



29 April 2008

**AGE calls for the door to remain open on a horizontal initiative  
to combat discrimination outside employment**

***Need to adequately address discrimination outside employment***

AGE calls on the Commission to propose to Member States to make a strong political commitment to eradicate all forms of discrimination. With the ageing of our populations, AGE considers that a strong and coherent body of law - protecting all citizens from discrimination - should be the priority target.

***AGE welcomes the Commission's intention to propose a disability directive***

AGE welcomes the Commission's intention to propose a directive on disability which responds to the 1.3 million signatures gathered through the '1million4disability' campaign. Such a disability directive would constitute an important improvement for older people who would benefit from a more accessible environment, public transport and services.

***Ensuring protection against multiple discrimination***

It is critical that any new proposal for legislation adequately addresses the situations of people experiencing multiple discrimination, in which all people may find themselves, regardless of their age, disability, sex, religion or belief, ethnic origin or sexual orientation.

***AGE calls for the debate to stay open on a horizontal initiative***

AGE strongly recommends that the Commission makes a firm political commitment to continue to consider the levelling up of protection against age discrimination to that of the Race Directive and sends clear recommendations to the future Commission to keep the current debates open. In particular, AGE calls on the Commission to:

- Ensure that the debate will continue on the grounds not yet covered and to put forward new initiatives to achieve equal protection against discrimination for all grounds listed in Article 13 and on multiple-discrimination.
- Commit to setting up:
  - a stakeholder group which would include representatives of the insurance industry and older and younger citizens' groups to discuss age limits in insurance and financial products; and
  - an expert group to reflect on the issue of preferential treatments which both younger and older people enjoy.
- Review the need for further legislation on those grounds not yet properly covered in two years time.

AGE hopes that older people's expectations will be taken on board and that a comprehensive set of initiatives will be proposed by the Commission.

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