Older People: Community support for actions in favor of Older People 1995-1999

1995/0062(CNS) - 21/06/1994

1. Category of referral: 2. Expected date of referral: September 1994 3. Committee responsible: SOCI Asked for an opinion: 4. Previous Community legislation: Provisions on the elderly are, strictly speaking, the responsibility of the Member States. However, a number of measures have been taken: - Regulation (EEC) No. 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community, with the object of preventing them from losing their social security entitlements (under constant review: last consolidated version OJ C 325, 10.12.1992); - Council recommendation of 10 December 1982 (OJ L 357, 18.12. 1982) on the principles of a Community policy with regard to retirement age; - Regulation (EEC) No. 1096/88 on early retirement for farmers; - Commission recommendation of 10 May 1989 (OJ L 144, 27.5.1989) concerning a European over-sixties' card; - Council directive of 28 June 1990 (OJ L 180, 13.7.1990) on the right of residence for employees and self-employed persons who have ceased their occupational activity; - Council Decision 92/440 of 24 June 1992 on the organization of the European Year of the elderly and solidarity between generations (1993) (OJ L 245, 26.8.1992); - Council resolution of 30 June 1993 on flexible retirement arrangements (OJ C 188, 10.7.1993); - Declaration of principle of the Council of the European Union and the Ministers for Social Affairs, meeting within the Council of 6 December 1993 to mark the end of the European year of the elderly and of solidarity between generations (1993) (OJ C 343, 21.12.1993); - Various programmes of action for (or in part concerning) the elderly: programme of action against poverty, HELIOS programme for disabled people, programme for promoting equal opportunities for men and women, TIDE programme for disabled and elderly people, Community actions for the family. 5. Previous position of EP: The European Parliament has always given particular attention to the situation of the elderly in Europe and has adopted many resolutions in this connection. It was the European Parliament which launched the idea of a 'European year of the elderly'. It also wishes to strengthen the role of the elderly at European level, in particular within the institutions. From 22 to 24 November 1993 it accordingly convened a Senior Citizens' Parliament in Luxembourg. In its resolution adopted on 24 February 1994 (OJ C 77, 14.3.1994) on measures for the elderly, it considers in particular elderly people's incomes, measures to promote independence, the elderly and the labour market, and integration and participation in society. 6. Situation in the Member States: Legislation concerning the elderly is essentially the responsibility of the Member States. For further information on the situation in the Member States, see point 9(c) below. 7. Content of the planned legislation: 1994 has been designated 'International year of the family' and particular attention will be given to the situation of the elderly in the family environment. In addition, 1994 is an intermediate year, falling between the first programme of action for the elderly (1991-1993) and the second programme scheduled for 1995. On 6 May the Commission announced that it would not table its draft before September. However, the main themes of the new programme of action for 1995 are as follows: the elderly and the labour market, health care for the elderly, active retirement and healthy ageing. The Commission takes the view that further developments may occur throughout 1994. 8. Legal basis envisaged by the Commission: 9. Documentation and sources: (a) Fact sheets on the activities of the European Parliament and the European Union (No. 4.4.11.) (Directorate-General for Research, September 1993) (b) Brochure entitled 'A Senior Citizens' Europe' published by the European Parliament (1994) (c) 'Older people in Europe - Social and economic policies' (1994) and 'Older people in Europe: social integration' (1993) published by Alan Walker, Commission of the European Communities, DG V, Employment, Social Affairs and Industrial Relations (d) '1993: European year of the elderly and solidarity between generations' (1993) published by Eamon McInerney, Commission of the European Communities, DG V, Employment, Social Affairs and Industrial Relations. 10. Background information: