

JURISDICTION: EUROPEAN UNION

AUTHORITY: EUROPEAN INSURANCE AND OCCUPATIONAL PENSIONS AUTHORITY (EIOPA)

Background

The *European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority* (EIOPA) is an independent advisory body to the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of the European Union. EIOPA is one of the EU agencies carrying out specific legal, technical or scientific tasks, and giving evidence-based advice. In this way, EIOPA helps shape informed policies and laws at both the EU and national levels. EIOPA is one of three European Supervisory Authorities; the other two are the European Banking Authority (EBA) and the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA). EIOPA was formed in 2011 and is headquartered in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

EIOPA seeks to protect the public interest by contributing to the short-, medium- and long-term stability and effectiveness of the financial system for the Union's economy, citizens and businesses. This mission is pursued by promoting a sound regulatory framework and consistent supervisory practices in order to protect the rights of policyholders, pension scheme members and beneficiaries, and contribute to public confidence in the EU's insurance and occupational pensions sectors. EIOPA's main goals include:

- To improve consumer protection and rebuild trust in the financial system;
- To ensure strong, effective and consistent regulation and supervision, taking account of the interests of all member states and the different nature of financial institutions;
- To bring about more harmonised and consistent application of the rules for financial institutions and markets across the EU;
- To strengthen the oversight of cross-border groups; and
- To promote coordinated supervisory responses from the EU.

Sustainability objectives

EIOPA's 2021-2023 work programme includes:

- EIOPA will continue its **contribution to the EU sustainability agenda** and will assist the insurance and pensions sectors engaging in this transformational agenda, without prejudice to good governance, regulatory obligations and supervisory expectations.
- The ability to insure against costs of future pandemics is key for the recovery and future resilience of the European economy. Crucial factors increasing society's resilience against future pandemics will include proper risk assessments, measures taken in relation to mitigation and adaptation strategies, and risk transfers. Given EIOPA's previous work related to recovery and resilience related to natural catastrophes and cyberattacks, EIOPA will further develop work initiated in 2020 on **shared resilience solutions** to address systemic risks to business interruption not caused by physical damage. In this manner, risks stemming from pandemics will build on key insights and solutions developed for other hazards such as terrorism, natural catastrophes and cyberattacks.

Membership of any other initiatives/networks working on sustainability

- IAIS
- NGFS
- EU Taxonomy Platform

Recent engagement with SIF

EIOPA is part of the drafting team for the SIF/IAIS Application Paper on the Supervision of Climate-related Risks in the Insurance Sector and has shared further feedback as a SIF member. EIOPA has also actively participated in the development of SIF's future work programme (2021-2023), by sharing input and taking part in SIF's virtual meetings in May 2020. It has also shared an update on its sustainability work with members through SIF's half yearly report 2020 (exclusive member-only version).

