

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003496/25
to the Commission
Mircea-Gheorghe Hava (PPE)
(10 September 2025)**

Subject: Occupational pensions and the pan-European Personal Pension Product (PEPP)

In a recent interview with *Politico* (28 August 2025), Petra Hielkema, Chairperson of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA), warned that ‘one in five Europeans is already at risk of living in poverty in old age’ and that women are at 30% more risk of this ⁽¹⁾. At the same time, demographic statistics show that over the next 40 years the contributor-pensioner ratio will fall to 1.5 contributors per pensioner, which will increase the pressure on public welfare systems.

According to a recent report by the European Court of Auditors, quoted in the *Financial Times* (May 2025) ⁽²⁾, the Commission’s pan-European Personal Pension Product (PEPP) initiative has failed to achieve all its objectives. The report states: ‘The European Commission and the [EU’s] pension regulator have not been effective so far in strengthening the role of occupational pensions and in establishing a pan-European Personal Pension Product’.

In view of these warnings and statistics:

1. What concrete measures is the Commission planning to stimulate the uptake of occupational and private pension schemes in the EU?
2. How will the Commission tackle the obstacles to the tax harmonisation of PEPPs and their attractiveness to pension providers and subscribers?
3. What additional tools does the Commission envisage using to reduce the risk of poverty among pensioners, and especially women pensioners?

Submitted: 10.9.2025

**Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(17 November 2025)**

1. This fourth quarter of 2025, the Commission intends to issue recommendations on, pension tracking systems, pension dashboards and auto-enrolment. These will set out lessons learned from across the EU and recommend the development of such tools.

Additionally, the Commission will review the existing EU frameworks for institutions for occupational retirement provision (IORPs) and the pan-European Personal Pension Product (PEPP), with the aim of increasing participation in supplementary pensions to promote adequate retirement income.

2. In 2017, the Commission issued a recommendation to Member States on the tax treatment of the PEPP ⁽¹⁾. In particular, it encouraged Member States to grant PEPPs the same tax relief as the one granted to national personal pension products or, where Member States have more than one type of personal pension products, to give PEPPs the most favourable tax treatment available to those products. The Commission is taking stock of how Member States have addressed this recommendation.

In the context of the review of the PEPP Regulation ⁽²⁾, the Commission intends to ensure that the PEPP is a genuinely simplified instrument, capable of complementing national statutory pension schemes together with occupational pensions.

3. The Commission will launch in 2026 the first ever comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy, that will take a life-cycle approach to poverty and aim at addressing the root causes of poverty at different stages of life. The Commission is also monitoring and supporting the use of care credits in national occupational pensions and invites Member States (and social partners) to implement pension care credit policies, which support pension adequacy for women.

¹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/1-in-5-europeans-will-retire-in-poverty-without-urgent-reform-eu-watchdog-warns/>

² <https://www.ft.com/content/929cd4e2-370d-4de2-943b-01a0ced1578d>

⁽¹⁾ C(2017) 4393 final.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 198, 25.7.2019, pp. 1-63.