



# Memorandum for the 2024 EP elections

Representing  
older  
generations

The European project brought greater well-being for more people, economic and social development for all, and peace! National or specific interests became common interests. These achievements are the result of a political and social struggle, but also of a thorough dialogue between visions of society that all endorse fundamental human rights.

Our societies are facing enormous challenges: ageing population, climate change, war and aggression at our borders and erosion of representative democracy. The solution is not to turn inwardly and choose the self-interest of one's "people", one's "own community", one's "own country". The solution lies in cooperation, solidarity, and the redistribution of wealth so that everybody benefits.

**We, older people from social democracies stand for solidarity: solidarity between people, solidarity with those who are less fortunate, solidarity between generations!**

As seniors, we also have our expectations regarding policy. This is what our memorandum is about.

**As older people, we want to help shaping the future:** yes, we are the witnesses of the past, but also the actors in the present and the co-builders of the future of our children and grandchildren and of the generations that will come after them.

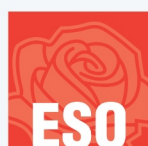
Old does not  
mean out!

Older persons are resilient, self-confident citizens able to make decisions that affect them. Older persons are not a disappearing generation even if some may be in need of care and support.

In order to support individuals to develop their life projects in an enabling environment, we need to shift from a narrative of cost containment to a rights based efficient approach, as well as governance resource prioritization related to value, dignity and empowerment.

At national level we require a  
**Commissioner For Older Persons Rights /Ombuds Service.**

At the international level, ESO gives strong support for an  
**UN Convention on the Rights for Older Persons.**



EUROPEAN  
SENIOR  
ORGANISATION



Nothing about us  
without us!

**Seniors and their organizations should be consulted in all political decisions that affect them.** Senior organizations must be supported by public authorities at all levels (Europe, member states, regional and local authorities).

At European level, we strive for a  
**European Ombudsman for Older Persons**

We ask for the setting up of a  
**Department dedicated to ageing issues** responsible for the coordination of policies for older people and the forward-planning for demographic change, and most importantly a

**European Commissioner responsible for Senior's policy in the European Commission**, on the same lines as the one for Youth Policy.

Demographic  
Change: an  
Intergenerational  
approach

The problems faced by young people and older people are often similar: discrimination in employment (ageism), mobility, housing, training, digitalisation and exchange of experience amongst others. These problems need to be considered from a global perspective in order to promote and develop intergenerational cooperation.

Intergenerational projects include, amongst others ,  
**Shared housing, shared jobs, shared digital spaces and co-working, and vocational training.**

**Demographic changes should not be considered solely from a narrow economic and financial perspective** but necessary investments must be made towards the development of a society that is prepared for demographic change.

Age-friendly  
societies,  
Investment in  
housing  
and in  
social needs

**Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**  
must be stimulated by European finance instruments in order to contribute to the revitalisation and renewal of city and village centres.

Urban development plans, should take into consideration the  
**proximity and accessibility of all local public service centres, primary health centres and care provision as well as adapted housing.**





## The Social Dimension

The WHO Programme on Age-friendly Cities and Communities provides us with a framework for these efforts. Therefore, **the economic-budgetary guidance of the EU must take full account of the social dimension** when considering public investments, social services, social expenditures.

## Age-friendly and accessible services

**Access to financial services and to infrastructure concerning digitalisation is to be guaranteed for all respective of age, without any discrimination.**

**Personal face-to-face social & financial services** should be offered to everyone without discrimination.

**Digitalisation and green-transition must be “age-friendly” for all sectors of society.**

## Care, Long-term care, Healthcare

It is necessary to

**Strengthen support for people who provide care:**

long-term care, health care, informal care by relatives. ESO demands the inclusion of these contributions in the calculation of pension.

Prevention Agreements at European or national level amongst stakeholders should ensure a healthy life for everyone: the children of today are the seniors of the future.

ESO is asking for a

**A Care deal for Europe**

that guarantees and ensures that all citizens have access to appropriate care, long-term care and healthcare. This Guarantee should be based on a community and life-process approach. ESO recommends an “age-in-place assessment”, looking at all aspects of a person's life including social participation, medical issues, fall risk, natural support systems and financial resources



EUROPEAN  
SENIOR  
ORGANISATION



Decent  
life conditions,  
pensions and  
income

ESO demands the setting up of a European system for **a guaranteed minimum income and pension above the poverty level.** This system should address

**the gender pay and pension gaps.**

It must be accompanied by the implementation of automatic entitlements to social benefits and security at national level

**The silver-economy,** the contribution of senior citizens to the economy, must be recognised.

ESO stresses the importance of fair financing of the pensions and addressing other financing components such as capital and assets as well as risk management regarding pension funds and safeguard to insolvency.

A European initiative would be very helpful in this context. A more balanced and differentiated approach is required in determining the pensionable age.

Non-discrimination,  
age-equality  
and  
combatting  
ageism

**All forms of ageism must be combatted.**

ESO is demanding :

**a legally binding horizontal instrument to combat direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of age** and

**Tools that monitor age discrimination as indicated in the MIPAA declaration, Rome 2022.**

**A European mainstreaming action-plan against ageism to address age-discrimination** is essential, to grant access to fundamental rights, access to affordable decent housing, sustainable health care, long-term care and care regardless of age or gender and to promote solidarity between generations. Gender based violence must also be addressed.

ESO firmly supports AGE Platform Europe's proposal for an **EU Age-Equality Strategy.**