

AEIP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

SOCIETAL ROLE OF PARITARIAN INSTITUTIONS

14th November // 10h00-16h00 CET

Residence Palace, Rue de la Loi 155, 1040 Brussels



Katja Veirto, the President of the AEIP. Licentiate of Social Sciences and Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) degree. She currently serves as the Director of Sustainability and Public Affairs at the Mutual Pension Insurance Company Elo.

Throughout her career, Katja has accumulated extensive experience in advocacy and negotiation roles within labor market organizations. She has been involved in negotiations related to the reform of the Finnish pension system and has actively participated in numerous legislative initiatives concerning labor and social security issues. Katja also serves as a board member of Eläketurvakeskus (The Finnish Centre for Pensions) and has previously held board positions at Kela (The Social Insurance Institution of Finland) and Tapaturmavakuutuskeskus (The Workers' Compensation Center).



Mario Nava is the Director-General of DG EMPL of the EU Commission. Previously, Director-General of DG REFORM and Director and Head of Unit in the DG for financial services. He was President of Italian Financial Market Authority. He teaches at Bocconi University and at Solvay Business School. In 2023, he was awarded the title of Bocconi Alumnus of the year.

Panel 1: Social protection & Politics



Janne Pelkonen is the Manager of Public Advocacy at The Finnish Pension Alliance (TELA), with a career starting in 2008. Before joining TELA, he was a researcher studying pension systems, continuing at work policies and retirement attitudes.

He specializes in pensions, advocacy, and stakeholder relations, with a focus on international affairs. He is an expert in pension systems, EU policy, and vocational rehabilitation.

Pelkonen is known for his ability to simplify complex pension issues, and his work spans local and international levels, including EU committees in Finland and AEIP's commissions. In his personal life, he enjoys family activities and vintage collections.

The Finnish Pension Alliance TELA looks after the interests of insurers providing statutory earnings-related pensions. Our mission is to strengthen the earnings-related pension system and to influence the sector's general operating environment.

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Elizabeth Kuiper is Associate Director and Head of the Social Europe and Wellbeing programme at the European Policy Centre. Her focus is on societal resilience and human capital, the nexus between pharmaceutical policy and economic security, gender- and diversity issues and sustainability.

Before joining the EPC, Elizabeth was Executive Director at the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), where she was leading the organisation's external engagement. Amongst others, she led the industry's Brexit Task

Force and created the Brexit4Patients multistakeholder coalition.

Previously she worked as attaché at the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the EU in the field of health. Prior to this, Elizabeth worked amongst others as political adviser to the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports in the Dutch cabinet Balkenende-IV.

A Dutch national, she is fluent in English, French, and German.



Paul Schoukens is a full professor at the KU Leuven (Faculty of Law and Criminology) where he teaches social security law. He is vice-dean international relations at the Faculty of Law and Criminology. Furthermore, he is holding the chair International and European Social Security Law at Tilburg University, endowed by the Instituut Gak. His research and education interests lie primarily at (Comparative, International, and European) social security (law).

He became in 2013 Secretary-General of the European Institute of Social Security, an international scientific network of persons professionally active in the fields of social security and social protection. He is Academic Director of the specialised Master programme Social Security in Europe. He earned his doctorate with research on the impact of European Union law on the social protection of self-employed people and specialised further in the domain of atypical work in social security.

He is the author of a high number of academic articles and is often invited to speak at international meetings and conferences. In his capacity as researcher he is involved in a number of international project, some of them specifically related to the development of social security regulations and models in Central and Eastern Europe. He was the head of the Erasmus+-project Efese developing virtual exchange modules for hybrid distance education.



Antero Kiviniemi has worked on the social dimension of the EU actively and versatily since 2000. He has worked in the Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU, the European Commission, within the framework of the OECD and the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, where he also served as Director-General and Director.

Antero has been involved in preparations, analyzes and negotiations concerning, for example, the European Pillar of Social Rights, EU pension policy reviews, general development of the EU's social dimension, investment rules for insurance companies and pension funds, and equality issues. He has chaired the working **groups of the EU Council when negotiating these issues.**

Antero also actively participated in AEIP's expert discussions and deliberations when EU's pension policy assessments were activated some 20 years ago.

Antero studied political science, international relations, economics and law at the University of Helsinki and at the Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences Po). Currently, he works in the Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU and is in charge of social issues, occupational health and safety, equality and insurance.



Maciej J. Kucharczyk is the Secretary General of the AGE Platform Europe. He is responsible for the implementation of AGE strategic objectives and the development of the network, Maciej's work aims to ensure an ever-stronger voice for older people to influence policies on ageing in EU and globally. AGE seeks to combat ageism, promote human rights throughout life, reduce inequalities and enable everyone to live a full and dignified life.

From 2014 to 2020, Maciej was vice-president of Social Platform, Europe's largest network of rights-based NGOs active in the social sector and, between 2006 and 2016 he was a member of the executive committee of EAPN - European Anti-Poverty Network. Maciej holds a master's degree in international economic relations and postgraduate degrees in European affairs and public administration.

The importance of Paritarian Institutions in industrial relations research



Peter Kerckhofs is a research manager in the Working Life unit at Eurofound and is responsible for representativeness studies. His work involves developing in-depth knowledge on the specificities and the industrial landscape of sectors. He also works on industrial relations projects related to European Works Councils and European Sectoral Social Dialogue. Before joining Eurofound, he worked as a researcher for ETUI and UCL, as a political secretary for EMCEF and was scientific coordinator of the PhD School of the social sciences faculty of KU Leuven. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a Master's degree in Political Science from KUL and one in International Relations from UCL, and has a PhD in Industrial Relations from the University of Manchester.

Panel 2: Strengthening Social Dialogues in the Construction Sector



Thorsten Guthke is Doctor in law, specialising in EU politics and legislation. Following studies in Germany and Italy, he started a career as solicitor. Since 2006, he is active in EU policy; first in industry, and later on in financial services. He has held senior positions in sector associations, as head of legal department at the European Savings Banks Group, and head of European affairs at the association of public banks. Thorsten is used to work with international organisations, e.g. OECD and UN. From a technical point of view, he has profound expertise in sustainable finance, and capital market regulation.

Thorsten is heading the EU office of SOKA-BAU, the social fund of the German construction industry, which he has built up since 2020. Thorsten is working closely with EU Institutions, with social partners and paritarian organisations, in particular on pensions, financial and social policy matters.



Marta Prádanos is a social dialogue policy officer at DG EMPL. For over ten years she has been responsible for different European social dialogue committees including those for central government administrations, local and regional governments, social services, private security, industrial cleaning and construction, and she provides support to European social dialogue developments in the sector of personal and household services. She previously worked as researcher and teaching assistant at MIT, focusing on the interplay between technology, globalization and sustainable development, and at DG Trade as coordinator of trade relations between the EU, the Andean Community and Central America. Marta pursued studies in Spain and France leading to her bachelor's degree in economics and holds master's degrees in European economic studies from the College of Europe and in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.



Christine Le Forestier is French. She studied French and German law at the University of Nanterre-Paris X and Potsdam Universität. In 2007, she graduated from the Master of European Affairs and Lobbying of the Université Catholique de Paris. Since then, she has been working at the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC), based in Brussels. For more than ten years, she has been in charge of economic and legal affairs, dealing amongst others with public procurement, infrastructure and statistics.

In July 2019, she became Director for social affairs, covering three main areas of activities: education and training, occupational health and safety, employment and labour law issues. These topics, together with various EU-funded projects, are also addressed in the EU Social Dialogue committee for the construction industry in which FIEC represents the employers.



Tom Deleu has been serving as the General Secretary of the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) since 2020. A Belgian national, Tom brings a wealth of experience in advocating for workers' rights across Europe, particularly in the construction and wood sectors.

He holds a Master's degree in Social Work and Social Welfare Studies and has over ten years of experience as an international secretary for ACV-CSC BIE, the Belgian trade union for the construction industry. During his time there, he worked on European and international issues linked to decent work, multinational companies, migration, social dumping and capacity building.



Kristof Van Roy obtained a Master in Organizational Psychology in 1999. He started his professional career 22 years ago at Constructiv, a paritarian organization that strives to ensure that Belgian construction companies have sufficient and well-trained workers at their disposal. At the start of this career, his work was initially focused on carrying out studies (quantitative and qualitative) and following the actual trends with regard to the subjects related to the mission of Constructiv, in particular education, training and employment. Since 2013, this has also expanded to include more communication-related activities. Since 2016, he has been Manager of the Study and External Communication Department within Constructiv.

Costs and benefits of collectivity and solidarity



Onno Steenbeek (1967) is managing director of the department Strategic Portfolio Advice at APG Asset Management. This department (35fte) is responsible for APG's advisory services regarding ALM and strategic asset allocation for associated pension funds. The department also plays a central role in the implementation of reforms of the Dutch pension system.

Apart from his primary position at APG, Steenbeek holds a part-time Chair in Pension Fund Risk Management at the Erasmus University School

of Economics in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Apart from lecturing on various finance subjects, he conducts academic research and publishes books and articles.

In addition to his primary affiliations to APG and Erasmus University, Steenbeek is a member of EIOPA's Occupational Pensions Stakeholder Group. He recently spent 3 months at the World Bank Treasury in Washington DC, leading a project on domestic investments by pension funds.



Ronald Heijn started as a trainee at a bank. Quite soon after that, he made a career in investment advice. He has been Head of Private Banking; after that, he was a regional director of several bank branches; he then became the managing director of a bank. He has been both supervisor and chairman of the supervisory boards of several insurance companies.

Currently, Ronald works in the Dutch pensions sector because he likes the major change coming up in the sector. He is vice-chairman of Pensioenfondsen PGB which services 16 different branches. He is chairman of the supervisory board of the APG employee pension fund.

Ronald also likes to teach. He is an executive lecturer at Nyenrode Business University where he is one of the key speakers and moderators in the private wealth sector. Furthermore, he is a trusted advisor to several family companies.

Panel 3: Inclusive approaches to Integrated Welfare

Fabio Porcelli is the CEO of the Italian Journalists' Complementary Pension Fund, where he has led organisational growth and strategic planning since May 2023. He serves on the board of Assoprevidenza and is a former member of the INPS supervisory board. With extensive experience in Brussels, he advised the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) on the social aspects of sustainable finance and served on the EU Social Protection and Tax Policies Committees. His work is distinguished by a deep understanding of pension fund governance, labour rights, and social policy at both Italian and European levels.



Valdis Zagorskis is the Deputy Head of the Social Protection unit at DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission, which supports Member States in modernising their social protection systems to ensure adequate social protection for all in the context of an ageing society. Valdis has worked in the unit since 2012, where he previously led the pension team focusing on retirement income adequacy in Member States. Valdis has worked on several EU initiatives supporting Member States to achieve adequate and safe pensions, including the Directive on the acquisition and preservation of supplementary pension rights ('Portability' directive) and the triennial Pension Adequacy Reports.

Valdis studied political science and European social security. Before joining the European Commission, he worked in the Latvian public administration and as an independent researcher. Following EU enlargement in 2004, Valdis served as political affairs manager and deputy head of the European Commission Representation in Latvia.



Romain Bendavid has been serving as Health Advisor at CTIP since April 2024, bringing over 20 years of expertise in workplace health. A graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po) and ESCP-EAP, Romain is also an Associate Expert with the Jean Jaurès Foundation, where he focuses on the evolving challenges of health in the workplace.

In addition to his advisory work, Romain is a published author. His book *Paths to Equality: Women, Men, and Work* (Editions de l'Aube, 2022) explores gender dynamics in the labour market. He has also contributed several influential reports on workplace health and transformation, including:

- "If it's too loud, you're not too old! Experiencing noise at work and actions to protect hearing" (April 2024)
- "The Absent Are Not Always Wrong": Analysis of the increase in absenteeism at work (in collaboration with L'Express, September 2023)
- "I Love You, Me Neither: The ambivalences of the new work relationship" (with BFM TV and France Inter, March 2023)
- "Workplace Health and Absenteeism Prevention: The new post-Covid reality" (December 2022)



Casper van Ewijk is professor emeritus in economics and currently affiliated with Netspar, Network for Studies on Pensions, Aging and Retirement. After an academic career at the University of Amsterdam and Tilburg University, he was deputy-director of CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis ('Central Planning Bureau') in the Netherlands from 1998 to 2013, and director of Netspar from 2013-2020. Since 2020 he is researcher at Netspar, and member of various advisory committees on pensions for the Dutch government, social partners and pension funds. He is an expert in pension economics and finance, working on ageing and pensions from 1998 onwards. He has published on pensions, ageing and public finance in the academic journals. He has been member of the Social Economic Council (SER) committee preparing the current pension reform, and participated in several committees and working groups guiding this reform.

Since 2023 he has been member of the Investment Committee of the Pension fund for Medical Specialists (SPMS). Furthermore, he is involved as an academic advisor with a fintech start-up that develops new 'life cycle' solutions for home financing for (younger) households and for releasing home equity for elderly households (see e.g. Households' heterogeneous welfare effects of using home equity for life cycle consumption, Journal of the Economics of Ageing, online 2023).

European Tracking Service for Pensions: state of play and next steps



Alessandro Laudiero is the Secretary General of Union Retraite and Member of the Executive Board and Second chairman of the Board of Directors of the European Tracking Service on Pensions. Alessandro has more than 10 years of experience in the field of pensions, financial planning, and project management. Alessandro has a background in actuarial science and finance and holds a Master degree from Sciences Po and Sapienza University of Rome.

Conclusions



Roland Sonntag is an AEIP Board Member and has been an employee of SOKA-BAU, Wiesbaden, since 2017.

In February 2017, Roland Sonntag took over the responsibility of the division Organizational Management and drove forward the professionalization of project portfolio management and requirements management. In April 2022, Roland Sonntag took over the newly created position of Manager Corporate Strategy. Since August 2024, Roland Sonntag has been responsible for the division Posted Workers Scheme.

Roland Sonntag graduated from the University of Konstanz in April 1996 with a degree in Administrative Sciences. From May 1996 to January 2017, he worked for IDS Scheer Consulting GmbH / IDS Scheer AG / Scheer GmbH. During this time, he progressed from consultant to head of delivery units and carried out projects in various industries.