

# 73<sup>RD</sup> MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING IN PERSON

**DATE: 12 MARCH 2024** 09:00-12:20

**LOCATION: EIOPA, WESTHAFENPLATZ 1, 60327 FRANKFURT AM MAIN**

## EIOPA FINAL MINUTES

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE ACTING CHAIRPERSON

1. The Chairperson welcomed the attendees to the 73<sup>rd</sup> meeting of EIOPA's Management Board (MB).

### AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

#### DECISION

2. The MB adopted the agenda by consensus.

### CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS

3. The Chairperson concluded that there is no MB Member that has an interest that could be considered prejudicial to their independence with regard to any item of the adopted agenda following declaration by all MB Members of absence of any such interests.

### AGENDA ITEM 2: UPDATE BY THE CHAIRPERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

4. The Chairperson updated the MB Members on the following topics:

#### MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

5. Mr. Steven Vanackere, Vice-Governor of the National Bank of Belgium (NBB), was elected as a Member of the EIOPA MB for a period of two and a half years as of 13 February 2024. Mr. Dieter Hendrickx, Head of Prudential Policy Insurance at NBB, was appointed as an Alternate to Mr. Vanackere.
6. Other changes were reported in reference to the Membership of EIOPA's Board of Supervisors (BoS), namely that Mr. Armand Schouten, Director for Insurance Supervision at the De

Nederlandsche Bank (DNB), was appointed as a Member of the Board of Supervisors, replacing Ms. Else Bos in her capacity as a Voting Member of the BoS, and that Ms. Iva Ivanković, Head of the Insurance Analysis Department in the Insurance, Leasing and Factoring Supervision Division at the Croatian Financial Services Supervisory Agency (Hanfa) was appointed as an Alternate to Mr. Ante Žigman.

#### DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR NON-STAFF

7. The annual Declaration of Interests (DOIs) exercise, launched in early February 2024, is almost final. The DOIs will be published on EIOPA's website in due course.

#### RENEWAL OF THE TWO STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

8. On 26 February 2024, EIOPA launched the selection process to renew EIOPA's Stakeholders Groups – the Insurance and Reinsurance Stakeholder Group (IRSG) and the Occupational Pensions Stakeholder Group (OPSG). Interested candidates are invited to submit their applications by Monday, 25 March 2024. More information on the call for applications is available [here](#).

#### STAKEHOLDER GROUPS' MEETINGS

9. The IRSG met online on 28 February 2024. The group discussed the following topics: i) outlook for 2024, challenges and risks for consumers and the insurance sector; ii) prudential treatment of sustainability risks; iii) joint ESAs work on the revised SFDR RTS; iv) update on the EIOPA 2023 consumer trends report and EIOPA cost and past performance report; and v) diversity, equity, and inclusion.

#### INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE SUPERVISORS (IAIS)

10. Good progress was reported on the recent IAIS work. The technical assessment of the Aggregate Method's comparability with the global Insurance Capital Standard is ongoing.

#### UPDATES BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (ED)

11. The Executive Director updated the MB Members on the following topics:

#### FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (FSC) MEETINGS

12. The FSC meeting of 26 February 2024, where EIOPA presented i) its Consumer Trends and Cost and Past Performance Reports, covering recent developments and cross-sectoral trends in the insurance and pension sector, ii) as well as updates on the recent work of the ESAs in the context of the European Forum for Innovation Facilitators (EFIF).
13. At the meeting of 13 March 2023, EIOPA presented an overview of insurance internal models in the EU, a regular update on financial risks, and the EIOPA's Draft Opinion on sustainability claims and greenwashing.

## EIOPA'S INTERNAL ORGANISATION

14. The planned changes to EIOPA's internal structure are being implemented. As of 1 April 2024, the following changes will be reflected in the organisational structure: i) the merger of the Policy Department and the Supervisory Processes Department; ii) the re-organisation of the International and Sustainable Finance Team into a horizontal Sustainability Unit and an International Relations Team; and iii) the setting up of the Planning, Reporting and Control Team.

## NETWORK OF EU AGENCIES

15. As of 1 March 2024, EIOPA handed over the coordination of the EU Agencies Network (EUAN) to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology and the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training. Both agencies are located in Budapest and will jointly chair the EUAN in 2024. EIOPA will remain in the TROIKA as an outgoing agency until the end of February 2025.

## DIGITAL OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE ACT (DORA): UPDATES

16. The policy work at the level of the Joint Committee on Digital Operational Resilience (JC SC DOR) is progressing according to plan.
17. The newly established High-Level Group on Oversight (HLGO) met for the second time on 15 March 2024 to discuss the setting-up of the Joint Examination Teams, the effort allocation, the number of critical ICT third-party providers (CTPPs) and the designation process.
18. A joint ESAs campaign for the recruitment of the ESAs' Oversight team will be launched this year to ensure efficient use of resources.
19. Given the intensity and quantity of DORA tasks planned in 2024 and 2025 and to make sure the teams are fully operational when the oversight tasks start, the ESAs have initiated discussions with EC on the possibility to receive bridge funding to recruit the team before the fees are cashed in. Further details on the envisaged financial impacts are to be shared soon to the BoS members via WP.

## UPDATE BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (COM)

20. The COM representative informed the MB Members on the following files:

## NEW INSTITUTIONAL CYCLE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (2024-2029).

21. Preparations are ongoing in view of the change of political leadership this year. The Strategic Agenda is expected to be adopted in June 2024. Flagship initiatives will remain key for the new COM.

## SUSTAINABILITY

22. Work continues along different fronts, such as reducing burdens associated with the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) reporting requirements by 25%; in the

context of Solvency II, transition plans and prudential treatment of sustainability risks; the Climate Resilience Dialogue.

#### SOLVENCY II REVIEW PACKAGE

23. The English version of the text has been agreed and a vote is expected at the last Plenary session of the European Parliament (EP). The date of entry into force of the legislative package (Solvency II and IRRD) has been postponed to the end of the year due to the translation process.
24. Work on Level II of Solvency II continues in close collaboration with EIOPA and the National Competent Authorities (NCAs).

#### RETAIL INVESTMENT STRATEGY (RIS)

25. A voting date on this legislative proposal has not yet been arranged in the EP. Discussions are still taking place in both EP and Council.

#### FINANCIAL DATA ACCESS (FIDA)

26. A vote is expected in the EP before the end of the current legislative mandate.

#### THE RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN (RTBF)

27. Bi-weekly roundtable meetings are taking place. COM is working with the contractor.

#### DECISION

28. Not applicable.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS

29. Not applicable.

#### AGENDA ITEM 3: MB FOCUS AREAS

The Chairperson introduced the topic, highlighting the areas of work in which the Members will be involved during their mandate at EIOPA's MB. These areas are: i) Sustainability; ii) Recovery and Resolution; iii) Financial Stability; iv) Pension; v) Consumer Protection; vi) Digitalization; vii) Solvency II; viii) Oversight and Convergence; ix) Operations and x) Legal. A balanced distribution of the areas among Members was agreed.

#### DECISION

30. Not applicable.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS

31. MB welcomed the specific focus areas for the Members.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: EIOPA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY – PROGRESS REPORT ON EMAS IMPLEMENTATION**

32. The Head of Corporate Support Department presented the current status of the implementation of the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) by EIOPA and its environmental performance over the period 2019-2023. EIOPA achieved the formal EMAS accreditation in February 2023.
33. To support its environmental ambitions, EIOPA plans to reduce by further 5% the missions of EIOPA staff, thus reaching a 45% target reduction compared to pre-pandemic times (last year's target was 40%). The targets for the on-site meetings will remain unchanged.

#### **DECISION**

34. Not applicable.

#### **CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS**

35. MB welcomed EIOPA's formal EMAS accreditation obtained in 2023 and the further strengthening of reduction targets for missions, while stressing the importance of in-person interactions to maintain cohesion.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: INTERNAL CONTROL REPORT 2023 AND WORK PLAN 2024**

36. The Head of Corporate Support Department, in his capacity as EIOPA's Internal Control Coordinator, provided a comprehensive overview of the current status of the internal control system's implementation at EIOPA, detailing the activities undertaken in 2023, the main internal control results, as well as the proposed work plan for 2024. The Members were informed that no critical internal control weaknesses have been identified and that the system is working as intended, with some improvements to be introduced in the coming period.

#### **DECISION**

37. Not applicable.

#### **CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS**

38. MB took note of the Internal Control report for 2023 and the workplan for 2024.
39. EIOPA to provide additional information in the future on how the results of the internal control and audit feed into the overall assessment of the implementation status of the internal control system.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: IAS AUDIT REPORT ON PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT**

40. The Head of Corporate Support Department presented the results of the procurement and contract management audit conducted by the Internal Audit Service (IAS) of COM. The audit

concluded positively on EIOPA's efforts to implement efficient and effective procurement and contract management processes. In particular, the auditors rated high the dedication and expertise of the procurement staff, the clearly defined governance structure for the procurement processes, the implementation of electronic workflow and the IT tools. Additionally, the IAS identified areas of improvement, namely risk management, guidance, and training, planning and reporting, award criteria descriptions as well as few compliance matters.

41. To address the areas of improvement, EIOPA developed a dedicated action plan, which will be implemented in the following months.

#### DECISION

42. Not applicable.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS

43. MB took note of the IAS audit report on procurement and contract management and of EIOPA's action plan.

#### AGENDA ITEM 7: PEER REVIEW WORK PLAN 2025-2026

44. EIOPA staff presented the top three topics proposed for the new peer reviews as part of the Peer Review Work Plan 2025-2026, in addition to follow-ups on the previous peer reviews that are already scheduled (i.e. they take place two years after the publication of the peer review report). The topics were selected from a list of seven which was discussed at the SSC level. The MB was invited to propose two topics. Members indicated preference for the topic on the supervision of sustainability risk and its integration on undertakings' investment/underwriting activities, and the topic on reinsurance, where EIOPA is already working actively with NCAs.
45. Some Members pointed out the interest in choosing both a prudential topic and a market conduct topic to avoid the concentration of the two peer reviews in topics.
46. Other comments from the Members were done in reference to the (Follow-up on) Opinion on the supervisory reporting of IORPs costs and charges topic, where it was proposed the use of a different tool, and secondly, on the (Follow-up on) Opinion on remuneration topic, on which further discussions should take place at SSC level to explore interest based on the status and issues arising following the implementation of the Delegated Regulation and EIOPA Opinion.

#### DECISION

47. Not applicable.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS

48. MB welcomed the topics selected for the next peer review work plan and expressed preference for the supervision of sustainability risk and reinsurance and acknowledged the possibility of following-up on other topics potentially through a different process.

49. EIOPA to prepare a draft peer review work-plan for 2025-2026, using a targeted and focused approach, to be presented at the June 2024 MB meeting for a final decision.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: EIOPA' STRATEGY DAY 2024**

50. The Chairperson presented the topics chosen for the EIOPA' Strategy Day taking place this year in Belgium, highlighting the strategic reasoning behind the choice.

#### **DECISION**

51. Not applicable.

#### **CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS**

52. MB welcomed the topics proposed for the 2024 EIOPA' Strategy Day.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: BOS PREPARATION**

##### **9.1. SOLVENCY II REVIEW – PROGRAMME**

53. EIOPA staff presented the envisage programme for Solvency II review.
54. The Members welcomed the programme highlighting the importance of considering further streamlining of existing guidelines.
55. It was highlighted the potential need for flexibility, for example in light of the future priorities of the new COM. EIOPA's Chairperson pointed to EIOPA's readiness to provide input to COM's delivery of Delegated Acts. If EIOPA's input were to be substantial, a formal request from COM to EIOPA would be most appropriate.

#### **DECISION**

56. Not applicable.

#### **CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS**

57. MB welcomed the programme, the proposed governance and allocation of work, while stressing the importance of simplification and proportionality, where possible.
58. EIOPA to submit the programme to the BoS meeting on 26 -27 March 2024, for discussion.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10: AOB**

#### **DECISION**

59. Not applicable.

#### **CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS**

60. Not applicable.

**ANNEX: LIST OF DECISIONS ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE FROM 16.01.2024 TO 12.03.2024**

**MB-2024-01**

61. Decision adopting, by consensus, the Draft Single Programming Document (SPD) 2025-2027.

**MB-2024-02**

62. Decision adopting, by consensus, the Minutes of the 72nd Management Board meeting.

**MB-2024-03**

63. Decision adopting, by consensus, the Decision to establish EIOPA's Joint Committee for senior managers.



## Participants at the Management Board's meeting

12 March 2024

**Chairperson:** Petra Hielkema

**Vice-Chairperson:** Peter Braumüller

| <u>Country</u> | <u>Member/ Alternate</u>       |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Croatia        | Ante Žigman /[-]               |
| Belgium        | Steven Vanackere/[-]           |
| Finland        | Teija Korpiaho/[-]             |
| Ireland        | Domhnall Cullinan/[-]          |
| Italy          | Alberto Corinti/[-]            |
| Portugal       | Margarida Corrêa de Aguiar/[-] |

| <u>Institution</u>     | <u>Non-Voting Member/ Alternate</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| European<br>Commission | Larisa Dragomir                     |

### EIOPA Staff

|                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Executive Director                   | Fausto Parente    |
| Head of Corporate Affairs Department | Susanne Rosenbaum |
| Head of Corporate Support Department | Danny Janssen     |
| Head of Policy Department            | Justin Wray       |