



Press release on the resolution of the ESU Executive Committee in Leuven, 25 March 2023

ESU calls for immediate action to implement the new European Care Strategy EU-wide!

(Brussels, April 2023) As the European Commission and the European Council have fully agreed on the new European Care Strategy end of 2022 aiming to create a sustainable and fair care system covering the topic of care from birth to old age and answers to the present questions and needs, the European People's Party committed to the objectives for better care in all Member States and the European Seniors' Union (ESU) fosters the decisive decisions, makes clear that the availability of qualified Long Term Care is a social right and calls for immediate implementation throughout the EU.

These policies background bases on demographic change being one of the megatrends of our 21st century, with the possibility of a further increasing life expectancy, making the need for care for older persons increasingly urgent.

Satisfactory quality care can only be developed when European and national levels act collectively and when this care policy is part of a human-centred, age-friendly society where older persons receive the value they deserve and is part of a preventive health policy, geared to the individual, where older people are treated with respect.

ESU understands the following as key factors of the European Care Strategy and will press for soonest possible execution by the responsible institutions and authorities:

- Quality Long Term Care has to be accessible and affordable for all who need it.
- This includes homecare, community-based care and residential care, etc.).
- High-quality standards for long-term care providers have to be ensured.
- Informal carers must be supported through training, counselling, psychological and financial support.
- It is strongly recommended to establish a fair increase of wages and improvement of working conditions in all national care sectors.
- Member States are called to make efforts to develop a sustainable model, close territorial gaps, in particular in rural and depopulating areas and pay attention not only to users' rights, but also to the carers, the families and the professionals. It is also proposed to consider seriously models of a long-term care insurance.
- EU and Member States should support research and product development with Artificial Intelligence to provide more effective technological help in care at home.
- In order to reduce the number of care cases it is necessary to monitor the healing processes by establishing a coordinated system between hospital, rehabilitation, homes, carers and families.
- As the workforce in the formal and informal care sectors is 90% female, particular measures will have to be taken to relieve women and all other caregiver relatives through training, counselling and psychological and financial assistance.
- To ensure human quality for the patient and the nursing caregiver as well as carers in nursing homes, the number of patients per nurse must be reduced so as to guarantee quality care.
- Adequate and sustainable funding must be offered, for instance by drawing on EU Funds.
- The European Commission shall monitor the EU Member States' progress; relevant data leading to a progress report shall be submitted to the Council within 5 years.

The original text of the [ESU resolution](#) offers further details on the necessary future steps developing the European Care Strategy to become a historic success.