



Intergenerational Fairness in Practice:

Power, Participation and Social Justice in the EU

10 June 2026

Room 4Q2, European Parliament, Brussels

17:30–19:00

Interpretation EN FR NL available from 17 :30 to 18 :30

Programme

1. Opening

- Welcoming words by **Ana Caterina Mendes**, Vice-Chair of the S&D Group in the European Parliament and **Victor Negrescu (tbc)**, Vice-President of the Party of European Socialists
- Frame:
 - Intergenerational fairness = democracy + social justice + future
 - Acknowledge EC strategy but highlight gaps

2. Panel Discussion

“Who decides the future? Participation, inequality and intergenerational justice”

- **Irja Vaateri**, Secretary General, Young European Socialists
- **Jos Bertrand**, President, European Seniors’ Organisation
- **Idoia Mendía Cueva**, S&D MEP
- **Alicia Homs**, S&D MEP
- **Emma Rafowicz**, S&D MEP
- **Philippe Seidel** AGE Civil society / democracy expert (participation angle) tbc
- **European Commission representative tbc**
- **EYF representative tbc**

Moderator: François Balate, FEPS



Thematic blocks + questions

Block 1 – Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness

Framing:

The EU Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness is a welcome and important step in putting future generations at the centre of policymaking. The key challenge now is ensuring that its ambitions translate into effective, inclusive and measurable action across EU policies.

Questions:

- “What are the most important advances introduced by the Strategy, and where do you see the greatest potential for impact?”
- “What are the key priorities to focus on in the **implementation phase** to ensure the Strategy delivers tangible results?”
- “How can tools such as the Intergenerational Fairness Index best support **evidence-based policymaking and accountability**?”
- “What mechanisms are needed to ensure **meaningful participation** of young people and older generations in shaping and monitoring this agenda?”
- “From your perspective, what would success look like for this Strategy in the next five years?”
- Civil society representatives for older people strongly emphasized that the dialogue fell short of meaningfully addressing their demands, calling for greater urgency and concrete actions. How can we increase meaningful participation in and transparency of the consultation processes at institutional level?

Block 2 – Age Discrimination & Inequality

Framing:

Intergenerational fairness is not about youth vs elderly, but it’s about **systemic inequality across the life cycle**.

Questions:

- “Where does age discrimination actually occur today: in labour markets, healthcare, or politics?”
- “Are young people structurally disadvantaged compared to previous generations?”
- “How do we avoid framing generations as competitors instead of allies?”
- “What policies can reduce inequality *between* and *within* generations?”

- What is the most realistic timeline to deliver on an Action Programme Against Ageism and the Age Equality Strategy?

Block 3 – Social Contract: Jobs, Care, Pensions

Framing:

Without material justice, intergenerational fairness is empty.

Questions:

- “Is Europe still offering a fair deal to young people: jobs, housing, stability?”
- “Can current pension systems remain fair across generations?”
- How can we make pension systems fairer and more gender-responsive with the aim to eliminate poverty in old age, enabling women to participate in the labour market by care infrastructure and working conditions, *promote fairer and more equitable tax systems by eliminating tax arrangements that penalise second earners, which predominantly affect women, as they create disincentives to labour market participation and negatively impact employment outcomes*, and causing female poverty, as women work more often part time and leave the labor market due to unpaid care responsibilities (Children, dependent family members)
- “What would a truly ‘intergenerational welfare state’ look like?”
- “Where does care fit in: who provides it, who pays, and who is left behind?”
- Care is predominantly provided by women: informal unpaid care of children, elderly and other dependents as well as formal care work which is undervalued and low paid. How can we build a comprehensive holistic care economy? implementing measures to reduce the gender care gap and promote structural changes that guarantee fair wages in the care sector, provide a care infrastructure and incentives for the equal share of unpaid care work between men and women, enabling higher female employment , and pension rates and avoiding poverty on older age , in particular female poverty
- “How do we ensure the green transition is socially fair across generations?”

3. Audience Q&A

Seed questions if needed:

- “What would make intergenerational fairness *real* in your country?”
- “What policy would you prioritise tomorrow?”



4. Closing

- S&D closing:
 - Political commitment angle: **Idoia Mendía Cueva**, S&D MEP

