



AGE Annual Conference

Friday, 20 November 2015, Brussels

EU role in protecting older citizens' social and economic rights

AGE Platform Europe is happy to invite you to its 3rd annual conference, which will be held on 20 November 2015 in Brussels back to back with AGE General Assembly. Our annual event is open to all AGE members and external stakeholders.

Focus

EU role in protecting older people's social and economic rights

With older people organisations' leaders, academics, industry and EU representatives, we will explore how - **using a rights-based approach in policies and grass-root practices** - the EU institutions, Member States and local actors can support older people's right to age in dignity.

Objective

The conference outcomes will feed into our campaign "Towards an Age-Friendly EU" and will contribute to the creation of **age-friendly environments across Europe** supported by a strong EU Silver Economy.

Showcases and exhibition

NGOs, non-for-profit and for-profit service providers and industry are invited to join the conference and **present their own initiatives in the exhibition space**, showing to our audience how they contribute to enhancing the quality of life of older people, reinforcing their ability to age in dignity and facilitating their active participation in society.

Practicalities

Click on the links to access the [agenda](#) and details on [registration and exhibition](#)

AGE Annual Conference 2015

Friday, 20 November 2015, 9.30 – 15.30

‘EU role in protecting older people rights’

Venue: Hotel HUSA President
44 Boulevard du Roi Albert II – 1000 Brussels, Tel. +32 (0)2 203 20 20
Interpretation in English and French

Although the European Charter of Fundamental Rights declares the rights of older people to live a life of dignity and independence, the pressure on public budgets through the European Semester reforms are increasing the risk of human rights violations against older persons.

Older people are the only group that is specifically protected by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Article 25) but has not yet been the object of a specific EU policy action, neither in EU internal or external action. As a result, the fundamental rights violations that older people face every day remain unknown and unaddressed.

AGE Annual Conference 2015 will be the opportunity to discuss among our Members and external guests how the EU should address age discrimination, while strengthening both economic and social rights of older people in order to empower them as equal citizens. With academics, industry and EU representatives, we will explore concrete solutions on how, using a rights-based approach, the EU and Member States can provide adequate protection against age discrimination and promote older people's right to age in dignity.

09.30 – 11.00: Opening Session

9.30 – 9.40

Welcome:

Marja Sedmak, President of AGE Platform Europe

9.40 – 10.20

Opening Speech:

Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President European Commission (tbc)

10.20 – 11.00

Setting the scene:

Prof Pearl Dykstra, Faculty of Social Sciences at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam

Coffee Break: 11.00 – 11.30



11.30 – 13.00: Panel discussion on policy developments

Introduction by a Vice-President of AGE

11.35 – 12.30 Panel

- **Stefaan Hermans**, Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Marianne Thyssen, Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility
“Convergence of social rights in Europe: renewed social agenda and follow-up to Europe2020 mid-term review”
- **Salla Saastamoinen**, Director for Equality, DG Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality
“Rights-based approach to promote dignified ageing”
- **Ilias Iakovidis**, DG Connect, Communications Networks, Content and Technology
“Silver economy in support to older people’s rights” (tbc)

12.30 – 13.00 Questions and answers

Lunch: 13.00 – 14.00

14.00 – 15.30: Panel discussion on good practices

Introduction by a Vice-President of AGE

14.00 – 15.00 Panel

- **Guillaume Prache**, Managing Director, Better finance, The European Federation of Investors and Financial Services Users
Findings from Research "Pension Savings: The Real Return"
- **European Road Federation**, (name to be confirmed)
“Road safety for ageing population”
- **Nicole Huige**, Strategic Market Development and Public Affairs Director, SCA – Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget (SCA) Hygiene Products AB

15.00 – 15.25 Questions and answers

15.25 – 15.30 Closing remarks by AGE President





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More information on registration and exhibition fees:

Registration

Since our budget is limited, all participants including AGE members have to pay registration fees to help us cover the costs of renting the meeting room, interpretation facilities and catering services.

Registration fees for the conference are **150€/person**.

[Click here to register](#)

Exhibition

The exhibition area will be open from Thursday 19 November (10:00) to Friday 20 November (16:00) at the conference's venue to allow you to present your activities and engage in a direct contact with national and local leaders of older people organisations across the EU.

A fee is also charged to external stakeholders who wish to book a space in the exhibition area (in the large coffee break area):

- **200€** for all non-for-profit entities (NGOs, public authorities, EU projects, etc.).
- **500€** for profit-making entities

This includes an exhibition area of around 2 x 2 m. with a table (please request it) and 2 chairs.

Exhibitors get one free entry to the conference and the second at a reduced price (100€)

External stakeholders interested in booking an exhibition space can contact us at info@age-platform.eu or Nathalie.decraecker@age-platform.eu