



Minutes of the meeting of the Financial Services User Group

Monday 17 November 2014

Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the FSUG meeting on 23-24 October 2014.

The agenda was adopted and comments on the minutes will be included via written procedure.

Consultation

The FSUG decided to contribute to 6 on-going consultations:

- Consultation on Conflicts of Interest in direct and intermediated sales of insurance-based investment products,
- Consultation on Cross border mergers and divisions / company law ;
- Consultation on Guidelines aimed at standardisation of fee terminology for payment accounts in the EU;
- Consultation Paper on the proposal for Guidelines on product oversight & governance arrangements by insurance undertakings;
- Consultation Paper on Further Work on Solvency of IORPs;;
- Consultation on Key Information Documents for Packaged Retail and Insurance-based Investment Products (PRIIPs).

2015 Dates

It was signalled that the April meeting might need to be rescheduled due to a conflicting EBA meeting.

It was also decided to have the annual external meeting (June) in the Netherlands, focusing mainly on inducements, collective redress, pensions and credit registration.

Discussion on the paper on asset management

The Chairman presented the position paper on asset management industry, which was prepared as a follow-up to the study conducted by IODS. It was agreed that the study will be presented to the Commission colleagues at the January meeting.

Behavioural studies at the EC (Terms and Conditions, Insurance)

Emanuele Ciriolo (JUST.E1) presented the work on behavioural economics done at EU level and the studies carried out by his Unit. In particular, he drew attention on the Study on Terms and Conditions and the Study. In both sector consumers often do not access, assess and act on information provided to them, often taking wrong decisions. The first study has already started (and will run to November 2015) while the second one is expected to start in the 1st quarter of 2015.

Follow-up of the Study on Savings

Members discussed various options of further work on that topic after the termination of the contract:

- FSUG members could continue the work; each member would report on the best practises in her/his Member State;
- contract another study, which would continue the work, gather data from the ECB and do the analysis.

The following proposal was made for the facilitation of the internal work: narrowing the scope of the research, a few members would analyse the ECB data (pure analysis), others would contribute by carrying a desk research for own country and describing best practises.

The proposal for contracting a brand new evaluation of pilot projects was made, however, the budget required for such a project would exceed available funds.

Research budget 2015

Members were informed that the request for the study on financial guidance was sent to 3rd consultant and that the response is expected within a week.

Members discussed proposal for the research to be contracted in 2015; taking into account that there are 6 proposals: study on financial guidance (if the last consultant does not provide the offer), study on savings, enforcement, credit data, situation of borrowers in Swiss franc, pension decumulation, it was agreed that more information is needed on the proposed studies in order to take the decision. It was proposed that a template will be circulated (scope, budget, relevance).

The Commission representative stressed the strict deadlines in the case of the open-tender procurement for studies above 60.000 EUR: the full tender documentation needs to be ready by the end of March.

Crowdfunding

Following Oxera's presentation of the project on crowdfunding, members discussed the choice of countries as well as individual questions. The member leading on that topic would further discuss the questionnaire with the contractor.

FSUG reporting to the Commission and discussion

Olivier Micol (HoU, Financial Services and Redress Unit, DG JUST.E4) thanked the group for their work in 2014 and highlighted the importance of having financial services on the map of both Commissioner Hill and Commissioner Jourova, to whom the FSUG is likely to draft a letter. The Chairman of the FSUG presented the conclusions of various points discussed during the meeting. He made a reference to asset management, which is likely to be presented to the relevant Commission officials in January 2015, to the consultations and to crowdfunding. He also asked the Commission for input on the research proposals, once they will be approved, and on the 2015 Work Plan (in terms of priorities and timing), which will be discussed in the January meeting.