



Statement in the frame of interactive discussion with UN Independent Expert

AGE Platform Europe, warmly welcomes the conclusions of the report of the Independent Expert (IE). On the basis of information provided by older people's organisations in the 28 EU member states AGE is launching this week a report on the real impact of MIPAA on the lives of older people in the region.

Evidence from the grass-roots level points out to the worsening of social realities in old age, in particular in access to services such as health and long-term care.

Due to the lack of binding effect and dedicated implementation and monitoring mechanisms, MIPAA failed to trigger sufficient policy change. National governments deal instead with the obligations arising from other existing laws and policies at national and EU level. Progress achieved is largely due to EU-based processes, such as the European Year 2012 on Active Ageing and the EU directives, rather than to MIPAA.

MIPAA implementation has not addressed the full spectrum of rights of older people but instead focused on policies, which lead to savings in public spending.

Moreover, MIPAA is not sufficiently known and used by older persons and other stakeholders. Despite MIPAA's aspiration to actively involve older persons in policymaking, most governments either do not consult them at all, or do so on a case-by-case basis, thus lacking genuine bottom-up mechanisms. They are also making practically no efforts to increase awareness of the Plan; for example in some countries MIPAA documents are available only in English. Consequently, even those who wish to be involved are discouraged to do so.

We thus witness a gap between what governments think they are delivering and the real-life experiences of older people in those countries. Therefore, AGE findings converge with those of the UN Independent Expert, and this is why we call for a new binding instrument to better protect human rights in old age.

