



## *26th International Day of Older Persons*

# **Towards a UN Convention on the rights of older persons?**

Date: 28 September 2016, 15.00 - 17.00  
14:30: Meeting point to enter the European Parliament

Venue: European Parliament, Room ASP 5F385

## **Rationale**

The human rights of all individuals in Europe, including older persons, are protected in various binding international and regional human rights conventions. However, international human rights conventions do not specifically address age discrimination or refer to older persons. Regional human rights laws also do not protect older persons' rights systematically or comprehensively.

In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly established an Open-Ended Working Group to identify possible gaps in the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and how best to address them, including exploring the possibility of a new international convention on the rights of older persons.

Political support for a new Convention is growing, although the EU is still formally opposed to this. This event will open an EU dialogue and offer an update on recent developments at the UN Open Ended Working Group and its impact on European Member States and older persons in Europe.

## **Draft agenda**

15.00 – 15.05 Welcome and introduction, **Lambert van Nistelrooij, MEP** from the EPP Group, Coordinator of the *Intergroup's subgroup on Active Ageing*, European Parliament

15.05 – 15.20 Setting the scene: UN discussions around a new Convention on the rights of older persons, **Bridget Sleap**, Senior Rights Advisor, ***HelpAge International***



15.20 – 15.30 UN Convention on the rights of older persons: the view of older persons in Europe, **Anne-Sophie Parent**, Secretary General, **AGE Platform Europe**

15.30 – 15.40 Older persons' human rights in long term care: lessons learnt from monitoring in six European countries, **Lora Vidovic**, Croatian Ombudswoman, Chair of **ENNHRI**

15.40 – 15.50 UN Convention on the rights of older persons: the view of an EU Member State, **Darja Bavdaž Kuret**, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the **Republic of Slovenia**

16.00 – 16.10 UN Convention on the rights of older persons: reactions from the European Commission, **Johan ten Geuzendam**, Advisor - Directorate D. Equality. **DG Justice and Consumers**

16.10 – 16.30 Debate with the audience

16.30 – 16.55 Reaction from MEPs

- **Ivo Vaigl**, MEP from the ALDE Group, Vice-President of the Intergroup on Active Ageing, European Parliament
- **Jean Lambert**, MEP from the Greens, Vice-President of the Intergroup on Active Ageing, European Parliament

16.55 – 17.00 Closing remarks, **Lambert van Nistelrooij**, **MEP** from the EPP Group, Coordinator of the Intergroup's subgroup on Active Ageing, European Parliament

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