



## AGE Annual Conference 2024

### Writing the next chapter for Age Equality in the EU

12 June 2024, 9:15-13:30

Hotel Park Inn Radisson

Martelarenlaan 36, 3010 Leuven, Belgium

#### Contact Person(s)

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## Context

Equality is a core value of the European Union. European equal treatment legislation and policy was created to reflect this core value, to support and protect people who face discrimination.

The European elections in 2024 represent an important momentum for the EU to reiterate its commitment to creating societies where everyone can flourish. As the EU renews its institutional architecture to put equality into practice, it needs to step up action to ensure equal treatment in old age.

Across the EU, age discrimination remains one of the most pervasive forms of unequal treatment with over 45% of individuals believing that age discrimination is widespread in their country ([Eurobarometer on Discrimination in the EU](#), 2023). Globally, one in two people are ageist against older people ([Global Report on ageism](#), 2021). Age discrimination is the most socially accepted and the least legally protected ground because of the lack of an adequate legal and policy framework and varying interpretations of the exemption clauses included in the existing and proposed EU non-discrimination legislation. Ageism that is manifested also through national, European, and international laws, caselaw, policies and practices that reinforce prejudice, perpetuate demeaning attitudes and limit opportunities for the equal participation of older people in society.

## Objective

Taking stock of:

- the legacy of the previous European Parliament and the European Commission
- the work initiated by the High-Level Group on non-discrimination, equality and diversity on promoting age equality and combating ageism
- the first Fundamental Rights Agency's [study on equal access to public services in old age](#) (2023)
- the Explanatory opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on a [EU Strategy on Older Persons](#)
- AGE's call for an [Age Equality Strategy](#)

Our annual conference will aim to build lasting support for EU's Age Equality agenda as we are paving the way for the work programme of the new legislature.

## Audience

The conference will bring together key actors in the field of age equality, including:

- European Commission
- Member States
- Fundamental Rights Agency
- European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations
- Equality Bodies and other EU-level equality networks
- Civil Society Organisations
- Key experts and partners

## 9:15 - 9:45 - Opening

- *Welcome and moderation by **Maciej Kucharczyk**, AGE Secretary-General*
- **Dubravka Šuica**, 2019-2024 EC Vice-President for Democracy and Demography
- **Younesse Kaddour Djebbar**, Deputy Chief of Staff and Budgetary Advisor to the Belgian Secretary of State for Gender Equality, Opportunities and Diversity

## 9:45 -11:10 – Age discrimination in Europe: where are we?

*Moderated by Anthony Degiovanni, AGE Vice President*

Panel discussion

- **Elena Kountouri Tapiero**, Acting Regional Representative, UN OHCHR Regional Office for Europe
- **Prof. Aoife Nolan**, President of the European Committee of Social Rights
- **Carles Dedeu Fontcuberta**, Deputy Head of Unit D1- Non-Discrimination: LGBTIQ, Age, Horizontal Matters, Directorate General for Justice and consumers, European Commission
- **Kalina Ekova**, Coordinator at Alzheimer Bulgaria Association and project manager for the “Smart Against Ageism” project

Q&A with the audience

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**11:10-11:40 Coffee break**  
*(including display of Smart Against Ageism game)*

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## 11:40-12:30 – What do European Equality Strategies bring to people?

*Moderated by Maria Petkova, AGE Vice President*

Round table discussion with:

- **Alejandro Moledo**, Head of Policy and Deputy Director, European Disability Forum
- **Mary Collins**, Secretary General, European Women’s Lobby
- **Aida Yancy**, EL\*C, EuroCentralasian Lesbian Community

Q&A with the audience

## 12:30-13:30 - Closing panel - Recommendations on the way forward

Moderated by **Heidrun Mollenkopf**, AGE President

- **Marzena Okła-Drewnowicz**, Minister for Senior Policy of Poland
- **Sirpa Rautio**, EU Fundamental Rights Agency Director
- **Patrick Charlier**, Chair of Equinet and Director of Unia, Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities, Belgium

### About AGE Platform Europe

AGE Platform Europe is the largest European network of non-profit organizations of and for older people. We elevate older people's voice, bringing their experience and aspirations to the table to celebrate ageing and fight for equality at all ages.



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