

Swiss Occupational Pension Scheme (BVG) Structural Reform – Follow up

A further discussion among representatives of the Financial Services Standards Association (VQF) as well as the Swiss Association of Asset Managers (VSV) (and further interested parties) took place in the course of the granting of a pension fund asset manager declaration of authority by the Higher Oversight Commission - Occupational Pension Scheme (OAK-BV) that is empowered to grant that authority. Contemporaneously, at its session on May 8, 2013, the Federal Council (Bundesrat) enacted an amended version of Art. 48f of the Ordinance on Occupational Pension Scheme (BVV2) and of Art. 9 of the Ordinance on the Supervision of Occupational Pension Scheme (BVV1).

In order to guarantee that asset managers that have one or more mandates to administer pension plans can continue to engage in this activity, the OAK-BV wants to grant **provisional declarations of authority** upon request beginning in June 2013. In the course of the year 2014, a decision should then be made regarding a definitive declaration of authority.

All members of the VQF that have one or more administration mandates from pension plans have the immediate possibility to request a provisional declaration of authority. By doing so, they ensure that they will still be able to act in this capacity beginning 1. January 2014. The form to make a formal request for a provisional authorisation can be found at the website of the OAK-BV (www.oak-bv.admin.ch). The completed form is to be submitted to OAK-BV by August 31, 2013. Members that already have submitted a request also are called upon to submit the form. Further, the members that are just now in negotiations for the granting of an initial administration mandate with a pension plan also can submit a request for a provisional declaration of authority. In addition, they must also prove that they are actually in negotiations with a pension plan. Provisional declarations of authority "just in case," i.e. with no concrete basis, will not be granted.

In the course of the year 2014, the OAK-BV will decide about the **definitive declaration of authority** based upon a more comprehensive request which must still be worked out by the authorities. The provisional authorisation shall remain valid until the definitive ruling is available. The OAK-BV also is checking whether and to what extent the existing self-regulators should be brought into the asset management program.