



*Council of Europe  
Parliamentary Assembly*

*The President*

Strasbourg, 17 July 2020

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your letter of 17 June and the additional email of 3<sup>rd</sup> July in which you inform me of your concerns with regard to the situation of the elderly in the context of the current pandemic.

I have brought the matter to the attention of Mr Luís Leite Ramos, Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, whose efforts led to the Assembly Resolution [Resolution 2329 \(2020\)](#) and [Recommendation 2174 \(2020\)](#) on “Lessons for the future from an effective and rights-based response to the COVID-19 pandemic”.

In [Resolution 2329 \(2020\)](#), the Assembly called member States to “ensure that all public health measures respect human rights, [...] and protect vulnerable groups of the population (in particular, persons with disabilities, children and the elderly)” and “to avoid executive overreach, disproportionate and unnecessarily repressive measures infringing human rights or human dignity, as well as all discrimination in the implementation of public health measures; with special attention to discrimination against persons with disabilities and the elderly, notably avoiding discriminatory triage systems.”

In addition, [Recommendation 2174 \(2020\)](#) states that the Assembly “believes that the Council of Europe’s human rights mandate requires the re-establishment of comprehensive intergovernmental co-operation and co-ordination in the field of public health [...]” and “recommends that the Committee of Ministers urgently re-establish an intergovernmental steering committee on public health as a first step towards this goal [...]” The Assembly will be following closely the work of the Committee of Ministers on this matter.

I thank you once again for your information and look forward to continuing our valuable cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Rik Daems

President Parliamentary Assembly  
Council of Europe

Mr Agostino Siciliano  
General Secretary of the European Federation of retirees and elderly people (FERPA)  
Mr Jan Willem Goudriaan  
General Secretary of the European Federation of Public Service Trade unions (EPSU)

cc. Mr Luís Leite Ramos, Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

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