

€UROMEETINGS

Group of European Pensioners from Savings Banks and Financial Institutions



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EDITORIAL

25 Euromeetings of Friendship!

CURRENT NEWS

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY:
exclusion of the elderly?

Fernado Martins
(Vicepresident of AGE) -
"The right of self-determination of the Elderly - *Autonomy and Independence* "

AGE Platform Europe's
Manifesto for European
Parliament elections
2019

Eurometing 2019—
Vienna (Austria)

Seville (Spain) — 2018

XXIVth Eurometing in Seville

Conclusions on the subject of the XXIVth Eurometing: "The right of self-determination of the Elderly - *Autonomy and Independence* "



EUROMEETING 2019 From April, 28th to May 05th Vienna - AUSTRIA



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FROM SAVINGS BANKS AND FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS**

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EDITORIAL

25 EUROMEETINGS OF FRIENDSHIP!

The European Grouping was born of the will of a group of retirees from several countries that combine the spirit of a united and fair Europe. This dream began to take shape from the 80s of the last century.

The essential objectives, which united these wills, were defined as follows:

- ♦ ***The value we have to attribute to free time;***
- ♦ ***The transcendence of human maturity at any age;***
- ♦ ***The social action likely to be developed by the Retirees of Savings Banks.***

There are names that we must always remember because we can say that they were responsible for gathering us all together annually to celebrate this friendship and reflect on the issues that led to the creation of the European Group and also on what we want for the future of our old continent. These names are those of all those who belonged to the "Promoter Group":

Mr. Francisco M. Bernabéu Penalva, President of the Spanish Federation of Retirees and Pensioners.

M. Roger Miraglio, First vice president of the National Federation of Retirees of Savings Banks of France;

Dr. Manuel Fernandes Pereira da Cruz, President of the National Retirement Association of Caixa Geral de Depósitos, of Portugal;

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Cristian Andreu, In charge of the Relations for Spain of the Committee of the European Association of Savings Banks;

M. Albert Backendorf, President of the Association of Retirees of the Savings Bank of the State of Luxembourg;

M. Steen EK, President of the Association of Retired Employees of the Savings Banks of Sweden.

Fortunately many of these people are still active and concerned about our Association! I send you a special greeting and thank you.

Other names of the past can and should be associated with these and, **running the risk of being unfair to some (by involuntary omission, for which I humbly ask for forgiveness)**, I

would like to mention colleagues like José Lidón Meseguer, Franco Salza, José Roberto López, Jean Vauriot, Professor Diego Carrasco, Antonio Ortiz, Artur Vieira Filipe, Jean Claude Chrétien, etc. etc. etc. They and many others have contributed a lot with their knowledge, availability and love so that we can, next year (in Vienna, Austria, in 2019), celebrate the XXV Euro-meeting.

Out of respect for everyone and their work, we have the obligation to carry this project forward. Reflecting on the past 24 Euro-encounters we can affirm that there is a track in all those who participated (and there have already been many ...) and that is translated by a single word: **FRIENDSHIP.**

At a time when friendship among peoples is increasingly threatened, with the exaltation of "us above others" and the aversion to what is different, we are proud to be an example of fraternity and healthy coexistence. And this is what we will celebrate in Vienna.

We are waiting for you!

Cândido Vintém (Portugal)

President of the Group



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY: exclusion of the elderly?

With the rapid development of digital technology, we are witnessing a profound change in our society. This phenomenon, which is transforming our way of life, is a real danger, especially for the elderly, who have few resources and live in isolation. Digital exclusion is a modern threat. It is important to take action at all times to ensure that older people continue to become familiar with the development of digital technology. This exclusion alters our habits and leaves some of us on the margins of society, isolated in a hyperconnected world. Paradoxically, dematerialization, which is an added value for society, increases the number of people abandoned by this evolution every day.

Hoping for the digital inclusion of the elderly and the retired is hoping for them to be involved in the world of today and tomorrow. Older people and retirees often have less access to culture and the use of technologies compared to younger generations. Some older people have not adapted to the evolution of new technologies. Some retirees have made little or no use of new methods throughout their professional lives. Therefore, today they feel incompetent, which sometimes causes anxiety and restlessness.

However, would not it be necessary to clarify a bit the concept we have of digital technology and avoid giving free rein to a simplistic approach? In the digital field, you can be young and make moderate and prudent use of digital services and be a regular user of social networks. Age can be a determining indicator, but can not explain by itself the use or disuse of digital technology.

Jacques Toubon, former minister and defender of rights in France, said during a conference on digital evolution that, if we do not want to abandon a large number of people completely defenseless against digital technologies, the use of them should become a common objective for all. The studies of numerous social organizations and the survey of the Public Action Committee for the year 2022 (Cap22) all conclude in the same way: if the public authorities do nothing, between 20 and 25% of the French population, among which some elderly people are included, will feel abandoned because of the digitalization.

Today, we are witnessing a rapid dematerialization of administrative procedures: tax offices, administrations, insurance companies and banks, among others, participate in this profound change.

Older people, who represent a quarter of the French population, have difficulties adapting to this rapid dematerialization. This is the responsibility of some administrations and public or private institutions, which have not been able to take the necessary measures to guarantee that the most vulnerable or least connected people can carry out their online procedures without problems. Digitization can not be questioned, because it is not a question of use, but rather of formalities that are badly adapted to this delicate sector of the population.

In France it is urgent that the public authorities implement a

policy of support for digital technologies. There are many people who begin to feel involved, especially older people. They have equipped or are willing to equip themselves to use the digital technology. Therefore, it is necessary to offer them specific help, since in the field of digital training, they do not have to be replaced, they must be accompa-



nied and allowed to learn.

NO, digital technology is not synonymous with the exclusion of the elderly. For millions of older people, among whom are those who will reach the "decline of life", new technologies are and will be formidable instruments of autonomy and support in their social relations. With regard to the elderly, there are two essential objectives: to preserve their social life and facilitate the use of digital technologies.

Although digital links will never replace face-to-face encounters, we must be convinced that the real world and the virtual world can coexist together. **The digital change we are experiencing should benefit all of us, including the generation that is still far from being digital.**

Jean Claude Chrétien (France)
Honour President



THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE ELDERLY

Autonomy and Independence

The concept of **self-determination** is very broad and it applies to peoples, regions, countries, etc., in which independent sovereignty and the right to self-govern without guardianships are advocated. With regard to the "Self-determination of the elderly", *it is the principle that guarantees the right to self-govern, make your own decisions without pressure or external or family influences, defining your own values, preferences, behaviors and attitudes.*

Autonomy and independence are interconnected, although no one in the world is absolutely independent, but we can be autonomous in what we decide and what we do:

- ♦ Mental, intellectual and physical capacity are interconnected.
- ♦ The autonomy of the elderly is their "choice"
- ♦ Independence of the elderly when it comes to "making" decisions.

The main concept, "**Autonomy**", encompasses a set of capacities and rights:

- ♦ Power of choice
- ♦ Ability to make decisions
- ♦ Conscious defense of their values
- ♦ Right to personal preferences
- ♦ Total enjoyment of legal capacity

♦ Control of decisions about their own life

On the 16th of December, 1991, the General Assembly of the United Nations approved the resolution (resolution 46/91) that consigns a set of United Nations Principles for the elderly, on "Independence", "Participation", "Assistance", "Self-realization" and "Dignity".

What is important is to focus on "Independence", which we transcribe here:

DEPENDENCY

♦ Having access to food, water, housing, clothing, health, family and community support.

♦ Being able to live in safe environments adaptable to their personal preference, which are susceptible to changes

♦ Being able to live in their home as long as it is viable.

Being independent is having the ability to go about with your daily life, to be able to participate in social life according to your will and preferences.

If his/her will is to play brisque in the park ... he/she should do it ... Being independent does not mean living alone or doing daily

chores, but having control over the decisions that lead to their execution.

The greatest condition for an independence is the financial capacity to carry it out, in which its true and fair pensions attribution policy is highlighted, allowing older people not to depend on financial help from close relatives (children, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law) or from neighbors.

Being independent, is having the freedom to choose what time I go to bed, what time I wake up, or what I'm going to eat, what I'm going to buy, who I'm going to live with during the day or if I opt for tranquility .





THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE ELDERLY

Autonomy and Independence - continuity

The right to "**Self-determination and Independence**" of the elderly is frequently threatened by social, family and political pressures. The continued attitude of "**ageism**", a preconception that discriminates against age, contributes decisively to the bankruptcy of that right. Violence against the elderly represses and annuls that right consecrated by the United Nations.

The excess and inappropriate use of "*Autonomy and Independence*" can lead to loneliness and isolation with its consequent depressions, dangerous for the elderly, leading to fatal acts of despair.

A recent threat to the "*Autonomy and Independence*" of the elderly consists in the accelerated development of new information and communication technologies (ICT) that, although designed to assist the elderly, have in some cases conditioned their privacy, have broken their independence and forced them to change their lives, frustrating their desires and wills. In the same way we should question the limits of "**autonomy and independence**".

Our reflection should also focus on State Responsibility:

- ♦ What are the necessary conditions for the elderly to enjoy autonomy and independence?
- ♦ What are the necessary conditions for the elderly to enjoy

values of "autonomy and independence".

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU should be kept in mind.



autonomy and independence?

To enjoy a life with quality and independence, healthy aging becomes necessary in a process of optimization of physical and mental health opportunities to allow older people to participate actively in society without discrimination.

The myth of "aging":

- ♦ Aging does not create independence
- ♦ Retirement does not mean annullating the autonomy or Independence
- ♦ Active aging reinforces Independence

We, the "elders", are in this "struggle" against the prejudice that age conditions the supreme

Article 25 Rights of the elderly

The European Union recognizes and respects the rights of the elderly to a dignified and independent existence and their participation in social and cultural life.

We are all autonomous and independent

Fernando Martins *

APRe!

**Fernando Martins is the Vicepresident of portuguese Associação Pensionistas e Reformados (APRe!) and AGE Platform's Vicepresident. He was de invited speaker during the XXIVth Eurometing*



EUROMEETING 2018 IN SEVILLE

On the occasion of the twenty-fourth edition, the European Group of Pensioners of Savings Banks and Financial Institutions invited to participate in its annual plenary assembly.

200 participants from Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Germany spent a week full of events in Seville, the capital of Andalusia, on the banks of the Guadalquivir River.

The theme of this year's edition was:

"The right to self-determination of the elderly - autonomy and independence"

The representatives of the countries exposed their presentations on this topic. Demographic development will drastically change the lives of the elderly in the future. To react to this change, politics and society have to develop a culture of active and healthy aging: through medical assistance, the establishment of a network of services and home care as well as the creation of a suitable environment for the elderly. Older people should be given access to social media and modern communication systems. It is important to promote solidarity between generations, recognize voluntary activities and fight against poverty in old age. The chairman of the Group, Cândido Vintém, will deliver the conclusions of all the requests to the AGE platform in Brussels. AGE is a European network for people over 50 that aims to address and support the interests of the elderly in 28 countries of the EU. The vice president of the AGE platform, Mr. Fernando Martins, contributed enormously to the presentations, presenting a speech on the subject:

"Inequalities and abuse in old age – it's time to act!"

In addition to debates and assemblies, a varied program is part of each Euromeeeting. The employees of Viajes Transvia and Cândido Vintém manage to impress us on every occasion with cultural events and offers.

The first excursion took us to the old town of Seville. We strolled through the picturesque neighborhood of Santa Cruz, which at the time of Arab rule was the Jewish quarter, with streets and squares adorned with flowers as well as several courtyards to the Maria Luisa Park with large green spaces.

Of the buildings of the Ibero-American exhibition that took place there in 1929/30 the Plaza de España and the

Palacio Central were maintained.

The hexagonal Torre del Oro ("Tower of Gold"), an arab tower originally adorned with gold tiles on the banks of the Guadalquivir, nowadays serves as a marine museum. There we got on a boat to enjoy a one-hour river cruise to admire from the water the monuments and the 1992 EXPO fairground located on the island of Guadalquivir "La Cartuja". The world exhibition contributed to significantly improve the infrastructure of Seville, serving as an example the expansion of the airport and the train station as well as the construction of two spectacular bridges. The former EXPO site is used as a high-tech amusement park. We ended the day having dinner by candlelight watching a show of fiery flamenco "Tablao Flamenco" at the Palacio Andaluz (Andalusian Palace).

We admired a lot of works of artistic heritage from each era in the Cathedral of Seville and the Alcazar. The cathedral was built between 1402 and 1506 in the place where the main mosque was located. The largest and richest Gothic cathedral in the world is unsurpassed in its spatial effect and its wealth of artistic treasures, such as paintings by Murillo and Velázquez, important stained-glass windows, gothic wood carvings and tombs of famous personalities, such as the tomb of Christopher Columbus. On the north side of the cathedral stands the Giralda, the minaret of the ancient Arab mosque, which today is the tower of the cathedral. From

the gallery, about 70 meters high you can enjoy a wide view of the city and its surroundings, something that some visitors who enjoy sports have been able to confirm.

With a thousand years of history, the Alcázar, originally the castle of Muslim kings, and later Christians, is one of the most splendid buildings in the world.

The fascinating "Patio de las doncellas" (Courtyard of the Maidens), with its marble pillars and cheerful Arab decorations, constitutes the high point of the palace. The Hall of Ambassadors is full of ornate friezes and Arabic characters.

The gardens created by Charles V are separated in half by a cave and contain underground spas.

Through a rolling landscape we reached the small medieval town of Carmona, surrounded by Roman walls with a powerful gate that gave access to the city. We walk through picturesque streets to the Plaza Mayor and the old Alcázar, which today is a charming *Parador* (type of accommodation frequent in Spain).

The ruins of Itálica give samples of the Roman city created around 205 BC, birthplace of the emperors Trajan and Hadrian.

The amphitheater and the findings of houses and wells with valuable mosaics are among the archaeological remains of special interest.

On our last excursion we once again enjoyed the Andalusian atmosphere on a guided tour of the property and warehouses of the "Tío Pepe" winery in Jerez. We learned a lot about the history, production and storage of sherry and brandy and we met the mouse sherry. Then the Andalusian horses danced in a graceful and charming way to the sound of a select music. The



three course menu, of course with wine and sherry, was the worthy end of the trip.

The German group thanks the initiators of that trip, as well as the friendly interpreters for tasks that were not always easy.

In recent years we made many friends. We hope to meet everyone in good health next year, we look forward to the anniversary celebration in Vienna.

Christa Saia (Germany)
Delegate of the Assembly



GROUP OF EUROPEAN PENSIONERS FROM SAVINGS
BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS



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Nuestra gran experiencia en el sector turístico, nos permite organizar, desde cualquier punto de España, una amplia programación de viajes con itinerarios de gran interés, acompañados por uno de nuestros guías. Seleccionamos cuidadosamente los hoteles y servicios para que ustedes disfruten de un viaje cómodo y feliz.

Disponemos de una flota de autocares dotada del máximo confort y seguridad. Sus últimos avances en tecnología hará que su viaje sea cómodo, agradable y seguro.



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EUROMEETING 2018 – SEVILLE (SPAIN) - CONCLUSIONS ON: “THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE ELDERLY - AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE”

"To develop a positive aging, society must provide the greatest opportunities for the elderly to be independent and autonomous, enjoy good health and an acceptable quality of life"

Domingo Auyanet – spanish presentation

The quality of life in aging includes mobility, safe independent life, social ties and quality of care.

Christa Saia – german presentation

INTRODUCTION

With the increase in life expectancy and demographic aging as a consequence, the debate of these issues is fundamental. The aging of society can be, on the one hand, considered as an advance and, on the other, as a challenge since it presupposes a greater social and economic demand. The real challenge is, without doubt, to maintain and improve the quality of life of citizens through a culture of active and healthy aging.

Before going on to analyze the question of the self-determination of the elderly, we must specify some ideas by mentioning some generally accepted definitions:

AUTONOMY – It is the ability to choose and make decisions for themselves with support if necessary, depending on the will of each individual;

INDEPENDENCE – It is the ability to carry out activities of daily life and to participate in society, according to the will and preferences of each individual.

The right to **self-determination** (eg **choose your own future**) should start to be exercised as soon as possible.

As a natural consequence of the natural prolongation of the average life expectancy, there are greater probabilities of the appearance of disabling diseases and, consequently, a reduction of autonomy and independence. It is the neurodegenerative, cardio-

vascular and other similar diseases that could, naturally, condition the elderly to determine their way of life, of being and of relating to others and to themselves.

However, in practice, the right to self-determination is often restricted, either by the family or by society.

There are conditioners to the right to self-determination that are not, in any way, acceptable and not even understandable. Examples:

- ♦ The social prejudice felt in the family itself;
- ♦ The prejudice that the press and civil society transmit;
- ♦ The participation of older people in society is limited only because of not being young
- ♦ The difficulty of mobility that our cities place on the elderly;
- ♦ The loss of financial autonomy, even if the person has a reasonable pension.

The social prejudice felt in the family itself:

Many times, when a person reaches "advanced age", the family stops taking his/her opinions into account in decisions as simple as the choice of food, the place or the way to go on vaca-

tion, the distribution of the rooms of the house or even on the clothes that he/she can or cannot use.

The prejudice that the press and civil society transmit

The image that civil society transmits of the elderly is usually linked to negative aspects - the weight of pensions, the aggravated cost of healthcare, little contribution to social development. The regulatory bodies of the world economy (IMF or ECB, for example) always consider in their studies that the weight of pensions is an obstacle to the growth of the economy...

The participation of the elderly in society is limited only by the fact that they are no longer young

It is known that most European companies took advantage of the so-called "crisis" to "rejuvenate" their staff. This basically meant replacing experienced workers (with salaries almost always higher) by others who enter the labor market (with lower salaries).



EUROMEETING 2018 – SEVILLE (SPAIN) - CONCLUSIONS ON: “THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE ELDERLY - AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE” - CONTINUITY

The experience, the knowledge or the "values of the company" have been lost since the transformation happened hastily, often resorting to temporary labor and without taking into account these values. The elderly, who are carriers of all that experience, have not had the possibility of passing on those values to the younger ones within the companies.

The difficulty of mobility that our cities impose on the elderly

If we take a close look at the environment that surrounds us, it is easy to verify that cities are not designed to be friendly with the elderly:

- ♦ The deteriorated pavements and vehicles parked on them is a reality;
- ♦ Vehicles used in public transport increasingly have fewer seats reserved for the disabled and the elderly. The accesses to them are usually very high for those who have mobility problems;
- ♦ Public buildings (health, Tax Agency, banks,...) rarely have appropriate access for the elderly or disabled;
- ♦ With the increasing use of computer media, the older generation (the "natural" info-excluded) loses access to basic services, since these are no longer accessible in the places where they were traditionally located (banks, tax agency. ...) and the elderly are "forced" to use means that they do not dominate and that compel them to expose their privacy to third parties.

The loss of financial autonomy, even if it has a reasonable pension

The most important problem in the financial aspect is the man-



agement of money and the profits obtained throughout a lifetime of work.

As the Tanzanian citizen says, the family often makes decisions about their heritage without first consulting with the real owner.

There are many known cases of abuse of the elderly who suddenly find themselves without assets to guarantee their subsistence, because the family needed to use them for their own benefit, without consulting them. The family simply decided that the older person was not going to use that patrimony until the end of his days ...

The unexpected need to resort to residences or that a professional accompanies them in their everyday life due to the high associated costs of such residences is a limited factor of the financial autonomy and independence that the elderly person believed to have. In our western society it is usual for the family to admit their elders into a residence without hearing their opinion about this decision.

It is known that new generations have more and more difficulty finding a balance between work,

family and taking care of the elderly. For this reason, older people will have less chances of having family support in the future, so they will have to resort to external support.

However, there are very good examples of "friendly practices for the elderly" throughout Europe that can point the way towards a "Europe of all generations" that we want. The older generation dedicate a lot of their free time to volunteering actions of a social nature. On the other hand, the so-called senior universities or academies play a fundamental role in lifelong learning, with the beneficial consequences in the area of culture, mobility and also autonomy, raising self-esteem and helping the elderly to maintain and develop a fundamental social circle for their well-being. There are also some public universities that have played a key role for some time - see the case of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria that created the "Peritia et Doctrina" program aimed at citizens over 50 years of age.

The reason why nearly 200 pensioners from banks from seven European countries (**represented**



EUROMEETING 2018 – SEVILLE (SPAIN) - CONCLUSIONS ON: “THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE ELDERLY - AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE” - CONTINUITY

by the Group of European Pensioners from Savings Banks and Financial Institutions) met in Seville (Spain), between 19th and 26th May 2018 was to reflect on these issues and the consequences in the future of "our house in common".

CONCLUSIONS

From the set of the different presentations handed by the delegates, it is concluded that:

♦ **Society must support a culture of active aging and adopt measures to promote good health.** This support must be given in the areas of health, improvement in the level of pensions, work, education, justice, housing and transport and mobility;

♦ **We must develop a positive attitude**, through activities that stimulate, involve, motivate, entertain and, in the end, bring the elderly closer to living this stage in the best conditions;

♦ **A rapprochement between the media is necessary in order to promote a positive image of "active and healthy aging"** as well as popularizing that expression through political debates, in public forums and through the press; creating a favorable climate.

♦ **We have to think more about the capacity than the disability**, considering older people as active participants and contributors of society;

♦ **It is urgent to create a social environment suitable for the elderly to promote their well-being** and create better access to services.

♦ **The evolution of technology must be at the service of the**

senior generation through the generalization of access to the "internet of things", to home automation, robotics, artificial intelligence and current and future communication systems;

♦ **Telemedicine and telecare programs should be detected as soon as possible.** It is important to detect as soon as possible the loss of autonomy and to establish the necessary measures so that the elderly can maintain their independence;

♦ **Active aging must be promoted**, especially by reducing the cost of health services, improving social interaction and physical, mental and psychological health;

♦ **The involvement of the elderly in their own social life should be encouraged**, through activities that enhance their desire to live in order to remain useful and feel integrated into society;

♦ **There is a need to adapt the laws in a way that they protect the elderly before becoming dependent, promoting their self-determination**, making it possible throughout the European Union to define the "**future protection mandate**" in time, as is the case in France.

♦ **There is a need to adapt the laws in a way that they protects the elderly before being dependent, promoting self-determination**, making it possible throughout the European Union to define a health witness with legal value in time.

♦ **It is important to develop a "network of services" for home care**, so that the elderly can stay at home. We must create the conditions of dignity and comfort, complemented by a social life, mental activity and (as far as possible) by physical activity that can

be converted into voluntary actions;

♦ **It is essential to reinforce public support to take measures against the poverty of the elderly**, promoting assistance and training facilities at costs compatible with pensions;

♦ **There is a need to promote intergenerational solidarity**, creating a society that integrates rather than marginalizing.

SUMMING UP, WE WANT THAT:

The European policies are revindictive, that they see the dignification and the social inclusion of the older ones respecting their dignity;

The provisions of the II World Assembly on Aging (MIPAA) are met;

The positive experiences of "friendly cities with the elderly" that already exist in some countries are spread throughout the European Union;

The aspects of physical, mental, affective and social health are taken into consideration;

"**Good aging**" be promoted, taking measures against the risk of isolation and conserving a social life to delay the onset of dependence;

The representation and recognition of the work of associations that involve the elderly in such noble tasks as volunteering or continuous learning be legally reinforced.

GET – Study and Work Group



AGE PLATFORM EUROPE'S MANIFESTO FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS 2019



AGE Platform Europe is the largest European network of organisations of people aged 50+ representing directly more than 40 million older people in Europe. AGE aims to voice and promote the interests of the 190 million inhabitants aged 50+ in the European Union and to raise awareness of the issues that concern them most.

Manifesto for European Parliament Elections 2019

Achieving equal rights and dignity for older persons

WHY THIS MANIFESTO?

In 2017, nearly one fifth (19%) of the EU population was aged 65 and more. Moreover, the importance of the very old (aged 80 years or above) is growing at a faster pace than any other age segment of the EU's population. Their share in the EU28 was projected to more than double between 2017 and 2080, from 5.5% to 12.7%.

Many older women and men are making significant contributions to society, for example as workers, through mentoring young people, caring for grandchildren or relatives. Yet **ageism** still restricts the autonomy and poses barriers to the full and equal participation of older people in different areas of individual and community life.

Respect for dignity and autonomy are universal human rights that apply to persons of all ages and central prerequisites to effective and meaningful participation in society.

The United Nations 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) fulfil the pledge to leave no

one behind.

At EU level, the solemnly proclaimed European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) and the European Semester together with other EU strategies, such as the Digital Single Market (DSM) provide an adequate framework for Member States to take action to protect older persons' rights and gender equality in old age. The future EU budget should help to deliver on EU post 2020 social and non-discrimination objectives, while a renewed political impulse is needed to unblock the proposed horizontal non-discrimination directive.

The European Parliament has been the champion in advocating for social justice and equality. The 2019 EP elections come at a turning point for the European Union which urgently needs to reconnect with its citizens and represent their interest. We wish a forward-looking EU where not only economy and growth matter, but where concrete action is taken to ensure that everyone is valued and empowered to lead an active and autonomous life regardless of age, gender, race or ethnic origin, religion, disability, or sexual orientation.

AGE KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuing our aim of an age-friendly European Union and supporting the reflection on an international Convention on the rights of older persons taking place at the UN Open Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA), we call on candidate MEPs to ensure that elimination of age discrimination will become an identified EU priority on equal foot to all other grounds of discrimination in EU treaties, and to take action to:

- ◆ Enhance older persons' rights through combating ageism and agediscrimination
- ◆ Ensure a life-course perspective on work and create inclusive labour markets
- ◆ Ensure adequate pension and old-age income for both women and

men

- ◆ Protect the right to live and age in dignity through adequate person-centred health and long-term care accessible to all
- ◆ Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages
- ◆ Enable universal access to goods and services in today's digitalised society including for older persons
- ◆ Empower older citizens to fully participate in the social and democratic life.

As future MEP, AGE calls on you to push for the EU to support member states to develop national strategies on ageing with the active involvement of older persons and their organisations. Finally we count on your commitment to re-establish in the European Parliament the **Intergroup on Ageing and Solidarity between Generations** to keep ageing issues high on the EP's agenda.

WHAT CAN CANDIDATES MEPs DO?

Enhance older persons' rights through combating ageism and age-discrimination and put pressure on your government to (SDG

3/8/16; EPSR 3/7/20; OEWGA):

- ◆ Ensure that the directive on equal treatment in the access to goods and services is finally adopted, and the full implementation of the Accessibility Act ensured.
- ◆ Monitor the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure it is equally applied to older persons with disabilities
- ◆ Monitor the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women and of the EU gender equality provisions and ensure they are equally applied to older women;
- ◆ Support the debate at UN level



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around a possible international legal instrument to strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons.

Ensure a life-course perspective on work and create inclusive labour markets and put pressure on your government and social partners to (SDG 5/8/10/11; EPSR 1/2/3/4/5/9/10/11/13; OEWGA):

- ◆ Fully implement the Employment Equality Directive 2000/78/EC and promote awareness campaigns on the importance to fight ageism in the workplace; make age-friendly working conditions a reality with a special attention put to flexible end-of-career opportunities;
- ◆ Adopt an ambitious directive on work-life balance, including paid carers' leave for informal carers. Call on the EU Commission and member states to go further, proposing a Council Recommendation on Social Protection and Services for informal carers – most of whom women – that would guarantee access to pension credits, minimum income, health insurance and the maintenance of rights to unemployment benefits to informal carers who have dropped out of the labour market;
- ◆ Value older people's skills and knowledge in the labour market, and recognise the need to facilitate longer working life through more effective action to combat age discrimination in employment and occupational training;
- ◆ Seize the potential of intergenerational transfers of knowledge, create jobs which value respectively older and young workers' skills, and allow both age groups to grow professionally and adapt to the changing labour market;
- ◆ Support the implementation of the proposed Council Recommendation on the Social Protection for Workers and Self-Employed, paying attention that gaps in social protection coverage in all forms of employment are effectively closed;
- ◆ Scrutinise the implementation of the Council Recommendation on Long-Term Unemployment and support the European Network of Public Employment Services to help older jobseekers including older people in forced inactivity;
- ◆ Fund research on sustainable workplaces and durable employability based on up-skilling and life-long learning and promote results across the EU action and initiatives;

◆ Apply life-cycle approach to the workplace which ensures healthy working environments and fosters interaction, cooperation, transfer knowledge and solidarity between different age groups.

Ensure adequate pension and old-age income for both women and men and put pressure on your government to (SDG 1/2/5/8/10/12/13; EPSR 2/3/12/14/15; OEWGA):

- ◆ Adopt a framework directive on adequate minimum income to live in dignity including minimum pension, taking into account not only the relative at-risk of poverty line, but also age specific reference budgets based on a basket of goods and services;
- ◆ Call for a European Strategy to close the gender pay, career and pension gaps, addressing the challenges of both women still in employment and retired older women for whom positive changes in labour markets come too late;
- ◆ Step up EP and national parliamentary scrutiny of the European Semester, especially bearing in mind the challenge faced by statutory pensions to effectively protect from poverty;
- ◆ Support the role and responsibilities of the European Supervisory Authorities of financial markets, ensuring adequate financial and human resources to protect long-term returns, encourage sustainable investment strategies and enforce consumer's rights in capitalbased pension schemes;
- ◆ Adopt a European legal initiative to give access to adequate social protection to people in all – standard and non-standard – forms of employment and analyse the barriers that prevent people from exercising this right. It should contain universal and equal access to social protection rights, benefits and entitlements, quality healthcare, minimum income security and access to the goods and services defined as necessary at national level – in line with the related ILO recommendation, providing an effective social security net, which can be deployed in hard times;
- ◆ Adopt policies to protect older persons' assets and empower them to make informed financial decisions.

Protect the right to live and age in dignity through affordable and person-centred health and long-term care and put pressure on your government to (SDG 16; EPSR 16/18; OEWGA):

- ◆ Enforce effectively the right to quality and affordable long-term care and support that allows older people to live in dignity, remain autonomous and independent, and get fully involved in their communities;
- ◆ Adopt a Council Recommendation on long-term care, stating the key principles and evidence-based recommendations for the development of long-term care and support services across the EU;
- ◆ Develop the economic case for the formalisation of long-term care for older people and ensure that the EU leaves enough fiscal space to member states to improve quality of LTC and access for all who need care and support;
- ◆ Monitor the role of the private sector in long-term care in terms of quality and affordability of services, and explore how the EU could better regulate this growing market;
- ◆ Work towards the adoption of an EU Action Plan on combatting elder abuse, including through better identifying and protecting victims and improve working conditions of both formal and informal carers in home and residential care.

Ensure active and healthy ageing and promote well-being for all ages and put pressure on your government to (SDG 2/3/6; EPSR 1/2/16; DSM; OEWGA):

- ◆ Promote physical and mental health through a life course perspective approach in all EU policies under the coordination of DG SANTE;
- ◆ Ensure a strong Health programme and budgetary priority to health promotion, disease prevention and reduction of health inequalities in the EU post 2020 research programme;
- ◆ Continue supporting the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing as a key initiative to improve the healthy life year expectancy across the EU;
- ◆ Reenergise the Geriatric Medicines Strategy and raise the profile of the Geriatric Expert Group of the European Medicines Agency;
- ◆ Provide a robust healthcare infrastructure and use digital innovation at EU level to improve people's health at all ages while pursuing the objectives set in the Digital Single Market;
- ◆ Prioritise the fight against old-age loneliness and social isolation affecting ap-



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proximately one-third to one-half of the older population and resulting in adverse health conditions.

Enable universal access to goods, housing and services to older persons and put pressure on your government to (SDG 7/8/9/11; EPSR 17/19/20; DSM; OEWSGA):

- ◆ Strengthen the EU legislation, initiatives and standardisation work related to accessibility in today's highly digitalised society, including the European Accessibility Act, as well as ensure a proper implementation at national level;
- ◆ Continue supporting the development of a European Silver Economy Strategy allowing the development of accessible and affordable products and services supporting active and healthy ageing;
- ◆ Promote and support the development of age-friendly environments at local and regional level as a key mean to support independent living and mobility for all with the support of EU funding instrument;
- ◆ Take ageing dimension into account in smart local housing, urban development and public transport. Support independent living through the development of home-based ICT, intelligent housing and digital and web-based services;
- ◆ Ensure that the ageing dimension is considered across the different domains of the EU Research programme to better address the different perspectives of EU demographic ageing.

Empower older citizens to fully participate in the social, cultural and democratic life and promote life-long learning to facilitate their active involvement in all aspects of life (SDG 4/10/16/17; EPSR 1/2/3; DSM; OEWSGA):

- ◆ Make the European Parliament a central place to discuss issues of equal rights for all ages and solidarity between generations by supporting the re-establishment of the Intergroup on Active Ageing and Soli-

arity between Generations;

- ◆ Ensure that e-Government and access to elections is supported for voters of all ages;
- ◆ Fight against ageism in political sphere and encourage older persons to stand as candidates for local, national and European elections;
- ◆ Recognise and support all various social and economic contributions older people bring to our societies, in particular to younger generations;
- ◆ Call for the recognition and support to the work of older volunteers via programming and funding of social funds and Erasmus+; fund research activities to assess the economic value of volunteering by older people;
- ◆ Call for EU initiatives to close the digital gap, including by European funds investing into digital infrastructure and supporting measures to increase digital skills of all age groups in the update of the European Education and Training Strategy ET2020;
- ◆ Combat digital exclusion and respect the right of any citizen to use traditional technologies (i.e. analogue) in order to support older persons' right to participate equally in society;
- ◆ Call for strong users' involvement/co-creation/co-design in EU research and standardisation work;
- ◆ Ensure that the new General Data Protection Regulation is implemented in a way that takes on board the specific challenges faced by older citizens due to the digital divide;
- ◆ Include older citizens in civil dialogue on sustainable development and intergenerational transmission of knowledge, values and culture.

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals relevant for older people

Goal 1	No poverty	Goal 9	Industry, innovation & infrastructure
Goal 2	Zero hunger	Goal 10	Reduce inequalities
Goal 3	Good health and well-being	Goal 11	Sustainable cities and communities
Goal 4	Quality education	Goal 12	Responsible consumption and production
Goal 5	Gender equality	Goal 13	Climate action
Goal 6	Clean water and sanitation	Goal 16	Peace, justice and strong institutions
Goal 7	Affordable and clean energy	Goal 17	Partnership for the goals
Goal 8	Decent work and economic growth		

EPSR – European Pillar of Social Rights and its principles relative for older people

1	Education, training and life-long learning	12	Social protection
2	Gender equality	13	Unemployment benefits
3	Equal opportunities	14	Minimum income
4	Active support to employment	15	Old age income and pensions
5	Secure and adaptable employment	16	Health care
7	Information about employment conditions and protection	17	Inclusion of people with disabilities
9	Work-life balance	18	Long-term cares
10	Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection	19	Housing and assistance for the homeless
		20	Access to essential services

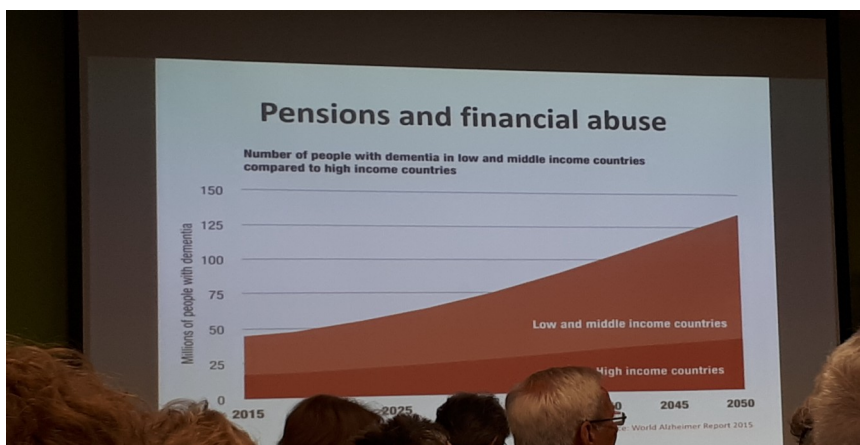
Digital Single Market (DSM)

The Digital Single Market denotes the strategy of the European Commission to ensure access to online activities for individuals and businesses under conditions of fair competition, consumer and data protection, removing geo-blocking and copyright issues

UN Open Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWSGA)

The Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing was established by the General Assembly on 21 December 2010 in the objective of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons. In particular, the working group will consider the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identify possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures.

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EUROMEETING 2019 - From April, 28th to May 05th

VIENNA - ÁUSTRIA

In 2019 we will celebrate the 25th Eurmeeting. It is a special event that should be celebrated in a dignified manner in relation to the past Euromeetings.

Euromeeting are traditionally celebrated in one of those three countries: Spain, Portugal or Italy. According to a survey conducted among the participants in Seville, it was decided that the next meeting would be held in Vienna, Austria.

Vienna hosts the headquarters of several international organizations, such as the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The Vienna International Center (UNRISD) houses one of the four headquarters of the United Nations (UN). The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also has its headquarters in the city, in the same building complex as the Vienna International Center (very close to the hotel where we will stay).

It was for centuries the imperial capital of the Habsburg House and the capital of the Holy Roman-Germanic Empire, it also served as the capital of the Austrian Empire, as well as having been one of the two main cities of Austria-Hungary, as a cultural and political center of Europe. Its architecture reflects all this imperial and historical "glamour".

The historical center of Vienna, which is characterized as the place of reign of the Habsburgs, as well as the Schönbrunn Palace, are recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Saint Stephen's Cathedral, next to Riesenrad and other attractions are the tallest buildings in the city.

It is unanimously considered the world music capital.

It is this beautiful city and the whole surrounding region that we will know from April 28 to May 05, 2019

We are preparing an extensive tourist program to get to know the city and its forests and imperial palaces. We have planned a visit to the wonderful Schönbrunn Palace and its gardens. We will discover the city center on foot, with local guides, but there will also be free time to discover it at your own pace or to enjoy a tea, coffee or hot chocolate on one of the many terraces.

The surroundings of the city, with its vineyards, in particular the wine region of the Wachau Valley, with the splendid Melk Abbey (and its beautiful library) which we will visit and have the opportunity to take a short cruise on the romantic Danube river, where lunch will be served at the same time that we enjoy its dazzling shores.

In Bratislava (capital of Slovakia) the Danube is rediscovered and we will also visit it and discover it with a local guide.

We will be waiting for you, in the charm of VIENNA.



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Just missing your registration...

Cândido Trabuco Vintém (President), **Michel Pageault** and **Francisco Ramírez Munuera** (Vicepresidents)

MOMENTS TO REMEMBER - SEVILLE



We look forward to seeing you in VIENNA!