



Older people's organisations welcome the human rights' shift taken by EU Council in recent conclusions

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On 9 October, the Council of the European Union adopted the Conclusions on "Human Rights, Participation and Well-Being of Older Persons in the Era of Digitalisation".

AGE Platform Europe and BAGSO, the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations applaud the prompt adoption of these Conclusions and the political leadership proven by Member States in renewing their approach to ageing policies. The two organisations, which have been consulted during the drafting process, particularly welcome the Council's invitations to:

- **focus on the impact on human rights** when shaping national exit strategies from the COVID-19 pandemic and the upcoming EU Green Paper on Ageing;
- **mainstream ageing** to consider the impact of policies on today's generation as well as anticipate consequences on the next generations of older people;
- **involve older people** in decision-making processes affecting their lives;
- **strengthen intergenerational bonds** to challenge stereotypes and prejudices against both younger and older people and promoting age equality.

"The strong human rights anchor of the Conclusions is a decisive shift in the way decision-makers address ageing in Europe. It recalls the principle that Europeans of all ages should be treated on equal footing. Dedicating a chapter of the upcoming EU Green Paper on Ageing to the rights of older persons is a first concrete step to translate our fundamental rights into reality" commented Maciej Kucharczyk, Secretary General of AGE.

"These conclusions recognise the unique experience of ageing in today's changing world. Digitalisation, climate change, health crises - all impact older people in different ways depending on their place of living, economic situation, health status, abilities, gender, etc. We need a more accurate understanding of this diversity to develop policy responses that protect everyone's wellbeing and dignity" added Heidrun Mollenkopf, member of the BAGSO Executive Board.

The two civil society organisations invite the European Commission and Member States, in accordance with their competences, to build on the Conclusions by:

- Addressing social inequalities from the earliest age to ensure we can all stay healthy and preserve our capacity to participate as we grow older;
- Exploring further the impact of growing old for those many Europeans who already today experience social exclusion and discrimination on other grounds;
- Taking a leading role in advancing the discussions at the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing to protect older people's rights around the globe.

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About AGE

AGE Platform Europe is a European network of organisations of and for older people. We aim to voice and promote the interests of the 200 million older citizens aged 50+ in the European Union and to raise awareness of the issues that concern them most.

www.age-platform.eu

About BAGSO

The German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations is a non-partisan umbrella organisation of civil society institutions in the field of senior citizens' work and ageing policy in Germany. As a representative of the interests of older persons, we consistently call on politics, society and business to offer framework conditions that allow for a good and dignified life in older age. In doing so, we also have the interests of older people of tomorrow and beyond firmly in view.

www.bagso.de/english



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