



Long-term Care for Older Persons

Conference organised by the Luxembourg Presidency with the Social Protection Committee of the European Union

Luxembourg, 12 and 13 May 2005

Venue: LUXEXPO, Circuit de la Foire Internationale, L-2088 Luxembourg

Thursday, 12 May 9:00 Arrival of participants and registration

Thursday, 12 May 10:00 Conference opens

Friday, 13 May 16:00 Conference closes

The Luxembourg Presidency of the European Union is organising this conference, assisted by the European Commission. It follows a meeting of the Social Protection Committee on May 11.

Participation in the conference is by personal invitation only. The participants will include:

- Representatives of the Governments of the member states of the EU,
- Members of the Social Protection Committee,
- Representatives of European institutions,
- Representatives and professionals of organisations working in the health care and social care fields,
- Researchers in the field of long-term care.

Purpose of the conference

The conference is being organised in the context of work done during recent years at the European level to modernise the European Social Model and to develop European social policies based on the principles of social justice, social cohesion and equity.

During the next twenty years or so European society must deal with the challenges engendered by an ageing European population. Social protection in particular will need to modernise and adapt to the new demographic, economic and social conditions brought about by the ageing of the population in Europe

This is the context for the conference to be held on 12 and 13 May, which aims at a comprehensive and contemporary assessment of long-term care for older persons within the European Union.

The conference will describe and discuss the approaches taken by member states to guarantee appropriate access to long-term care services. The organisers hope that the various sessions of the conference will help to start a common exchange of views and analysis within the open method of coordination.

A scientific report written by a group of researchers will be the background document for discussion during the conference.

Topics

The central topic of the conference will be analysed from four different points of view. All four approaches will try to identify, within the different national contexts, common lines of reflection leading to a common social policy in this field. The four approaches are:

- Older persons' needs for long-term care;
- Responsibility for long-term care;
- Protection with respect to long-term care;
- Social justice and long-term care.

Each topic will be analysed and discussed in one of four sessions at the conference. Authors of the scientific report will introduce the topic of the first three sessions. Several discussants will analyse the topic together with the presentation within the scientific report from different points of view, after which the conference participants will be invited to join the discussion.

Thursday, 12 May 2005

9:00 Registration of participants

10:00 Introduction

Mr. Mars di Bartolomeo, Minister of Health and Social Security,
Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Mr. Vladimír Špidla, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and
Equal Opportunities

10:45 Session 1: The needs of older persons for long-term care

The first session will try to identify persons in later life in Europe who are in need of long-term care.

The concept of need for long-term care has different meanings at the European level and within the national context of member states. The first session will attempt to take stock of these different interpretations at the European and member state level.

In addition the session will present data on persons in need of long-term care from different studies and assessment procedures. Finally we will examine possible scenarios and perspectives concerning the future evolution of long-term care needs.

Chairperson: Mr. Tom Mulherin, President of the Social Protection Committee, Ireland

Report: Ms. Marie-Eve Joël, Université de Paris Dauphine, France

Discussants: Dr. Josée André, Medical doctor, Luxembourg

Mr. Manfred Huber, OECD Paris, France

Ms. Sabine Henry, Alzheimer Europe

Ms. Luigina De Santis, FERPA

13:00 Lunch

15:00 Session 2: Responsibility for long-term care

The second session will address the diverse responsibilities of the family and the state in the field of long-term care.

Only in a few countries in Europe long-term care is the sole responsibility of the State or of the family. In most countries there is a kind of dual responsibility with either a stronger role for the State or for the family. Over the last decades the role of the family has been discussed extensively.

Both the definition and the role of the family have changed significantly in Europe. Nevertheless the family is still, in practical terms, the first social group within which long-term care is provided, either without any external help or together with health care and long-term care professionals. Therefore one of the important questions today is how to help the persons – usually women – who provide long-term care to some members of their family under conditions that are sometimes extremely difficult. How are the member states of the European Union responding to these issues?

Who is responsible for providing infrastructure? What policies are implemented? Across the European Union, home care is a crucial issue. What is the role of municipalities in providing services? What is the role of non-governmental organisations and of the private sector?

Chairperson: Ms. Agnieszka Chlon-Dominczak, Undersecretary of State, Poland

Introduction: Mr. Klaus Theo Schröder, State Secretary, Germany

Report: Mr. Igor
Tomes, Univerzita Karlova Prague, Cech Republic

Mr. Kees Knipscheer, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands

Discussants: Mr. Audrone Morkuniene, Counsellor of the President, Lithuania

Mr. Jozef Pacolet, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

Ms. Enid Kassner, AARP Washington, USA

Mr. Marten Lagergren, Stockhom Gerontology Research Center,
Sweden

Conclusion: Ms. Nicole Kerschen, Université de Paris X, France

20:00 Dinner, Cercle municipal, Luxembourg

Friday, 13 May 2005

9:30 Session 3: Social protection for long-term care

The third session will describe and assess how social protection of persons in need has evolved through a typology of the systems of social protection and the role played by the persons themselves and their families in financing the protection.

Is social protection for long-term care increasing or decreasing within the European Union? What is the place of private insurance?

What are the advantages of social protection in this area? Social protection aims at fostering the financial independence of older persons and at reducing the burden on families, and particularly on women, of providing long-term care. To what extent has social protection succeeded in doing this?

This session will also deal with issues like the availability of infrastructure, the quality of long-term care services and the linkage of long-term care policies with other policies.

Chairperson: Mr. Marten Lagergren, Stockhom Gerontology Research Center,
Sweden

Report: Mr. Gerhard Igl, Universität Kiel, Germany

Mr. Jozsef Hajdu, University Szeged, Hungary

Discussants: Ms. María Amparo Valcarce García, State Secretary for Social Services,
Families and Disability, Spain

Mr. Georg Fischer, European Commission

Mr. Kai Leichsenring, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and
Research, Austria

Ms. Anne-Sophie Parent, AGE, Belgium

11:30 Lunch

13:00 Session 4: Social justice and long-term care

The topics of the final session were suggested by the reports and discussions of a seminar financed by WHO in 2002 at the University of Chicago, on the topic "*Ethical choices in long-term care: what does justice require?*"¹, as well as by the work of the American philosopher Martha C. Nussbaum on the challenge which long-term care presents to conventional ideas on the social contract.

Last December, Professor Jean-François Malherbe from the University of Sherbrooke (Quebec) led a preparatory seminar in Luxembourg in which beneficiaries of long-term care, professional and non-professional carers, policy analysts and social programme managers participated. Questions of justice and solidarity in the domain of social policies for long-term care were discussed. What are our values? And on which of these do we take practical action? How can we bring our values and practice closer together?

Professor Malherbe will start the final session by presenting the conclusions of the preparatory seminar. He will discuss the values on which the social policies of the member states of the European Union are based. Does a given value have the same meaning in different countries? What is implied by the differences? What is required in order to grant the same rights to every global citizen?

This will be followed by a presentation from Professor Nicholas Barr of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Based on the scientific report, the work of the preparatory seminar and the discussions during the preceding sessions, Professor Barr will present his thoughts on the necessities and possibilities for developing convergent European social protection in the area of long-term care for older people.

During the last part of the session high-ranking officials from the European Commission and from various member states will present their points of view on the reports and discussions of the conference, as well as on the reflections of Professors Malherbe and Barr on how to guarantee access to adequate long-term care to all older persons in Europe.

Chairperson: Mr. Mars Di Bartolomeo, Minister of Health and Social Security,
Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union,
Luxembourg

Mr. Jean-François Malherbe, University of Sherbrooke, Canada

Mr. Nicholas Barr, LSE London, United Kingdom

Mr. Jérôme Vignon, European Commission

¹ WHO, *Ethical choices in long-term care: what does justice require?*, World Health Organization collection on long-term care, WHO, 2002.

Discussion with:

Ms. María Amparo Valcarce García, State Secretary for Social Services, Families and Disability, Spain

Ms. Agnieszka Chlon-Dominczak, Undersecretary of State, Poland

Mr. Mars Di Bartolomeo, Minister of Health and Social Security, Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Luxembourg

15:45 Conclusion of the Conference

Mars Di Bartolomeo, Minister of Health and Social Security, Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Luxembourg

16:00 End of the Conference