



ESPN – Flash report

2014/2

Ageing and dependency

Michel Legros
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Theme(s):	<i>Long-term care</i>
Title:	Ageing and dependency
Category:	<i>Recent reforms</i> <i>Policy debate</i>
Abstract:	In September 2014, the French government presented a bill aimed at reinforcing home-support policies for the very old and avoiding dependence. www.assemblee-nationale.fr/14/dossiers/adaptation_societe_vieillesse.asp
Description:	The number of people aged over 85 is set to increase in France, rising from 1.4 million in 2014 to 5.4 million in 2060. The bill currently under discussion in Parliament moves away from financing care for people in health and social facilities, and instead focuses on prevention, support for the elderly and care in the home. The law anticipates making use of the 0.3% levy on large retirement pensions that is already in place and brings in 650 million euro a year: it will use half of it to raise the Allocation Personnalisée à l'Autonomie (personal autonomy allowance – APA) when it is granted to old people still living at home, and the other half to renovate special residential homes. These residential facilities offer an alternative to staying at home or going into an old peoples' home. Funding should make it possible to adapt individual housing. Lastly, aid is planned for families that provide everyday care for their dependent parents. In terms of prevention, the bill aims to make it easier for old people, particularly those on low incomes, to access remote assistance and home automation (e.g. luminous path markings to avoid falls).
Outlook & Commentary:	This law spent almost ten years in a draft form for lack of funding. It has been favourably received in general although associations and trade unions criticise its lack of financial ambition. The law offers no solutions on financing places for dependent people in care facilities. This kind of accommodation costs significantly more than the available income of most people on low pensions. A second act is due to deal with this issue in 2017.
Further reading:	"Mission interministérielle sur l'adaptation de la société française au vieillissement de sa population", Luc Broussy, January 2013 http://www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr/var/storage/rapports-publics/134000173/0000.pdf
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