

# Activity Report 2009



Association Européenne des Institutions  
de protection sociale Paritaires

European Association of Paritarian Institutions  
of Social Protection



*« Officius anto imi, temporemquam derum,  
equi Piciisi maxima volenih iligent fugia voluptur,  
odisquost am consequatur resedi. »»*

# Table of contents

<b>General Information .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Foreword.....	2
<b>AEIP Members .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>AEIP Dossiers in 2009.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Financial turmoil.....	7
Pensions and retirement schemes .....	8
Participation of AEIP in European Institutions and CEIOPS.....	9
AEIP activities in insurance and financial services .....	9
CEIOPS Consultative Panel.....	10
Health.....	11
Areas of common interest .....	12
<b>AEIP working groups .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Task Force Construction .....	13
Task Force Paid Holiday Schemes.....	14
Task Force Health and Safety.....	15
Task Force Health and Care .....	16
Task Force Territorial Social Protection Schemes .....	16
<b>Conferences .....</b>	<b>17</b>
IRP – Quo Vadis? .....	17
European Conference on Elderly Dignity and Abuse .....	17
European Conference on Healthy and Dignified Ageing .....	17
Conference NCCMP/MEBCO/AEIP – Common Ground:	
Responding to Global Challenges Facing Labor - Management Funds .....	18
The territorial pension funds as a chance for the socioeconomic regional development .....	18
<b>Scientific Council .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Conclusions and outlook .....</b>	<b>20</b>

# General Information

## Foreword

AEIP, the European Association of Paritarian institutions of Social Protection, is composed of 39 members in 19 European countries. Its core business is to promote paritarian management in social protection, meaning the joint management in social protection institutions by representatives of employees and employers. This goes hand in hand with the two other main values of AEIP, which are solidarity and transparency. The objectives of AEIP are reached by defending the interest of its members, lobbying to the European institutions and organising conferences and seminars, while maintaining the ultimate goal of a Pan- European Paritarian Institution of Social Protection.

The chairman of AEIP is Esa Swanljung from the Finnish pension alliance, TELA, representing the employees; the vice-chairman is Thomas Schleicher from the German construction schemes SOKA-BAU, representing the employers. Gerard Riemen from the Dutch sectoral industry pension funds, VB is the treasurer and Vincent

Hamelink from the Dexia pension fund in Luxembourg is the secretary of the board. The Secretary General of AEIP is Bruno Gabellieri. He is in charge of the daily work of AEIP, supported by the AEIP Brussels team. Director of the Brussels office is Francesco Briganti.

AEIP welcomes the membership of the following institutions in 2009:

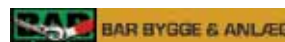
### As associate member joined:

International Foundation Trianon, Liechtenstein



### As observers joined:

BAR, Denmark



CIMA, Ireland



GEROA, Spain



Retraites Populaires, Switzerland



### As correspondent joined:

CAPSSA, France



### As task force member joined:

Union des Caisses de France



The year 2009 was marked by a harsh economic and financial climate. AEIP members had to continue to deal with the impacts of the crisis on their schemes and the effect it had on their investment strategies.

The financial turmoil raised important questions regarding the future of the current pension systems in the Central and Eastern European countries. This is the reason why several new member states opened dialogue with AEIP in order to analyse collectively, potential reforms of their pension systems as well as the possibility to introduce paritarian social protection schemes in their countries. In this context, AEIP established new links with countries such as Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and also Moldova. Notably in 2008, AEIP was invited to join a conference on pension systems organised by the Slovak Minister of Social Affairs - Mrs Viera Tomanová, in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation, European Commission (with presence of the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities – Vladimír Špidla), and the European Federation for Retirement Provision.

In addition the Regulation 883/04 (previously known as 1408/71) and the Directive on the activities of Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision (the so-called IORP Directive) constituted other major topics of interest for AEIP, which pursued and actively maintains a dialogue with the European Institutions concerning these matters. In this regard, AEIP organised several successful events, like the conference entitled "IORP – Quo Vadis?" which will be described later in further detail.

AEIP also succeeded in enlarging its cooperation with other relevant partners at the global level, such as the US and Canadian pension and health organisations. In particular, a cooperation among AEIP, NCCMP (USA), and MEBCO (Canada) was signed in June 2009 during a joint conference in Washington, of which details can be found at the end of this report.

In 2009, AEIP remained active in the Pension Forums of the European Commission and Parliament. In addition, Bruno Gabellieri continued to represent AEIP in the Consultative Panel of the Committee of European

Insurance and Occupational Pensions (CEIOPS), which is currently being transformed into its successor authority - the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA).

As far as the AEIP activities in the field of insurance and financial services are concerned, the works of the European Commission on Solvency II remained in the spotlight. AEIP followed closely the evolutions of these works and succeeded to avoid application of the Solvency II Directive on pension funds, which should be subject to a different form of regulation. Furthermore, AEIP took actively part in a Public Hearing of the European Commission on Harmonisation of Solvency Rules Applicable to IORPs, to present a proposal for modifications.

As for the works concerning the paritarian funds in the construction sector, AEIP continued to follow the developments of the Posting of Workers Directive.

Moreover, a new working group in the sector of health and care has been created in order to monitor the current trends such as ageing population and workforce, mobility of services, and their consequences in social protection. This Task Force will also continue to confront and feed relevant information to the decision makers during the EU policy making processes. A detailed description of this Task Force Health and Care can be found at the end of this report.

AEIP also continued its cooperation with the Presidencies of the European Council and participated during the preparation and realisation of two conferences. During the Czech Presidency there was a conference on Elderly Dignity and Abuse, which took place on 25 and 26 May in Prague, and during the Swedish Presidency there was a conference on Healthy and Dignified Ageing, which was held on 15 and 16 September in Stockholm.

Lastly, in order to pursue its works with the European Committee of Regions, AEIP organised a conference in Venice the 22 May on the role of the regions in promoting social protection which was supported by, and in cooperation with the Veneto Region.



## Associate Members



Austria\*



Belgium



Finland



France



France



France



Germany



Germany



Italy



Lichtenstein



Luxembourg



Switzerland



The Netherlands



Honorary Member\*

## Observer Members



Denmark



Finland



Greece



Ireland



Ireland\*



Italy



Italy\*



Italy\*



Romania



Spain



Spain



Switzerland



Switzerland



United Kingdom



## Correspondents



Bulgaria



France



France



Hungary



Spain



France



France



France



Centrum im. Adama Smitha  
Pierwszej Należności Inżynierów w Polsce

Poland



United Kingdom



France



France



Greece



Spain

## Additional Participants to AEIP Task Forces



Finland



France



France



Spain



The Netherlands



France



France



France



The Netherlands



France



France



Italy



The Netherlands

## Partnerships



Canada



USA



# AEIP Dossiers in 2009

## Financial turmoil

The year 2009 was marked by some of the most dramatic economic and financial developments in the global economy for many decades. Following years of strong growth, low inflation and generally stable financial markets, the situation deteriorated rapidly in 2008 and resulted in a 4% contraction of the GDP in the European Union in 2009. However, a gradual recovery started to take place in the second half of 2009 and according to the latest estimations it has been stronger than initially expected. This rebound has been attributed mainly to the coordinated efforts of the European member states to face the crisis. Nevertheless, other significant risks have emerged, especially those linked to quickly deteriorating public finances and raising unemployment. An increase in public debt was expected following such a harsh economic and financial crisis, but high initial debt levels in some countries have made it more difficult to sustain. Therefore the debt positions of some member states have become a concern for long-term sustainability, especially in combination with large deficits, lower potential output and expected unfavourable demographic evolution.

In the light of these developments, pension funds suffered considerable losses worldwide. A 21% fall in global pension assets in 2008 was nevertheless followed by a 15% increase in 2009. However, current global pension assets are still below 2007 levels. In terms of the pension assets to GDP ratio, we are back to 2003 levels.

Some countries have been more impacted than others. Ireland has been one of the most touched in Europe. Pension assets in Ireland decreased by 26.7% in 2008 and grew by 12.2% in 2009. Many funds (about 90%)

were underfunded. Similar situation happened in UK where pension assets decreased by 26.5% in 2008 and rose by 13.6% the following year. Only 11% of funds remained fully funded. In Netherlands, the funding levels on average fell below the legal minimum of 105%. Local pension assets decreased by 16% in 2008 and grew by 14.2% in 2009.

Similar values were registered by Finland and other Nordic countries. Switzerland registered a decrease of 11.6% in 2008 and an increase of 12.8% in 2009. The evolution has been more positive in Germany as their asset allocation is more bonds-oriented and thus the impact of the financial crisis has been limited. German pension assets were among the rare ones to rise in 2008, although only by modest 1.1%, and by 6.8% the following year.

.....  
Overall, paritarian management emerged as the most successful shock absorber. A combination of a social approach and long-term investments with no shareholders to satisfy have proved to be much more adapted to face the crisis than any other system. This is also backed by a recent Moody's study, entitled "Revenge of the mutuals", which underlines these strengths of non-profit organisations.  
.....

Even if the AEIP members had to adapt their strategies and take appropriate steps to deal with the impacts of the crisis, they have generally suffered less than others in the branch.



## Pensions and retirement schemes

### Regulation 1408/71 becomes 883/04

The Council regulation No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community, has been replaced by regulation No 883/04 on the coordination of social security systems in the European Union. The new legislative package, referred to as «modernised coordination», will be applicable from 1 May 2010.

In the enlarged European Union there exist different types of such schemes. They are always statutory but their legal forms and way of financing may differ depending on the country. These include pay-as-you-go, funded or partially funded schemes. The intention of AEIP is to map the existing forms, discuss their various characteristics and seek for better coordination among them.

In this framework, and taking into account the impact of the financial turmoil on the schemes, AEIP took the opportunity to start cooperating with Central and Eastern-European countries, promoting paritarian managed funds. The pension systems of AEIP members have been presented to representatives from the different Ministries from the Central and Eastern European countries and a conference in Bratislava with the same goal has been scheduled for 2010.

### IORP Directive

AEIP is concerned about possible revisions of the IORP directive. AEIP has carefully followed the current discussions on the revisions and has always stressed the importance of transparency and disclosure issues in the process. For AEIP these issues are part of the protection of the beneficiaries.

Already in 2008, AEIP emphasised the importance of a detailed investigation with regard to differences in the

pension landscapes of all 27 Member States. A broad overview was considered necessary before discussion on future retirement provision began. This is why, in 2009, AEIP started an in-depth long-term research project aimed at mapping the different existing forms of IORPs across Europe. During the project a detailed questionnaire was distributed to its members consisting of five sections. The five sections of the survey concerned the general overview of IORPs in Europe; the way that the national forms of IORPs apply security mechanisms in order to guarantee the solvency of those institutions; the investment strategies and regulations; the method of national IORPs to provide information to their members and reporting requirements to the national supervisory authorities; and lastly, the cross border activities of the IORPs.

In the light of the unprecedented financial crisis, European authorities decided to review and strengthen the European System of Financial Supervision, and AEIP has attentively followed these works. These included the de Larosière report, which called for greater financial regulation in Europe.

As a result of the report, the Committee of European Insurance and Occupational Pensions (CEIOPS) one of the three financial committees that currently exist at the EU level with advisory powers, is being transformed into its successor authority - the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA).

EIOPA's main difference from CEIOPS will be in its enhanced legal status. Being an authority, not a committee will mean that where CEIOPS could only issue recommendations, EIOPA will have the power to issue binding decisions. In some instances, EIOPA will even be able to directly instruct individual companies.



## Information to the retirement scheme members

As a follow-up to the 2008 works, AEIP Commission 1 and 2 continued to share information on how members participating in retirement schemes are informed about their pension rights. AEIP members gave presentations of their practices and prepared a report that was sent to the European Commission.

## Participation of AEIP in European Institutions and CEIOPS

### Pension Forums of the European Commission and Parliament

The European Institutions created two pension forums in which representatives of governments, social partners, pension industries and other stakeholders can discuss issues related to occupational pensions and try to identify practical solutions.

.....

Due to the new election at the European Parliament (EP), there was no meeting of the EP Pension Forum this year and due to the ending mandate of the European Commission (EC), only one meeting of the EC Pension Forum took place (29 June 2009). The main goal of this meeting was the debate on the financial crisis and its impact on the pension schemes. In addition, the committee examined the Delarosière report as well as the situation in the Central and Eastern European Countries; specifically, the sustainability of their pension systems. AEIP was represented in this consultative committee by the Secretary General.

.....

## AEIP activities in insurance and financial services

### Solvency II

AEIP monitored the evolution of the Solvency II directive and lobbied in order to avoid application of such regulatory measures to pension funds. Being aware of the possible consequences of an inappropriate solvency framework for collectively managed pension schemes, AEIP recently created a Working Group "Solvency" to deal with this matter.



## CEIOPS Consultative Panel

Since 2008, AEIP has been a member of the Consultative Panel of the CEIOPS.

This panel was established to assist CEIOPS in the performance of its functions and, in particular, to ensure that the consultation process functions effectively.

The Consultative Panel met twice in 2009 (the 5 May and the 29 September). AEIP followed closely CEIOPS' published reports and contributed to the ongoing discussions. Despite the changes in progress within the organisation, AEIP is expected to continue playing an important role as a consultative member within the new authority (EIOPA). As such a member, AEIP will continue to monitor the way in which EIOPA exercises its role and support its policy-making process.

The representative of AEIP is Bruno Gabellieri; his proxy is Peter Borgdorff on behalf of AEIP member VB from the Netherlands.

The topics dealt with in 2009 were:

- Report de Larosière and resulting transformation of CEIOPS into EIOPA
- Omnibus Directive
- Revision of the IORP Directive
- Application of the Solvency II Directive
- Solvency rules for pension funds
- Insurance sector stress test
- Insurance guarantee schemes
- Consumer protection
- Occupational pensions
- Convergence of supervision
- The CEIOPS working programme.

AEIP successfully presented its view during the Public Hearing of the European Commission on Harmonisation of Solvency Rules Applicable to IORPs. During this hearing, AEIP stressed that the common feature of its members, who are active in the field of occupational retirement provision, is that they mostly provide occupational pensions based on collective agreements. They therefore dispose of the same steering mechanisms to buffer any loss in the margin of the technical provisions and thus are the contrary to commercial, for-profit type insurance companies. IORPs and collectively agreed upon occupational pensions are long-term investors and thus are well prepared to balance out the financial risks in the long term. This is especially important in times when the financial markets melt down, as has happened recently. In this respect, AEIP also referred to its document on the "Differences between pension funds, asset managers and commercial insurance undertakings", published in March 2006.

AEIP recommends that the IORPs should fall under a more appropriate framework than the one of Solvency II. The same should apply for the retirement schemes carried out by collectively managed pension institutions. The report of CEIOPS "Survey on fully funded, technical provisions and security mechanisms in the European occupational pension sector" underlines this recommendation of AEIP.

As a consequence of AEIP's pressure, the European Institutions decided to carve pension funds out of the Solvency II framework because of the underlined differences between pension and insurance companies. A specific set of regulatory rules will come in the near future and AEIP's Working Group 'Solvency' will continue to follow its further developments. Moreover, AEIP is offering to the European Commission its cooperation to discuss an appropriate framework for technical provisions and the future of European occupational retirement provision.

## Health



Taking into account the current trends of an ageing population and workforce, mobility of services relating to health providers, and the consequences they have on social protection, a new working group 'Health and Care' was created in 2009 to share the best practices in the sector of health and care. Its detailed description can be found at the end of this report.

### Follow-up of Health Reforms

AEIP members active in the area of health insurance constantly follow developments in the reforms of healthcare systems in their countries with the objective to exchange available information among them.

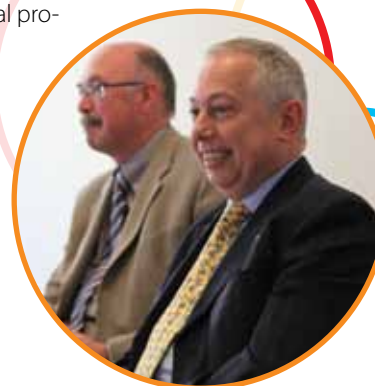
.....  
Furthermore, AEIP has launched a new cooperation with their US and Canadian counterparts in order to discuss healthcare reforms. In the framework of this collaboration, the US asked AEIP for help, being particularly interested in the healthcare systems in Europe, and more specifically in France.  
.....



## Long Term Care

AEIP considers long-term care as one of the most important challenges of the coming years. It is one of the priorities of AEIP, and the reason why cooperation with other organisations in this field has been established. In particular, it is the case of the collaboration with AIM (Association Internationale de la Mutualité). AIM and AEIP, together with other actors from the social field, participated in the preparation of the conference of the Swedish presidency on Healthy and Dignified Ageing.

AEIP and AIM consider paritarian institutions and social mutual societies which are not for profit as having a major role to play in making long-term care accessible and financially sustainable. Social mutual societies and paritarian institutions are closer to the insured, and are able to provide tailored solutions under one roof, avoiding fragmentation of health and social care and ensuring better access to long-term care. The intergenerational solidarity should be a common value for all European societies and become, together with the long-term care, an integral part of the EU social protection systems.







## Areas of common interest

### Training of Board Members of Social Protection Institutions

AEIP continued its works on the training of board members of social protection institutions, which became even more important in the context of the financial crisis. Organised in a paritarian way, the board members act as the decision makers of the paritarian funds and need to be properly trained in order to make educated decisions. Members of AEIP shared information with each other on training practices in their countries, especially those within the construction sector.



### Socially responsible investment

Socially responsible investment (SRI), is an investment strategy that seeks to maximize both financial return and social good and has been a repeated point on the 2009 agenda. Members answered to a questionnaire and shared their experience about their practices in this field by monitoring the performance of funds and examining their resistance against the current economic downturn.



# AEIP working groups

## Task Force Construction



The Task Force Construction (TFC) created in 2001, is a meeting platform for European social protection schemes active in the construction sector, notably the sector with the highest mobility of workers in Europe. The aim of this Task Force consists in exchanging good practices in asset management, informing about AEIP works in the field of occupational retirement, and finding common elements that would help to improve working conditions and guarantee an adequate pension during retirement age. The works of the TFC are followed up and supported by the Social Partners of the Construction Sector, FIEC (European Construction Industry Federation) and EFBWW (European Federation of Building and Woodworkers).

The long-term objective of this Task Force is to work on pan-European projects. In 2009 the TFC counted 14 members coming from 11 European countries.

## Financial turmoil, pension schemes and asset Management

The main objective of asset management is to discuss different investment strategies and the respective return on investment. Furthermore, alternative investment strategies and solvency rules are being debated. In 2009

AEIP members continued to deal with the impact of the financial crisis on the social protection schemes and the effect it had on the investment strategies.

A representative of CWPS explained that Ireland has been one of the worst-hit economies during this crisis specifically in the construction sector. The Irish social protection schemes suffered an enormous drop in the number of participants due to unemployment and a high number of employers have not paid their contributions. The Irish members feared having to close down DB schemes, since most of them were under-funded. Similar losses were described by a British member B&CE, whereas more prudent strategies (very low part of the assets invested in equities) applied in Germany (SOKA-BAU) or in Austria (BUAK) proved to be more advantageous in the face of the crisis.

.....  
With regard to pensions, members shared experience in the area of information to retirement scheme members in parallel to the works of the statutory AEIP Commissions. Various comparison projects among members have been conducted, particularly in the field of administrative costs and the availability of products and services offered online. The current project being pursued is a creation of a web based planner which would give access to details concerning pensions. The idea is to share experience by means of a matrix, which would illustrate sectoral differences at a national level. No international comparison will be made because the risk of being incoherent is too high.  
.....





## Task Force Paid Holiday Schemes

The Task Force Paid Holiday Schemes (TFPH) is a task force that emanated from the TFC.

The goal of this Task Force, led by the German Soka Bau, goes hand in hand with the one of the TFC: to share good practice examples of the paid holiday schemes in the construction sector.

### Posting of workers

The European Commission has set up an Expert Committee on posting of workers which is composed of representatives of the EC, the Member States and, as observers, the social partners at the European level. The Committee deals with legal and practical questions related to the Posting of Workers Directive (PWD) and tries to answer the question whether the directive needs to be revised or not. Even though the EC was originally against a revision of the directive and would have preferred to work on better implementation.

The focus has been put on the social impact of posting as well as its legal aspects. The social partners in the construction sector, FIEC and EFBWW, have sought a close cooperation with AEIP and its TFPH in this matter.

A representative of the European Commission exposed the ongoing works of the PWD. According to this presentation, discussions about setting up an electronic information exchange system (IMI) have taken place and in the future AEIP may be invited as an external expert.

In this perspective, the TFPH discussed how to improve the bilateral and multilateral exchange of information by electronic means. However, data protection remains an important concern. In addition, a creation of a European card for posted workers has been suggested. Such card would carry the information about workers' contributions and would facilitate the movement of posted workers moving beyond the construction sector.



## Task Force Health and Safety

The last Task Force of the construction sector, led by the Spanish Foundation Laboral, discusses and shares the best practices in the area of health and safety at work.

The objective of this Task Force is to share information about training, to work on a common management tool for implementing health and safety measures, and to compare communication strategies.

Nowadays, the construction sector is the sector with the highest number of accidents at work. That is why AEIP discusses the possibility of introduction of a Health and Safety card in order to raise awareness about health and safety measures. However, such introduction would be very complicated provided the different practices, rules, terms of quality and effectiveness in different member states.

As recent statistics show, in countries where training courses were implemented, the number of accidents on construction sites has been significantly reduced. Therefore future developments in various trainings as well as further projects are encouraged by the social partners and AEIP. A mutual recognition of health and safety trainings seems to be a right starting point. This would ensure that the workers would not find themselves blocked and would not have to redo the same trainings in other countries.

More discussion is needed in order to decide whether there is a need for voluntary or compulsory schemes. From the general point of view, a management model should be developed that could be used by small and medium sized companies to prevent labour risks. The aim of such model would be to improve safety and health in this group of enterprises and allow better mobility by proposing a pattern that could be used by all the member states of the European Union.



## Task Force Health and Care

Regarding the current trends such as ageing population and workforce, mobility of services, and their consequences in social protection, the AEIP managing board decided in 2009, on the proposal Secretary General and on the demand of PGGM (VB, the Netherlands), to create a new working group with the goal to share the best practices in the sector of health and care. Its first meeting took place in September 2009 in Brussels consisting of 5 members from France and Netherlands.

During the first two meetings of the Task Force Health and Care (TFHC) in 2009, a representative from the European Commission presented their ongoing work in elderly care. This included

the “Open Method of Coordination”, which is a relatively new and intergovernmental means of governance in the EU, based on the voluntary cooperation of its member states; the recently set up Social Protection Committee; the Green Paper on the European Health Workforce; and the current major dialogues that are health care, long term care, social inclusion and pensions.

The members of the TFHC agreed to share their best practices, monitor together the evolution of topics related to health and care at the national and European level, and work on themes such as mobility of staff, coordination of a possible Pan European System, investment in the health and care sector, long term care, housing for elderly people, and reintegration of disabled people back into the work sector.



## Task Force Territorial Social Protection Schemes

The Task Force on Territorial Social Protection Schemes is a working group specifically dedicated to dealing with territorial social dialogue on social protection. This Task Force studies the developments of these expanding initiatives and shares the existing experience of the territorial social protection in supplementary pensions, healthcare and long-term care.

It is a working group that (unlike the previously mentioned task forces) does not meet on a regular basis but cooperates mainly through conferences, such as the one in Venice organised with the Veneto Region Government, which is described in the next section. The importance of the territorial social pro-

tection schemes continues to grow along with this working group. At the moment, it is composed of representatives of both regional governments and territorial social protection schemes in France, Italy, Germany and Spain.

This group stresses the importance of social protection regimes at the territorial level that are more adapted to the population's needs that naturally diverge between different territories. Moreover, the local governments may play an important role in promoting subscription to territorial schemes, which could reduce their future possible social costs. Finally, the working group also deals with the issue of the local investments carried out by the local funds, which can be on the one hand very beneficial for the affected regions, but on the other hand risky due to the lack of diversification.

# Conferences

## IRP – Quo Vadis? 12 March, Brussels

AEIP Conference on the Evaluation of the Implementation of the IORP Directive

The conference of AEIP titled: "IORP – Quo Vadis?" gathered representatives of the European institutions, the CEIOPS, stakeholders and academics in order to provide an overview of the current status of the IORP Directive including all the aspects that so far have been identified as barriers to the setting up of cross-border funds. The conference coincided with the revision of the directive against the background of the ongoing financial crisis and the ever increasing need for strengthening occupational retirement provision and enhancing cross-border mobility of workers. Furthermore, it focused on the role of social and labour law, the challenges of IORPs in the current financial market situation, and the appropriate rules for technical provisions.

## European Conference on Elderly Dignity and Abuse 25 - 26 May, Prague



Together with its partners: AIM (International Association of Social Mutual Societies), AGE Platform and European Youth Forum, AEIP participated in the preparation of a conference entitled "European Conference on Care and Protection of Senior Citizens -

The Dignity and Hazard of Elderly" organised by the Czech Presidency of the European Council.

With regard to elderly abuse and dignity, Paritarian Institutions and Social Mutual Societies are always a complementary to the public or private actors' and civil society organisations' activities.

AEIP described during the conference the Paritarian Institutions and Social Mutual Societies as well as their role in providing long term care. The main focus of the presentation was on the better coordination of health and social services, as well as on an integrative approach in order to avoid elderly abuse and to promote dignity. It also presented the existing projects of AEIP and AIM members in this area.

## European Conference on Healthy and Dignified Ageing 15-16 September, Stockholm

The goal of the conference on Healthy and Dignified Ageing was to permanently put the issue on ageing and elderly on the EU agenda. It was also to promote cooperation and interaction between health and social sectors dealing with ageing - both at EU-level and at national level.

A growing proportion of elderly people in the population presents a challenge and an opportunity to all EU countries. The Swedish Presidency together with AEIP aimed at enhancing dignity and quality of life for elderly persons in Europe. Several Member States have given priority to such efforts ensuring a high standard of elderly care which provides dignity with old age. To achieve this dignity in elderly care, it is important to ensure that those who are working with health and social issues cooperate better and place the focus on the elderly person.

A general debate was launched in order to find new ways to cooperate and point to good examples in different EU countries.





## Conference NCCMP/ MEBCO/AEIP – Common Ground: Responding to Global Challenges Facing Labor - Management Funds 4–5 June, Washington, DC

The eve of this joint conference saw the signature of a protocol of cooperation between three major pension and health organisations from the USA, Canada and Europe: NCCMP, the National Coordinating Committee for multi-employer plans of the USA, MEBCO, the Multi-Employer Benefit Council of Canada, and AEIP. The purpose of this cooperation is to better face global challenges that threaten good quality pension and health benefits. In addition, it will give these organisations, the beneficiaries and sponsoring employers a global voice.

During this first joint conference entitled “Common Ground: Responding to Global Challenges Facing Labor – Management Funds”, experts, academics, representatives of the US congress and senate and those of the European Commission, discussed together with MEBCO, NCCMP and AEIP, the future of jointly managed North-American multi-employer scheme and European schemes. Joint, paritarian management is a unifying factor between these plans.

Against the background of the global financial and economic crisis, where retirement security and high quality, affordable health care for workers are necessary and need to be promoted, such cooperation was needed in a timely manner. The participants concluded that an increasing emphasis needs to be put on adequate funding requirements to meet the challenges of an ageing society.

Multi-employer schemes and Paritarian institutions are investing in the same global markets, purchase the same

products, and use many of the same providers. They are affected by common global accounting rules and are subject to inextricably interconnected and increasingly volatile investment markets which threaten the funding for future benefit obligations.

The conference was a first step in strengthening this cooperation and promoting the role of social partners in social protection on both sides of the Atlantic. Future cooperation of the three organisations includes sharing best practices and ideas in order to learn from each other and to promote the best practices as well as to enable effective trans-atlantic lobbying in issues of common interest. Furthermore, the organisations agreed to arrange an annual conference every other year in North-America and every other year in Europe.

## The territorial pension funds as a chance for the socioeconomic regional development 22 May, Venice

The conference on territorial pension funds was organised in cooperation with the Italian Region of Veneto and the support of the European Committee of Regions. It focused on the role of regions in promoting social protection regimes, which are more adapt to the population's needs that may be different depending on location. The important issue of local investments was also tackled.

Various projects were presented by local pension funds and financial operators. These dealt with the opportunities of a regional social model, investment strategies, and the prospects of the territorial social funds in Italy. The regional government of the Venetia welcomed these projects and would like to continue its cooperation with AEIP.



## Scientific Council

The Scientific Council of AEIP is composed of 11 professors and advisors from 9 different countries. It meets once a year to discuss innovative ideas with regard to social protection in general and the role of paritarian management at European level in particular.

The Scientific Council stays in touch with AEIP in order to advise on the way to deal with current affairs, produce studies, contribute to draft agendas of AEIP events and give presentations. With the continuous expansion of AEIP to new European countries, the Scientific Council is planned to expand too. For this reason, contacts with some of the best academics from the concerned countries are already being established.



### Members of Scientific Council of AEIP:

**Maître Jacques-André SCHNEIDER**

of Lachat Harari & Associates Switzerland

**Prof. Heinz-Dietrich STEINMEYER**

of the University of Munster Germany

**Prof. Dr. Konstantinos KREMALIS**

of Prof K. Kremalis & Partners Greece

**Monsieur Philippe LAIGRE**

of Philippe Laigre & Associates France

**Prof. Dr. Yves JORENS**

of the University of Ghent Belgium

**Prof. Dr. Yves STEVENS**

of K.U. Leuven Belgium

**Prof. Arlindo DONARIO**

of the University Autonoma de Lisboa Portugal

**Prof. Philippe COURSIER**

of the University de Montpellier France

**Monsieur Bryn DAVIES** of UPS LTD United

Kingdom

**Prof. Erik LUTJENS**

of Van Mens & Wisselink The Netherlands

**Prof. Pasquale SANDULLI**

of the University of Rome Italy

## Conclusions and outlook

AEIP's priority in 2009 was growing and gaining new members. Being represented in already 19 European countries is a success for the association. For the years to come, AEIP is planning to expand its activities to the Central and Eastern Europe. Even if in the new European member states paritarism is currently not yet very well represented. As these countries face difficulties with their social protection systems and begin to look for possible reforms; AEIP will be there to promote the paritarian way of management of social protection schemes. However, AEIP does not stop its activities at European borders and is actively seeking to cooperate at the global level. Having already successfully started cooperation with the USA and Canada, the association would like to establish links with existing paritarian institutions in other parts of the World.

AEIP also confirmed its continuous cooperation with the Presidencies of the European Council through participation in organisation of their conferences in the area of long term care. New collaboration is planned with a range of public entities, such as ministries of individual European member states, and territorial governments.

With the arrival of new members, AEIP enlarged its field of activities, in particular to issues dealing with health

and care. For the following year, the metal industry will be completely covered under an AEIP Task Force, after receiving approval from the Managing Board.

.....  
In 2009, an emphasis was put on the ways to face the financial crisis and related issues, such as the ongoing discussion on appropriate rules for technical provision for pension funds. The next year will not be an exception and AEIP will continue to monitor the important evolutions in coordinated social regimes as well as the works on IORPs. Particular attention will be given to the transformation of CEIOPS into its successor authority EIOPA, who will play an important role in the European System of Financial Supervisors.  
.....

With the new European Commission and Parliament, AEIP will keep its focus on an appropriate response to the financial crisis, as well as on the construction of a Social Europe, which has proven to be needed more than ever. This Social Europe should help the member states to face the crisis, predominately by promoting the most important AEIP's values: social democracy, transparency, and solidarity.





*« Officius anto imi, temporemquam derum,  
equi Piciisi maxima volenih iligent fugia voluptur,  
odisquost am consequatur resedi. »»*



24 Rue Montoyer  
B-1000 Brussels

Tel. 0032 2 233 54 20  
Fax 0032 2 233 54 29

[www.aeip.net](http://www.aeip.net)  
[info@aeip.net](mailto:info@aeip.net)