

## **e-Newsletter – May 2002**

### **Web site**

Welcome to the second edition of the Groupe's e-Newsletter. The fact that you are reading it means that you have found your way to our new Web site. You may want to bookmark this URL as a replacement for the Groupe's old Web site. Several pages have been simplified and rationalised to eliminate some duplication and inconsistencies in style. It is hoped that you have noticed (and like) the different appearance which is designed to be more modern and easier to navigate.

At the moment the content of the new Web site includes some additional download material relating to current or recent Groupe activities described below. But the major change – apart from the new appearance – is that the Groupe Consultatif now has its own domain name ([www.gcactuaries.org](http://www.gcactuaries.org)). The Groupe still enjoys close links with the Institute but, with the wider use of e-communication, it is important that the Groupe should be identified as a separate, European organisation.

For the future, we are looking at –

- developing discussion forums and list-serve facilities to promote the exchange of ideas and comments on topical issues
- providing committee agendas and papers via an enhanced “Members Only” section rather than circulating them as e-mail attachments.

Your suggestions for further developments and improvements are most welcome, via e-mail to [mlucas@gcactuaries.org](mailto:mlucas@gcactuaries.org). Those members of national actuarial associations who wish to have access to the “Members Only” section of the new Web site should also contact this address to obtain a User ID and password.

### **Colloquium**

A provisional programme and booking form for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium in Barcelona on 18 October, on Risk Management and Capital Needs, is now available.

### **Summer School**

Details of this year's Summer School, to be held in Milan from 10-12 July, on Finance of Insurance, are now available.

### **Meeting with EU Pensions and Insurance Supervisors**

The Groupe held its annual meeting with EU Pensions and Insurance Supervisors in Brussels on 8/9 April. The pensions programme focused on –

- the draft Directive on Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision (IORPs)
- the Groupe's survey on actuarial methods and assumptions used in the valuation of retirement benefits in Europe
- the Groupe's survey on the professional responsibilities of Pensions actuaries

The presenters included representatives of the Spanish presidency of the EU and of the Commission's Internal Market DG, as well as Supervisors and members of the Groupe.

The insurance programme looked at solvency and fair values, and included presentations from members of the IAA Solvency Working Party, a consulting actuary working with the UK regulatory authority, and the chief actuary of a major insurance company.

Copies of all presentations are available to download on the Publications and Surveys page.

## **Education Seminar**

An education seminar was held in Brussels on 15/16 April on the theme of the Core Syllabus. Chris Daykin, Chairman of the Education Committee, presented an overview of the results from the recent survey on the implementation of the [Core Syllabus](#), and there were updates from a number of member associations on local education and CPD systems. The seminar helped to identify the following key priorities which will now be addressed by the Education Committee –

- revision of the present style and format to clarify what is core material and what represents additional specialist (or optional) material. The description of the syllabus should be more generic and emphasise more clearly that there may be alternative approaches, eg for covering topics which are common to several areas, or where timing may vary significantly from country to country. The syllabus should also refer to the use of integrated models which include, for example, legal and accounting as well as actuarial aspects.
- more fundamental changes to the content, mainly on the Assets side (subject 14), to reflect recent and ongoing developments in solvency, risk-based capital, asset-liability management (including dynamic financial analysis) and, possibly, banking. (Banking represents an area where there are very few actuaries practising at present. Expertise would, therefore, be limited, but it should be possible to identify conceptual issues.)
- development of a comprehensive and coherent CPD strategy to include seminars on issues of topical interest which could ultimately be made available as packages via the Web site, and a database of CPD activities across Europe.

## **Insurance**

The Insurance Committee continues its collaboration with Internal Market DG of the European Commission, particularly in relation to solvency/fair values, and reinsurance. It is hoped to feature in the near future reports from our representatives on the various working groups which were described in the last e-Newsletter. In addition to our submissions on Risk-based Capital Systems and Banking Rules: Relevance for the Insurance Sector, the Groupe has also provided responses on Reinsurance Supervision and on a proposal for a possible fast-track regime.

All of these documents are available in the Members Only (Insurance) section, along with the Internal Market DG discussion papers on reinsurance supervision and various solvency (life) issues.

## **Pensions**

A presentation on the Groupe's survey "Actuarial Methods and Assumptions used in the valuation of retirement benefits in the EU and other European Countries" was made to a working party of the European Council as a contribution to the debate on the draft Directive on the activities of IORPs. The presentation is available on the Publications and Surveys page. Staff at the Internal Market DG are currently redrafting the Directive (in the light of 130+ amendments proposed after the first reading) for a second reading in the European Parliament later this year.

Also recently added to the web site are the survey on professional responsibilities of pensions actuaries, and the Groupe's response to an OECD discussion paper on the prudent person approach to the investment of pension fund assets.

We plan to add updated versions of a number of the Groupe's surveys to the Web site over the coming months –

- taxation of occupational pension schemes
- glossary of actuarial (pensions) terminology in 11 languages
- solvency standards for occupational pension schemes in the EU

- defined contribution arrangements in Europe
- pensions aspects of corporate transactions

and to include a report on the work of the European Pensions Forum from our representative.

### **Investment and Financial Risk**

Preliminary results of the survey into the use of yield curves were presented by Paolo de Angelis during the meeting with EU Insurance Supervisors which is reported elsewhere in this Newsletter. These results are contained in the day's presentation which is available for download on the Publications and Surveys page.

### **Freedoms and General Purposes**

The Groupe's Mutual Recognition Agreement, which was introduced in 1997, is due to be reviewed after five years. Arrangements are now in hand to draft a questionnaire for member associations on implementation of the Agreement, for discussion at the Groupe's annual meeting in Finland in September. This review will be particularly timely in view of the recent publication of a proposed new EU Directive on Mutual Recognition.