

Welcome by Jasper Kemme

Thank you your Excellency for your warm welcome.

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to this conference about the Internal Market and Pensions, organised by the Federation of Dutch Pension Funds. A very special welcome to his Excellencies the European Commissioner for the Internal Market and Services, mr. Michel Barnier and the Dutch Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, mr. Henk Kamp.

Please allow me to briefly introduce myself before we get started. My name is Jasper Kemme and I speak here on behalf of the Federation of Dutch Pension Funds that recently has been set up by the three Dutch Pension Fund Associations: The VB, the association of industry wide pension funds, OPF, the association of company pension funds and the UvB, the association of pension funds for so called free professions like

doctors and notaries public. I'm a member of the board of the Federation and the (freshly appointed) chairman of the "International Affairs" committee of the Federation. In "normal life" I am the managing director of the Philips Pension Fund in the Netherlands.

We are very proud and honored that both the Commissioner for the Internal Market and Services, mr Michel Barnier, and our Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, mr Henk Kamp, have accepted our invitation to speak about "The European Internal Market and Pensions".

It is clear, that European internal market rules are relevant for pensions in many ways. They are relevant for pension funds' investments, because a proper functioning of the internal market should contribute to economic growth. But they are also relevant for the ways in which the member states are able to organize their pension provision. It shall not come as a surprise to you, that we feel that internal market rules

should not interfere with or exclude work related pensions organized by social partners based on obligatory enrollment.

Besides internal market rules, there are lots of other rules and factors that are relevant for the adequacy and sustainability of pensions.

Therefore the holistic approach taken by the European Commission in the Green Paper is of utmost importance and we respectfully urge the Commission to keep on following this path.

It is now time, ladies and gentlemen, to give the floor to our honored key note speakers. Please note, that both speakers will deliver their speech in their mothertongue. You can use your headsets for translations when necessary.

Moving on to the announcement of our first speaker. Although my knowledge of the beautiful French language is very limited, I will try to do that in French, the mothertongue of our first speaker.

Alors.... je donne la parole au Commissaire Barnier qui nous parlera du Marché Intérieur et des Pensions. Nous sommes très content et tres honore que vous ayez suivi notre invitation. Monsieur Barnier.... síl vous plait **applaus**