

SPECIAL EDITION

ESU EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS and CELEBRATION of 25 YEARS of ESU

“Building the future TOGETHER”

Madrid, 23-25 September 2021

Dear colleagues and friends,

In this Newsletter we provide you an overview of the Madrid Extraordinary Congress and the celebration of 25 years of European Seniors' Union (23-25 September). On Monday 23 August, the members of the ESU executive committee met online. It was a meeting with many familiar faces; with over 30 participants. The main goal: prepare for the ESU-Congress in Madrid, at a moment when there was still one month to go... Read more about it on [our website](#). In this newsletter, we provide you a summary of some of the key practical matters!

Enjoy your reading.

An Hermans
President ESU



Welcome by our ESU-president An Hermans:

“After more than a quarter of a century, we feel grateful, and are looking ahead with confidence and hope.

The founders of the European Seniors’ Union (ESU) created the association as a platform for exchanges and empowering senior citizens all over Europe. They were convinced that every person is called to participate in society, creating a better tomorrow based on the fundamental values and basic pillars of Europe: respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law, social market economy, solidarity and overall human-centred policymaking, without ever taking these values for granted.

As a network of associations from all over Europe and a member association of the European People's Party (EPP), we are engaged in a wide range of activities. We enjoy exchanges and mutual learning and are often impressed by the life histories of men and women who have fought for the freedom and peace of the continent in which we live. We welcome every opportunity to express the hopes, thoughts and needs of senior citizens and call on governments and all policy-makers to put "demographic change" and the development of longevity societies as one of the top priorities on their political agenda.

We gratefully celebrate all the men and women who have journeyed with ESU since 1995, responding to the challenges and aspirations of their time, counting on the support of politicians, think tanks, like-minded associations and many, many volunteers.

We are looking forward to an extraordinary Congress in Madrid. It is great to prepare it together with our vice-president Carmen Quintanilla, the help and support of several colleagues, and in particular volunteers. It is great to meet again in person.

I thank you all.

Thank you for everything.

Tomorrow we will continue, supported by all the experience we have gained over the years and looking forward with new eyes, because tomorrow is a new day, with new challenges in an ever-changing world and...the future does not invent itself. **We, all together are driven to shape that future. Together we must find the answers to tomorrow's challenges.**

Let us celebrate and stand together
for 'a better tomorrow',
with health and happiness for all. “

An Hermans

Practical points in the run-up to the congress

Enter SPAIN with the EU Digital COVID certificate

All people traveling to Spain from another country (including children of any age, travellers in transit and residents of Spain who return to their country) must complete the **Health Control Form** associated with their trip. When traveling by air, this can be done through the WEB www.spth.gob.es or the APP, Spain Travel Health-SpTH (available for Android and iOS).

After completing the form, you will obtain a QR code that you will have to present both at the time of boarding and upon arrival in Spain at the health controls.

The EU COVID Digital certificate can be of three different types (vaccination, diagnostic test or recovery) and any of them can be used by travellers to enter Spain, provided they meet the following criteria:

- ❖ **COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate.** Valid 14 days after receiving the full regimen. Any vaccine authorized by the European Union (European Medicines Agency, EMA) and WHO will be accepted.
- ❖ **Diagnostic test certificate for SARSCoV2 with negative result.** The following diagnostic tests will be admissible:
 - Nucleic acid amplification tests (for example: RT-PCR, RT-LAMP, TMA, HAD, NEAR, CRISPR, SDA), with sampling in the 72 hours prior to arrival in Spain.
 - Rapid antigen test, with sampling within 48 hours prior to arrival in Spain. You can consult the list of rapid tests approved by the European Commission through this link
- ❖ **A COVID-19 recovery certificate** (valid from the 11th day after the first positive NAAT and up to 180 days after the date of the sample)

Those who need a PCR test before leaving Madrid can make an appointment at **Instituto Médico Madrid, C/ Algodonales, 32**. This center is located near the hotel. The test costs 85 Euro. Appointment by phone (**91.031.14.97**) or via the website in English : <https://centro.institutomedicomadrid.com/en/>

How to get from the airport to the hotel ?

By **TAXI**. Is the best option. (14 min.)

The price for a taxi ride from the Madrid-Barajas airport to the centre of Madrid* is a **flat rate € 30 one way**.

The **METRO** is also a possibility. In the airport, Terminal 4, take **line 8** towards **Nuevos Ministerios**. There take **line 10** towards **Hospital Infanta Sofia**. Get off at **Cuzco station or Plaza de Castilla station**

“Building the future TOGETHER”

Program

The ESU comes together to celebrate and to give thanks, but also and especially to look ahead. Right now, there are geopolitical challenges throughout society and we are addressing some of them at this Extraordinary Congress. We want to be involved in the challenges such as: health, climate & digitalization!

Venue : Hotel Meliá Castilla
Calle del Poeta Joan Maragall, 43
28020 Madrid

Thursday, 23 September 2021

Arrival of the delegates

20:00 Welcoming dinner with
Mr. Teodoro Garcia Egea, secretary general Partido Popular
Dr. Wilhelm Hofmeister, Director Konrad Adenauer Foundation Office, Madrid
Mr. Antonio López-Istúriz, MEP, secretary general EPP

Friday, 24 September 2021

--- Celebration of the 25th anniversary of ESU ---

09:00 Opening addresses
Mrs. Carmen Quintanilla, ESU Vice-President
Mrs. An Hermans, ESU President

09:20 *“ESU: a quarter of a century of active citizenship in a period of turbulent European unification”*
Prof. Steven Van Hecke, catholic university of Leuven (BE)

09:40 Round table : *“Building resilient societies for all generations”*
Introduction : *“Challenges for the European Union”*
Mrs. Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health
Round Table on three angles (health – digitalization – climate change) with:
❖ **Mr. Carlo Giacomo Angrisano**, former chairman EDS, secretary general of “Nuevas Generaciones del Partido Popular”

- ❖ **Mr. Juan Manuel Martínez Gómez**, geriatrician, president of CEOMA (Spanish confederation of seniors organizations)
- ❖ **Mr. Patrick Penninckx**, Council of Europe, Head of Information Society Department
- ❖ **Mrs. Marina Troncoso Rodríguez**, president of CAUMAS (confederation of associations of the University Programs for the Elderly), member of the Advisory Committee of 65+
- ❖ **Mr. Rafael de Lorenzo García**, Delegate for Relations with the Third Sector of older persons
- ❖

Moderation of the round table : **Mr. Heinz K. Becker**, former MEP, vice-president ESU

10:50 Questions from the audience

11:20 Coffee Break

11:50 *Festive part: “25 years of ESU”*

Mrs. An Hermans, president of ESU

Mrs. Carmen Quintanilla,

12:10 25 years of ESU: A short overview

12:20 Birthday congratulations

- ❖ **Mr. Donald Tusk**, president EPP
- ❖ **Mr. Herman Van Rompuy**, former president of the European Council
- ❖ **Mr. Manfred Weber**, president of the EPP group in the European Parliament
- ❖ **Mr. Tomi Huhtanen**, director Martens Centre
- ❖ **Mr. Carlo Giacomo Angrisano Girauta**, former chairman of EDS
- ❖ **Mr. Patrick Penninckx**, Head of department, Council of Europe
- ❖ **Mrs. Sophia A. Michaelides**, communications director

12:30 Greetings from **Dr. Wilhelm Hofmeister**, director Konrad Adenauer Foundation

12:40 Greetings from **Mr. José Luis Martínez Almeida**, mayor of Madrid

12:50 Greetings from **Mr. Antonio Lopez-Isturiz**, MEP, secretary general of EPP

13:00 Greetings from **Mrs. An Hermans**, president of ESU

13:10 Closing Address: **Mr. Pablo Casado**, president of Partido Popular

13:30 Lunch

--- *Extraordinary Congress ESU* ---

15:30 Opening of the extraordinary congress
Mrs. An Hermans, president of ESU

15:40 Election of the congress' presidency
Adoption of the rules of the congress

15:50 Modification of the statutes and Rules of Procedure of the ESU

- ❖ Presentation of the proposal of amendments of the Executive Committee
- ❖ Questions and discussion
- ❖ Voting of the amendments

16:15 Adoption of the ESU Resolution: *“For an active and competent participation of all in resilient digital societies: The need for media and information literacy for all age groups.”*

- ❖ Presentation of the resolution by **Heinz K. Becker**, vice-president
- ❖ Reflections : **Patrick Penninckx** (the Human Rights perspective)
- ❖ Questions and discussion
- ❖ Voting

16:50 Closing address
Mrs. An Hermans, president of ESU

17:00 End of the meeting and start of the visit of Madrid

17:00 Visit of the Madrid city centre
Networking

Saturday, 25 September 2021

10:00 Visit to the Royal Palace and the Almudena cathedral

* * * * *

Introduction of the speakers



Dr. Wilhelm Hofmeister

Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation Office Spain and Portugal



Mr. Teodoro Garcia Egea

Mr. Teodoro Garcia Egea is the current secretary general of the Partido Popular after the appointment of the new leadership of the PP in July 2018. He was a deputy for Murcia in Congress for three legislatures.

Mr. Antonio López-Istúriz

Born in 1970. Secretary General of the European People's Party (EPP) and a Member of the European Parliament, representing the Spanish People's Party (Partido Popular). Secretary Treasurer of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (WMCES) and the Secretary General of the Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI).



Mr. Carlo Giacomo Angrisano

Former chairman of EDS (European Democratic Students and secretary general of "Nuevas Generaciones del Partido Popular, the youth association of PP. He graduated in law at ESADE Law School in 2019.

Mr. Juan Manuel Martinez Gómez

He is the president of CEOMA (Spanish confederation of seniors organizations). Specialist in Geriatrics, graduated in Social Gerontology and Management of Hospitals and Social Health Areas. Director and Co-author of the National Gerontological Plan from the year 2000



Mrs. Marina Troncoso Rodriguez

She is the president of CAUMAS and a member of the 65Ymás Advisory Committee.

CAUMAS is the State Confederation that groups together the Associations of the University Programs for the Elderly (PUM) linked to the Public and Private Universities of the Spanish territory.

Mr. Rafael de Lorenzo Garcia

He is currently Secretary General of the General Council of ONCE, Vice President of CEPES; Secretary General of the Third Sector Platform; member of the Club of Rome; member of the Advisory Council of the Spanish Association of Foundations; and corresponding academic from the Royal Academy of Jurisprudence and Legislation.





Mr. Pablo Casado

Pablo Casado (Palencia, 1981) is a national deputy for the province of Ávila.

After being the spokesperson for the mixed committee of the Congress-Senate for the European Union and a member of the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation committees in the Spanish Congress of Deputies, among many other political positions, Pablo Casado has presided over the Partido Popular since 2018.

Prof Dr. Steven van Hecke

Steven Van Hecke studied philosophy and political science at the universities of Leuven (Belgium) and Hull (UK). He obtained a PhD in social sciences at the Catholic University of Leuven. He is currently associate professor in Comparative and EU Politics at his alma mater in Leuven where he is also the Chairman of the Wilfried Martens Fund.



Patrick Penninckx

Patrick Penninckx is Head of Information Society Department Council of Europe. He has spent the last 30 years of his career with the Council of Europe, contributing to the transformation processes of the Organization and developing partnerships with international and national institutions. Currently heading the Information Society Department.

25 Years of the European Seniors' Union, some background

Time Line

1995	Founding Congress in Madrid —> Stefan Knafli was elected as new ESU President
1996	2nd Congress @ Vienna
1999	3rd Congress @ Cologne
2001	4th Congress @ Brussels —> Bernhard Worms was elected as new ESU President
2004	5th Congress @ Bonn/Bad Godesberg with Angela Merkel, Helmut Kohl and Hans-Gert Pöttering
2005	Celebration 10 years ESU @ Madrid, 10 October
2007	6th Congress @ Pulheim: <i>“Old and young together - guaranteeing the future of Europe”</i>
2010	- 7th Congress @ Bad Honnef, - First Summer Academy @ Vienna
2013	8th Congress @ Brussels: <i>‘Together towards an age-friendly society’</i> —> An Hermans was elected as new ESU President
2015	Celebration 20th anniversary ESU: Continuing the road towards a value driven Europe
2016	Election Congress @ Leuven: <i>“Together for a safe and social Europe”</i>
2019	Election Congress @ Sandanski <i>“Seniors standing up for Europe”</i>
2021	Madrid Extraordinary Congress and the celebration of 25 years of European Seniors' Union