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The Financial Situation of the Statutory German Pension Scheme

Author: Annelie Buntenbach

Location: Berlin

...Written version of the speech held by the chairwoman of the board of the German Pension Insurance Federal Institution (“Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund”), Annelie Buntenbach, during the general meeting of the delegates’ assembly on December 4, 2008 in Berlin.

**Improving the Competence in the Field of Old Age Provision –
Current Initiatives of the Statutory Pension Scheme**

Author: Dr. Herbert Rische

...Written version of the speech held by the president of the German Pension Insurance Federal Institution (“Deutsche Rentenversicherung Bund”), Dr. Herbert Rische, during the general meeting of the delegates’ assembly on December 4, 2008 in Berlin.

**Current Status and Further Development of the Statistical Reporting
System of the Statutory Pension Scheme**

Author: Uwe G. Rehfeld

Location: Berlin

The development of the old age pension system and the organizational reform of the statutory pension scheme have impact on statistical matters. Due to the elaborated reporting system, all relevant empirical data regarding the statutory pension scheme and pension policy can be presented in a well qualified manner. Process data and information gained by supplemental surveys can be used if necessary. Up till now, the reporting system has always

been adapted to new information needs and improved in form and content. The permanent modernization of the reporting system is based on the adoption of up-to-date organizational solutions and modern data procession and on the agreement between the pension insurance institutes. The article describes the development in the last decades and outlines the status currently reached. A short synopsis informs the reader about the expected further development.

The Discussion about a Reform of the Pension System in the United States of America

Author: Dr. Tim Köhler-Rama

Location: Berlin

In spite of repeated attempts, President W. Bush did not achieve a radical reform of the statutory pension system (social security) during his term of office. His attempt to privatize social security partially by implementing individual pension provision accounts failed. The reason being that he did not involve the Congress at an early stage and that he could neither enlist the Republican nor the Democratic Party, the latter offering strong resistance to the reform in collaboration with the unions. Considering that many Americans believe devoutly in personal responsibility and tend to assign a more or less residual role to the state, Bush´s failure is still a surprising result. The author provides different interpretations of the development.

Development and Distribution of Personal Earning Points (“Persönliche Entgeltpunkte”) in the Statutory Pension Scheme

Authors: Dr. Ralf K. Himmelreicher, Andrej Stuchlik

Locations: Berlin, Speyer

Beyond the concepts of standard pensioners (“Eckrentner”, i. e. a pensioner who has earned the average income for 45 years, paid appropriate contributions and retires when reaching the regular pension eligibility age) and average amounts of pension payment, the authors describe the development of pensions in Germany by investigating the development of the sum of personal earning points as to pensions awarded between 1993 and 2007 as well as the distribution of the personal earning points among different groups of persons. They illustrate that, except for women in the old Laender, the spread of old age pensions increased. As to men and to women in the new Laender, the earning points medians decreased by approximately 6 percent. Men in the new Laender have experienced the most decisive decrease (18 percent on average). The main reason for the reduction in the sum of personal earning points are actuarial deductions due to early retirement, a pattern that appears more often in the new Laender.

50 Years After Its Beginning: New Provisions Regarding the Coordination of Social Security

Authors: Dr. Monika Rahn, Matthias Hauschild

Location: Berlin

Conference Proceeding of the Annual Meeting of the European Institute for Social Security (EISS) on September 26th / 27th, 2008 in Berlin-