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Person-centered healthcare services mean tailor-made and accessible support that ensures that people taken care of can flourish: our goal is to harmonize demographic trends towards longer lives with high standards of well-being and active citizenship throughout the entire life.

Yet an aspect of the provision of quality services that is often under looked is the quality of employment in the healthcare sector: the well-being, safety, economic independence, self-determination and the motivation of providers themselves are key factors of ambitious recruitment and retention in the healthcare sector and in the provision of quality services for end-users.

Why should we prioritize a political action here? First, because the demographic change of our societies creates a great potential in terms of demand into the labor market; secondly, because the types of jobs are labor intense and will resist and adapt to the digitalization of our economies much better than other economic sectors.

Therefore, we must improve our effort to create a friendlier environment for dedicated staff. Training must be seen as an investment and not as a cost, especially in times of economic crisis. The right to healthcare depends on this. Quality means resources. Careers in the healthcare sector need to be desirable both in terms of solid and stable salary and adequate social protection for employees: and this is where the European Social Pillar can perform at its best. Quality also means support for supporters. The continuous effort of providers does have an impact both physically and mentally, and this must be taken into account. The Healthcare sector needs a supportive legislative framework for the social dialogue between employees and employers in all Member States and transnationally, and recognition of its value to the economy and society.

For all those reasons, I am honoured to co-host, together with my colleague Jana, today's workshop by social Partners HOSPEEM and EPSU. Especially during the 10th Anniversary of the joint Code of Conduct on Ethical Cross-Border Recruitment and Retention, that represents an important instrument to support the free movement of workers across the European Union while preventing unethical competition between the Member States and employers in terms of cross-country recruitment process, fair and transparent contracting and the induction of migrant workers at the new workplace, it constitutes a fundamental occasion to share all the good practices developed together.

Therefore, I would like to warmly welcome you on behalf of myself and Jana in the European Parliament. I count on our mutual collaboration to continue also on the grounds of the outcomes of your fruitful discussions today.

Very Best
Brando Benifei