

STAND 11.05.2018
PROGRAMME

**BUILDING BRIDGES TOWARDS SOLIDARITY AND
SOCIAL COHESION IN THE BALTIC COUNTRIES**

Regional Conference of European Seniors' Union 2018

17-19 May 2018 | Vilnius, Lithuania

PATRONAGE

IRENA DEGUTIENĖ

Deputy Speaker of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Thursday, 17 May 2018

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| Until 15:00 | Arrival & Check into the Hotel ARTIS |
| | Opening Session
Place: Aula Parva, Vilnius University, Universiteto St. 3 |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Registration |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | Opening of the Conference and Welcome Speeches
Dr. Žibartas Jackūnas , Local Representative of ESU in Lithuania
Prof. Dr. An Hermans , President of ESU
Elisabeth Bauer , Head of the KAS Office for the Baltic States and Nordic Countries |
| 17:00 – 18:30 | Chair and Introduction
Prof. Dr. An Hermans , President of ESU
Dr. Žibartas Jackūnas , Local Representative of ESU in Lithuania |
| | Europe and the Baltic Independence Movements
Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Frhr. von Stetten , former Member of the Bundestag and Chairman of Parliamentary Friendship Group for Relations with the Baltic States |
| | Fight for Independence of Lithuania and Challenges Nowadays
Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis , Chairman of the Supreme Council of Lithuania – Reconstituent Seimas and Signatory of the Independence Restoration Act |
| 18:30 | Musical intermezzo by Lithuanian folklore ensemble „Ūla“ |
| 19:00 | Reception at Vilnius University Café |

Friday, 18 May 2018

- 08:30 Transfer to the Parliament
- Plenary Session 1
 Place: Constitutional Hall, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino Ave. 53
- 09:00 Registration
- 09:30 **Welcome Note**
Irena Degutienė, Deputy Speaker of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
- 09:45 – 11:00 Panel I: **Today's Social Realities. How does the Future of Europe look like?**
- Chair and Introductory Note
Guido Dumon, Secretary General of ESU
- ESU and Social Future of Europe
Prof. Dr. An Hermans, President of ESU
- The Social Dimension of the European Union
Prof. Dr. Steven van Hecke, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Discussion
- 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 – 13:00 Panel II: **Economic and Social Conditions in the Baltic (Sea Region) Countries: Challenges and Prospects**
- Chair and Introductory Note
Dr. Žibartas Jackūnas, Local Representative of ESU in Lithuania
- Handling the Social Problems: Short- Term Solutions, Long-Term Vision(s)
Dr. Georg Männik, Almacon PLC, Chairman of the Board, Estonia
- Institutional Aspects of Social Inequality
Prof. Dr. Ivars Brīvers, Member of Saeima of the Republic of Latvia
- Reducing Social Inequality in Lithuania: Challenges and Solutions
Prof. Dr. Boguslavas Gruževskis, Head of the Labour Market Research Institute of Lithuanian Social Research Centre
- Short reports/comments from participants about situation in their countries
- Discussion
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break

- 14:00 – 16:00 **Panel III: Role of EU and National Authorities in Increasing Economic and Social Cohesion**
- Chair and Introductory Note
Prof. Dr. An Hermans, President of ESU
- Strengthening Social Cohesion in Baltic States: Challenges and Necessary Decisions
Marius Vaščega, Economic Governance Officer, European Commission Representation in Lithuania
- Role of National Authorities in Increasing Economic and Social Cohesion
Rimantas Dagys, Member of Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania
- Short reports/comments about good practices in **Poland, Czech Republic, Sweden, Germany** and other countries
- Discussion
- 16:00 – 16:30 Final remarks
- 16:30 – 18:30 Cultural Activities
- 19:00 – 21:00 Dinner
Venue: Restaurant *Grey*, Pilies st. 2, LT-01123, Vilnius

Saturday, 19 May 2018

- 08:30 Transfer to the Parliament
- Plenary Session 2
Place: Constitutional Hall, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Gedimino Ave. 53
- 09:30 – 11:30 **Panel IV: Building Bridges towards Intergenerational Solidarity: Strengthening Cooperation among Different Layers of Society**
- Chair and Introductory Note
Claus Bernhold, Vice-Chairman of the Seniors' Union, Germany
- Meeting of Generations – Creating and Organizing Common Events
Claus Bernhold, Vice-Chairman of the Seniors' Union, Germany
- Role of NGOs in Strengthening Social Cohesion in the Baltic Countries
Lina Kalibataitė, National Secretary, Lithuanian Kolping Society, Lithuania
- The Role of Youth Organisations against the Anti-Social Tendencies
Mantas Benkunskas, Young Conservatives League, Lithuania
- Short reports/comments from participants about good practices in their countries
- Discussion

11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 – 13:00	Summary and Closing Remarks Prof. Dr. An Hermans , President of ESU Discussion Adoption of Resolution of the Conference
13:00	End of the Conference / Departure