

## Draft EGP Resolution

### **1 On Strengthening the Pillar of Social Rights: an age perspective**

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3 To measure the state of a nation, the criterion that is used is life expectancy, as it is based on a characteristic  
4 that is easy to define: death.

5 Up until now, life expectancy has increased, generation after generation. This is good news, as long as the  
6 seniors can enjoy their old age in decent conditions and can fully participate in our society. Things have  
7 begun to change in many countries and better indicators now are Healthy Life Expectancy. Why not consider  
8 having happy ageing indicators?

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10 The problem is not that people age, but how they age. This is not just determined by biology. It is determined  
11 by healthy or unhealthy lifestyles, wealth or poverty, and lack of dignity or respect for senior rights. The  
12 challenges are steep indeed. The working age population is falling throughout Europe, while the number of  
13 people aged over 60 is now increasing twice as fast as it did before, and unemployment remains around 10 %  
14 (not counting undesired part-time labour, which adds to this unemployment figure). All of this happens at a  
15 time when considerable demand for social services remains unserved and it is to be expected that the current  
16 drive for government-spending austerity will not improve the situation.

17 Meeting those challenges will require creativity from us all, and an open mind of both decision makers and  
18 citizens to new avenues in terms of life-long education, conditions governing the transition from working age  
19 to retirement, the funding of pension systems, but also on solutions that enable our senior citizens to live  
20 longer at home, in their communities of choice.

21 More than ever, we, Greens, find it necessary to strengthen the Pillar of Social Rights.

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23 Therefore, the European Green Party demands:

#### 24 25 Chapter 1: Ageing population and employment

- 26 • To create a specific employment target for older workers, as was the case in the Lisbon strategy and  
27 has not been reached;
- 28 • To develop guidelines for job search services that take into account the needs of older workers;
- 29 • To fight stereotypes and discrimination by more adequately implementing the Employment equality  
30 directive, and by strengthening the promotion of diversity in the workforce;
- 31 • To adopt the Horizontal Directive on the principle of equal treatment and make funding available to  
32 communicate the value of the directive, especially in fighting ageism, to further support the  
33 paradigm shift towards valuing all ages;
- 34 • To protect older workers in restructuring cases by intensifying training and placement assistance for  
35 those being made redundant, regardless of age;

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- 36 • To adapt the workplace to workers of all ages by strengthening the preventive approach in  
37 occupational health and safety rules and by including all risks, including psycho-social and emerging  
38 risk in occupational health and safety regulations; strengthen the EU-OSHA campaign on healthy  
39 workplaces for all ages and exchange practices between Member States on how to support the  
40 adaptation of workplaces to Europe's ageing workforce;
- 41 • To specifically focus on older workers in the development and promotion of life-long learning, such  
42 as in the EU Skills Agenda; harmonise rules and access to skills validation;
- 43 • To bring different employment relationships, such as employment and self-employment, closer  
44 together in the acquiring of social protection rights and make the statutes more compatible;
- 45 • To mandate public employment agencies to intervene in the management of the transition from  
46 work into retirement; allow for flexible retirement pathways where reduced working hours can be  
47 combined with part-time pensions, without losing out on pension rights.
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### 49 Chapter 2: Ageing population and income

- 50 • To pay special attention to safeguarding or restoring the equity function of social security pensions in  
51 pension reforms; strengthen gender equality by recommending to create care credits in pension  
52 schemes, at the same time as developing quality long-term care services and facilitating work-life  
53 balance for carers;
- 54 • To introduce a link between retirement age and the 'healthy life years' indicator. This would create  
55 an additional incentive for Member States to invest in preventive health and health promotion, as  
56 well as strong occupational health and safety rules;
- 57 • To allow workers with disabilities to retire with a disability pension or an equivalent, rather than to  
58 force them to stay in the labour market and to use up unemployment benefits;
- 59 • To table a European Framework Directive on Minimum Income Schemes to create benchmarks based  
60 on reference budgets and median equivalised income and which address the challenge of non-take  
61 up of minimum income; take into account recommendations in setting an old-age minimum income.
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### 63 Chapter 3: Ageing population and housing

- 64 • To adopt the European Accessibility Act and the horizontal equal treatment directive;
- 65 • To make housing adaptable to the needs of persons when they acquire disabilities; housing  
66 adaptations should be possible at an accessible price to ensure older people can stay at home for as  
67 long as they wish.