In line with the Treaties\textsuperscript{1}, the EU shall support and complement the activities of Member States in social security and social protection of workers, while ensuring the right of Member States to define the fundamental principles of their social security systems is not affected. Currently, the Commission supports and complements the activities of the Member States to protect older people against poverty and social exclusion and maintain their living standards by facilitating mutual learning and analysis, for instance, through the triennial Pension Adequacy Reports\textsuperscript{2}. The 2021 edition of the report highlighted the important role of minimum old-age benefits in safeguarding adequate pensions for those with short careers or low incomes. The report observed that Member States have put in place diverse minimum income schemes\textsuperscript{3} while new measures have been adopted in a number of countries to expand the minimum income protection in old age.

Support to national measures to prepare pension reforms and improve services for older people is available from Union programmes such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility\textsuperscript{4}, the Technical Support Instrument\textsuperscript{5} and the Employment and Social Innovation strand of the European Social Fund +\textsuperscript{6}.

Finally, the Commission launched a High-Level Group of experts\textsuperscript{7} to examine policy options to reinforce welfare states in providing social protection for all and ensure its financing in light of ongoing and upcoming challenges. The group will consider, \textit{inter alia}, how to ensure adequate social protection in old age against the background of population ageing and changes in the labour market, including the role of minimum pensions. It will prepare a report that will feed into debate on potential policy follow-up at national and EU level.

\textsuperscript{1} Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Art. 153(4)
\textsuperscript{2} https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=8397&preview=CHJldkVteGxQb3J0YWwhMjAxMjAyMTVwcmV2aWV3
\textsuperscript{3} Often non-contributory and needs-based schemes
\textsuperscript{5} https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/technical-support-instrument/technical-support-instrument-tsi_en
\textsuperscript{6} https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081
\textsuperscript{7} https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10101