



Marian Jurečka
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Labour and Social Affairs

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Dear Ministers,

Let me inform you about the initiative to establish a European harmonised number for the elderly citizens helpline ('EHN') to provide easily accessible assistance to all seniors in need. Talking to a qualified person is an essential source of support in coping with a difficult situation. The EHN can be an excellent support tool also for informal carers of the elderly, who can get support and information immediately at home and/or anywhere across the EU. The allocation of new dedicated EHN sends an important signal to older people that they are considered a respected part of European society. The EHN can also be seen as a sign of respect for the emancipatory efforts of older people who want and are encouraged to maintain their competences and independent living.

The Czech Republic has approached the European Commission and has initiated the relevant process for the allocation of a telephone number in a European harmonised format for numbers with social value. The number reserved for this particular purpose is 116100. In order to proceed with the proposal further, the support of majority of the Member States has to be manifested to the European Commission.

I very much appreciate the support that has already been expressed by several Member States as well as by Vice-presidents of the European Commission Dubravka Šuica and Věra Jourová. Moreover, I would like to invite you to add your support in our joint effort to improve access to rapid and effective assistance for the

elderly. We believe that we should be able to gather sufficient support from Member States to this initiative.

Minister wishing to support the initiatives are kindly invited to sign and send back to the Czech Presidency by the end of September the attached *"Supporting letter for reservation of a harmonised number for harmonised service of social value"*.

This joint effort will be crowned by signing a joint declaration by Ministers who will have pledged their support to the initiative in the margins of the informal EPSCO Council ministers meeting in Prague on 13-14 October 2022. The joint declaration together with all letters of support will be then forwarded to the European Commission to take further steps towards the establishment of the EHN.

Hereby, I would like to invite you to support this initiative by the end of September in order for us to be able to prepare the signing ceremony in Prague.

Thank you for considering your support to this initiative.

Yours sincerely,


Marian Jurečka

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