

Dear all,

Every year, September symbolises a new start of the political year, in our own countries as well as at European level and... also in our associations where we are involved in political developments. As the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, stated in her *"State of the Union"*, we are facing major challenges this year (read the full text [here](#) in one of the 23 languages). While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to make its demands and... we are not getting used to 'the new normal'. But we are trying to overcome the obstacles and maintain contact between our members and we are bringing our members together online every month through our ESU Newsletter. For this September edition we remind you of the first of October that is approaching: *The International Day of the Older Persons*. Do not hesitate to use your creativity and inspiration to call for respect for older people in your own society.

In the meantime, we are pleased to inform you that we have submitted our ESU resolution *'Europe's Recovery Building the future of fair and resilient societies; including all generations.'* to the EPP Assembly and that it will be on the agenda on 28th of September.

Dear friends, we hope that you all had a strengthening Summer pause and wish you a successful new political year. We thank you for your cooperation. It is our pleasure to share our experiences with you.

An Hermans
ESU- President

1st of October: the International Day of Older Persons



The year 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations and the 30th Anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP). The theme chosen by the United Nations for this year is: *“Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?”*. For more background information about this day and the UN; click [here](#).

At the end of August (30/10) we have sent you a letter from our president on the occasion of this day, we are sending you this letter again as a reminder in annex. It is available in English, German; Spanish and French. Once again, we invite you to read this letter, but more specifically to use it as a tool, a key, an inspiration. Moreover, use this day as an opportunity to bring the older persons and their interests to the forefront with your organisation. You can find all information on our site as well. As every year several members translate the letter and/or adapt it to their own needs. It was a pleasure to see that this year our Polish colleague, Janusz Marzalek, was the first one to translate the letter into Polish.

Our letter 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 have also sent this letter to the EPP members of the Parliamentary Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, Human Rights and Environment and Public Health and Food Safety. We hope that they also will call for a fair and resilient society where no one is left behind.

Preparing the 25th anniversary of the ESU

This year, in November 2020, the ESU will remember that 25 year ago, the association was founded by a Congress in Madrid. In normal circumstances we would celebrate this with a festive meeting in Madrid this year in November. Our vice-president Carmen Quintanilla already started with the preparations. Unfortunately this event can not take place for the reasons you know. However, we do not want this event to go unnoticed and we want to do something with the tools currently available to us. Our ESU Newsletter of October will be dedicated to the history of the ESU. That is why we ask you to tell us something about how and why you think that a seniors association like ESU plays a role in the European civil society. Maybe by answering the following questions (no more than one page). Then we will share your answers in the upcoming newsletter(s), our website and maybe in the Annual Report. We hope to be able to count on your enthusiasm for this questionnaire... Mr Bernhard Worms has already sent us his memories of the founding period. You will read it next time. Please send your story before the 15th of October.

Some guiding questions:

- *Why is the ESU important to you?*
- *What memory related to the ESU will you remember at all times?*
- *Has the ESU helped/inspired you in looking at European politics or in the functioning of your organisation over the years?*
- *If you have some iconic pictures from past ESU events, feel free to add them to your text*

Thank you very much.

News from ESU Member associations

ESU Vice-President Lidmila Němcová, president of the SKS, Czech republic, and her colleagues were recently involved in commemorating influential historical seniors.

We are glad to share this memory.

The history should be remembered

The members of the Czech Christian Seniors' Association - SKS regularly take part in important historical events. This year they have made a significant contribution to co-organising the meeting in memory of the special military units PTP for politically unreliable men during the totalitarian Communist regime established only 70 years ago, in September 1950. At the time, these men were considered enemies of the ruling Communist Party. Every year, traditional commemorative meetings are organised with the respective government bodies, local authorities and NGOs. Because of COVID-19, the size of the meeting was modest.

In her speech, Lidmila Němcová, on behalf of the SKS, stressed the need to pass on to young people the personal experiences of our senior members, as well as the democratic way of thinking and acting. Genuine objective history needs to be remembered, intergenerational cooperation is necessary and a fragile democracy in our country needs to be cultivated.

Upcoming events:

- You are invited to attend as a guest two interesting conferences on **28-29 September** organized by the EU German presidency- BAGSO and AGE on: *'Strengthening Older People's Rights in Times of Digitalisation-Lessons learned from COVID-19'*. Find more information [here](#).
- The **EPP Political Assembly** will meet via a video conference on the **28th of September 2020**. The ESU, as a member association of the EPP, will participate. It is the first meeting since the beginning of the pandemic. For this meeting we submitted the ESU resolution: ['Europe's recovery: building the future of fair and resilient societies; including all generations.'](#)
- **1 October: International Day of Older Persons**. We have sent you this ESU newsletter for this occasion. We expressed our commitment and hope for an inclusive society, with respect for every human being, without discrimination.

- **SAVE THE DATE: You are invited to: 6 November 2020: ESU video meeting 10.30-12.30 (More information will follow):**
 - 10.30: 'Respect for all, young and old': remembering the intention of the founders of ESU (A short reference to the history of the ESU)
 - 11.00- 12.30: Conference by Prof. dr. Christiane Woopen. Christiane Woopen is Professor for Ethics and Theory of Medicine at the University of Cologne. She is coordinator and leader of several international and national research projects concerning ethical aspects in medicine. She is former chair of the German Ethics Council. In April 2017 she was appointed as chair of the European Group on Ethics of Science and New Technologies (EGE).

Socials

- Make sure to follow us on our [facebook page](#) for daily updates. If you have a facebook page or profile of your organization, be sure to inform us.
- Read [here](#), '*Alt & Jung*', the Newsletter from our German colleagues.