



**MINISTÈRE  
CHARGÉ  
DE L'AUTONOMIE**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



Paris, 27 January 2022

**PRESS RELEASE**

**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF EU MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR AGEING AND THE  
PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE OF ELDERLY PERSONS**

**Preventing the Loss of Personal Independence: Better cooperation on the issue of falls in the  
elderly**

**Under the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the EU ministers responsible for ageing and the personal independence of elderly persons met this Thursday, 27 January 2022, via videoconference at the invitation of Brigitte Bourguignon, Minister Delegate for Personal Independence attached to the Minister for Solidarity and Health. The ministers notably discussed means of improving European cooperation with regard to preventing the loss of personal independence of elderly persons, and combatting the prevalence of balance problems and falls.**

Given the ageing of the population throughout Europe, more and more elderly people are becoming dependants and gradually requiring more long-term care. This demographic phenomenon is putting increased pressure on health spending at European level.

This situation calls for all of the EU Member States to work to develop innovative solutions to **better prevent the loss of independence of elderly persons, which has become a major public health issue in Europe.**

During this conference, a panel of experts, scientists and healthcare professionals from throughout the EU highlighted the causes and consequences of falls in elderly persons, an increasingly prevalent problem affecting both their physical and mental health.

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The ministers thus discussed the means and levers to be put into action to better prevent the loss of independence, in particular:

- Sharing best practices and initiatives to support the autonomy and well-being of elderly persons
- Proposed levers to prevent balance problems and falls, such as:
  - screening and identifying risk factors in individuals
  - promoting healthy lifestyles and active ageing
  - adapting homes and care to help with maintaining independence
  - developing technologies for home assistance

At the conference, the European ministers reiterated the European Union's commitment to supporting ageing in good health, through its "Green Paper on Ageing: Fostering solidarity and responsibility between generations", published by the European Commission in February 2022.

Lastly, the ministers agreed on the need to continue mobilising European stakeholders to embrace all of the EU levers and programmes available to the Member States, including the EU4Health programme.

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