

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5953/08

by Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE-DE) and Claude Moraes (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Communication on better meeting the needs of older people (announced in the renewed Social Agenda, July 2008)

In the renewed Social Agenda, launched in July 2008, the Commission announced the publication of a 'Communication on better meeting the needs of older people'. We strongly support the publication of this communication. However, it would appear that the communication, prepared by DG EMPL, is being held up in inter-DG consultation and that the Commission will instead issue a 'staff working paper on better meeting the needs of older people' in November. 'Staff working papers' do not, unlike communications, commit the Commission to anything.

1. Will the Commission still prepare the communication on better meeting the needs of older people, or has it decided not to issue a communication and instead to draft a staff working paper on this subject?
2. If it does not plan to issue a communication, is there a change in the position of the Commission on action in the field of the needs of older people and can the Commission give further explanations for this change?