



## **AGE recommendations for policy priorities to be included in the Election Manifestos for the European Parliamentary election 2009**

### *Intergenerational solidarity / Sustainable life course*

- A new approach to mainstreaming intergenerational solidarity is indispensable in the renewed Social Agenda and such an approach should be integrated into all relevant EU policies; a new vision on strengthening solidarity between the generations should be promoted.
- The EU should use policy processes to encourage Member States to use appropriate organisational, institutional, legislative, educational, and financial tools to mainstream ageing into all policy areas and enable and encourage older people to participate fully as active members of society and in intergenerational exchanges.
- The direct involvement of older citizens in the policy-making process is essential to developing a stronger public support for the reforms needed to promote equal opportunities for all and to modernise our social protection systems across the EU so as to ensure their adequacy and efficiency in the long term and for future generations.

### *Equal opportunities / Non-discrimination*

- Extend legislation on the ground of age beyond the scope of employment and work towards a more complete implementation of existing non-discrimination law.
- Seek adequate and sustainable solutions to enable older people to enjoy equal rights in all areas of life and to enjoy the same freedom of movement and full citizenship as any other EU citizens.
- Take measures to raise awareness of and seek solutions to the phenomenon of multiple discrimination affecting millions of citizens across the EU.
- Build on the achievements of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.

### *Employment and flexible working conditions*

- Overcome institutional barriers to equal access to employment opportunities and counter negative attitudes from social partners so as to

improve the proportionately low employment rate of older workers in line with the Lisbon objectives.

- Address the particular challenges faced by older workers, especially women, in reconciling professional responsibilities and caring duties for dependent family members.
- Ensure that training and retraining are age neutral and available to all workers irrespective of their age and that measures are adopted to prevent or overcome the functional illiteracy of older people, thus enabling their greater autonomy.
- Support flexible employment enabling the prolongation of working lives for those older people who wish or need to work for longer; promote an age neutral workplace and pay more attention to the adaptation of working conditions to the specific needs of the ageing workforce.

#### *Social cohesion / Social inclusion*

- Promote social cohesion as a broader notion which extends beyond the fight against poverty and social exclusion and ensures a fair distribution of prosperity among all generations.
- Call on the Commission to put forward concrete proposals for action at EU level setting out the next steps beyond the renewed Social Agenda and the 2008-2011 OMC Social Inclusion cycle to complement Member States' actions to promote social inclusion and combat discrimination faced by older people.
- Promote older people's full involvement in policy making including in the development and implementation of regional strategies on social policies.
- Develop adequate indicators at EU level to measure the non-monetary aspects of life to enable a better assessment of quality of life in old age in order to meet older people's needs.

#### *Social protection*

- Ensure that a minimum universal income is provided for everyone and that this is linked to the right to a dignified life and is independent from participation in the labour market.
- Member States must guarantee that 1st pillar pensions are indexed to average earnings so as to ensure that pensioners are not driven close to the poverty line and are enabled to keep up with improvements in society's prosperity.
- Ensure the provision of access to reliable information and education on how to build personal income in old age thus preparing people at an earlier stage to deal with pension scheme reforms.
- Promote the responsibility of the EU to integrate ageing into development policies and programmes including humanitarian actions and to play a vital role in supporting governments in the developing world to put in place adequate social protection schemes.

### *Health and long-term care*

- Promote a positive and integrated approach to health by addressing a range of social, economic, housing, transport, new technology, education and other relevant policies that have an impact on health and well-being.
- Mobilise all actors, including the EU level, Member States, civil society and individual citizens, to create an enabling environment as well as developing direct approaches to promoting healthy lifestyles.
- Take a holistic and integrated approach for the development of a wider healthy ageing strategy which takes into account gender dimensions and ethnicity as well as the individual differences and characteristics of older people who represent a diverse and disparate population.
- Take a holistic and integrated approach to promoting healthy lifestyles throughout the life course resulting in healthy ageing.
- Develop and adopt European voluntary quality guidelines for health and long term care to guarantee the right to dignity of care in old age and ensure that quality eldercare is available for all dependent older people across all EU Member States.

### *Universal access (ICT, transport, services)*

- Affirm social services as a fundamental right and one which is best delivered through the provision of universal services; take specific measures to ensure access for all to affordable, quality social services which are delivered locally and respond according to users' needs regardless of their age.
- Recognise access to public transport as a fundamental right and promote a holistic approach to transport which takes into account the needs of users of all ages.
- Facilitate a more systematic updating and learning of ICT skills and acquiring knowledge for people of all ages.

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