

Warm greetings and festive wishes to our ESU-members and- friends.

*It is ten years now that we, as president and secretary general of the ESU, have the joyful opportunity to cooperate with you all. We feel extremely grateful for your loyalty and support!*

*As the holiday season approaches, it is with great joy and warmth that we send our heartfelt Christmas greetings to all members and friends of the European Seniors' Union all over Europe. We hope that also in the new year 2024 we will stand together to develop common strategies for peace, freedom, democracy and inclusive societies where no one is left behind. Let 's together continue our commitment to serving and advocating for senior citizens across Europe.*

*In this edition of our newsletter, we take a reflective glance at the recently concluded conference in Nicosia at the end of November. It was a gathering with insightful discussions, collaborative ideas.*

*Wishing you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year filled with fulfilment and success.*

*Warm regards,*

*An Hermans and Guido Dumon*



# New perspectives about ageing better.

## Medical, Social and Psychological aspects of ageing

The European Seniors' Union and the Senior Citizens Organization of Cyprus hosted a conference at the University of Nicosia, exploring ageing in contemporary society. Prof. Steven Van Hecke and MEP Dr. Eleni Stavrou discussed key priorities for the EU, while a panel of experts shared insights with our delegates. Secretary General Guido Dumon emphasized the need for seniors' associations to be part of policy processes. The conference highlighted the challenges governments face in addressing demographic changes, urging collaborative efforts to tackle issues like innovation, workforce participation, and social well-being.

You can read the full report on our website: <http://esu-epp.eu/events/new-perspectives-about-ageing-better/>



# Engagement in EPP Activities

The EPP is in the process of drafting a 'Memorandum' for the 2024 elections. The objective is to create a 'general introduction' and present it to all parties affiliated with the EPP. This invitation encourages them to incorporate this introduction into their own 'Election Program' as a symbol of European collaboration.

Furthermore, the EPP has endorsed three resolutions during the EPP Political Assembly held on 4-5 September and 2-3 December: "holding generations together," "bridging the gap: a social agenda for all Europeans," and a resolution on Migration. We meticulously prepared amendments and actively participated, notably Vice-President Heinz Becker, in the working groups for each of these resolutions.

## ESU at Wikipedia

ESU is excited to announce a new milestone in our digital presence! We're happy to share that we now have an official Wikipedia page dedicated to our organization. This page serves as a comprehensive resource, detailing our mission, initiatives, and contributions in advocating for seniors across Europe. We invite you to visit and explore our Wikipedia page:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European\\_Seniors%27\\_Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Seniors%27_Union)

The **European Seniors' Union (ESU)** is a political seniors' organization in Europe. Founded in 1995, the ESU has played a significant role in representing the voice of older citizens and advocating for senior-related issues within the [European People's Party \(EPP\)](#). The organization is dedicated to advancing the rights of senior citizens throughout Europe and promoting senior-related concerns within the European political landscape.

### Foundation and background [\[ edit \]](#)

The ESU was established in response to a growing need for political representation of older generations in Europe. In the 1990s, there were organized movements advocating for the interests of older citizens in Europe, but they often lacked political influence and recognition. Some Christian democratic seniors' organizations felt that their concerns were not adequately addressed within their respective political parties and that society remained overly focused on youth-oriented issues. The foundation of the ESU was influenced by discussions and initiatives involving German and Belgian senior citizens' organizations. Efforts to create a European seniors' union gained momentum, and on November 7, 1995, the ESU was officially founded in Madrid, Spain, during the European People's Party Congress. [Stefan Knafel](#), who led the working group for the ESU's foundation, became its first president. The ESU gained recognition from the EPP as an officially recognized association, allowing it to participate in EPP meetings and decisions.<sup>[1]</sup>

### Goals and values [\[ edit \]](#)

**European Seniors' Union**



**President** [An Hermans \(BE\)](#)  
**Secretary-General** [Guido Dumon \(BE\)](#)  
**Founded** 7 November 1995  
**Headquarters** [Rue du Commerce - Handelsstraat \(Q69872011\)](#) 10, 1000 Brussels, European Quarter, Belgium  
**Ideology** [Conservatism](#)  
[Liberal conservatism](#)  
[Christian democracy](#)  
[Pro-Europeanism](#)  
**Website**  
<http://esu-epp.eu/#who-we-are>

# Honouring Carmen Quintanilla for her dedication to equality in Spain

On Spain's National Day (October 12th), our ESU Vice-President Carmen Quintanilla was awarded the Cross of Civil Merit for her outstanding commitment to fostering equality in her country. Her exceptional leadership as the President of Asociación de familias y mujeres del Medio Rural (AFAMMER), an organisation she founded, has been instrumental in advancing equality. At the recent ESU Conference in Nicosia, Cyprus, Carmen was congratulated by our presidency and ExCo members for this well-deserved recognition.



## ESU received the 'Participatory status of International Non governmental organisations' (INGOs) to the Council of Europe

It was our cooperation with the Department of Information Society of the Council of Europe, in particular with Patrick Penninckx that convinced us to apply for the 'Participatory status'. In February 2022 we submitted all the requested reports on the organization and activities of the ESU. In November 2023 we received the confirmation that ' the European Seniors' Union (ESU) has been granted participatory status with the Council of Europe as of 22 October 2023. We welcome the opportunity to work with your INGO and will be happy to facilitate its participation in the work of the Council of Europe and the Conference of INGOs. We will send you a copy of the Secretary General's decision as soon as the procedure is over and the document is declassified.'

Information on events and news from the Conference of INGOs is published regularly on the website ([www.coe.int/ngo](http://www.coe.int/ngo)). The next Session of the Conference of INGOs will be held from 8 to 10 April 2024. We hope that in the coming months we will explore how we can intensify our cooperation with the Council of Europe.



# One year of the European Care Strategy

In September 2022 the European Commission presented the European Care Strategy. The aim was in the first place to stimulate and support the Member States in their responsibility to optimise 'Long Term care' (LTC) . Since the introduction of the Strategy numerous actions have been launched, in close cooperation with Member States, social partners, and stakeholders, to assure quality, affordable and accessible care services across the European Union.

To find out more about the European Care Strategy and its goals and actions, [click here!](#)

## AGE Manifesto 2024 is out now

AGE Platform Europe has compiled a manifesto for the European elections: more information can be found here: <https://age-manifesto.eu/manifesto/>

## Upcoming Events - Spring 2024

- Presidency meeting - 8 February 2024 - Hotel Saffron Bratislava
- Conference - 9 February 2024 - Hotel Saffron Bratislava
- Executive Committee - 9 February 2024 - Hotel Saffron Bratislava
- Presidency meeting - 5 March 2024 - Bucharest (EPP Congress 6-7.03)
- Meeting outgoing Presidency - 8 April 2024 - Provincial House Leuven
- **Statutory Congress - 9-10 April 2024 - Provincial House Leuven**
- Meeting incoming Presidency - 10 April 2024 - Provincial House Leuven

