

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002865/26
to the Commission
Regina Doherty (PPE)
(10 July 2026)**

Subject: European care strategy

Presented in September 2022, the European care strategy set out to improve the availability, affordability and quality of care services, to strengthen the working conditions and rights of formal and informal carers and to boost investment in the sector. It remains essential to the well-being of citizens and the resilience of our societies, particularly in the context of an ageing population and persistent staff shortages across the care sector.

As the strategy approaches its fourth anniversary, it is important to seek a clear and updated account of its implementation.

Can the Commission provide an update on the concrete progress made in implementing the European care strategy since its adoption, including the state of play regarding Member States' uptake of the recommendations, the main achievements delivered so far and the challenges that remain in reaching its original objectives?

Submitted: 10.7.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(11 August 2026)**

The European Care Strategy ⁽¹⁾ aims to ensure high quality, affordable and accessible care services while supporting formal and informal carers.

The Council Recommendation on access to affordable high-quality long-term care ⁽²⁾ (LTC) sets out a policy framework for investments and reforms.

In the national implementation plans ⁽³⁾, workforce and availability of LTC are at the top of the reform agenda. The recommendation is monitored through an indicator-based framework ⁽⁴⁾.

This analysis feeds in the European Semester, with 21 Country-Specific Recommendations on LTC issued in 2026. The Commission will report on the implementation of the recommendation to the Council in 2027.

EU-level actions include a self-assessment toolkit ⁽⁵⁾ for Member States, an online training course for informal carers ⁽⁶⁾ and evidence packages on adequacy of social protection for LTC ⁽⁷⁾, LTC workforce ⁽⁸⁾, labour mobility and enforcement challenges in the LTC sector ⁽⁹⁾ and LTC settings ⁽¹⁰⁾.

The creation of a European social dialogue committee for social services, which produced a Joint Framework of Action on Staff Retention and Recruitment in the sector ⁽¹¹⁾, and the launch of a large-scale skills partnership for LTC under the Pact for Skills ⁽¹²⁾ further strengthened the professionalisation of workforce.

These are complemented by mutual learning, policy dialogues and EU funding, notably through the European Social Fund Plus ⁽¹³⁾, the Recovery and Resilience Facility ⁽¹⁴⁾ and the Technical Support Instrument ⁽¹⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ COM/2022/440 final <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0440>.

⁽²⁾ 2022/C 476/01 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:JOC_2022_476_R_0001.

⁽³⁾ [https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?advSearchKey=lltimprep&mode=advancedSubmit&catId=22&doc_submit=&policyArea=0&policyAreaSub=0&country=0&year=0&iframetrue)

[advSearchKey=lltimprep&mode=advancedSubmit&catId=22&doc_submit=&policyArea=0&policyAreaSub=0&country=0&year=0&iframetrue](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?advSearchKey=lltimprep&mode=advancedSubmit&catId=22&doc_submit=&policyArea=0&policyAreaSub=0&country=0&year=0&iframetrue).

⁽⁴⁾ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/ui/group/bab664d7-1188-47b2-9fa6-869902320ba2/library/2ac9aa59-5c4a-45c9-b710-f73a14246666/details>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://www.who.int/europe/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2024-10363-50135-75508>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/27-10-2025-who-launches-new-online-course-to-support-informal-caregivers-across-europe>.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sub-issues/ageing-and-long-term-care/social-protection-for-older-people-with-ltc-needs.html>.

⁽⁸⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/new-reports-reviewing-application-eu-standards-governing-working-conditions-long-term-care-sector-2024-11-29_en.

⁽⁹⁾ <https://www.ela.europa.eu/en/media/4384>.

⁽¹⁰⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/long-term-care-settings-older-people_en.

⁽¹¹⁾ https://employment-social-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-social-partners-commit-tackle-workforce-challenges-social-services-2025-06-26_en.

⁽¹²⁾ https://pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu/index_en.

⁽¹³⁾ <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en>.

⁽¹⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-and-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en.

⁽¹⁵⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-and-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/technical-support-instrument_en.