



AGE PLATFORM EUROPE

Annual Conference 2018

Supporting Older Persons' Right to Self-Determination

Wednesday, 6 June 2018, 10.00 – 17.35

Interpretation in English, French (3rd language tbc)

Venue: [Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre](#)

Avenue du Boulevard 17, 1210 Brussels. Tel.: (0032) (0) 2 205 15 11

How can older people be better supported to enjoy autonomous lives? How can we guarantee that people remain able to enjoy their right to self-determination as they age? What services and support are necessary to allow older people with care needs to live in dignity and remain independent and autonomous to the greatest possible extent?

AGE Annual Conference 2018 will explore how older people can enjoy their freedom to make choices, manage their own lives and live as autonomously and independent as possible. Gathering older people and their organisations together with other civil society representatives, researchers and policy makers, the event will discuss how, concretely, policies and legislation could better contribute to allowing older people to enjoy their right to autonomy and independence. The conference will also explore how care and assistance services can support older people to live in dignity and as autonomously as possible, including those who have a life-threatening condition and require palliative care.

The outcomes of the conference will feed AGE contribution to the ongoing discussions on the enjoyment of human rights by older persons at United Nations' Open-Ended Working Group on ageing, as well as in current and future European Union initiatives such as the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.



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9.15 – 10.00 Registrations

10.00 – 10.15 Welcome by Ebbe Johansen, President of AGE Platform Europe

10.15 – 11.15 Opening session

Moderator: **Ebbe Johansen**, President of AGE Platform Europe

Opening speech:

- **Zornitsa Roussinova**, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Republic of Bulgaria

Setting the scene:

- **Dr. Peter Lloyd-Sherlock**, Professor of Social Policy and International Development at the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom
- **Georgette De Wit**, self-advocate

11.15 – 11.45: Coffee break

11.45 - 13.15 Panel session: Ensuring older people's self-determination autonomy and independence in all aspects of their lives

This panel will reflect on how autonomy and self-determination apply to older people in practice. The reflection will be accompanied by illustrations of situations where older people are prevented from enjoying autonomous lives and taking decisions on issues that concern them, be that as citizens, as consumers, as workers in settings of care and support.

Moderator: *tbc*

Panellists:

- **Peter Rayner**, self-advocate
- **Dr. Eilionoir Flynn**, Director, Centre for Disability Law & Policy, National University of Ireland Galway
- **Anna Chabiera**, Office of the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights

Interactive discussion with the panellists and participants

13.15 – 14.45: Lunch break

14.45 - 16.15 Breakout sessions

Two dynamic and participatory parallel breakout sessions will build on the points raised in the morning panel to deliver concrete outcomes, guided by a moderator and followed by a rapporteur.

Breakout session A

Older people's rights to autonomy and independence: legal capacity and participation to civic, social, economic and cultural life (with interpretation)

This session will elaborate on how policymaking can contribute to ensuring the rights to autonomy and independence of older people in all aspects of their lives – in exercising their legal rights, and in participating to civil, political, social, economic and cultural life. It will discuss concrete examples of violation of these rights, and also how to guarantee older people in such situations can seek redress.

Moderator: **Dr. Claude Cahn**, Regional Office for Europe of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Discussants:

- **Nevena Peneva**, Research Officer at the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) – tbc
- **Chris Roberts**, Vice Chairperson, European Working Group of People with Dementia, Alzheimer Europe
- **Frank Sioen**, Advocacy Officer at the European Network for Independent Living (ENIL)

Rapporteur: **Dr. Heidrun Mollenkopf**, vice-president of AGE Platform Europe

Interactive discussion between discussants and participants

Breakout session B

Quality long-term and palliative care for ageing well and enjoying independent living (no translation)

This session will discuss how older people's dignity should be guaranteed when they receive care and support. We will seek to explore which policies can allow older persons with support needs to enjoy autonomous lives, self-determination and community-living,

also in cases where such needs are high. The session will finally explore what interventions and policies could enhance the dignity and wellbeing of older persons with a life threatening condition through the access to good quality palliative care.

Moderator: **Dr. Liz Mestheneos**, researcher and former President of AGE Platform Europe

Discussants:

- **Dr. Liesbeth De Donder**, Free University of Brussels (VUB), coordinator of the WeDO2 European project (2013-2015)
- **Dr. Sheila Payne**, Professor at Lancaster University and partner of the PACE European project on palliative care
- **Dr. Xenia Scheil-Adlung**, global health and long-term care advisor, former Health Policy Coordinator at the International Labour Organization (ILO)

Rapporteur: **Rio Haida**, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Interactive discussion between discussants and participants

16.15 – 16.45: Coffee break

16.45 - 17.15 Conclusions from breakout sessions

Moderator: **Anne-Sophie Parent**, Secretary-General of AGE Platform Europe

Rapporteurs of breakout sessions will present their conclusions to the audience. The audience will be able to add some last comments and reactions.

Interactive discussion with participants

17.15 – 17.30 Closing remarks by Dr. Ralf-René Weingärtner, Head of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Division, Permanent Representation of Germany to the European Union

17.30 – 17.35 Closing of the conference by Ebbe Johansen, President of AGE Platform Europe

End of Conference