Question for written answer E-004920/2021 to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: European care strategy

In her speech on the State of the EU, the Commission President announced a European care strategy to ‘support men and women in finding the best care and the best life balance’. The report by the Commission and the Social Protection Committee on long-term care\(^1\) indicates that only one third of individuals aged 65+ with severe needs had access to home care services, and more than 25 % of Europeans, mainly women, are informal carers for children, persons with disabilities or older family members\(^2\). COVID-19 has aggravated and increased the over-reliance on informal carers. People in need of care have been facing a lack of affordable quality care for years, which puts them at risk of exclusion. Care workers are facing exhausting conditions and a lack of recognition, which exposes them and their charges to situations of physical and mental risk.

1. Will the European care strategy focus on long-term care as an opportunity for inclusion and to allow older people to participate in our communities, rather than just as a challenge or cost?
2. Will the strategy adopt a rights-based approach based on the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the EU disability strategy?
3. How will the strategy improve recognition of and working conditions for formal carers and support for informal carers?

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\(^2\) https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/data/care-responsibilities?data=4