



ESO

Newsletter 02 (Mar 25)

[Towards a EU strategy on Ageing](#)

Wednesday, 5 February 2025, MEP Idoia Mendia (S&D) hosted the initiative "Towards a EU Strategy on Ageing" with Commissioner Roxana Minzatu's cabinet, DG EMPL, and AGE Platform Europe, alongside MEPs and civil society representatives. Vice President Anthony DeGiovanni represented the European Senior Organisation.

Anthony DeGiovanni stressed the importance that older persons participate in decision making and contribute to the formulation of policies that affect them. He noted that direct participation of older persons in politics is in decline, with fewer active older politicians and diminishing politically active non-government organisations partly due to funding

mechanisms that exclude politically oriented organisations. He thanked Idoia Mendia for promoting this important initiative and advocating for an EU Strategy on Ageing.



Towards a European Intergenerational Fairness Strategy

On 20 February 2025, Commissioner Glenn Micallef, responsible for intergenerational fairness, youth, culture and sport, launched a consultation process on the drafting of a European strategy for intergenerational fairness. This process should lead to a Commission communication on this strategy in February 2026.



1 - Glenn Micallef

ESO - PES seniors want to make its contribution to this consultation and this on the basis of our multiannual programme 2024 - 2029. The European Union already has its own Youth Guarantee, since 2019 a European Child Guarantee was established, it is now time for a serious European Senior Citizens Guarantee that guarantees seniors access to all

fundamental rights such as income, housing, care, health, services and recognises them as full citizens.

Individual citizens, national organisations and citizen initiatives can also participate in the process. Please feel free to take a look at the European Commission website

https://citizens.ec.europa.eu/intergenerational-fairness_en

Seniors must also have their say. Nothing about us, without us!

Interest Group "Europe for All Ages"

An Interest Group called “Europe for All Ages” has been set up in the European Parliament in order to promote policies that uphold intergenerational solidarity, human rights and equal treatment—principles enshrined in the EU Treaties. This Interest Group will provide a platform to discuss how the Polish Presidency’s proposals on “*silver transformation*” connect with the Intergenerational Fairness Strategy currently being prepared by the European Commission.

The launch event took place on March 19th 2025 and was chaired by Idoia Mendia (MEP, S&D, PSOE) and Michal Szczerba (MEP, EPP, POL).

Philippe Martin, Martine Jones and Steven Vanden Broucke (ESO) attended this launch meeting.



Housing in the EU

Over the last decade, property prices have rocketed in the Member States of the European Union. This exorbitant rise in prices affects not only young people's desire for emancipation, but also that of the elderly.

For the PSOE, this rise in prices constitutes an insurmountable barrier to a fundamental right for many people.

We must promote the development of the European Urban Agenda in order to put in place sufficient measures and resources, as well as legal obligations, to resolve these imbalances, taking into account the well-being of citizens as a priority.

Juan Gabriel Martínez Arcas (Mayores Socialistas / PSOE)



SP60+CH fights back against proposed discrimination of elderly

SP60+ firmly rejects the various proposals that elderly should pay higher health insurance premiums as they cause more costs at an advanced age. "This is a frontal attack on solidarity between generations and between healthy and sick people", criticises the Co-President of the SP60+ Rita Schmid. "The elderly would be disadvantaged by these proposals. They have paid premiums all their lives and have in earlier times shown solidarity with older people and those in need of care", continues Rita Schmid.

SP60+ argues further that the system of compulsory health and accident insurance is not only an expression of solidarity between healthy people and those in need of medical care but it is also above all a sign of solidarity between the younger and older generations.

Marianne de Mestral / Carlo Lepori



2 - Rita Schmid, co-president of SP60+CH

SP60+ supports the inclusion of people with disabilities

The Swiss Social Democrats discussed and adopted at the end of February on their National congress in Brig - attended by around 400 delegates - a position paper on inclusion, which calls for more rights and the inclusion of people with disabilities. In the position paper, the SP Switzerland states that it is committed to the inclusion of people with disabilities both

internally and externally. This includes the ratification of the UN CRPD Optional Protocol, comprehensive accessibility, inclusive political participation, a self-determined life with sufficient assistance, fair pay for care work, protection against violence and discrimination and a socially just restructuring of social insurance and the asylum system. On behalf of SP60+, Co-President Rita Schmid supported the position paper on inclusion with a contribution to the debate.

Marianne de Mestral / Carlo Lepori

Belgian Seniors PS

On Monday 17 March, Michel Godfroid, President of Seniors PS, Daniel Van Daele, Secretary, and Philippe Martin, Board member, met Estelle Ceulemans, our Belgian MEP.

The discussion focused on her political commitment at European level in general and on the consideration given to seniors' issues at this level in particular.

The discussion highlighted the many difficulties and challenges facing the Left at European level.



In the 'demographic trap'

There is a widespread myth in Germany: the old are eating up the young. The explanation can be heard all over the country : pensions will soon no longer be affordable and the conflict between young and old is inevitable.

However, simply looking at the number of young workers in relation to old pensioners is not the right approach. We must at least consider productivity, or rather the distribution of the result of productivity, including the level of employment and other parameters - then financing the 'baby boomer generation' is not a problem.' Anyone who only considers the number of young and old people has fallen into the 'demographic trap' of those who claim that there is a conflict between young and old in order to hide the conflict between rich and poor.

See <https://60plus.spd.de/> -> News (Aktuelles) (German and English version).

This view also makes it clear why our SPD 60 plus working group is striving for and calling for an employment insurance scheme and how we intend to use it to overcome poverty in old age. We will leave the issue of employment insurance for another article.

Lothar Binding, SPD 60 Federal Chairman



3 - Lothar Binding and Katarina Barley, Vice President of the S&D Group in the EP.