

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000132/25
to the Commission
Giorgos Georgiou (The Left)
(15 January 2025)**

Subject: Old age

In Article 25 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, it is emphasised that the Union recognises and respects the right of the elderly to lead a life of dignity and independence and to participate in social and cultural life. However, in many Member States, including Cyprus, there are serious shortcomings that fail to ensure quality ageing.

In many cases, countries marginalise older people, ignore their needs and violate their basic rights. Various surveys show that in many EU countries ageism is burgeoning, basic social care is lacking and social structures are ailing, affecting the quality of life, health, well-being and life expectancy of our older people.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. What initiatives does it intend to take to guarantee the rights of older people?
2. Will a proposal for a holistic European strategy for old age be put forward to establish a common framework to address problems?

Submitted: 15.1.2025

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(25 April 2025)**

Equality and non-discrimination are core values of the EU embedded in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, including on the grounds of age.

The Employment Equality Directive 2000/78/EC covers non-discrimination on the ground of age in the area of employment and occupation. A step towards better enforcement and implementation of the EU non-discrimination *acquis* was taken through recent legislation on equality bodies ⁽¹⁾.

As regards the 2008 proposal for an equal treatment directive ⁽²⁾ which would extend the prohibition of discrimination on the ground of age beyond the area of employment and occupation, the Commission has announced in the 2025 Commission Work Programme its intention to withdraw it within six months given that there is no foreseeable agreement, awaiting now the legislator's reaction to this announcement.

The current Union of Equality strategies ⁽³⁾ adopted by the Commission in 2020 and 2021 stress the need to combat stereotypes, fight age-based discrimination within their respective remit, promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace, and give everyone equal chances to contribute and thrive.

The European Care Strategy ⁽⁴⁾ and Council Recommendation on long-term care ⁽⁵⁾ support and call on Member States to ensure quality, affordable and accessible care services and improve the situation for both care receivers and the people caring for them, professionally or informally ⁽⁶⁾.

More initiatives are recalled in the Demography Toolbox ⁽⁷⁾, where older persons constitute one of the pillars.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2024/1499 and Directive 2024/1500.

⁽²⁾ COM(2008)426.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en;
https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/eu-anti-racism-action-plan-2020-2025_en;
https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/roma-eu/roma-equality-inclusion-and-participation-eu_en;
https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/lesbian-gay-bi-trans-and-intersex-equality/lgbtiq-equality-strategy-2020-2025_en;
<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1484&langId=en>

⁽⁴⁾ COM/2022/440 final.

⁽⁵⁾ 2022/C 476/01.

⁽⁶⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/social-protection-social-inclusion/social-protection/long-term-care_en

⁽⁷⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/communication-demographic-change-europe-toolbox-action_en

Age-related considerations can thus be relevant in the implementation of legislation and policies as outlined and also as part of the Commission's work on its priority on 'Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model ⁽⁸⁾', including as regards the European Pillar on Social Rights as well as on intergenerational fairness.

⁽⁸⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/priorities-2024-2029_en