



## PRESS RELEASE

### **The European Association of Paritarian Institutions (AEIP) held its 2019 Annual Conference on the importance and the added-value of the paritarian model and social dialogue**

*The [European Association of Paritarian Institutions](#) (AEIP) held its Annual Conference on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November in Brussels. This year's edition focused on the paritarian model and social dialogue, with a view on the various challenges for social protection systems as well as changing labour markets. Following the recent election of the new European Parliament and just before the Von der Leyen Commission takes office, the timing has been deemed perfect for presenting the vision and activities of AEIP to the wider audience. The 2019 annual conference was a great opportunity to reflect on the role of social partners as well as of paritarian organizations of social protection in a rapidly changing labour market.*

The conference opened with a speech by AEIP's President, Mr. Philip Neyt, who underlined the importance of the European social model and the fundamental role of paritarian institutions in finding socially balanced solutions against the increasingly pressuring challenges of our time.

It was followed by a key note speech by Mr. Stefan Olsson, Director in DG EMPL, who stated: "One of our most important roles is to support MSs in addressing the challenges of the new labour markets and the social partners in introducing the needed reforms".

The conference's first panel addressed the challenges and need for adaptation for welfare systems, given the accelerating labour market trends and the flexibilization of employment. The panel's moderator and speakers identified the rise of atypical employment and the demographic problem as two key challenges for social dialogue and paritarian organizations. Solidarity –whether intergenerational or between people with different forms of employment- was seen as a fundamental prerequisite for the design of any future policy recommendations. As Mr Theo Langejan, Dutch Federation of Pension Funds stated: "there is no such thing as a voluntary solidarity, solidarity has to be always mandatory".

During her breakout speech, Ms. Veronika Wodsak, Social Protection Policy Specialist in ILO, referred to the social security reforms made in the last decade around the world, stating that: "There is definitely a need to adapt welfare systems while respecting principles of risk sharing, solidarity, equity".

The second panel focused on the necessity to reflect upon but also to adapt the existing models of social protection to the current socioeconomic trends. A key question raised by all speakers was how can we collectively decide on a system that is still able to deliver adequate social protection, while also being financially sustainable in the long term. Apart from a strong focus on the French model of paritarism and



Association Européenne des Institutions Paritaires  
European Association of Paritarian Institutions

---

the significance of the traditional tripartite model, the European Pillar of Social Rights figured prominently in the discussion, as a vehicle capable of enhancing the social dimension of the fiscally pressured welfare systems.

As part of her breakout speech, Ms. Claudia Wegner-Wahnschaffe, from the Supplementary Pension Institution of the German Federation and the Länder (VBL), gave a comprehensive overview of the ongoing project of a European Tracking System (ETS) for pensions. The ETS project, in which AEIP is a consortium partner, aims to set up a service which facilitate the access to information on pension entitlements, regardless of the country of residence.

During his closing speech as President of AEIP, Mr. Neyt stressed the commitment of the organization in promoting the paritarian model as a mean for self-organization, democratic decision-making and respectful cooperation. Importantly, he called all stakeholders and relevant institutions to work in an inclusive way for delivering social services of high quality.

**For contact:**

Aleksandra Kaydzhyska, Permanent Representative: [aleksandra.kaydzhyska@aeip.net](mailto:aleksandra.kaydzhyska@aeip.net)

Christos Louvaris Fasois, AEIP- Policy Advisor on Pension & Financial Affairs: [christos.louvaris@aeip.net](mailto:christos.louvaris@aeip.net)

Francesca Cattarin, Senior Policy Advisor Healthcare & provident Funds: [francesca.cattarin@aeip.net](mailto:francesca.cattarin@aeip.net)



**AEIP Disclaimer**

AEIP represents the European Paritarian Institutions of Social Protection in Brussels since 1997. The Association gathers 22 leading large and medium-sized Social Protection Management Organizations which equally represent the employees and the employers through a joint governance scheme; plus 39 affiliates from 22 countries

AEIP represents its members' values and interests at the level of both European and International Institutions. In particular, AEIP - through its working groups - deal with EU coordinated pension schemes, pension funds, healthcare schemes, unemployment schemes, provident schemes and paid holiday schemes. The final goal of AEIP is to achieve pan-European paritarian schemes of social protection.

Owing to the quality of its members and to the delegation of powers conferred to its Board, AEIP aims at becoming the leading body for the promotion of balanced paritarian social protection systems in Europe. AEIP promotes and develops programs and orientations aiming at the sustainability of paritarian social protection systems at local level taking into account the national specificities aiming at ensuring social cohesion in Europe.

Based thereon, AEIP prepares recommendations, proposes local programs and influences European decisions to safeguard and promote the interests of its members. AEIP thinks ahead and anticipate modern paritarian social protection systems that take into account changing economic and societal pattern. It furthermore seeks to find a new balance between and across generations.