



PRESS RELEASE (Programme announcement)

European Retirement Week 2021 to be opened with keynote by Mairead McGuinness, European Commissioner for Financial services, Financial Stability and the Capital Markets Union

BRUSSELS, 9 November 2021 – The preliminary programme of the inaugural European Retirement Week was presented today. The week will begin with a launch event on 29 November, featuring a keynote speech by Mairead McGuinness, European Commissioner for Financial Services, Financial Stability and the Capital Markets Union.

The launch event will be followed by a range of presentations and panel discussions that will be organised individually by the eleven participating associations. Each will address Europe's retirement savings challenge and explore solutions to drive and deliver value for money for European pension savers. The full programme of events, which take place during the week of 29 November 2021, is available in the annex and on the [website](#) of each association.


With European countries ageing fast, rates of poverty and social exclusion among pensioners are rising, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and for certain categories of workers. At the same time, pension systems are facing increasing budgetary constraints. Solutions must therefore be found to ensure that all European citizens benefit from an adequate pension in retirement. Given the growing urgency of this challenge, the participating associations aim to establish European Retirement Week as a recurring event in the European calendar.

This year, European Retirement Week will be organised in an online setting in light of the continuing uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Participating associations include AGE Platform Europe, BETTER FINANCE, BEUC – The European Consumer Association, Cross Border Benefits Alliance - Europe (CBBA-Europe), ETS Project Consortium, European Association of Paritarian Institutions (AEIP), the European Banking Federation (EBF), EFAMA, the Federation of European Securities Exchanges (FESE), Insurance Europe, PensionsEurope.

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Participating associations

	<p>AGE Platform Europe is a European network of non-profit organisations of and for people aged 50+, which aims to voice and promote the interests of the 200 million citizens aged 50+ in the European Union (Eurostat, 2018) and to raise awareness on the issues that concern them most. Our work focuses on a wide range of policy areas that impact on older and retired people. These include issues of anti-discrimination, employment of older workers and active ageing, social protection, pension reforms, social inclusion, health, elder abuse, intergenerational solidarity, research, accessibility of public transport and of the build environment, and new technologies (ICT).</p>
	<p>BETTER FINANCE, the European Federation of Investors and Financial Services Users, is the public interest non-governmental organisation advocating and defending the interests of European citizens as financial services users at European level to lawmakers and the public in order to promote research, information and training on investments, savings and personal finances. It is the one and only European-level organisation solely dedicated to the representation of individual investors, savers and other financial services users.</p>
	<p>BEUC is the umbrella group for 46 independent consumer organisations from 32 countries. Our main role is to represent them to the EU institutions and defend the interests of European consumers. Our acronym originates from our French name, 'Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs'. Our daily work involves making sure the EU takes policy decisions that improve the lives of consumers. This covers a range of topics including competition, consumer rights, digital rights, energy, redress and enforcement, financial services, food, health, safety, sustainability and trade policy.</p>
	<p>Cross Border Benefits Alliance-Europe (CBBA-Europe) is a Brussels-based European association advocating for the development of cross-border/pan-European solutions in the field of the workplace and individual social benefits, including pensions, healthcare, long-term care, mental health, unemployment, etc. The association was launched in December 2018 and has 22 members including, pension funds, asset managers, multinational corporations, insurance companies, pension funds' administrators, law firms and other associations. In the field of pensions, CBBA-Europe is mainly focused on the good implementation of the IORP Directive and the PEPP Regulation. Moreover, CBBA-Europe is advocating for the creation of new EU legal framework on occupational pensions allowing for smoother cross-border arrangements. Finally, together with its Scientific Council, CBBA-Europe is working on innovative proposals to develop funded pensions in those European countries where these types of pensions are not developed enough.</p>
	<p>Founded in 1996, the European Association of Paritarian Institutions – AEIP is a Brussels-based advocacy organization, representing Social Protection Institutions established and managed by employers and trade unions on a joint basis within the framework of collective agreements. The Association has 15 Associate and Affiliate members – all leading large and medium-sized Social</p>

Participating associations

	<p>Protection Institutions, from 11 European countries, as well as 13 Task Force Members from 4 European countries. All AEIP members are not-for-profit organizations.</p>
	<p>The European Banking Federation is the voice of the European banking sector, bringing together national banking associations from across Europe. The federation is committed to a thriving European economy that is underpinned by a stable, secure and inclusive financial ecosystem, and to a flourishing society where financing is available to fund the dreams of citizens, businesses and innovators everywhere. For more information visit www.ebf.eu. Twitter handle: @EBFeu</p>
	<p>EFAMA is the voice of the European investment management industry, which manages over EUR 27 trillion of assets on behalf of its clients in Europe and around the world. We advocate for a regulatory environment that supports our industry's crucial role in steering capital towards investments for a sustainable future and providing long-term value for investors. More information available at www.efama.org.</p>
	<p>At the start of 2019, a consortium of 8 experienced pension stakeholders took up the challenge to establish the pilot stage of the European Tracking Service on Pensions (ETS) under the already existing brand 'FindyourPension' (FYP). The idea behind the ETS project is to help mobilise workers get tailored information about their old age provisions as well as an overview of the personal pension entitlements they have collected throughout their career. The pilot comprises the FYP portal containing tailored information on at least 5 countries as well as a first connection as a proof of concept gathering personal pension data from the Belgian tracking facilities. Following a step-by-step approach, the goal is to roll out the service and connect as many National Tracking Services to the platform as possible after the project phase. The project is financially supported by the European Commission (programme EaSI, Progress Axis, Access to Social Protection).</p>
	<p>The Federation of European Securities Exchanges (FESE) represents 36 exchanges in equities, bonds, derivatives and commodities through 18 Full Members from 30 countries, as well as 1 Affiliate Member and 1 Observer Member. At the end of September 2021, FESE members had 9470 companies listed on their markets, of which 13% are foreign companies contributing towards European integration and providing broad and liquid access to Europe's capital markets. Many of our members also organise specialised markets that allow small and medium sized companies across Europe to access capital markets; 1387 companies were listed in these specialised markets/segments in equity, increasing choice for investors and issuers. Through their RM and MTF operations, FESE members are keen to support the European Commission's objective of creating a Capital Markets Union.</p>

Participating associations

	<p>Insurance Europe is the European insurance and reinsurance federation. Through its 37 member bodies — the national insurance associations — it represents all types and sizes of insurance and reinsurance undertakings. Insurance Europe, which is based in Brussels, represents undertakings that account for around 95% of total European premium income. Insurance makes a major contribution to Europe’s economic growth and development. European insurers pay out almost €1 000bn annually — or €2.7bn a day — in claims, directly employ nearly 950 000 people and invest over €10.4trn in the economy.</p>
	<p>PensionsEurope represents national associations of pension funds and similar institutions for workplace and other funded pensions. Some members operate purely individual pension schemes. PensionsEurope has 24 member associations in 17 EU Member States and 4 other European countries. PensionsEurope member organisations cover different types of workplace pensions for over 110 million people. Through its Member Associations PensionsEurope represents more than € 4 trillion of assets managed for future pension payments. In addition, many members of PensionsEurope also cover personal pensions, which are connected with an employment relation. PensionsEurope also has 22 Corporate and Supporter Members which are various service providers and stakeholders that work with IORPs.</p>