

*Dear ESU Members and Friends,*

*As the summer sun gradually bids us farewell and we welcome the brisk embrace of autumn, it's time for an update from the European Seniors' Union. While the summer of 2023 may soon become a memory, we are busier than ever, meticulously preparing for what lies ahead in 2024—a pivotal year for the ESU, as we anticipate the transition to a new presidency.*

*But that's not all! We have been diligently piecing together the annual report, summarizing our collective achievements and ambitions. In the spirit of transparency and shared knowledge, we are happy to announce a surprise: the ESU will soon have its very own Wikipedia page, an invaluable resource to showcase our history, values, and contributions to the European community.*

*In this edition of our newsletter, we will delve into these exciting developments and keep you informed about the latest happenings within our ESU community.*

*Warm regards,*

*An Hermans  
President  
European Seniors' Union*

# 19th 'BUNDESDELEGIERTENTAG'

## Senioren Union der CDU in Magdeburg

The *CDU Senioren Union* organized the 19th "BUNDESDELEGIERTENTAG" in Magdeburg on the 31st of August and 1st of September, with 294 delegates from all over Germany participating in the event. Our president Mrs. Hermans, and the Secretary-General, Mr. Guido Dumon, were delighted to attend as guests. They expressed their gratitude to the *Senioren Union* for their long standing European collaboration.

For over 20 years, Professor Prof. Dr. Otto Wulff led the organization with distinction. The ESU is both satisfied and proud of the significant role he played, and they wish the new leadership, and in particular the new elected president Dr. Ludwig the very best for the future. We thank also Vice-President and Managing Director Claus Bernhold for his long standing cooperation.



## EPP Political Assembly meets in Brussels



The European People's Party (EPP) gathered in Brussels on September 4-5 for an engaging Political Assembly meeting. Led by EPP President Manfred Weber and EPP Secretary General Thanasis Bakolas, the assembly tackled a range of critical topics. Discussions included an analysis of recent electoral campaigns by EPP member parties, the EPP's focus on social and demographic issues, and strategic planning for the upcoming European Parliament elections in 2024.

One particularly noteworthy highlight for our ESU delegation at the Political Assembly was the keynote address delivered by EU Vice-President Dubraska Šuica. In cooperation with EPP Vice-President Esther de Lange, MEP, she set the stage for a stimulating debate as an introduction to two important resolutions.

The first resolution, titled "[Holding generations together in an Ageing Society](#)," was presented by Vice-President of the European Commission and EPP Vice-President Dubravka Šuica. The second resolution, named "[Bridge the gap: our social agenda for all Europeans](#)," was presented by EPP Vice President and MEP Esther de Lange. It's worth noting that both resolutions underwent valuable amendments proposed by the ESU, with Vice-President Heinz Becker actively participating in the preparatory working groups.

We take pride in our role in bringing attention to the critical issues of long-term care and the pressing need for greater recognition of caregivers within the EPP family. Our hope is that these ideas will find their way into the EPP's Manifesto for the 2024 European Parliament elections.

## 1st of October: 33rd International Day of Older Persons



In response to a request from our colleagues in Cyprus, President An Hermans has provided a message in observance of the 33rd International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP) on October 1st. This day holds significance as we aim to:

- Raise awareness about the opportunities and challenges presented by demographic shifts.
- Highlight the valuable roles that older individuals play in our society.
- Extend an invitation to all to embrace and prepare for a society characterized by increased longevity.

In addition, this year, we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, underscoring the critical importance of safeguarding the rights of older individuals across generations. The international community has chosen the theme, "Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons: Across Generations," to draw our collective attention.

Within her message, An Hermans reaffirms our commitment to shaping European policies with a strong emphasis on a human rights-based approach.

You can access the full letter on [our website](#) for more details.

# Call for Input: Exploring Opportunities for Senior Support Development in Europe

We recently received a heartfelt message from our friends at the Polish Seniors' Union, expressing their commitment to improving conditions for seniors not only in Poland but across Europe. They are embarking on an important initiative to develop a competency register for individuals responsible for seniors' affairs at the community level.

Their objective is to establish a standardized framework that ensures high-quality care and support for seniors in their local communities. To achieve this, they are seeking insights and suggestions from fellow ESU members and associations across Europe.



## How Can You Help?

We believe that your expertise and experiences can greatly contribute to this initiative. If your country or organization has a job competency breakdown or a similar framework in place for seniors' affairs at the community level, we kindly request your assistance. Specifically:

1. **Share Your Knowledge:** If such a competency register exists in your country, please provide us with details or documentation that can serve as a reference.
2. **Offer Your Insights:** Share any insights, best practices, or lessons learned from your experiences in implementing support for seniors in local communities.
3. **Collaborate:** If you have a specific interest in collaborating with the Polish Seniors' Union on this project or wish to contribute your ideas, please let us know.

By working together and sharing our collective knowledge, we can help create a more comprehensive and effective framework that ensures the well-being and dignity of seniors across Europe.

## Get Involved

Please send your contributions, suggestions, or expressions of interest to [esu@epp.eu](mailto:esu@epp.eu). Your active participation will be greatly appreciated.

## Meeting with former ESU President Dr. Worms in Pulheim

It has been almost a decade since Dr. Bernhard Worms completed his presidency of the ESU. President An Hermans recalls that he expressed his intention to continue following the developments of the ESU, but that he would not further 'interfere' with its policies. That responsibility rested with the Presidium and the Executive Committee. "After ten years, I can only say that Bernhard Worms fulfilled that announced role wonderfully: he attended meetings but refrained from commenting unless expressly asked. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when we held frequent online meetings and invited speakers, we also saw his active participation."



Lately, however, in-person meetings have become challenging. There have been emails and phone calls, but direct contact has been absent since 2019. That's why An Hermans and Guido Dumon took the initiative to visit Dr. Worms and his wife Hildegarde at their peaceful home in Pulheim. There was time for a warm meeting, many memories, and... a shared trust in the future! Thank you, Bernhard.

## ESU on Wikipedia



We're happy to announce that the European Seniors' Union will soon have its very own Wikipedia page. This page will provide valuable insights into our history, the important topics we've addressed over the years, and our current core values.

Stay tuned for this informative resource, where you can explore our journey, achievements, and the principles that guide us today.

# Upcoming events

## The Cyprus meetings from 23 to 25 November 2023

Thursday, November 23

- 10:00 : Presidency meeting
- 15:00 : Executive Committee meeting

Friday, November 24 : conference (all day)

Saturday, November 25; time for hospitality and social contacts

Our Cypriot colleagues will soon provide additional information.

End of January/early February 2024 (exact date to be determined):

Executive committee (congress preparation) and conference in Bratislava (Slovakia) : a one-day event

ESU Statutory Congress in Leuven (April 2024)

**8-9-10 April 2024. Please save the date.**