

Support an intergroup on Demographic change and Solidarity between Generations!

WHAT IS AN INTERGROUP?

An intergroup is a unique feature of the European Parliament: MEPs from different political groups **gather around a common concern with the aim to create political awareness and make proposals** on what they consider key topics for the work of the European Parliament.

The group holds regular meetings to build a shared understanding and eventually create common initiatives. An intergroup is also a way to show that **the European Parliament is supporting constructive exchanges** between political groups and promote exchanges with civil society.

HOW TO CREATE ONE?

Only a limited number of intergroups can be established per term. For the 2014–2019 term, there were 28 approved at the Conference of Presidents in December 2014.

To be created, an intergroup needs the support from three political groups, knowing that political groups have only a certain quota of intergroups that they can support, depending on the number of MEPs of that group. The internal rules setting out the conditions for establishment and operation of intergroups might be reviewed at the beginning of the new term.

WHY DO WE NEED AN INTERGROUP ON DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATIONS?



Europe is ageing fast: today, one in five persons in the EU28 is above the age of 65, this proportion will account for **29% by 2080**.

The older population itself is ageing, with the very old growing at a faster pace than any other age segment. The share of people aged 80+ will more than double to reach **12% of the population by 2080**.

GIVE YOUR SIGNATURE TO THE INTERGROUP!



Demographic change, along with climate change and urbanisation, is among the biggest challenges of our century. An increased longevity may translate into different realities in Europe, depending whether you live in a rural or urban area, how social protection is structured and whether policies are in place to support informal carers and family members.

Yet in all EU countries, we need to rethink the way we **participate in society**, we **contribute to our welfare systems** and we **provide services**. It is necessary to shift towards policies that adequately meet the needs of a growing older population, without compromising those of the younger generations and those yet to come.

An intergroup on Demographic Change and Solidarity between Generations is critical to prepare and steer the work of the European Parliament towards effective solutions.

WHAT WILL BE THE ROLE OF THE INTERGROUP 2019-2024?

The intergroup can be a key driver of change towards a more inclusive EU by:

- 1. Ensuring that the adoption of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Sustainable Development Agenda are taken up** with a coherent strategy for all age groups incl. older persons;
- 2. Making the European Union a champion of the promotion and protection of human rights in older age** both internally and on the international scene;
- 3. Contributing to shaping a multiannual European budget that adopts an age-inclusive perspective** and permits the realisation of active and healthy ageing;
- 4. A life-long vision in all legislative proposals** on social protection, employment conditions, education, civil and social participation, health and care;
- 5. The active promotion of exchanges between generations** as a means to reduce ageism and value European citizens of all ages;
- 6. Mainstreaming the concepts of accessibility and of environments for all ages** into European Union's policies.

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WHAT ARE THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INTERGROUP?

Created in 1982, it is one of the oldest intergroups.

Over the last seven terms, it has achieved major milestones that shaped how the European Union is supporting older citizens and exchange between generations. The intergroup played a significant role as in the adoption of the Equal Treatment in Employment Directive in 2000, the proposal for a Horizontal Non-Discrimination Directive in 2008, and the recognition and celebration of various European Years, the latest one being the European Year on Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations in 2012.

In the past term, the Intergroup has held a series of events and drafted common amendments on key legislative and non-legislative files:

- The Intergroup, with the support of AGE Platform Europe and the European Youth Forum, marked the European Day of Solidarity between Generations every year on 29 April, as well as the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October;
- With social partners, it held a timely debate after the adoption of a Social Partners' Framework Agreement on Active Ageing and an Intergenerational Approach and the proposal of the European Pillar of Social Rights;
- It featured exchanges with top-end researchers about innovations and findings in relation to the digitalisation of health and long-term care; the co-creation of public services with older citizens; the role of assistive technologies; intergenerational labour markets; digital gaps; the promotion of healthy lifestyles; an inclusive Silver Economy;
- It influenced how the European Union promotes the rights of older persons at international level, stressing the importance of a European voice in support of older persons in the Sustainable Development Goals, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing;
- It helped preparing important legislative files:
 - The revision of the Directive on Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision and the Pan-European Personal Pensions Product as means to allow for safe and secure retirement savings;
 - The adoption of the European Accessibility Act, enabling older persons with disabilities to continue accessing crucial goods and services;
 - The directive on work-life balance that allows workers to take time off to look after their relatives in need of care;
 - The European Pillar of Social Rights, which includes important principles for older persons, such as a right to life-long learning, to long-term care, to health and old-age income;
 - The change of nature in the European Semester to take the needs of older citizens better into account in pensions, health and long-term care.

For a full list of intergroup activities, visit:
<http://bit.ly/Ageing-Intergroup-2014-2019>