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
Mr Johannes Rauch  
*Federal Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection*  
Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection  
Stubenring 1  
1010 Vienna  
Austria

Mr Frank Vandenbroucke  
*Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health*  
Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Health  
Rue de la Loi 23  
1000 Bruxelles  
Belgium

Mr Georgij Gjokov  
*Minister of Labour and Social Policy*  
Ministry of Labour and Social Policy  
2 Triaditsa str.  
1051 Sofia  
Bulgaria

Mr Marin Piletić  
*Minister of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy*  
Ministry of Labour, Pension system, Family and Social Policy  
Ulica grada Vukovara 78  
10 000 Zagreb  
Croatia

Mr Kyriiakos Koushios  
*Minister of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance*  
Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance  
7 Lord Byron Avenue  
1463 Nicosia  
Cyprus

Ms Astrid Krag  
*Minister for Social Affairs and Senior Citizens*  
Ministry for Social Affairs and Senior Citizens  
Holmens Kanal 22  
1060 København  
Denmark

Ms Signe Riisalo  
*Minister of Social Protection*  
Ministry of Social Affairs  
Suur-Ameerika 1  
10122 Tallinn  
Estonia

Ms Aki Lindén  
*Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services*
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
PO Box 33
FI-00023 Government
Finland

Mr Olivier Dussopt
Minister of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion
Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion
Hôtel du Châtelet, 127 Rue de Grenelle,
75007 Paris
France

Mr Hubertus Heil
Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Wilhelmstraße 49
10117 Berlin
Germany

Mr Kostis Hatzidakis
Minister of Labour and Social Affairs
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
29 Stadiou Street
GR-105 59, Athens
Greece

Mr Sándor Pintér
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
József Attila utca 2-4
Budapest 1051
Hungary

Mr Roderic O’Gorman
Minister of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Block 1, Miesian Plaza, 50 – 58 Lower Baggot Street
D02 XW14
Ireland

Mr Andrea Orlando
Minister of Labour and Social Policies
Ministry of Labour and Social Policies
Via Veneto 56
00187 Roma
Italy

Mr Gatis Eglitis
Minister for Welfare
Ministry of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia
28 Skolas Str. Riga
LV 1331
Latvia

Ms Monika Navickienė
Minister of Social Security and Labour
Ministry of Social Security and Labour
A. Vivulskio str. 11
03610 Vilnius
Lithuania

Mr George Engel
Minister of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy
Ministry of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy
Rue Zithe 26
L-2939 Luxembourg
Luxembourg

Mr Michael Falzon
Minister for Social Policy and Children's Right
Ministry for Social Policy and Children’s Right
Palazzo Ferreria
310 Republic Street
Valletta VLT 1110
Malta

Ms Carola Schouten
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Poverty Policy, Participation and Pensions
Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment
Parnassusplein 5
2511 VX Den Haag
Netherlands

Ms Marlena Malag
Minister of Family and Social Policy
Ministry of Family and Social Policy
ul. Nowogrodzka 1/3/5
00-513 Warszawa
Poland

Ms Ana Mendes Godinho
Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security
Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security
Praça de Londres, 2
1049-056 Lisbon
Portugal

Mr Marius-Constantin Budăi
Minister of Labour and Social Solidarity
Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity
Dem.I. Dobrescu nr. 2-4 sector 1
RO - 010026 Bucharest
Mr Luka Mesec
Minister of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Štukljeva cesta 44
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Mr Milan Krajniak
Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
Spitálska 4-6
81643 Bratislava
Slovakia

Ms Yolanda Diaz Perez
Second Vice-President and Minister of Labour and Social Economy
Ministry of Labour and Social Economy
Agustín de Bethancourt 4
28003 Madrid
Spain

Ms Lena Hallengren
Minister for Health and Social Affairs
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs
Fredsgatan 8
10333 Stockholm
Sweden