

www.eurofedop.org



Putting care at the heart of Europe – Towards a European Care Strategy

Thursday, 03.12.2020



Putting Care at the heart of Europe
Towards a European Care Strategy #EUCareStrategy

Frances Fitzgerald MEP
Dennis Radtke MEP
Hans Dubois Eurofound

With Panel Speakers
Mary Butler TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Mental Health and Older People
John Dunne, CEO Family Carers Ireland and former President of Eurocarers
Orla O'Connor, Director NWC
Steyc Yghemonos, Executive Director Eurocarers

Thursday 3 December
12:00 IST (13:00 CET)

Together with Frances Fitzgerald (MEP, IRE) and the European Parliament Liaison Office in Dublin, this online event was organised by Eurofound to examine the situation of care in the EU and Ireland and to explore the development of a European Care Strategy. The second key address was from Dennis Radtke (MEP, GER) who spoke in particular on how carers can be supported in their role.

He also spoke on the lack of staff in health care. Bert Van Caelenberg made the participants aware of the consequences of the brain drain. The COVID pandemic has made this even clearer. He referred in this respect to the great loss of lives of nurses and nursing aids in Romania.

Hans Dubois, Research Manager at Eurofound, gave a survey of recent reports in the field of health care and long-term care.

Other prominent speakers and experts, among whom Mary Butler TD, Irish Minister of State responsible for mental health and older people, took the floor.

They agreed that the COVID-19 crisis has necessitated a review and reconsideration of how we view care work and care services within our society.

Summarised, a great part of the debate was about “Attracting and Retaining Care Workers for the Elderly”. Here, non-standard work is widespread, pay levels tend to be lower than similar qualification jobs in other health sectors.

Population ageing has outpaced the growth of workers in the long-term care sector.

An additional problem is that especially women are employed in this sector. And, as it became clear through COVID-19, apart from their job, they also have their children to take care of when schools are closed down.



With the growing demand for care at home, a better coordination between the health and long-term care sectors and between formal and informal carers is needed.

This conclusion had also been reached by Eurofedop at previous sessions and had been included in Health First Europe’s action programme.

Bert Van Caelenberg, 03/12/2020