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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.9.2025)

As part of the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Council Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed¹ adopted in 2019 encourages Member States to ensure access to adequate and effective social protection to all workers, including those in non-standard form of employment such as temporary contracts. This covers a broad range of social security branches, including old-age benefits.

The Commission supports Member States in their implementation efforts through a dedicated monitoring framework with agreed common indicators, as well as through the Technical Support Instrument and targeted mutual learning opportunities.

Moreover, the EU also provides country analysis and guidance, including on pension policies, within the European Semester economic coordination cycle². In this context, the Commission monitors employment and social policies of the Member States, including Italy, and addresses specific recommendations linked to in-work poverty.

While pension policy and legislation are decided and implemented predominantly at national level, the EU supports national efforts to ensure a high level of social protection, including pension adequacy.

It is up to the national authorities to determine and adapt the details of the different national pension schemes to provide adequate income in old age. To assist in this effort, in 2022 the Social Protection Committee approved a benchmarking framework on pension adequacy³.

¹ Council Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019H1115\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019H1115(01)).

² https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/european-semester_en.

³ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/social-protection-social-inclusion/social-protection-committee/indicators-sub-group/monitoring-and-benchmarking-frameworks_en.