



To: Members and substitutes of the European
Parliament Employment Committee

18 March 2013

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On 21 March, the Employment and Social Affairs Committee will vote on the draft report by MEP Ria Oomen-Ruijten on an Agenda for Adequate, Safe and Sustainable Pensions. We send you this letter to express our views on the draft report taking into account the amendments under discussion.

We support a number of the statements included in the draft report, in particular on the issue of **putting the retirement age on a sustainable footing with increases in life expectancy** (point 9). The linking of the retirement age to the increases in life expectancy is necessary to ensure fairness between generations in terms of the sustainability of the pension system and an adequate level of benefits. We therefore oppose amendments deleting the link to life expectancy (193, 195 and 196).

We strongly disagree with attempts to put a de facto **ban on mandatory retirement** (point 10). Mandatory retirement is the age at which an employment contract ends as determined by law, contract or collective agreement. This is a purely national competence. Employers and workers need to be able to continue to find solutions at company level, according to the applicable national and/or sectoral framework. It must be avoided that one side – the worker or the employer – is given the opportunity to freely choose another retirement age and deviate from the agreed conditions. Accordingly we support the rapporteur's text and oppose amendment 207.

BUSINESSEUROPE agrees with the objective of dealing with obstacles to **labour market mobility**. In the area of supplementary pensions it is necessary to ensure that actions to improve mobility are balanced with cost-effective provision of supplementary pension schemes by employers to their employees. Therefore, any action should respect the principle of proportionality by targeting those obstacles which have a major impact on EU-cross border mobility. We therefore support amendments 286 and 288.

Yours sincerely,

Markus J. Beyrer