

Amendments to R6: the Care of Older Persons

Nº	Lines	Tabled by	Original text	Proposed amendment	Explanation / comment	CAS decision	AMC assessment
1	AM-1-1	Oikologoi Prasinoi / Ecologist Greens			to whom a 4-6 weeks' education/training [of caregivers] can be considered to be given which will certify them to provide geriatric care		AM clarified - new language after "supervision of informal caregivers" in line 104
2	AM-1-2	Oikologoi Prasinoi / Ecologist Greens			Special dedicated specialized care for elderly with neurodegenerative conditions (dementia)		AM clarified - add a new bullet point after line 107
3	AM-1-8	GroenLinks			51-58: The PGB is meant to allow people to have a choice over the kind of care they receive. It is not an example of the 'ultimate neoliberal policy. We suggest to delete this intro and maintain lines 56-58.		Discuss
4	AM-1-9	GroenLinks			103-105 - it is unclear whether this is meant to say to make coaching obligatory, informal care givers already have to cope with a lot of (time, emotional) pressure, and iwe would propose that this coaching and supervision is on a voluntary basis.		Request clarification on AM tabled
5	AM-12-1	Esquerra Verda	persons who live independently in their own homes have received little or no assistance during the crisis.	Insert from line 11 to 12: persons who live independently in their own homes have received little or no assistance during the crisis. Furthermore, many elderly live in homes which do not meet the minimum requirements that would allow them to lead an independent life.	Enrich the plurality of situations		Accept
6	AM-12-2	Esquerra Verda	persons who live independently in their own homes have received little or no assistance during the crisis.	Insert from line 11 to 12: persons who live independently in their own homes have received little or no assistance during the crisis. Moreover, as has been evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, the elderly are more vulnerable to certain current threats, like pollution and the temperature increase caused by climate change. It has also been clearly shown that men and women have different needs when they grow old. Chronic pain, for example, is more common amongst the female population. A gender perspective is therefore necessary when designing plans to take care of the elderly.	Enrich the covid impact and include gender perspective		Accept (spelling correction and re-phrasing needed)

7	AM-13-1	Vihreät - De Gröna	How could this happen? Why weren't the rights of older people respected? How can we ensure that their care is maintained to higher standards? Now is the time for the UN convention on the (human) rights of older people to take shape!	Delete from line 13 to 15: How could this happen? Why weren't the rights of older people respected? How can we ensure that their care is maintained to higher standards? Now is the time for the UN convention on the (human) rights of older people to take shape!	The resolution is already rather long, and the rhetorical questions do not bring added value to the important message. They take space from it. Also, the demand on a new UN convention is included later on in the text and does not have to be repeated here.		Accept (UN Convention already covered in line 90-91)
8	AM-33-1	Esquerria Verda	caregivers, let alone their support, coaching or supervision.	Insert after line 33: The increase of life expectancy has led to people living to more advanced ages, and therefore we need care for longer than before. When it is the offspring who take care of the elderly, both will be affected by aging, and that will affect the health of both parents and children.	Additional point (complementary to the others)		Accept (maybe shorten)
9	AM-35-1	Esquerria Verda	In the past, older people also used to take up the role of informal caregivers for their grandchildren. However, due to a higher legal retirement age in many European countries now, it is no longer possible for many older people to take up this role.	From line 34 to 37: In the past, older people also used to take up the role of informal caregivers for their grandchildren. However, due to a higher legal retirement age in many European countries now, it is no longer possible for many older people to take up this role. However, this often leads to stressful situations which affect the health of the elderly	To adapt the text to elderly perspective and needs.		Discuss
10	AM-50-1	Vihreät - De Gröna	permanently high work pressure resulting from the residents' needs.	Insert after line 50: Develop the use of robotics and digitalisation as a complement in caregiving to relieve caregivers and give them more time for emotional attention and conversations, which older people need just as much as pills or exercise offers. In general, we have a nursing shortage in Europe. The robotisation can make the technology more user-friendly. It's a force multiplier for care staff. It's not to replace people, but it's to augment how people care for people.	Amendment prepared by the ENGS. Their motivation: In a few years, robotic assistants might routinely feature in older people's homes, helping them to care for themselves, providing emotional support, and allowing remote access for doctors and nurses. In retirement homes, they could entertain residents or help with cleaning. And in hospitals, they are already taking over some basic tasks, freeing up nurses to focus on patient care. The need for automated support is growing as the global population ages. There are more than 1 billion people over the age of 60, according to WHO estimates, rising to 1.4 billion by 2030 – that's one in six people, requiring another 6 million nurses. In Japan, where nearly one-third of the population is over 65, the government has been providing subsidies for care facilities to purchase robots since 2015. These range from exoskeletons that support staff in lifting patients, for example, to a robotic baby seal that helps to soothe people with dementia. More about Robotics technology in care: Robots rise to meet the challenge of caring for old people Nature 601, S8-S10 (2022)		Discuss
11	AM-52-1	Vihreät - De Gröna	Those people who are considered as not being sufficiently in need of care have to rely on their immediate environment. In some countries, like The Netherlands, people receive a 'care budget' and have 'to shop around' to see what is on offer	Delete from line 51 to 53: Those people who are considered as not being sufficiently in need of care have to rely on their immediate environment. In some countries, like The Netherlands , people receive a 'care budget' and have 'to shop around' to see what is on offer	Amendment originally prepared by the ENGS. Their explanation: The situation is similar in several other countries, too. No need to pinpoint the Netherlands.		Discuss

12	AM-52-2	Esquerra Verda	Those people who are considered as not being sufficiently in need of care have to rely on their immediate environment. In some countries, like The Netherlands, people receive a 'care budget' and have 'to shop around' to see what is on offer	Insert from line 51 to 53: Those people who are considered as not being sufficiently in need of care have to rely on their immediate environment. Sometimes, because private services are costly, irregular recruitment takes place in care services, creating bad working conditions for care takers, who are typically women who have come from poorer countries to find themselves taking jobs without the basic labour rights In some countries, like The Netherlands, people receive a 'care budget' and have 'to shop around' to see what is on offer	Expand on careworkers concerns		Accept
13	AM-54-1	Vihreät - De Gröna	people receive a 'care budget' and have 'to shop around' to see what is on offer and how best to pay for their most urgent needs. This financing method is the ultimate example of a neoliberal policy that leaves (the organisation and offer of) care to the market. A Care budget should lead to more freedom of choice for older People and should not be used by the governments to reduce the budget for the Care for older People.	From line 53 to 58: people receive a 'care budget' and have 'to shop around' to see what is on offer and how best to pay for their most urgent needs. This financing method is the ultimate example of a neoliberal policy that leaves (the organisation and offer of) care to the market. A Care budget should lead to more freedom of choice for older People and should not be used by the governments to reduce the budget for the Care for older People. Private nursing homes mainly save on the number of employees and the quality of care is not adequately controlled. During the pandemic, controls were often suspended altogether. This financing method is the ultimate example of a neoliberal policy that leaves (the organisation and offer of) care to the market. A Care budget should lead to more freedom of choice for older People and should not be used by the governments to reduce the budget for the Care for older People.	Amendment prepared by ENGS. Their explanation: Article based on an interview with Professor of Business Economics and Taxation Jason Ward, who has conducted research all over the world into the privatization of the healthcare sector, explains why, in his opinion, privatization is the very last thing countries shall do. The Wall Street Journal investigated the Covid-19 death rates in 24 countries. This showed that a third of all deaths occurred in residential care centres. In Belgium, where four out of ten residential care centres are operated commercially, the figure is even higher than 50 percent. Covid-19 death rates in private, commercial for-profit nursing homes in Canada were four times higher than those in public nursing homes. In August 2020 in Australia, the military had to intervene in residential care centres in the state of Victoria, where more than 99 percent of deaths occurred in privately managed facilities. "I wouldn't want my mother to stay here," the region's prime minister said. "Privatization of the healthcare sector will reduce quality" Apache https://www.apache.be/2021/10/05/privatisering-van-zorgsector-zal-kwaliteit-doen-dalen	Discuss (together with AM3 and AM11)	
14	AM-68-1	Vihreät - De Gröna	with the results of this policy in undercover documentaries about the harrowing goings-on in care homes across Europe. In the meantime, major players like Orpea keep channeling their funds to the mother company, while creating the impression	Delete from line 67 to 69: with the results of this policy in undercover documentaries about the harrowing goings-on in care homes across Europe. In the meantime, major players like Orpea keep channeling their funds to the mother company, while creating the impression	Amendment originally prepared by the ENGS. Their explanation: Orpea might not be the only, or worst one – probably examples could be found from most member countries.	Discuss	
15	AM-83-1	Vihreät - De Gröna	right to a dignified existence	Insert after line 83: We Greens want to promote the self-determination of seniors and people in need of care.	Amendment prepared by ENGS.	Accept	

16	AM-89-1	Vihreät - De Gröna	caters for their needs, is of high quality and is aligned to how they themselves would like to grow old.	<p>Insert from line 88 to 89:</p> <p>caters for their needs, is of high quality and is aligned to how they themselves would like to grow old. The care should be on neighbourhood-oriented in-home care services that rely on the cooperation of neighbours and relatives. We should create small units, shared nursing homes and serviced housing complexes rather than large anonymous nursing homes. However, the main focus is to reach a situation where the elderly can be as independent as possible. It is necessary that the elderly remain in control of their own situation, and of the care that is given to them, for as long as possible. We want the homes to be transformed into small facilities or residential complexes for all generations, with an inclusive range of care for the residents who depend on it. In this way, special facilities become places where everyone can meet and live. Municipalities play a key role in providing people with a healthy environment worth living in. They are responsible for central areas of services of general interest and must be more closely involved in the planning, control, and design of care in the future. The care should be culturally sensitive and multilingual, as migrants often revert to the world of their mother tongue as they age. It should also take into account the living environment of queer older people, who have mostly lived a life of secrecy and now need a space where they can be met without prejudice.</p>	<p>Amendments prepared by ENGS. Their explanations: The outbreak of the Coronavirus during the first months of 2020 completely reshaped urban lives because of the need to limit the spread of the disease and ensure essential services to the most vulnerable city users, such as elderly people. The urban population in Europe is ageing at unprecedented rate; at the same time, ageing is associated with increased vulnerability and dependence on medical care services. Age-friendly approaches are consequently necessary in urban planning strategies to ensure equal accessibility to essential services, not least in view of coronavirus pandemic. Quality of life in the urban environment and primary health services for the elderly during the Covid-19 pandemic: An application to the city of Milan (Italy) https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S026427512031386X</p> <p>Our societies are becoming increasingly diverse. Refugees and economic migrants bring many diverse cultures to our countries. The first and subsequent generations go through integration processes and are familiar with our various European cultures and their institutions. The first aging generations of these multicultural groups increasingly populate our elderly care institutions. As they grow older, they return to their mother tongue (for instance in dementia) and cultural customs. Nursing homes must take this diversity into account, without granting them a separate status. There is also a great deal of diversity in terms of gender today. Older generations have not known this. There is a need for sufficient gender openness and respect for these problems in rest and care homes.</p>		Accept (AMC Proposal to shorten)
17	AM-96-1	Esquerra Verda	right of dignified care for older citizens is included as well as the right to live independently as long as possible;	<p>Insert from line 95 to 96:</p> <p>right of dignified care for older citizens is included as well as the right to live independently as long as possible;... It should also include the right to active aging to ensure quality of life to a more advanced age, so that old people can have access to housing adapted to their needs in an environment that will facilitate daily life and that will avoid situations of undesired solitude. All measures aiming at ensuring the rights of older people should take into account gender-based differences as well as the consequences of climate change of which the elderly should be protected.</p>	Include additional points to the proposed UN Convention		Accept (AMC Proposal to shorten- language on climate and gender already present in AM6)

18		Bündnis 90/Die Grünen	health services and long-term care services adapted to individual needs and wishes and without discrimination of any kind; Forbid private companies from receiving public funds to organise the care of older people only to become a listed company on the stock market;	Insert from line 101 to 102: health services and long-term care services adapted to individual needs and wishes and without discrimination of any kind, an intersectional perspective shall guide these needs assessments, taking the needs of women, LGBTQ*, disabled persons, and BPoCs into account and preventing discrimination of any kind; From line 108 to 109: Forbid private companies from receiving public funds to organise the care of older people only to become a listed company on the stock market; Ensure that private companies receiving public funds can only use these funds to improve the quality of care, the safety of patients and the working conditions of the caregivers and not to grow profits on the stock market.			To be split in two AMs. Accept 1st Part. Discuss second part
19	AM-105-1	Vihreät - De Gröna	formalisation of the role and status of informal caregivers;	Insert after line 105: The quality and education of home carers and nursing personnel must rise in general;	Amendment prepared originally by the ENGS.		Accept
20	AM-105-2	Vihreät - De Gröna	formalisation of the role and status of informal caregivers;	Insert after line 105: Design a European strategy whereby public authorities make the transition to a better modulated intersectional integration of housing concepts for older people in the urban environment and public space. This should also be climate proof.	Amendment originally prepared by the ENGS.		Accept
21	AM-106-1	Vihreät - De Gröna	Ensure the granting of care credits for both men and women, so that they can assume care tasks on an equal basis;	From line 106 to 107: Ensure the granting of care credits for both men and women people of all genders , so that they can assume care tasks on an equal basis;	No reason to have gender binary here.		Accept
22	AM-106-2	Esquerra Verda	Ensure the granting of care credits for both men and women, so that they can assume care tasks on an equal basis;	From line 106 to 107: Ensure , Caretakers should not only have access to training and supervision, but also to professional and emotional support to help them deal with the granting of stress derived from the intense care credits for both men and women, situations in which they may find themselves. Preventing irregular recruitment of caretakers is also a priority , so that they can assume care tasks on an equal basis;	reframe it more structurally		Accept (proposal to discuss/merge this with AM19)
23	AM-107-1	Europe Ecologie - Les Verts	can assume care tasks on an equal basis;	Insert after line 107: Ensure that the relevant public authorities exercise proper oversight of care facilities, whether public or private, through periodic audits. When irregularities are detected, competent authorities should take swift and effective action to address them, including by sanctioning the individuals and companies involved;	Regular audits can contribute to prevent abuse in care facilities by verifying compliance with legal standards. Sanctions against both natural and legal persons can be an effective means to deter misconduct.		Accept

24	AM-112-1	Esquerria Verda	companies in the field of residential care homes operate.	Insert after line 112: the pension systems and the organization of the work market should not penalize future pensions of those who have been forced to leave their jobs to become informal caretakers	Add a bullet point regarding an extended concern		Accept
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