

Claims of an old trade-unionist on longer working life  
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***Everyone wants to grow old, but nobody wants to be old.***

(Quotation from Johann Nepomuk Nestroy, 1801-1862, Austrian playwright)

- Age discrimination needs to be fought. Reasons which stress the importance of combatting prejudice and age discrimination are e.g.:  
hardly existent possibilities for people aged above 50 to participate in vocational training or  
reductions in human resources, which primarily affect older workers.
- Staying longer in work life should not be seen isolated, but rather in a more holistic way.  
The promotion of longer working lives must be seen in a context, primarily in connection with impacts on the social situation, the labour market and effects on the economic situation in general.
- The use of adequate parameters in the promotion of longer participation in working life of older persons is of great importance.  
A negative example of the utilization of an inappropriate framework is the misleading illustration of public pension expenditures in most international studies. They solely compare the evolution of public pension spending among people aged between 15 and 65, while not taking into account the share of people in employment in proportion to benefit recipients (old age, early retirement, disability, unemployment).
- More jobs must be created. Investment must be encouraged here.
- There is a need for age-appropriate workplaces which enable older people to apply their skills gained in their previous working life.  
In addition, this ensures that their acquired social competence is used purposefully.
- We need to create *healthy* jobs for older people. Work must not put people's health at risk.

- An exemplary study of the Austrian trade union “Bau – Holz” indicates that a high ratio of construction workers perish before reaching retirement age.
- Reasonable measures to improve medical care are essential.
- A quote of former Austrian Minister of Employment and Social Affairs Alfred Dallinger (1926 – 1989) states: It’s not the aim of social policy to give financial compensation for damages, but to prevent damage.

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contributions

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