



President Ursula von der Leyen,  
European Commission,  
Berlaymont,  
Rue de la Loi 200,  
B-1047 Belgium

3rd September 2021

Dear President,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, right across the European Union, the colossal and fundamental contribution that carers make to our societies was clear to see. The daily and hourly contributions, providing care for and supporting others within our societies, often unpaid and unrecognised, became apparent. However the faults in the system also became apparent, an outdated care system breaking down and requiring monumental change.

As such, in July the EPP Group adopted and launched our position paper for a European Care Strategy. We firmly believe that supporting carers is essential as we continue our COVID-19 recovery and rebuilding, and as we shape a new European future. By investing in our carers, we also support those who are cared for, benefitting our society as a whole.

We are convinced that the EU, by working with and complementing the actions of Member States, can contribute to building a care system that enhances our societies and supports individuals. We foresee that action is needed in five key areas:

- Data collection: to build a European Care Strategy based on the daily realities of carers and those who are cared for;
- Gender equality & work life balance: to alleviate the care burden on women and to ensure a good quality of life for carers;
- Care & Employment: to ensure that Europe can fully take advantage of the opportunities for employment in the care sector in the coming decades;
- Use of EU Funds: to make high quality care infrastructure available to all, using EU funds such as cohesion funds and the RRF;
- Targets: to know that Europe is making progress in the area of care.

Therefore, as you present your State of the European Union speech on the 15th of September, we ask that **you present a plan for a European Care Strategy** to be proposed by the European Commission. Our citizens cannot wait, and neither can Europe.

Let September 2021 be the time where Europe takes action on care.

We look forward to welcoming you to Strasbourg and that you will take our call on board during your address.

With warm regards,

Frances Fitzgerald MEP

Dennis Radtke MEP

Maria da Graça Carvalho MEP

Nathalie Colin-Oesterlé MEP

Lena Düpont MEP

Rosa Estaràs Ferragut MEP

Cindy Franssen MEP

Elżbieta Łukacijewska MEP

Aušra Maldeikiene MEP

Christine Schneider MEP

Annex 1: European Care Strategy position paper.