

EN

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Answer given by Ms Lahbib

on behalf of the European Commission

(26.3.2026)

The Political Guidelines¹ reaffirm the commitment to a Union of Equality, which includes the need to combat age-based discrimination. EU legislation² prohibits age discrimination in employment and supports the enforcement of equality laws through relevant equality bodies³. The proposal for an Equal Treatment Directive⁴ aims to fill a gap in EU law by extending protection against age discrimination to social protection, education and access to services, including housing.

Age-related concerns are integrated in the Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness⁵ through the proposal of a Longevity Roadmap, or considered in the preparation of initiatives, such as the forthcoming anti-poverty strategy and the Communication on enhancing the strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities up to 2030. The European Care Strategy⁶ and the Council Recommendation on long-term care⁷ also encourage Member States to provide high-quality, affordable and accessible care services for all citizens across their lifespan.

A recent study on age discrimination in the EU⁸ carried out for the Commission provides an analysis of the state of play on age equality, maps existing actions, particularly at Member States' level, and identifies gaps. Findings are supporting further work on the topic, including within the High-Level Group on non-discrimination, equality and diversity⁹ (which previously issued a conclusion paper on 'Age equality and non-discrimination on the grounds of age'¹⁰ in 2024). The Commission is currently monitoring ongoing discussions on a United Nations convention on the rights of older persons.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/document/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/78/oj/eng>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1499/oj/eng>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52008PC0426>.

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/intergenerational-fairness-communication/intergenerational_fairness_strategy_layout.pdf.

⁶ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/european-care-strategy-caregivers-and-care-receivers-2022-09-07_en.

⁷ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=oj:JOC_2022_476_R_0001.

⁸ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/age-discrimination_en#study-on-discrimination-on-the-grounds-of-age-in-the-eu.

⁹ https://commission.europa.eu/about/service-standards-and-principles/transparency/register-expert-groups_en.

¹⁰ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/tackling-discrimination/network-experts-field-anti-discrimination_en#conclusion-paper-of-the-high-level-group-on-non-discrimination-equality-and-diversity.