Regulatory Update – CAFII Executive Operations Committee, January 9, 2017

Prepared By Brendan Wycks, CAFII Executive Director

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Federal/National

Canadian Council of Insurance Regulators

CCIR Adjusts Implementation Plans For Annual Statement On Market Conduct
On November 30/16, CCIR Policy Manager Martin Boyle disseminated Microsoft Word versions of the near-final Annual Statement on Market Conduct (life and health; and P&C) to industry Associations, to assist their members in preparing for the first submission deadline of May 1/17.

Mr. Boyle's transmittal message also indicated that CCIR had made some changes to its implementation plans for the Annual Statement, deciding that only a limited number of insurers will be required to file the Annual Statement in the first year. Insurers required to file in the first year have been broken down into the following three categories/tiers:

1. Insurers comprising the top 80% of market share in premiums for both the life and health and P&C industries
2. Insurers currently filing returns in the Complaint Report System (CRS). These insurers will only be required to complete the sections on governance and complaint reporting.
3. Provincially licensed/registered/authorized insurers requested to complete by the regulatory authority in the province or territory in which they are licensed/registered. This list is currently being developed.

Mr. Boyle's message noted that CCIR understands that not all insurers are currently collecting all of the information that is sought in the Annual Statement. In instances where an insurer is unable to provide the data being requested, they are expected to use the space provided under "Comments" to identify the data that is unavailable and provide details as when that data will become available for reporting (i.e., explain the time required to transition/adapt their systems to satisfy the data request).

CCIR To Collaborate With CAFII On Annual Statement Orientation Presentation
In CAFII's Stakeholder Dialogue with CCIR on December 12/16, Laurie Balfour, Chair of the Council's Insurance Core Principles Implementation Committee (ICPIC) and leader of its Co-operative Framework for Market Conduct Supervision and Annual Statement on Market Conduct initiatives, responded favourably to a CAFII request and agreed that CCIR would work with the Association to offer an orientation presentation for CAFII members on the near-final version of the Annual Statement on Market Conduct.

The presentation, to be arranged through CCIR Policy Manager Martin Boyle, will be offered in late January or early February, likely in a webinar format.

CCIR Expects Newfoundland To Sign Memorandum Of Understanding Shortly
In CAFII's Stakeholder Dialogue with CCIR on December 12/16, Laurie Balfour, Chair of the Council's Insurance Core Principles Implementation Committee (ICPIC), advised that Newfoundland is expected to sign the Memorandum of Understanding underlying CCIR's Co-operative Framework for Market Conduct Supervision in the near future.

When that occurs, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories will be the only jurisdictions among Canada's 13 provinces and territories that are not yet signatories to the MOU. Because those two territories have recently appointed new Superintendents of Insurance, CCIR is finding that it is having to start from scratch with them in terms of educating and helping them advance through the approval process towards becoming an MOU signatory.

It was also confirmed that jurisdictions that are not yet signatories to the MOU will not be permitted to participate in any work related to the Co-operative Framework or Annual Statement on Market Conduct, or to view any data arising from those initiatives, until such time as they have signed on.

CCIR Expects Next IMF Financial Sector Assessment Visit In Spring 2018
In CAFII's Stakeholder Dialogue with CCIR on December 12/16, CCIR Chair Patrick Dery advised that the Council expects that the timing of the International Monetary Fund's next Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) visit to Canada – part of which includes a review of insurance supervision conducted on behalf of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors -- will be the Spring of 2018. CCIR should receive notice of the exact timing, through the federal Department of Finance, this Fall.

Financial Consumer Agency of Canada

FCAC Commissioner Appointed Chair Of Global FinCoNet
In November 2016, the International Financial Consumer Protection Organization (FinCoNet), the global umbrella group for consumer financial protection authorities, appointed Lucie Tedesco, Commissioner of the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC), as its next Chair for a three-year term.

FinCo Net represents government agencies and related organizations from more than 60 countries, and serves as a forum for research, discussion, and promotion of supervisory standards and practices.

"The complexity and variety of financial products and services available to consumers are growing at a rapid rate. It is more important than ever that regulators share experiences and keep each other informed of emerging trends," said Tedesco. "As FicCoNet Chair, I will work with my counterparts from around the world to ensure that consumers are protected at the same time as they benefit from innovation and flexibility in financial services."

Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association

New CLHIA Campaign Promotes Buying Life Insurance While Young And Healthy
In November 2016, CLHIA launched an online campaign to explain the benefits of buying life insurance when one is young and healthy. The campaign website www.notimelikenow.ca uses videos to show why someone might need life insurance at a young age, and explain why it is preferable to own an individual policy rather than rely on group coverage through work. The site offers a financial needs calculator so that visitors to the site can determine how much insurance they require. There is also a page with a list of links to Canadian life insurance companies.

British Columbia

CAFII Closes Inquiry With FICOM On Auto Dealers As Creditors

With a view to bringing closure to the Association's open inquiry with BC FICOM about auto dealers being creditors at the moment-in-time when an automobile purchaser is being offered creditor's group insurance coverage, CAFII sent a letter to Harry James, Senior Regulatory Advisor at FICOM,on December 7/16. The letter, under the signature of EOC Chair Eleanore Fang, read as follows:

Thank you for your letter of April 19, 2016 -- Re: Response to CAFII CGI Follow-up Letter Dated March 15, 2016 -- addressed to Greg Grant, who was then Board Secretary and Chair of our Association's Executive Operations Committee; and to you, Lorena Dimma, Chris Carter, and Molly Burns for participating in a teleconference discussion with CAFII representatives on the same subject on April 14, 2016.

The information communicated in your letter and the preceding teleconference provided thorough and helpful clarifications for our members on some key points of uncertainty arising from FICOM's Information Bulletin INS-15-002: Creditor's Group Insurance. In particular, we appreciated

- *your fundamental clarification that when the Bulletin speaks to the "effecting" of a CGI contract, it is speaking exclusively to the negotiation and procurement of a Group Master Policy and not to the enrolment of a debtor insured;*
- *your highlighting of the fact that FICOM has specifically stated that a creditor can designate a third party to be its representative in negotiating a Group Master Policy, provided that the creditor has an appropriate contractual relationship in place with that third party; and*
- *the perspectives and advice you shared on the issue of whether automobile dealers are both the distributor and creditor at the moment-in-time that they sell CGI coverage to a vehicle purchaser.*

By way of update, with respect to auto dealers as creditors, upon further internal deliberations, our members now feel well-advised on this issue. We do not see any outstanding concerns that might prevent our members from being in compliance with the Bulletin's provisions by the enforcement date of March 31, 2017; and we believe that this matter may therefore now be closed.

Thank you again to you and your colleagues for the helpful clarifications and assistance provided to CAFII in these matters.

Mr. James responded with the following acknowledgment e-mail to Ms. Fang on December 8/16:

Firstly, let me congratulate you on your appointment as Board Secretary and Chair, Executive Operations Committee of CAFII. Over the years we have appreciated the willingness of CAFII to engage with this office on matters affecting its members such as it did with Creditor's Group Insurance (CGI). We hope that relationship can continue.

We are also pleased to hear that CAFII members now have a clearer understanding of the legislative requirements regarding CGI in British Columbia and look to be in a position to be in compliance with those requirements by the March 31, 2017 deadline.

Please feel free to contact me if there is a change in those expectations or if you have any other matter that you believe I can be of assistance to you.

Alberta

<u>Alberta Approves Definition For CGI Critical Illness Insurance</u>

On December 23/16, CAFII received a letter from Joanne Abram, CEO of the Alberta Insurance Council, which advised that after consulting with industry stakeholders (including CAFII) and considering the submissions received, the Life Insurance Council had decided to clearly define the Critical Illness Insurance products which are authorized for sale as part of credit-related insurance under a Restricted Certificate of Authority as follows:

For the purpose of S.454 of the Insurance Act the definition of Credit Related Insurance includes the following:

> *Creditors' disability insurance: the insurer will pay all or part of a loan if a borrower becomes disabled. The beneficiary of the policy is the creditor. The amount of the insurance usually corresponds to the amount of the payments that fall due during the period of disability;*

Creditors' life insurance: this is a group insurance policy which pays off the loan when the borrower dies. The beneficiary is the creditor, and the amount of the insurance is the amount of the loan outstanding from time to time, subject to any limits in the policy;

Creditors' critical illness insurance: this is a group insurance policy under which an insurer undertakes to payoff credit balances or debts of a person, in whole or in part, if the insured individual is diagnosed with a covered illness or medical condition, and where the creditor receives and applies the insurance money to pay down or payoff the debt; and

Creditors' loss of employment insurance: this insurance pays off all or part of the debt owed to the creditor when the borrower becomes unemployed. The beneficiary is the creditor, and the amount of the insurance would generally be the payments missed while the borrower is unemployed.

This information will be posted on the Alberta Insurance Council website in January 2017.

Manitoba

Insurance Council Of Manitoba Appoints New Executive Director

In late November 2016, the Insurance Council of Manitoba appointed Barbara Palace Churchill as its new Executive Director, succeeding Erin Pearson who announced earlier in the Fall that she would be retiring at the end of 2016 after serving as Executive Director since 2008.

Barbara Palace Churchill is a lawyer and Chartered Professional Accountant with more than 25 years' experience in Winnipeg's non-profit sector. She comes to the Council from the Manitoba Law Foundation, where she also served as Executive Director. As a member of both the legal and accounting professions, Barbara has broad knowledge of the educational and disciplinary functions within a self-regulated profession, and of the roles of the governing bodies. She has experience in the operational management of an organization created by statute, including. She is also experienced in strategic planning; communications; policy development and implementation; and providing guidance/support and reporting to a Board of Directors. She has volunteered with a variety of community and professional organizations, including current involvement on the United Way of Winnipeg's Board of Trustees.

Ontario

FSRA Implementation Secretariat Begins Work

In December 2016, David McLean, Policy Advisor with the Ontario Ministry of Finance and Secretary to the Expert Panel which reviewed the mandates of FSCO, DICO, and FST, advised Brendan Wycks that the work of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA) Implementation Secretariat had gotten underway in late November.

Ms. Sandy Roberts, previously a Director in the Pension Policy Branch of the Ministry of Finance, is Director of the FSRA Implementation Secretariat; and Stuart Wilkinson, a Policy Advisor at the Ministry of Finance since 2010, is Senior Manager, FSRA Implementation Secretariat.

The Secretariat is charged with implementing Ontario's replacement of FSCO and DICO with the new FSRA over the next two years (2017 and 2018), including the drafting of Regulations that are necessary to augment the FSRA's enabling legislation and bring the Authority into being.

FSCO CEO Says FSRA Will Be Principles-Based, But Have Rule-Making Powers
In CAFII's Stakeholder Dialogue with CCIR on December 12/16, Brian Mills, FSCO's Interim CEO, responded to a question about the possible impact of Ontario's new FSRA upon the province's role within CCIR.

He indicated that FSRA is modelled after the Ontario Securities Commission. "Let's not beat around the bush about that," he said. However, FSRA is going to keep principles-based regulation as its operating model, but beneath that there will be rule-making power, he said.

FSRA needs the flexibility of having both principles-based regulation and rule-making authority to support it, to be able to deal with the rapid and comprehensive nature of change and innovation in the financial services sector, including the sharing economy, he said.

FSRA will have a small initial Board of two or three Directors, he indicated.

Earlier, in his introductory remarks at FSCO's annual Symposium for the Life and Health Insurance Sector on November 25/16, Mr. Mills had noted that he would likely be the last CEO of FSCO, as FSRA will likely be up and running by 2019 -- after two years of developmental work led by a FSRA Implementation Secretariat along with the founding Board appointed by the Minister of Finance.

Securities-Style Regulatory Changes Coming To Life Insurance: Anatol Monid
The Ontario government's decision to establish a new FSRA, as an integrated financial services regulator, is one sure sign that securities industry regulatory reforms will ultimately be migrated over to the life insurance industry, said Anatol Monid, Executive Director of FSCO's Licensing and Market Conduct Division, when speaking on a panel at Advocis' Regulatory Affairs Symposium on November 14/16.

Monid and his fellow panellists discussed the rapid pace of regulatory change occurring on the securities side of the business and the related implications for the life insurance industry. Eventually, they concurred, insurance advisors should expect to face many of the same, or similar, regulatory changes that are taking place in the securities industry, including the new disclosure regime under the second phase of the client relationship model (CRM2).

"Consumers should have a similar experience about disclosure and understanding their products, when both products look the same," Monid said.

"It's FSCO's hope that any regulations or recommendations that come out of this are ones that cross all of the financial services. We don't want one area of financial services to have a higher standard than the other. So that the conversation is coming to the insurance marketplace – and it's coming relatively quickly," Monid stated.

Finance Minister Participates In First-Ever OSC "Hackathon"

On the weekend of November 25-27/16, Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa participated in Canada's first ever "hackathon" by a securities regulator, an event organized and hosted by the Ontario Securities Commission in Toronto called RegHackTO. The event brought together innovators, strategists, and developers to explore solutions to various regulatory issues; and also featured a debate on innovation and protecting investors.

Following his participation in the event, Sousa said "the OSC is to be commended for having the vision and initiative to become the first regulator in Canada to host a hackathon such as this. I was impressed and inspired by the energetic talent and by the quality of the ideas presented at the OSC's first-ever RegHackTo. I am more convinced than ever that Ontario is well-positioned to become a fintech leader because of our strong financial services and technology sectors as well as our highly trained, highly skilled workforce. Our government is committed to embracing our rapidly growing fintech sector and striking a balance between fostering innovation while ensuring investors and consumers are protected."

The hackathon, which followed the OSC's recent establishment of a fintech innovation hub and regulatory sandbox, called OSC LaunchPad, sought solutions to emerging issues in several areas including the following: know your client and identity authentication; financial literacy; and financial inclusion. The event was expected to produce apps that could include new personal finance tools, products for unbanked consumers, and tools to enhance financial knowledge. The apps developed during the hackathon were judged by a panel of experts on creativity, originality, user experience, and execution.

FSCO Finds Most Life Agents Sell Only A Handful Of Policies Each Year

In November, FSCO released the results of its life insurance agents compliance report for 2015-16. The report reveals that more than half of the life agents the Commission examined sold five or fewer policies in the previous year.

Between April 2015 and March 2016, FSCO conducted on-site examinations of 214 life insurance agents. Of those agents, 72% had more than 10 years of experience; 25% had between two and 10 years of experience; and the remaining 3% had less than two years of experience.

Broken down by distribution channel, 79% of the examinations involved independent agents, 15% were career agents, 5% were national account agents, and 1% were call centre agents.

FSCO gathered information about the number of policies sold per year, and found that 56% of those surveyed sold between one and five policies in the previous year, 26% sold six to 20 policies, 11% sold 20 to 50 policies, and 7% sold more than 50 policies.

While FSCO's report does not reveal premium size or product type, it does show that 36% of the policies had a face value of $499,000 or less; 33% were for between $500,000 to $1,999,999; 14% were for between $2 million and $5 million; and the remaining 17% were for more than $5 million.

Ontario Launches "Red Tape Challenge" Re Unhelpful Regulations

On December 1/16, Ontario's Ministry of Economic Development and Growth announced that it was launching a consultation asking businesses and the public to help identify and improve regulations that are "unclear, outdated, redundant or unnecessarily costly" for the financial services sector.

This Red Tape Challenge consultation has a January 31/17 deadline for online submissions at ontario.ca/RedTapeChallenge, a crowd-sourced platform where businesses and the public can review current regulations, view comments that have been posted, and suggest improvements of their own.

Input from the Red Tape Challenge will be "used to help make it simpler for businesses to interact with government, innovate and grow, without jeopardizing essential standards that protect the public interest," the Ministry's release said.

The Red Tape Challenge is broken into several “regulation categories,” including financial services, insurance, employment and labour, health and safety, corporate and commercial law, land use and planning, and taxation and financial reporting. The insurance category is further broken down into more than 50 sub-categories, of which the following are related to life and health insurance or are otherwise CAFII-relevant:

- Accident and sickness insurance application (0 comments thus far)
- Accident and sickness insurance information disclosure (0 comments thus far)
- Definition of financial institutions (0 comments thus far)
- Insurance Act (0 comments thus far)
- Insurance Act – administrative penalties (0 comments thus far)
- Insurance Act – related parties and conflicts of interest (0 comments thus far)
- Insurance agents (0 comments thus far)
- Insurance brokers – licensing and general comments (3 comments thus far)
- Life insurance application (0 comments thus far)
- Life insurance – contract replacement (0 comments thus far)
- Life insurance – information disclosure (0 comments thus far)
- Life insurance – investments and lending restrictions (0 comments thus far)
- Life insurance – variable insurance contracts (1 comment thus far)
- Life insurance contracts – variable insurance contracts (before 1997) (0 comments thus far)
- Unfair or deceptive acts or practices (1 comment thus far)

“We know that modern, flexible regulations are essential to Ontario’s economically important financial services sector,” Ontario’s Minister of Finance, Charles Sousa, said in the release. “The Red Tape Challenge is a vital consultation tool because it gives us valuable input directly from those who deal with and are impacted by these regulations every day. Engaging with this group will help us achieve an environment in which Ontario businesses can continue to thrive while ensuring consumers and investors are appropriately protected. It complements the province’s work in modernizing the insurance and credit union and caisse populaires sectors, as well as establishing the initial parameters for the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario, a new independent and flexible regulator of the financial services sector designed to protect consumers.”

Ontario’s financial services sector is the second-largest in North America after New York, based on employment, with approximately 12,000 companies employing more than 380,000 people across the province, the Ministry reported.

Insurance Innovation Lab To Open In Toronto

Toronto-based insurance consulting organization LOGiQ3 Group has teamed up with Switzerland-based IT consulting firm msg global solutions to launch an insurance innovation lab in Toronto. The new initiative, called Cookhouse Lab, aims to create a space in which professionals in the property and casualty insurance, life insurance, and reinsurance businesses can collaborate with IT experts and investors on the development of customer-focused insurance technology -- to combine concepts, build new prototypes, and fund new initiatives.

“Insurance is changing – particularly for insurance companies that are faced with the challenge of building a customer relationship beyond premium collection and claim adjudication,” said Chris Murumets, co-CEO of LOGiQ3. “We believe open collaboration and innovation will drive that change by helping us reimagine insurance products and how they are accessed and delivered.”

"It is a test kitchen in which insurers collaborate with each other and combine organizational knowledge with other 'ingredients' such as innovation experts, legal counsel, designers and entrepreneurs to create the customer experience of tomorrow," added Sven Roehl, EVP and head of insurance innovation at msg global solutions.

Insurers and reinsurers are invited to send individuals or teams to Cookhouse Lab starting in February 2017.

Quebec

Ministry Of Finance To Table Omnibus Bill As Soon As Possible

In mid-December, a Quebec Ministry of Finance spokesperson confirmed that the Ministry's omnibus Bill to modernize the province's financial services sector will likely be tabled shortly after the National Assembly resumes sitting on February 7/17.

"It will be tabled as soon as possible. There are a few minor adjustments to be made to finalize this important Bill, which has a very broad scope. It modifies a number of laws to improve supervision in the financial services industry, and in particular to ensure better protection for consumers," said Audrey Cloutier, spokesperson for the Ministry of Finance, when contacted by the *Insurance and Investment Journal*.

Earlier, Finance Minister Carlos Leitao had announced, at the AMF's Rendez-Vous event on November 14/16, that the Bill – which will update a number of Quebec's financial laws, including its Insurance Act and the *Act respecting the distribution of financial products and services* (Bill 188) -- would be tabled by December 9/16.

With respect to the minor adjustments remaining to be made, Cloutier was unable to go into the details. "The Bill must be presented to legislators before we can reveal the contents," she said.

Ten days after Minister Leitao's November announcement that the Bill would be tabled by December 9, a strike by provincial government lawyers occurred, including those who work on drafting and reviewing legislation.

AMF Wants To Regulate InsurTech To Maintain Level Playing Field

Speaking at an event in Montreal on November 24/16, Eric Stevenson**,** the AMF's Superintendent of Client Services and Distribution Oversight, provided reassuring words to insurance brokers about the arrival of fintech in the insurance industry.

The *Insurance and Investment Journal* reported that Stevenson said that if the arrival of technology is "an inevitable and irreversible trend" in the financial sector, it must be managed so that there is a completely level playing field between the different players. "I'd like to be able to identify measures that could be included in our regulations that would allow for the introduction of new business models, but in a way that is fair for everyone. There has to be equality between different channels, and the different business models need to be respected. It's a challenge for you," he told the brokers in his speech.

Stevenson also stressed that the players who are able to stand out from the crowd will be the ones who will benefit most from technology. In his opinion, technological innovation is a trend that obviously affects the distribution of insurance, and the industry should evolve according to the needs of consumers, especially those of the Millennial generation.

AMF Denies It Violated Law With Travel Insurance Promotion

In mid-December, the *Insurance and Investment Journal* reported that a recent AMF advertising campaign had raised the eyebrows of a some lawyers who alleged that a recent ad broadcasted by the regulator violates the province's *Act respecting the distribution of financial products and services* (Bill 188).

In the ad, available in French only, the AMF says "it is wise to take out travel insurance when you spend time outside of Quebec." The ad also offers advice about a number of situations, in particular serious illnesses and coverage available under a group insurance plan or that which is linked to a credit card.

The travel insurance advertising is part of the *Mes finances en tête* [My finances in mind] campaign, in which the AMF invites consumers to conduct a complete overview of their personal finances. It is a component of the Quebec Financial Education Strategy, a major AMF initiative. In addition to travel insurance, the AMF has addressed binary options, retirement, and fraud.

The objecting lawyers asserted that the AMF is in contravention of Section 12 of Quebec's *Act respecting the distribution of financial products and services* because it is promoting a travel insurance product. In their view, only a certified representative or a financial institution is authorized to do so. Section 12 of the Act reads: "*Subject to the provisions of Title VIII, no person may act as or purport to be a representative without holding the appropriate certificate issued by the Authority. However, a financial institution may, by giving out brochures or flyers or using direct mail or any other form of publicity, invite the public to purchase insurance products."*

The AMF rejects that interpretation, countering that the advertisement "fits exactly" into its mandate of consumer protection. "We do not recommend any specific product in this ad. Instead, we are recommending that consumers evaluate their needs and the appropriate insurance product with the help of a licensed representative," said AMF spokesman Sylvain Théberge in an email to the *Insurance and Investment Journal*.

International

S&P Says Insurer Ratings Insulated Against Insurtech Start-Up Impact

In a report on insurtech released in late November, Standard and Poors (S&P) said that while there are a number of trends in insurance technology (insurtech) that could change the industry's business model, it does not expect them to have any effect on insurance company ratings over the short-to-medium term.

S&P notes that insurtech has not developed as far as has the banking sector equivalent, fintech, which is already taking away some of the banks' market share. "As insurance is highly regulated and capital-intensive, with high barriers to entry, we regard insurtech as complementary to insurers, rather than a substitute for insurers," says the ratings agency.

Although technology start-ups can gather a lot of valuable information about customers, S&P argues that insurers are in a better position to turn this data into a competitive advantage. Right now, however, insurers are concentrating on using technology to reduce costs, for example through digitalization and streamlining back-office functions.

"In our view, technological developments are unlikely to affect ratings or the shape of the market in the short-to-medium term," concludes S&P. "We characterize insurtech as both a long-term challenge and an opportunity, with material effects that may only start to emerge in 10 years' time."

Life Insurers Working To Expand Mobile Device Capabilities: LIMRA Research

Life insurers are working on ways to allow clients to conduct a wider range of transactions on their smartphones and other mobile devices, according to new research released by the Life Insurance Marketing Research Association (LIMRA)

LIMRA says that life insurers have put a significant amount of effort into developing their mobile capabilities over the past five years. The research shows that mobile initiatives aimed at general consumers, advisors, and policyholders have all at least doubled since 2011.

The survey asked life insurers about the factors that were pushing them towards adopting mobile capabilities, and the three top reasons were to keep pace with competitors (84%), to keep pace with consumer demand (80%), and to provide better service to policy owners (78%).

The research suggests that apps for policy owners represent the biggest potential growth area, and says clients should be given the ability to conduct simple transactions without agent involvement.

"LIMRA's survey finds 8 in 10 companies that offer mobile access for policy owners offer them the ability to view policy information via mobile device," says LIMRA. "However, only 19% offer ability to purchase additional products/coverage via mobile device, and just 10% offer the ability to chat with customer service via mobile device. While relatively few policy owners may use these services now, prior LIMRA research shows that some consumers say that they would not do business with an insurer that does not offer mobile access options."

The study drew upon responses from 44 American insurers and eight Canadian insurers to an online survey that was in the field in September and October of 2016.

European Regulators Launch Consultation On Big Data

On December 19/16, the Joint Committee of the European Supervisory Authorities launched a public consultation on the potential benefits and risks of big data for consumers and financial firms, to determine whether any further regulatory or supervisory actions may be needed.

The purpose of the consultation is for the ESAs to understand better what the big data phenomenon means for consumers, the financial industry, and regulators; and whether the existing legislative and regulatory framework is sufficiently flexible to cover big data, or whether there are gaps that need to be filled, the Joint Committee said in a statement.

The consultation closes on March 17/17.