

France 2011 National debate on old-age dependency

Background information:

The French Government has decided that, after having achieved the pension system reform in 2010, the next step in order to face the demographic challenge should be the reform of dependant care for the elderly.

On the 8th of February 2011, a national debate was launched on old-age dependency.

Aims (brief explanation):

This debate should be as wide as possible and should help us to find a collective answer to the following question : what is the place of the elderly in our society ?

Four working groups have been created :

- society and ageing ;
- the demographic and financial challenges of dependant care for the elderly ;
- the different ways to provide long term care (technologies, how to organize the services on offer, informal carers, professional staff, urban planning ...)
- strategies for the financing of long term care.

A few guiding principles will shape our thinking :

- free choice, for families and people who are losing their autonomy, between staying at home or going in a nursing home that meets their needs ;
- a strong focus on quality long term care in residential facilities ;
- Sustainability of public finances.

Degree of implementation/progress status/current situation:

This national debate should last six months and the government is expected to present its reform during the summer for the new bill to be examined by parliament in the autumn.

Who is responsible for the information (i.e. ministry, organisation, person)?

Ministry of solidarity and social cohesion

Who can be contacted in case of questions? (name, e-mail address)

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Please provide link or contact for further information:

A website has been created for this debate : <http://www.dependance.gouv.fr/>