

**Question for written answer E-015828/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Auke Zijlstra (ENF)

Subject: Pension funds

By means of Directives 98/49/EC and 2014/50/EU, the Commission indicates that it attaches great importance to the acquisition and preservation of supplementary pension rights. The Dutch pension system, which is a funded one, has often been taken as an example in discussions of supplementary pension entitlements.

Does the Commission aim to bring about a pension system for workers in the EU based on funding, along the lines of the pension system in the Netherlands?

Does the Commission consider that such a system must be based on securing the maximum possible yield on the money that workers affiliated to a pension scheme are compelled to invest, particularly at a time when pensions have already been under pressure for years because of low interest rates and turbulence on financial markets?

In this light, what is the Commission's assessment of the decision by the ABP pension fund to start investing in 'businesses which pay attention to sustainability and which ensure that people in developing countries can buy medicines', and deliberately not to opt for businesses which yield maximum returns with an acceptable level of risk¹?

¹ ABP Pension update, autumn 2015.