## EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order makes various amendments to the European Parliamentary (United Kingdom Representatives) Pensions (Consolidation and Amendment) Order 1994(1) (the "Principal Order").

Article 3 increases the contribution rate for participants with a  $1/40^{th}$  accrual rate from 9 per cent to 10 per cent with effect from  $1^{st}$  April 2004.

Articles 4, 5 and 14 amend the early retirement provisions.

Articles 6 to 10, 12, 13 and 15 to 19 introduce provisions for surviving civil partners and surviving partners who were neither married nor a civil partner and amend the Principal Order to make pensions to adult survivors payable for life.

Article 11 introduces provisions that reduce the adult survivor's pension where the adult survivor is more than 12 years younger than the participant.

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 $<sup>\</sup>textbf{(1)} \quad S.I.1994/1662, amended by S.I. 1996/1493, S.I. 1997/1291 and S.I. 2003/1416. \\$