



NICOLAS SCHMIT

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOBS AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. +32-2 295 00 90
Nicolas.Schmit@ec.europa.eu

Brussels, 16/04/2024
Ares(2024) 2672542

Subject: Implementation of the Council Recommendation on access to affordable high-quality long-term care

Dear Minister,

I am following up on my letter of 17 February 2023 with regard to the implementation of the Council Recommendation on access to affordable high-quality long-term care¹. I am pleased that all Member States have appointed national long-term care coordinators or have in place a coordination mechanism, and that many have rolled out inclusive national consultations in preparation of the implementation measures.

As you recall, the Recommendation invites Member States to share with the Commission within 18 months of its adoption, i.e. by June 2024, the set of measures taken or planned to implement it, building where relevant on existing national strategies or plans and taking into account national, regional and local circumstances.

The Commission discussed with the long-term care coordinators and with the Social Protection Committee (SPC) the guidance for reporting on the implementation measures (see Annex). This aims at supporting the consistency of the exercise, while taking into account the national contexts.

¹ Council Recommendation of 8 December 2022 on access to affordable high-quality long-term care (2022/C 476/01) [EUR-Lex - 32022H1215\(01\) - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

./..

Ms Signe Riisalo
Minister of Social Protection

Estonia

Therefore, I invite you to share with our services (EMPL-LTC@ec.europa.eu) information on national implementation measures **as soon as possible and at the latest by 15 June 2024**, following the attached guidance. I would strongly encourage you to submit this information in a timely manner, considering also the SPC thematic social reporting for 2024 will be dedicated to the implementation of the long-term care Recommendation. This would elevate the political visibility of the topic, while reducing the administrative burden. The information you share will provide the basis to take stock and continue fostering the policy dialogue, with a view to the Commission report to be submitted to the Council by the end of 2027.

Finally, I am pleased to inform you that the implementation of the European Care Strategy is advancing swiftly, with most of the long-term care related actions successfully launched and progressing well. Implementation at country level benefits from mutual learning, technical support, and EU funding, such as the European Social Fund+, the European Regional Development Fund, and the Recovery and Resilience Facility. A wide array of EU-level actions to address the multi-faceted challenges in the sector are underway, such as the set-up of a European social dialogue committee for social services, or of a large-scale skills partnership for long-term care.

My services remain at your disposal to further assist you in addressing implementation challenges via mutual learning, technical support, and policy expertise. For any additional information, please reach out to EMPL-LTC@ec.europa.eu or contact directly Dana-Carmen Bachmann (Dana-Carmen.BACHMANN@ec.europa.eu), Head of the Social Protection Unit in DG EMPL, or Flaviana Teodosiu, Team Leader for Long-Term Care (Flaviana.TEODOSIU@ec.europa.eu).

Yours faithfully,



Nicolas Schmit

Enclosure: Guidance for reporting on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on access to affordable high-quality long-term care.

