

- VI To take account of the specific situation of older people in the candidate countries;
- VII To give the European Union better competencies to deal with common demographic challenges.

The Intergroup on Ageing welcomes the fact that ageing issues have a prominent place on the agenda of the European Spring Summit (21st March 2003). Discussions on the modernisation of the European social model and the necessary reforms to improve employment and social protection in Europe are key issues for the future of an ageing Europe that need to be commonly addressed.

The Intergroup is convinced that there is an urgent need to adopt a coherent approach between different EU policy processes. The Intergroup believes that to address effectively the challenges of population ageing across the EU, social protection and employment policies must be linked. This streamlining exercise is not about merging existing processes into one, but ensuring there is a synergy between these policies and that their overall impact is better reflected in EU level discussions.

The Intergroup believes that the EU has a key role to play in ensuring a reform of pensions systems which will promote a decent level of pensions for all (including women), giving people a fair share of society's economic well-being, not just preventing outright poverty. Countries need to provide secure, universal and fully adequate 1st pillar pensions, whether or not 2nd and 3rd pillar systems are further developed. In parallel, it is also necessary to adopt reforms to allow and encourage older people to keep working longer. Effective retirement ages can best be raised by providing workers with genuine choices and opportunities for flexible retirement from the labour market, and by combating age discrimination. The Intergroup wishes to stress the fact that employment of older workers is an area

where progress is lagging behind the Lisbon Strategy targets.

For more information on the Intergroup, contact the secretariat (+32 2 280 14 70) to the attention of Mr Podesta. For any additional information, please contact AGE, the European Older Peoples Platform www.age-platform.org or catherine.dau-rele@age-platform.be

News - Forthcoming

Calendar of Events

March 25-28, 2003

INCLUDE 2003: Inclusive Design for Society and Business

Royal College of Art, London, UK

Organizer: The Helen Hamlyn Research Centre

Info: www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/events/include2003/index.html

March 26, 2003

Gerontechnology Symposium at Gerontexpo exhibition

Parc des Expo, Paris, Porte des Versailles

Organizer: Federation Hospitalière de France, and the Gerontechnology group

of the French Gerontology and Geriatric Society

Info: www.gerontexpo.com/

March 27-28, 2003

Conference on 'Accessibility for All' Acropolis Convention Centre, Nice, France

Organizer: CEN / CENELEC / ETSI; A common initiative by the European Standards Organization

Info: www.etsi.org/cce

April 3-5, 2003

Assistive Technology 'Best Practices' Conference

Bridgewater, Nova Scotia,

Canada. Organizer: Assistive Technology

Application and Integration Nova Scotia (ATAINS)
Info: atains.ednet.ns.ca/text/textindex.htm

June 19-23, 2003

26th International Conference on Technology & Disability: Research, Design, Practice and Policy
Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA, USA
Organizer: Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America
Info:
www.resna.org/conferences/index.html

July 10-12,, 2003

2nd Conference of the International Academy of Nutrition and Aging (IANA)
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA
Organizer: Journal of Nutrition, Health and Aging
Info:
www.healthandage.com/html/min/iananda/content/albuquerque.htm

August 31 – September 3, 2003

AAATE Conference 2003: Assistive Technology Shaping the Future
7th European Conference for the Advancement of Assistive Technology
University College Dublin, Ireland
Organizer: Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe
Info: www.atireland.ie/aaate

November 21-25, 2003

'Technology and Aging' event
Convention of the Gerontological Society of America,
San Diego, CA, USA
Organizer: Formal Interest Group
"Technology & Aging"
Info: www.gsa-tag.org/2003/index.html

June 13-17, 2004

Rehabilitation Sciences in the New Millennium
8th Congress of European Federation for

Research in Rehabilitation EFRR
Ljubljana, Slovenia
Organizer: prof. DrČrt Maringeč
Info: www.cd-cc.si/EFRR2004/

November 19-23, 2004

'Technology and Aging' event
Convention of the Gerontological Society of America,
Washington, DC, USA
Organizer: Formal Interest Group
'Technology & Aging'
Info: www.gsa-tag.org/2004/index.html

May 24-27, 2005

5th International Conference on Gerontechnology
Nagoya Congress Center, Japan
Organizer: International Society for Gerontechnology
Info: yamaba@n-fukushi.ac.jp

Announcements of meetings and other events for the Gerontechnology Calendar should be submitted by e-mail to: j.e.m.h.v.bronswijk@tue.nl. The editors decide to include or not include the announcement of a certain event.
