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**Press Communiqué**

**Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons**

**Strasbourg – Council of Europe**

In her report for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Ms Andrea EDER-GITSCHTHALER, calls for action to overcome age-based discrimination against older persons[[1]](#endnote-1)

Ms Andrea EDER-GITSCHTHALER, Austria, Group of the European People's Party, is the Speaker of the Federal Council in Austria and Vice-President of the European Seniors’ Union . ([ESU - European Seniors' Union - Home](https://esu-epp.eu/))

“It is time to act!” states ESU-vice-president Andrea Eder-Gitschthaler in her strategic report on age-discrimination, adopted on 31 January during the Winter part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. 'It is high time for a a paradigm change’, as the rapporteur calls on the Committee of Ministers to defend the rights of older persons and to give them the opportunity to develop and use their talents.

She calls for a review and implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)2 of the Committee of Ministers itself, to promote the human rights of older persons and to tackle age-based discrimination. Seniors need to be treated as right holders and be guaranteed equality, dignity, autonomy and participation at all stages of life. calling for equality and anti-discrimination laws and policies to address structural discrimination.

Focusing on the increasing use of artificial intelligence in health and social care for older persons, Ms Eder-Gitschthaler feels it can be beneficial to identify risks and enabling older persons to meet their own needs. However, for this to work, implicit and explicit bias and ageism must be eliminated in the design, development, use and evaluation of AI technologies.

In an interview, following the adoption of the Report by the Assembly, Mr Patrick Penninckx, Secretary General of the European Seniors’ Union stated: “We must get away from the stereotypical image of the weak, vulnerable, care-dependent and passive elderly person. Too many seniors feel sidelined, excluded and isolated. We must raise awareness of the positive value of older persons in our society. As a seniors' organization, we will contribute to this.

Policy makers have to ensure the active participation of senior citizens and their involvement when deciding on human rights-based strategies for older persons. The ESU is looking forward to participating in these processes.”

1. D**oc. 16091**: Overcoming age-based discrimination against older persons, Rapporteur: Andrea EDER-GITSCHTHALER, Austria, Group of the European People's Party, session, ESU- vice president. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)