by Mrs Ria Oomen-Ruijten on the Green Paper on Pensions on 1 February, following a discussion on amendments on 25 January.

As European social partner, we would like to provide you with our views on the most crucial parts of the draft report as well as some of the amendments which have been tabled:

- European companies support the statement in the draft report that to ensure sustainability of pension systems, it is necessary for more people to participate in the labour market and for longer. We agree that creative solutions are needed on the labour market to encourage older workers to remain in work for longer, for example, flexibility in the statutory retirement age and part-time work.
- BUSINESSEUROPE welcomes the statement in the draft report that pension systems are a primary responsibility of member states. We also agree that it is not possible to set an adequate pension at European level.

We therefore encourage you not to support amendments calling for an EU definition, minimum standards, or criteria on adequacy.

As a compromise, one option could be to raise the profile of the common objectives on pensions already developed by member states as part of the Open Method of Coordination.

- We do not support the statement in the draft report that for second-pillar pensions, conditions need to be laid down concerning the portability of acquired pension entitlements. We agree on the importance of improving mobility in the labour market, however it is the issue of future pension accrual, not the transfer of already accrued benefits that is important for those people who are considering moving or already mobile across the EU.

We therefore encourage you to delete the paragraph stating that for second-pillar pensions, conditions need to be laid down concerning the portability of acquired pension entitlements.

We remain at your disposal for further questions or comments.

Yours faithfully,

Philippe de Buck