European Seniors' Union (ESU) Statement on the International Day of Older Persons – 1 October 2025

On 1 October, the world comes together to celebrate the *International Day of Older Persons*. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1990 (Resolution 45/106), this day has become a moment of recognition, gratitude, and renewed commitment to the dignity, rights, and contributions of older people everywhere.

In 2025, the theme is **"Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being and Our Rights."** It reminds us that older persons are not on the margins of society, but at its heart—offering wisdom, experience, and resilience to help build stronger, fairer, and more caring communities.

As the European Seniors' Union, we are proud to join this global celebration. Across Europe and beyond, older persons show every day that they are *drivers of progress*:

- **In families and neighbourhoods**, offering presence, care, and support that combats loneliness and isolation.
- **In schools, workplaces, and local communities**, fostering intergenerational dialogue and cooperation that enriches everyone.
- **At European and international level**, raising their voices against ageism and for societies that are inclusive, just, and age-friendly.

Many who are active in seniors' associations have lived lives full of service, solidarity, and active citizenship. Their stories inspire us, and their continued engagement shows how much older persons still shape the future.

At ESU, we believe older persons are *experts by experience*. Together, we bring lessons from the past, share perspectives for today, and build bridges toward a better tomorrow—for every generation.

On this International Day, let us celebrate the energy, the dedication, and the hope that older persons bring to our world. Let us ensure their voices are heard, their rights respected, and their contributions cherished.

Happy International Day of Older Persons – 1 October 2025!

European Seniors' Union (ESU)
Brussels, 23 September 2025

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