

**Question for written answer E-009850/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Mojca Kleva Kekuš (S&D)

Subject: UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons

I have been contacted by representatives of the Association of Pensioners' Societies of Slovenia (ZDUS), a non-governmental, non-profit, self-help organisation which advocates for pensioners' rights in Slovenia. They told me that they support the adoption of a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons, which international NGOs began calling for in 2010, as the recommendations concerning the rights of older people which came out of the 2002 UN conference in Madrid have become outdated.

They say that after 11 years older people's situation has changed substantially as a result of demographic changes, and that the documents governing this area should therefore be adapted accordingly. Consequently they support the adoption of the aforementioned convention.

The representatives of the ZDUS are thus joining the call of other older people's organisations in Europe and on other continents for the United Nations to adopt a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons, along the lines of the conventions it has already adopted on the rights of women, people with disabilities, migrants, etc. A UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons would give individual governments a legal framework and support for adopting laws to protect and promote the rights of older people.

Given that a majority of Member States are not in favour of signing this convention, I am interested to know whether a similar strategy on quality active ageing is being drawn up at EU level.

How, in future, will the Commission look after the weakest section of the population, who are the biggest users of public social and health services, if cost-cutting measures always begin with the public sector?