Basic information

2010/2759(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on long-term care for older people **Subject** 4.10.07 The elderly 4.20.06 Health services, medical institutions	

Key players

European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**
	Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	ANDOR László

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
07/09/2010	Debate in Parliament		Summary
09/09/2010	Decision by Parliament	T7-0313/2010	Summary
09/09/2010	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/09/2010	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2010/2759(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B7-0457/2010	06/09/2010	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0491/2010	07/09/2010	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0313/2010	09/09/2010	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2010)7906	08/02/2011	

Resolution on long-term care for older people

2010/2759(RSP) - 09/09/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following a debate which was held on the 7 September on Oral Question O-0102/2010 to the Commission on long-term care for older people, the European Parliament adopted a motion for a resolution tabled by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs on the same subject.

It calls on Member States to consider the demographic developments in recent years, especially the ageing of population, leading to increased budgetary pressures and high demand for better health and social care infrastructure, and encourages Member States to fight against social exclusion against elder people and any type of discrimination based on age. Reminding Member States that ensuring access to adequate health and care services is a fundamental principle of the European model of solidarity, Parliament calls, through the Open Method of Coordination, for an exchange of information, policy ideas and best practice between Member States on the provision of long-term care for older people and, in particular, measures and minimum professional standards in order to:

- reduce health inequalities and safeguard older people in the community and in care settings,
- tackle elder abuse,
- adopt human resource strategies to fight against staff shortages,
- help disseminate information and communications technologies to promote the (care within families and) independence of older people.

Recognising the importance of both the quality and continuity of care, the resolution calls on Member States to improve specialist training, education and reinsertion measures for all those people, including informal carers and those requiring professional qualifications, with long-term care responsibilities for older people. It notes that such training may also help improve the status of this important work. Member States are asked to tackle the issues of poor payment of care work, shortage of personnel, lack of training or inadequate training, which all put a strain on care provision. Members note the important contribution made by civil society, church and charity organisations in the provision of care. They call on the Commission and Member States to take into account the needs of informal carers, who provide a significant proportion of care for older people, and to take concrete measures to support and safeguard this resource via training, respite and measures to reconcile work and family life.

Parliament calls on the Commission to:

- collect data and draw up a summary of the institutional, community and home care infrastructure for older people in each Member State;
- do more research to establish the number of deaths among older people in long-term care that are attributable to malnutrition or dehydration;
- produce a Green Paper on elder abuse and safeguarding older people in the community and in all care settings, including a focus on patient mobility and details of best practices already existing in the 27 Member States;
- prepare a study which will give a clearer picture of the increasing requirements for the care of older people and an estimate of the anticipated specialist provision for the period until 2020.

Parliament goes on to regret that in many Member States the funding and provision of specialist geriatric medicine has been reduced over the years, and that not sufficient training has been given to other specialists on older people's issues. It notes that this has in many cases led to a reduction in the quality of care provided to older people and which, at times, constitutes unfair discrimination against them. Members States are asked to keep this situation under review, with a view to increasing resources in this area should it be necessary.

It advocates the introduction of programmes providing in-home welfare assistance and health care for the elderly or, in those countries where such arrangements already exist, the continuation thereof, to be administered by the municipal and local authorities within their respective terms of reference.

Lastly, Parliament calls on Member States to reduce the burden on those who care for older people or people with disabilities and – to enable carers to take up employment – set up integrated care systems.