



ESO (European Senior Organisation) – PES-seniors

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First ESO-contribution in the consultation from the European Commission for an European strategy for intergenerational fairness/solidarity.

A European Senior Strategy with a European care guaranty as third cornerstone for a European intergenerational solidarity/fairness strategy based on a human rights approach and with legally binding instruments against age discrimination and against agism.

- ESO welcomes the initiative from the European Commission to work out a European fairness/solidarity strategy and points to its ESO Work Programme for 2024–2029, approved at the ESO seminar in November 2024, which contains key elements for building this strategy. https://socialistseniors.eu/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/ESO_Multiannual_program_2024_2029.pdf
- This strategy should aim at **promoting solidarity between generations: young people, seniors and people who are unable to claim their rights** (such as children and future generations). A connection between past, present and future: older people who have learned from the past and from this experience want to help shape the future as full citizens in the present; young people who look forward to their future, who should be able to enjoy the fundamental rights acquired in the past and therefore also want to have a say in decision-making about their future; and children and future generations who do not yet have a say in this themselves.
- A European strategy for intergenerational solidarity should focus on three target groups (children, youth, seniors). As there already exist a strategy for protection from children defined in the Child-guaranty, and a European Youth strategy and guaranty, it should be logical and consistent to create a “**European senior strategy**” that mainstreams attention to older persons interest in different policy areas, as a third cornerstone for the building for this European intergenerational fairness/solidarity strategy. Therefore, ESO’s first demand in the European Intergenerational solidarity/fairness strategy will be: a European senior strategy that among other things **includes a European care guaranty for access to care and healthcare for all generations**. It is an analogy with SURE that was set up in unemployment during the COVID19-crisis; the care guarantee should concern elderly-care and longtime care and also include childcare.
- This European senior strategy will concern different policy-area’s (we are looking to another international instrument as already exist by WHO: the WHO action programme for age-friendly cities and communities). In analogy with WHO, the strategy should concern different policy-areas, but the European strategy should be **based on a right-based approach on ageing**. We propose to consider following policy areas : **income; end of career/education/employment; access to care and healthcare; access to services** (including financial services) / digitalisation; **age-friendly habitat** (housing and

public spaces-planning in rural and urban environments); **mobility; full participation** (politics, social/cultural, economic) (note that digitalisation is a big burden for participation and widens the gap between the generations).

- ESO urges for **a horizontal equal treatment directive against discrimination, including the ground of age** and an **action plan against ageism**.
- These strategies can only be successful if provision is made for the **necessary resources** to implement and monitor these strategies, both **financially** (MFF and EU-budget) and in terms of **human resources**, for preparation, implementation and monitoring the strategies.
- **“Nothing about us, without us !”** Talking about senior policies and intergenerational solidarity, ESO pleads for full recognition of all target groups concerned as full-citizens. We notice that the Commissions department responsible for the strategy is the DG on education, youth, sport and culture and does not concern ageing or senior-policy. We notice also that seniors (because they are mostly not-longer in professional statutes) are not present in many - most informal but - very important networks involved in the definition of policies of their concern. Therefore, ESO is demanding **full and active participation of civil society in the elaboration of these strategies**, and in particular senior-organisation as AGE-Europe platform who organises most European, national and regional senior-organisations.

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