



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2021) 6604 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Green Paper on Ageing - Fostering solidarity and responsibility between generations {COM(2021) 50 final}.

The Commission is pleased that the Senát is active in reflecting on the Green Paper on Ageing and takes good note of its recommendations.

The Green Paper has launched a wide public debate on ageing, taking into account both the challenges that come with an ageing society, as well as the new opportunities that ageing brings (e.g. silver economy). Competences for dealing with the effects of ageing are largely in the hands of Member States, but the EU can help identify key issues and trends and support the exchange of best practices and action on ageing at national, regional and local levels. As the demographic impacts vary considerably among different regions and local areas, the Member States are best placed to take measures that are adapted to the situation at the national, regional and local levels.

The Commission would like to inform about some of its initiatives related to the points raised by the Senát. On 4 March 2021, the Commission has presented an Action Plan on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Pillar, jointly proclaimed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission in 2017, includes a number of principles related to areas impacted by ageing, such as on old age income and pensions, long-term care, health care and other. The Action Plan will contribute to turning the principles of the Social Pillar into reality, as a joint effort of the EU institutions, national, regional and local authorities, social partners and civil society. In the Porto Social Commitment, co-signed on 7 May, the European Parliament, the Portuguese Prime Minister, the Commission, social partners and the social platform welcomed the Action Plan and strengthened the commitment to transform its principles into action to set in motion a strong, fair and job-rich recovery.

*Mr Miloš VYSTRČIL
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1*

The Action Plan announces a Commission's initiative on Long-Term Care in 2022 that would set a framework for the development of sustainable long-term care that ensures better access to quality services. Moreover, the Commission will launch a High-Level Expert Group to study the future of the welfare state, its financing and interconnections with the changing world of work and to present a report by the end of 2022.

The Commission has recently published the 2021 editions of relevant reports on pensions and long-term care. The triennial 'Ageing Reports', developed jointly by the Commission and the Economic Policy Committee, present long-term scenarios for the impacts of ageing on public expenses for pensions, healthcare, long-term care and education, as four of the largest public budget items. They cover all Member States and include alternative scenarios. 'Ageing Reports' are complemented by the triennial 'Pension Adequacy Reports', developed jointly by the Commission and the Social Protection Committee. The '2021 Long-term care report' also jointly prepared by the Commission and the Social Protection Committee, further complements the monitoring of the situation of older people. It elaborates on key challenges of long-term care systems across the EU, including as regards quality, workforce, financing of and access to long-term care.

With regard to supplementary pensions, the pan-European personal pension product is a voluntary personal pension scheme due to be rolled out in 2022 that will offer citizens an additional possibility for retirement savings.

Regarding transformation of healthcare systems, the Commission supports cooperation and exchange of practices at the EU level. For example, the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing has been active in promoting innovative digital solutions for better health and care monitoring across the EU regions. A future Horizon Europe programme Partnership with Member States on Transforming Health and Care Systems may further support exchange of good practice at the systems level.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Senát in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Dubravka Šuica
Vice-President*