

IMPACT OF COVID-19 OUTBREAK ON LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

In the context of the health crisis we are experiencing, there is a clear understanding that a further tragedy has occurred almost silently.

The data collected in different countries are often partial and fragmented, but it is clear that most of Covid-19 infections and deaths in Europe occurred in nursing and care homes, residential services for older people and person with disabilities and other social services. We have in mind a range of different facilities, all including the presence of people in vulnerable situation, where half of the deaths related to Covid-19 in Europe have so far occurred.

While on the one hand it is clear that these figures are due to the greater fragility of the residents of these facilities, on the other hand it is pretty evident that there are problems in the emergency management that need to be clarified. These are indeed places where residents and workers have often been exposed to great risks without appropriate safeguards.

With a letter dated July 1st, EPSU, AGE Platform and the European Disability Forum asked the European Parliament to be committed on this issue. We, as Members of the European Parliament, believe that it is absolutely necessary to examine what happened at European level with all the means at our disposal, in order to have comprehensive data in front of us and to identify political and management responsibilities, so that we can change course immediately.

We are committed to ensuring that the European Parliament has the will and strength to discover and reconstruct what has happened, strengthen attention on these facilities, find alternatives of group housing and avoid other mistakes and tragedies.

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