

Call for the re-establishment of the European Parliament

# Intergroup on Ageing and Solidarity between Generations

Moving forward to address Demographic Change in Europe

The European Parliament's **Intergroup on Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity** has been operating successfully since 1982. It has been a key factor of progress in the past decades to improve the quality of life of hundreds of million EU citizens.

However, Europe is ageing fast and much has still to be done to find innovative ways to ensure a fairer and more sustainable future for all generations and to tackle the ongoing economic and social crisis.

As President elect Juncker recognised in his political guidelines for the next European Commission, after spending several years concentrating on crisis management, Europe is indeed often finding itself ill-prepared for the global challenges ahead, including the ageing of the population.

## A forum to address the challenges of demographic change in Europe

The Intergroup on Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity is an effective platform to:

- provide a cross-party forum for in-depth discussion and concerted action on the challenges posed by demographic ageing and what can be done at EU level
- provide an agenda of informative and relevant events that can help MEPs prepare the work they carry out across a wide range of committees
- help bring the EU closer to its citizens by proposing measures to address their concerns and meet their expectations of an EU that helps them cope with demographic change in a positive way

## Indicative Work Programme

Over the coming months, MEPs will be working on a number of important dossiers that can make a real difference to the lives of EU citizens by helping Europe address its demographic shift. Such dossiers include:

- Monitoring the **EC Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change**

Intergroup members will have the possibility to discuss how such Agenda can address issues linked to e.g. equal employment, poverty in old age, life-long learning, the situation of informal carers.

- Making the best out of the **European Semester** process

Intergroup members should monitor closely President Juncker's commitment to implement social assessments of the reform programmes to ensure the Country Specific Recommendations support greater sustainability and fairness of Europe's social protection systems.

- Pushing for the adoption of the **draft Directive on equal treatment** in access to goods and services tabled since 2008

The objective of this draft Directive is to notably ban discrimination on the ground of age in Europe. President elect Juncker committed to push Member States to move forward on this dossier. Intergroup members will have to keep a close eye on this, notably by liaising with the to be appointed European Commissioner in charge of the application of the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights.

- Pushing for a strong **Directive on the accessibility of public sector websites**

The European Parliament adopted its position on the draft Directive in February 2014. Intergroup members can coordinate their efforts to ensure that the Council adopts a position as strong as the EP's one on the text to secure equal access to online public information and services in Europe.

- Monitoring the upcoming release of the **European Accessibility Act**

The European Commission promised 4 years ago to release a European Accessibility Act, which would secure equal access to all goods and services in Europe, regardless of age and disability. Intergroup members will have a key role to look at the relevance of the EC proposal and make sure it addresses the challenges faced by EU citizens as they age.

- Preparing the next steps of the **Digital Agenda for Europe**

The Digital Agenda for Europe is the first of seven flagships initiatives under the Europe 2020 Strategy. Intergroup members can discuss which priorities have to be stressed to support the large scale deployment of eHealth and tele-assistance solutions as well as to reduce the digital divide in Europe.

## **Next steps**

We invite all interested MEPs to contact Ophelie Durand, AGE EP Liaison Officer, to indicate their interest in joining the Intergroup, and to support its re-establishment during the vote on Intergroups, which is to take place in the autumn in their respective political groups.

## **Contact**

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