



**ESO (European Senior Organisation) – PES-seniors**

**Rue Guimard, 10 1040 Brussels**

[eso@socialistseniors.eu](mailto:eso@socialistseniors.eu)

ESO - Contribution to the Commission's public consultation on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework.

**An umbrella organization of socialist and social-democratic senior organizations in Europe,** ESO–PES seniors brings together representatives from Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland.

ESO aims to improve the position of senior citizens in Europe, their access to fundamental rights, and their participation in political decision-making processes. Therefore, we need a fundamental shift in the narrative about older persons and a rights-based approach to ageing. **This narrative sees “older persons” as full contributors to society from the perspectives of “active-citizenship, self-determination, emancipation and equality,” where solidarity is an indispensable component.** That is why ESO attaches great importance to solidarity among all generations.

We take aware the well-being of each individual regardless of age. **The needs and rights of older persons have to be on the European agenda:** building towards an age friendly society, decent income for seniors, addressing the problem of housing and adapted housing, accessible and face to face services in the era of digitalization, the cost and quality of care and healthcare, the problem of ageism and discrimination and the disrespect of human rights of older people.

**To this end, ESO will represent the interests of senior citizens and their organizations in the European governing bodies.** ESO contributes to the public debate on ageing, inter-generational solidarity, consumer protection, social security and economic protection (pensions and allowances), housing, health-care, care, and long-term care, and communicates its position in the most effective way possible, for example, by participating actively in the consultation initiatives from the European Commission, participation in AGE-Europe Platform and the PES. Attention is also being brought to the Employment Equality Directive (2000/78/EC) and in particular Article 6(1), advocating further scrutiny of the permissible limitations regarding age discrimination in the field of employment at national level. Lastly, we promote and safeguard the social, cultural, and economic interests of senior citizens in Europe and strengthen senior citizens' participation and active involvement in society.

**A financial framework that takes into account the specific challenges for an ageing society.**

Given the many new challenges and priorities, the problem of the rapidly increasing ageing of the population and its consequences for our social systems has faded into the background in

recent years. However, ageing is and remains a very important challenge that requires special attention. Therefore, **ESO calls for an age equality perspective in the debate for the forthcoming Multi-annual Financial Framework** in the context of the demographic realities.

ESO is requesting sufficient **budgetary resources to support and implement the European strategy for intergenerational solidarity/fairness** that is being drawn up at the request of the European Commission's President.

ESO calls on the European Union to budget for adequate investment for such systems that ensure **age equality in the provision of goods, services, and the habitat, and to sustain older people's autonomy at all levels**. We are particularly concerned about the rapidly growing digital divide and the fact that many older people, due to the digitalisation of services, are deprived of access to essential services. Digitalisation must serve the citizen, for example, by strengthening face-to-face service provisions, and not the other way around.

ESO calls on the European Union and Member States for specific support programmes to national, local, and regional authorities, which are often responsible for providing, commissioning, or overseeing long-term care services. We propose the creation of a **"European care guarantee"** that supports Member States and Regions in care policies and investment in care services and facilities.

ESO advocates for **investment at the European and national levels to foster a favourable national context for working in the care sector** and to improve the working conditions and skills of formal and informal carers, often women.

ESO looks forward to the **European Development Bank investment schemes that support habitat redesign and affordable housing**.

ESO also calls for equalisation funds aimed at overcoming territorial gaps.

Finally, ageing has consequences for the financing of the social systems and services in the Member States and regions. This requires a **reform of the financing at the Member States' level and a rethinking of European economic and fiscal coordination and of the tax systems in the direction of fiscal justice**.