

## When Summer break comes to an end....

Dear Friends,

We hope that this August Newsletter will find you healthy and safe and that you enjoy an empowering summer time. In Europe, most countries continue to struggle with the risks of the pandemic, but we continue to hope that we can meet again in person, and in the meantime we exchange experiences and try to work together through different digital means.

We are glad to send you this August Newsletter.

- We start with a reference to the German presidency of the Council of the EU;
- Furthermore we are grateful for the cooperation of many of you, we present to you the results of our work in recent weeks;
- We focus on our associations, in particular by referring to digital sources.

We wish you a pleasant reading

An Hermans

# Germany's presidency of the Council of the EU: 1 July - 31 December 2020



The priorities of Germany's presidency are driven by its motto: ***"Together for Europe's recovery"/***  
***"Gemeinsam. Europa wieder stark machen"/*** ***"Tous ensemble pour relancer l'Europe"***

The presidency programme focuses on six main areas:

- Overcoming the consequences of the coronavirus crisis for the long-term as well as economic and social recovery
- A stronger and more innovative Europe
- A fair Europe
- A sustainable Europe
- A Europe of security and common values
- A strong Europe in the world

The German presidency of the Council of the EU will focus directly on overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. Fighting the spread of the virus, supporting the European economy to recover and reinforcing social cohesion in Europe. In order to achieve this, Germany is committed to joint approved action, European solidarity and common values. More information click [here](#).

A new [website](#) has been created where you can follow the program, events and conferences of the presidency in several languages such as German/ French/ English/ Bulgarian/ Croatian/ Czech & Danish.

Also our German colleagues in the Senioren-Union report news about the presidency in their great magazine: Jung und Alt and in their newsletter.

Claus Bernhold informed us that for those who wish to keep abreast of the workings of Senioren-Union, and wider information relevant to senior citizens in the EU, especially during the period of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, can always consult CDU's newsletter and magazines. If you would like to receive this information on a regular basis; please visit:

<https://www.senioren-union.de/newsletter-der-su> & <https://www.senioren-union.de/mitgliedermagazin>

Interested readers who wish to receive this information on a regular basis are requested to send an email to the address given in the magazine: [seniorenunion@cdu.de](mailto:seniorenunion@cdu.de).

## 'Europe's Recovery; building the future of fair and resilient societies - including all generations'

On the 27th of July, our ESU Presidium met online to discuss the ESU resolution "Europe's Recovery; building the future of fair and resilient societies - including all generations." A first draft of this resolution was already presented to the members of ESU Executive-Committee during the videoconference of the 4th of July by Secretary General Guido Dumon. Amendments to this resolution had to be submitted by the 25th of July. A discussion on these amendments was held under the fluent guidance of ESU Vice-President Heinz Becker. It was an interactive meeting where the proposed amendments were discussed and incorporated with respect for everyone's opinion. This resolution is a basis for drawing attention - in particular through the EPP - to policy aspects that concern seniors. In a separate mail we sent the adopted resolution and also a press release to all delegates in the ESU-Executive Committee. Please feel free to use this resolution in your own network. See more on our [website](#).

Our resolution was sent to EPP President Donald Tusk, Secretary General Antonio López-Istúriz, President of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen and European Commissioner for Democracy and Demography Dubravka Šuica. In addition, we also sent all EPP members of the Parliamentary Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, Human Rights and Environment and Public Health and Food Safety a personal email with our resolution text. We hope that our work will inspire them in their parliamentary work. We invite you to spread on your turn the vision of seniors expressed in the ESU-resolution.

# ESU member associations on social media

As we already mentioned in our last newsletter, our aim is to get an overview of every organisation within the ESU family that is active on Facebook, either through a 'page of the organisation' or through a 'personal profile' that reports on activities.

If your organization is not yet on the list and you do have Facebook information to share, please send us your answers to the following questions so we can add you:

**→ Does your senior organisation have a Facebook page, if so which one? (Share link)**

**→ If there is no official Facebook page of your organisation, is there a personal Facebook profile where information about your organisation is shared?**

Thank you very much in advance for your cooperation.

So far we have collected the following information:

ASSOCIATION	FACEBOOK PAGE
European Seniors' Union - ESU	<a href="#">@esu.eu</a>
Kansallinen senioriliitto ry	<a href="#">@senioriliitto</a>
Senior Citizens Cyprus	<a href="#">@seniocizenscy</a>
Association of Christian Seniors of Slovakia	Profile of president <a href="#">Peter Mach</a>
Österreichischer Seniorenbund	Profile of president <a href="#">Ingrid Korosec</a>
Senioren-Union der CDU Deutschlands	Profile of Prof. Dr. Otto Wulf : <a href="#">@Prof.Wulff</a> Several profiles of regional and local association:s <a href="#">Senioren-Union der CDU Deutschlands</a> <a href="#">@seniorenunion.badenwurttemberg</a> <a href="#">@SeUEisenach</a>
CD&V Senioren	<a href="#">CD&amp;V Senioren</a>
CSU (Christlich-Soziale Union)	<a href="#">@CSU</a>
SVP Senioren	<a href="#">SVP Senioren</a> Profile of president <a href="#">Christine von Stefenelli</a>

# Congratulations to our colleague Antonios Demetriades

ESU Vice President Antonios Demetriades became in his country, Cyprus, one of the leaders of the 'Parallel Parliament' established by the House of Representatives with the aim of increasing interaction between political decision makers and civil society. We are happy that also seniors are part of this assembly. Antonis Demetriades is also appointed as a member of the Executive Committee of the [European Anti Poverty Network \(EAPN\)](#) which his organization joined as a full member.

The objectives of this EAPN are:

- *To promote and enhance the effectiveness of actions against poverty and social exclusion;*
- *To help shape social policies and design action programmes;*
- *To lobby for and with people and groups experiencing poverty and social exclusion.*

We wish Antonios good luck and we are sure that he will voice the concerns of seniors all over Europe.

## Looking ahead...

In our previous Newsletter we announced that, in agreement with Carmen Quintanilla, we had to postpone our planned celebration of the ESU's 25th anniversary. It is difficult to make plans for 'in person' meetings.

But we are sure... that on **October 1st**, the **International Day of Older Persons**, together with senior citizens around the world, we will call for a better understanding of the needs and hopes of senior citizens and to create awareness for their role. In the next Newsletter we will invite you to reflect on this International Day. And... we hope you're already starting to make plans on this occasion...