

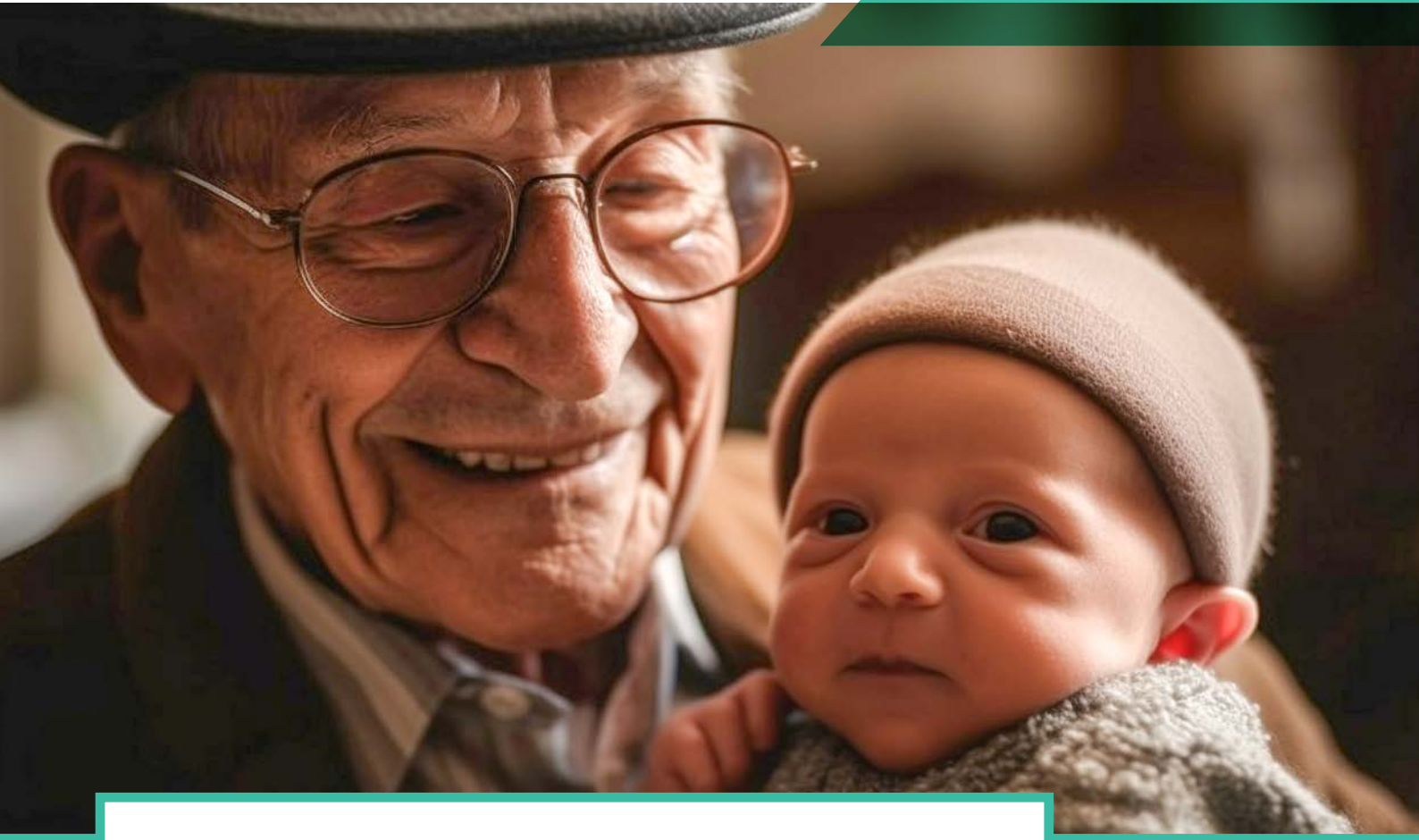


Cyprus Third Age  
Observatory

Co-organised



European Parliament  
Office in Cyprus



## EUROPEAN POLITICAL CONFERENCE ON ACTIVE, HEALTHY AND DIGNIFIED AGEING

under the auspices of H.E. President of the Republic of Cyprus



8<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 | Presidential Palace

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



Co-funded by the  
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REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
PRESIDENCY



CYPRUS  
NATIONAL  
BIOETHICS  
COMMITTEE







## PREFACE

Cyprus's demography is experiencing a significant change, particularly in terms of an ageing population. The fact that the country's population is ageing at an alarming rate must be a concern for everyone. It is foreseen that nearly 30% of the population will comprise seniors over the next decade. While this demographic shift poses significant challenges, it also presents unique opportunities. The European Political Conference on Active, Healthy and Dignified Ageing sheds light on the issues and prospects of ageing in Cyprus and the rest of Europe.

As people age, they often encounter various obstacles, some of which are deeply ingrained in social attitudes and structures. Abuse, neglect, economic exploitation, and ageism are some of the significant issues that older individuals face regularly. These issues are not just mere theoretical statistics but are experiences that require immediate and urgent attention from everyone, particularly from the state and politicians.

Despite the challenges of ageing and the increasing pressure on healthcare systems, pension funds, and social structures, older people can make a significant contribution to the economy with the help of a clear vision and policies that focus on harnessing the potential of the Silver Economy. Developing sectors such as silver tourism, innovative services, and products present opportunities for creating thousands of new jobs. Older people should be considered a dynamic market segment rich in experience and wisdom rather than burdening our country.

Wise policy decisions are necessary to address challenges and opportunities related to population ageing. Policymakers are responsible for ensuring that older people age healthily, actively, and with dignity while also unleashing the potential of the silver economy. This conference will delve into the intricacies of population ageing, including the personal experiences of older people, macroeconomic trends, and policy imperatives.

Through expert presentations, we will gain valuable insights into the world of older people - a world we are all heading to with no return. This conference aims to inspire action to safeguard the human rights of older people, combat ageism, embrace them with love, and prioritise policies and good practices that enable them to make meaningful contributions to society and the country's economy.

**Demos Antoniou**  
President,  
Cyprus Third Age Observatory



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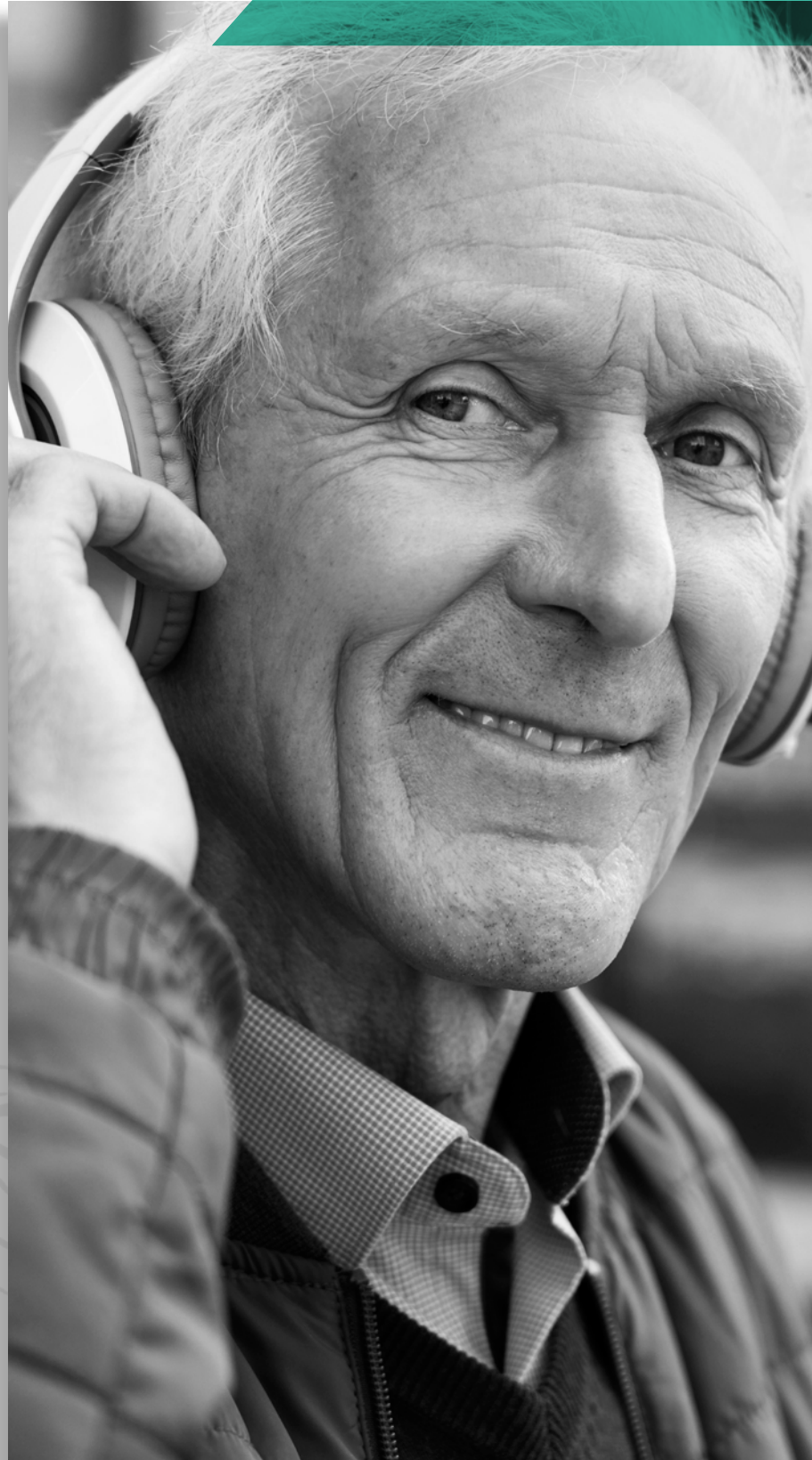
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### ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Demos Antoniou
- Doxoula Stylianou
- Yiannis Tsangarides
- Andros Christodoulou
- Alexia Colota
- Yiannoula Antoniou
- Kiriaki Sarri

### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Constantinos Phellas
- Stelios Stylianou
- Marios Kyriazis
- Marina Polycarpou
- Myrto-Maria Ranga
- Stavros Parlalis





## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

08:30-09:00 **Arrival of delegates and officials**

09:00-09:40

### **Conference opening speeches**

1. Demos Antoniou, President of the Cyprus Third Age Observatory
2. Maciej Kucharczyk, Secretary General of AGE Platform Europe
3. Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner of Democracy and Demography
4. Andreas Kettis, Head of the European Parliament Office in Cyprus
5. H.E. the Archbishop of Cyprus Georgios
6. H.E. Mr Nikos Christodoulides, President of the Republic of Cyprus

09:40-10:20

### **Round Table discussion 1:**

#### **Political Party Statements on Active, Healthy and Dignified Ageing**

Moderator: Constantinos Phellas, President of the Cyprus National Bioethics Committee

- Eftimios Diplaros, Deputy Leader of the Democratic Rally
- Evanthia Savva, Head of the Social Policy Sector of the Progressive Party of Working People
- George Solomou, General Secretary of the Democratic Party
- Morfakis Solomonides, General Manager of the Movement for Social Democracy EDEK
- Andreas Themistocleous, Spokesman of the Democratic Alignment

10:20-11:00

### **Round Table discussion 2:**

#### **Silver Economy and its contribution to the economies of the Member States**

Moderator: Demos Antoniou, President of the Cyprus Third Age Observatory

- Yiannis Panagiotou, Minister of Labour and Social Insurance of the Republic of Cyprus
- Kostas Koumis, Deputy Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Cyprus
- Costas Mavrides, MEP, Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats
- Bernd Tuchen, Small and Medium Businesses, Senior Experten Service (SES-Bonn)
- Myrto Maria Ranga, Psychogerontologist / Geriatrician

11:00-11:20 **Coffee Break**

11:20-12:00

### **Round Table discussion 3:**

#### **Health and Safety**

Moderator: Marios Kyriazis, Specialist Physician - Gerontologist

- Popi Nicolaidou Kanari, Minister of Health of the Republic of Cyprus
- Evridiki Papastavrou, Associate Adjunct Professor and Student Ombuds of the Cyprus University of Technology
- Marios Kouloumas, Honorary President of the Cyprus Patients Association





## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

12:00-12:40

### **Round Table discussion 4:**

#### **Policies and good practices for active and quality ageing**

Moderator: Marina Polycarpou, Gerontologist

- Marilena Evangelou, Deputy Minister of Social Welfare of the Republic of Cyprus
- Maciej Kucharczyk, Secretary General of AGE Platform Europe
- Constantinos Phellas, President of the Cyprus National Bioethics Committee
- Marina Ioannou, Art Psychotherapist

12:40-14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00-14:40

### **Round Table discussion 5:**

#### **Ageing with dignity and Human rights**

Moderator: Stavros Parlalis, Associate Professor at Frederick University Cyprus

- Anna Koukkides Procopiou, Minister of Justice and Public Order of the Republic of Cyprus
- Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, MEP, European People's Party (Christian Democrats)
- Maria Stylianou Lottides, Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights
- Demos Antoniou, President of the Cyprus Third Age Observatory

14:40-15:20

### **Round Table discussion 6:**

#### **Age-friendly cities**

Moderator: Myrto Maria Ranga, Psychogerontologist / Geriatrician

- Konstantinos Ioannou, Minister of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus
- Andreas Viras, Mayor of Larnaka and President of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities
- Elizabeth Mestheneos, Sociologist, Past-President AGE Platform Europe

15:20-16:00 **Open discussion**

16:00 **END of Conference**



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The Cyprus Third Age Observatory (CTAO) is a public-benefit, non-governmental, non-profit organisation established in 2015, dedicated to championing and protecting the rights of individuals as they age, ensuring their inalienable right to Active, Healthy, and Dignified ageing. Our core mission revolves around leveraging policies and best practices to address and mitigate challenges older people face, enabling them to contribute valuably to Cyprus's societal and economic fabric.

In collaboration with the Government, the CTAO is pivotal in crafting and implementing policies and best practices tailored for older people. Officially recognized as a statutory body through the Cyprus Third Age Council (as decreed by the Council of Ministers in 2018), CTAO is also a member of the Human Rights Advisory Committee, operating under the auspices of the Commissioner for Administration and Protection of Human Rights, as confirmed by the Council of Ministers' 2022 decision.



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of the First Lady