

Brussels, 3rd September 2024

Mrs. Ursula VON DER LEYEN
President
European Commission
Brussels - Belgium

Dear Mrs. President,
Dear Madam,

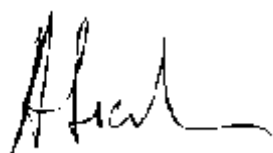
On my own behalf and on behalf of FERPA (European Federation of Retired and Elderly People), I congratulate you on your re-election as President of the European Commission. I am sure that you will continue to work for a democratic, more social, more united Europe.

FERPA's member organisations hope that your programme will take account of the needs of the millions of elderly and retired European citizens who need effective economic cover and a broader social protection system to help them and protect them from ever-increasing poverty. FERPA is committed to defending and promoting the 4 priority rights set out in its Manifesto, a copy of which is attached:

1. The right to decent pensions to combat poverty among older people, particularly women, who have lower pensions than men, despite having a longer life expectancy than men, and who often find themselves alone at the end of their lives, forced to live on a single pension income reduced as a result of a fragmented working life. We also support the introduction of a minimum pension above the poverty line throughout Europe;
2. The right to quality health care and long-term care that is economically and geographically accessible;
3. The right to healthy and decent housing, regardless of the type of housing chosen by the individual, and to essential, affordable and local public services;
4. The right to social inclusion for all older people: their participation in all social, political and/or cultural activities must be guaranteed in an intergenerational spirit.

Dear Mrs. President, Dear Madam, FERPA wishes you a fruitful and fulfilling work and, in order to present you our Federation and to explain you the above points, FERPA would like to meet you very soon.
I look forward to hearing from you and meeting you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Agostino SICILIANO
General Secretary