

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002533/25  
to the Commission  
Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE), Maria Walsh (PPE)  
(24 June 2025)**

*Subject:* Future EU care deal

In reply to written questions E-000390/2025 <sup>(1)</sup> and E-000942/2025 <sup>(2)</sup> regarding a future EU care deal, the Commission states that it will ‘work to create a more coherent framework for addressing long-term care workforce challenges including facilitating the recognition of skills and qualifications, supporting skills development and career progression and improving working conditions’.

While this is a welcome commitment, the ‘coherent framework’ described appears to focus primarily on professional care workers. An estimated 80% of long-term care across the EU is provided by informal carers, who are often unpaid family members or friends, forming the backbone of long-term care provision. Given the foregoing:

Can the Commission clarify how this future framework will explicitly include and address the specific needs, rights and working conditions of informal carers?

Submitted: 24.6.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission  
(8 August 2025)**

Informal carers, mainly women, face significant challenges due to the disproportionate burden of unpaid care responsibilities, lack of formal care services and insufficient recognition for their crucial roles. This has negative consequences on their private and professional life, and their economic security.

The European Care Strategy <sup>(1)</sup>, the Council Recommendation <sup>(2)</sup> on access to high-quality long-term care and the recommendation on early childhood education and care: Barcelona targets for 2030 <sup>(3)</sup> provide a framework for reforms and investments to improve care services, address workforce challenges, and support informal carers.

Implementation at national level includes policy measures to provide training, counselling, improved access to social protection, including financial support, and work-life balance measures.

At EU level, the Commission is for instance, cooperating with the World Health Organisation to develop an online training course on self-care and care competences for informal caregivers of older people with care needs.

Building on these and taking stock of the results of the implementation of the European Care Strategy and the Long-Term Care Council Recommendation to date, the Commission may consider further policy action to create a more coherent framework for addressing long-term care workforce challenges.

The planned social policy initiatives, including Quality Jobs Roadmap, the European Pillar Action Plan, the Gender Equality Strategy and the Anti-Poverty Strategy, as well as the recently delivered ones, such as Union of Skills <sup>(4)</sup>, will contribute to this objective and help strengthen long-term care and childcare systems.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-000390-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-000390-ASW_EN.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-000942-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-000942-ASW_EN.html)

<sup>(1)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_5169](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_5169).

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=oj:JOC\\_2022\\_476\\_R\\_0001](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=oj:JOC_2022_476_R_0001).

<sup>(3)</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=oj:JOC\\_2022\\_484\\_R\\_0001](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=oj:JOC_2022_484_R_0001).

<sup>(4)</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/union-skills\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/union-skills_en).