

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004718/25
to the Commission
Benoit Cassart (Renew)
(28 November 2025)**

Subject: Establishing an ambitious EU framework to combat ageism

More and more Europeans are experiencing age discrimination, particularly when it comes to access to employment, healthcare and services, and when participating in society more generally.

Although existing European legislation protects against ageism in employment, there is still no comprehensive framework covering all types of age discrimination at any stage of life.

Does the Commission intend to put forward a comprehensive EU action plan against ageism, including access to healthcare, goods and services, civic engagement and employment? If so, in what timeframe and what are the priorities?

Submitted: 28.11.2025

**Question for written answer E-004719/25
to the Commission
Benoit Cassart (Renew)
(28 November 2025)**

Subject: Strengthening protection against age discrimination beyond the labour market

Protection against age discrimination at EU level is based primarily on Directive 2000/78/EC, which is limited to the employment sector.

Many Europeans nevertheless continue to face age discrimination in other key areas, such as access to healthcare, housing, transport, digital technologies or even financial services.

Does the Commission intend to extend the EU legal framework to ensure effective protection against age discrimination in all areas of social and economic life, and to put forward legislation to this end covering access to goods and services?

Submitted: 28.11.2025

**Joint answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(27 January 2026)**

Equality and non-discrimination are core EU values enshrined in the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The proposal for an Equal Treatment Directive ⁽¹⁾ would, if adopted by the legislator, fill a gap in EU legislation by extending the protection against discrimination on the grounds of religion, belief, disability, age, sexual orientation in the areas of social protection, including social security and healthcare, education, and access to goods and services, including housing. This proposal is listed in the 2026 Commission's Work Programme as a pending legislative file ⁽²⁾.

The Political Guidelines for the Commission ⁽³⁾ reaffirm the commitment to a Union of Equality also through the strategies ⁽⁴⁾ which stress the need to combat age-based discrimination, promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace, and give everyone equal chances to contribute and thrive.

While no separate action plan against ageism is planned, age-related considerations are relevant in the implementation of legislation and policies including in the Commission's priority 'Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model' ⁽⁵⁾, the European Pillar on Social Rights and the work on demography and on the Intergenerational Fairness Strategy.

EU legislation prohibits age discrimination in employment ⁽⁶⁾, and legislation on equality bodies strengthens the enforcement of the EU equality acquis ⁽⁷⁾.

⁽¹⁾ COM/2008/0426 final.

⁽²⁾ COM/2025/870 final.

⁽³⁾ Political Guidelines for the Next European Commission 2024-2029, Strasbourg, 18 July 2024.

⁽⁴⁾ The Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, The EU Anti-racism Action Plan 2020-2025, The EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion, and participation 2020-2030, The strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 and The LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026 — 2030.

⁽⁵⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/priorities-2024-2029_en.

⁽⁶⁾ Directive 2000/78/EC.

⁽⁷⁾ Directive 2024/1499 and Directive 2024/1500.

Also, the upcoming Anti-Poverty Strategy will focus on the entire life-cycle of persons, accounting for the different barriers or obstacles that people find to getting out of poverty.

The European Care Strategy ⁽⁸⁾ and Council Recommendation on long-term care ⁽⁹⁾ support and call on Member States to ensure quality, affordable and accessible care services ⁽¹⁰⁾.

⁽⁸⁾ COM/2022/440 final.

⁽⁹⁾ 2022/C 476/01.

⁽¹⁰⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies-and-activities/social-protection-social-inclusion/social-protection/long-term-care_en.