



## **European Care Strategy**

The German Social Insurance (DSV) welcomes the intention of the European Commission to publish a Communication on the European strategy for long-term care and a proposal for the European Council Recommendations on long-term care. The increasing demand for care services in the coming years, ensuring and further developing quality in care, including the potential offered by digitisation, securing skilled workers through appropriate working conditions and remuneration, among other things, and financial sustainability are key challenges. Joint strategic thinking and commitments, as well as a systematic exchange of good practices, can help Member States address these challenges. The DSV also welcomes the fact that the European Commission's Strategy is based on the objectives of sustainable development and suggests consideration of the reciprocal effects of changing climatic conditions and care on one another.

Under the European Pillar of Social Rights, the European Union (EU) and Member States have committed to granting every person the right to affordable and quality long-term care services, especially home and community care services. Long-term strategies are needed to provide financial security against the risk of long-term care to avoid financial overburdening of those in need of care in the long term. This includes preventive measures that avoid or reduce the need for care and enable people in need of care to live independently for as long as possible. Family member(s) also serve(s) as an important resource when it comes to home care. Solutions are needed to enable family caregivers to reconcile work, family and care. Therefore, offers to support and relieve the burden on family caregivers must be further developed and made more flexible. Due to the multitude of psychological and physical stress factors, the implementation of the prevention concept for non-professional caregivers is of particular importance. Last but not least, professional caregivers also need good framework conditions. The demand for ensuring care with a sufficient number of qualified personnel is more urgent than ever and, in view of the mobility of workers in the European single market, also a cross-border challenge.

Concepts for rural regions in particular should be developed to ensure equal access of all population groups to care services. This can be bolstered by digital networking of healthcare facilities as well as by digital assistance systems and care applications. Digitisation can also support the further development of care systems and the intended monitoring within the framework of the European Semester and by the Social Protection Committee. The prerequisite is that existing data can be merged and used throughout Europe, for example in the European Health Data Space. The DSV may be contacted in the above case and for the targeted consultation of stakeholders.

The European Commission points out that people in need of care also enjoy the right to free movement. To ensure that they do not suffer any disadvantages in this respect, the EU, when proposing to amend the Regulations on the Coordination of Social Security Systems (EC) No. 883/2004 and (EC) No. 987/2009 the EU has reached necessary, sustainable and uncontroversial compromises in the area of care. To ensure smooth coordination for all those covered by statutory long-term care insurance, it is important

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that these regulations be enshrined in law. This is why the DSV appeals once again to the European institutions to pass the reform of the coordination regulations.