

*20th April 2021***AEIP STATEMENT ON THE GREEN PAPER ON AGEING****Timely initiative but remaining knots to address**

The European Association of Paritarian Institutions - AEIP welcomes the Green Paper on Ageing as it addresses the pressing issue of an increasingly ageing society and provides stakeholders with the opportunity to express their views and offer solutions from their perspectives. Given their role as non-for-profit social protection providers, paritarian institutions are particularly affected by the ageing phenomenon: with that regard, they have been developing solutions to guarantee high level quality services, while safeguarding the long-term sustainability and solidarity of social protection systems in the countries where they operate. Therefore, we highly appreciate the chance to provide input to the consultation, as we consider it an important opportunity to contribute to the realization of the values of the paritarian model in the provision of social protection.

Overall, we welcome the Green Paper on Ageing as it addresses most of the aspects that are linked to the ageing of the EU population, from the challenges it entails to possible solutions thereof. It is **very positive that the Green Paper takes into account the notions of healthy and active ageing, lifelong learning, equal opportunities, inclusion of vulnerable groups and the need for accessible, affordable and quality healthcare and long-term services** for all. Especially with regard to long-term care, we were very happy to see reflected in the paper the need to tackle the challenges related to its provision. The forecasts in this domain are worrying in all European countries, both due to the lack of human resources (workforce) and proper infrastructures. So far, the European Commission did not sufficiently engage in a dialogue with stakeholders in this subject, hence we hope that the Green Paper will be an opportunity to launch a more effective dialogue at the EU level.

We also welcome the life-cycle approach that the European Commission took, as it is of utmost importance that healthy policies are developed by addressing the early stages of individuals' lives.

Finally, as **1st pillar bis and 2nd pillar pension providers are essential stakeholders in the debate**, we were delighted to see that the European Commission fully acknowledges their role for ensuring pension adequacy in the future.

Despite the positive elements mentioned above, given that the Green Paper was the first attempt to launch a debate on the ongoing demographic transformations in Europe, we regret that it **did not address some important aspects that are linked to the ageing phenomenon such as demographic policies or, when it did, like in the case of migration, this was not sufficiently developed.**

In our opinion, the European Commission should adopt a multidimensional approach and **take into consideration a modern population policy framework**. In that sense, the reflection should focus on several interrelated issues such as **birth rates, immigration and ecologically sustainable demographic trends**, all relevant aspects to deliver an inclusive policy response to Europe's demographic and ageing challenges.

AEIP encourages the European Commission to continue this dialogue and ensure the involvement of paritarian institutions in the process. In fact, through their expertise in the field, paritarian institutions of social protection can contribute to the development of new approaches in the provision of adequate benefits for old age such as pension, healthcare, and long-term care. Moreover, as they are established and managed by the social partners, paritarian institutions can help in providing policy responses that meet the expectations and the needs of specific sectors and reflect the current labour market trends. AEIP remains committed to engage with the European Commission and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that the ageing phenomenon will turn into an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the European social model.