



President-elect of the European Commission
Dr. Ursula von der Leyen
European Commission
1049 Brussels

Re: Call to launch an EU Strategy on demographic change and solidarity between generations and to nominate a Commissioner to coordinate EU action on demographic change across DGs

Brussels, 31 July 2019

Dear President-elect,

On behalf of the 40 million senior citizens represented by AGE Platform Europe's members, we congratulate you for your election as the next President of the European Commission, the first woman ever to hold the top executive position in the European Union.

When addressing the European Parliament on 16 July, you underlined that '*we are experiencing demographic change*' and referred to some related challenges, such as pensioners with no choice but relying on online banking or older workers forced to retire due to the lack of retraining opportunities to match the changing skills needs. We warmly welcomed your call for the full implementation of the directive on work-life balance for parents and carers, and the commitment to adopt a European Gender Strategy based on a life-cycle perspective.

To complement and support these key political commitments we strongly recommend that you propose **an EU strategy on demographic change and solidarity between generations with a dedicated Commissioner's portfolio** to coordinate all EU related actions with an aim of ensuring equality, social justice and prosperity for younger and older generations.

All age groups share common concerns: protecting everyone's fundamental rights as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental rights, fighting against precariousness, poverty and unemployment, ensuring an adequate income to live in dignity from early childhood to end of life, guaranteeing access to education for every child and life-long learning opportunities to everyone regardless of age, introducing fair taxation, and ensuring a sustainable ecological transition for future generations.





At their annual General Assembly last June, AGE members adopted [a Declaration](#), calling for a new intergenerational contract to support social justice for all generations. We believe that demographic change is a major challenge which can become a huge opportunity for Europe if the EU takes the leadership and helps member states tackle this major challenge in a coordinated and forward-looking way based on the commitment they took to achieve sustainable development and prosperity for all by 2030.

As the EU's largest network of organisations of and for older people, AGE and our members are promoting a vision of an inclusive society for all ages, based on solidarity and cooperation between generations, where everyone is empowered to participate and enjoy life in full respect of their rights while fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.

We are convinced that an EU Strategy on demographic change and solidarity between generations with a dedicated Commissioner responsible for coordinating EU action across DGs would greatly increase the positive impact of the EU on the daily life of everyone living in the EU.

For that reason, we would be very happy to help you build such collective and forward-looking project for the EU and we look forward to hearing from you.

We thank you for your understanding and support and remain

Yours sincerely,



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