NEW KIIDS ON THE BLOCK

A recent TISA event at the House of Commons, which included an audience of senior representatives from major UK financial institutions, was addressed by Conservative MEP Syed Kamall. One of the key points of interest for distribution that he is involved in affects distribution in the UK and I am certain very few distributor firms are yet aware of it.

The Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee has now approved tough new disclosure rules on packaged retail products that would introduce a new Key Investor Information Document. This week the ECON Committee has passed a paper on packaged retail investment products and their rules, which now awaits a full Parliamentary vote. These proposals, which have been much delayed, would introduce a new KIID for retail investment products including personal pensions and corporate bonds.

There are, as you would expect, key differences remaining between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers whilst there are other regulations that could take priority. Just because these rules are in the pipeline and they are unlikely to be approved by May’s Parliamentary elections, they should not be ignored. This proposal seeks to regulate fully the issue of corporate bonds and pension packages, and distribution advisory firms would be well advised to take this into consideration with their new post-RDR advice model offerings to consumers. You have been warned.

Peter Smith, Head of Distribution Engagement