

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004836/21  
to the Commission**

**Milan Brglez (S&D), Jarosław Duda (PPE), Klemen Grošelj (Renew), Predrag Fred Matić (S&D), Sara Cerdas (S&D), Irena Joveva (Renew), Marc Angel (S&D), Atidzhe Alieva-Veli (Renew), Magdalena Adamowicz (PPE), Fernando Barrena Arza (The Left), Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI), Clara Ponsatí Obiols (NI), Antoni Comín i Oliveres (NI), Elżbieta Kruk (ECR), Rovana Plumb (S&D), Olivier Chastel (Renew), Robert Hajšel (S&D), Alex Agius Saliba (S&D), Estrella Durá Ferrandis (S&D), Radka Maxová (S&D), Miriam Lexmann (PPE), Ivan Štefanec (PPE), Bronis Ropė (Verts/ALE), Manuel Pizarro (S&D), Maria da Graça Carvalho (PPE), Aurore Lalucq (S&D), Anna Júlia Donáth (Renew), Sylwia Spurek (Verts/ALE), Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar (PPE), Monika Beňová (S&D)**

(26 October 2021)

**Subject:** Follow-up to the Commission Green Paper on Ageing

In spring 2021, the Commission launched a consultation on ageing following the publication of its green paper. The increase in longevity opens up new opportunities for older persons if their fundamental rights are respected and society becomes more inclusive. However, the green paper did not address the issues of non-discrimination and equal rights for all ages. Both the Council <sup>(1)</sup> and Parliament <sup>(2)</sup> recently called for responses to be grounded in human rights principles and solidarity between generations.

1. Is the Commission working on a white paper to take the reflection further on the issues covered by the green paper?
2. Will the Commission consider developing an EU age equality strategy to ensure comprehensive policies on ageing and promoting the rights of all generations?
3. What further action does it envisage taking so that the Union of Equality delivers for people of all ages?

**Answer given by Vice-President Šuica on behalf of the European Commission**

(11 January 2022)

Follow-up to the Green Paper on Ageing and its consultation takes place in a number of work strands. For the moment, the Commission is not considering presenting a white paper on ageing or a specific age equality strategy.

The Commission is instead working to integrate and mainstream aspects related to demography and equality, including as regards age discrimination, in all relevant EU policies, legislation and funding programmes.

Council Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation effectively bans discrimination based on age within its scope.

In complement to such measures, the European Pillar of Social Rights <sup>(3)</sup> includes the principles on equal opportunities, work-life balance, old-age income and pensions, healthcare and long-term care as well as access to essential services. Its Action Plan <sup>(4)</sup> puts forward a number of further actions to support a Union of Equality.

In the framework of the action plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights and building on the Green Paper on Ageing <sup>(5)</sup>, the Commission will present a European Care Strategy in 2022 to address both carers and care receivers, from childcare to long-term care.

Also, the European Accessibility Act <sup>(6)</sup> strives to ensure that digitalisation is an inclusive process improving access to services.

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Council conclusions of 9 October 2020 on the human rights, participation and well-being of older persons in the era of digitalisation and 12 March 2021 on mainstreaming ageing in public policies.

<sup>(2)</sup> European Parliament resolutions of 20 May 2021 on reversing demographic trends in EU regions using cohesion policy instruments and 7 July 2021 on an old continent growing older — possibilities and challenges related to ageing policy post-2020.

<sup>(3)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-20-principles\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-20-principles_en)

<sup>(4)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en)

<sup>(5)</sup> COM (2021) 50 final.

<sup>(6)</sup> Directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements of products and services, OJL 151, 7.6.2019, p. 70-115.