

Dear Members of the European Seniors Union Presidency,

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my application for the position of Vice President within the Presidency of the European Seniors Union. Having been actively involved in the European Seniors Union for the past decade, I am deeply committed to the values and mission of the organization, and I am eager to further contribute my experience, skills, and passion in this role.

Throughout my professional career, I have cultivated a strong background in political and social engagement. With a Master's degree in Political and Social Sciences, I have combined academic insight with hands-on experience. Over the past years, I have successfully led community-building projects and served as a staff member and later as deputy director at a large social organization. In addition, my tenure as a cabinet secretary for the leader of the CD&V group in the Belgian Parliament and my support role within the CD&V parliamentary group have honed my skills in strategic planning, policy development, and organizational management.

My dedication to fostering teamwork and innovation has been central to my work. Serving as National Secretary for CD&V Seniors has deepened my understanding of senior advocacy, while my decade-long service on the Executive Committee of the European Seniors Union has given me invaluable insight into the organization's operations and aspirations. These roles have strengthened my abilities in communication, networking, problem-solving, and collaborative leadership-qualities that will serve the Presidency well.

Naturally, I have also had the privilege of learning a great deal from Guido Dumon and An Hermans. Guido was a member of my national board and An was my President of the CD&V Seniors, while simultaneously Guido was serving as Secretary General and An as President of the ESU. We regularly consulted on ESU matters, and for major projects such as congresses and summer academies, I, my organization and my party were relied upon for logistical, communicative, and substantive support. Interns, student workers, and employees of the ESU found a place in my office. Even now, we continue to be a collaborating partner as a member of the Martens Centre in organizing the Summer Academy. For the 30th anniversary of the ESU, I worked together with CD&V to develop the logo, pin, and banner for this special occasion.

As Vice President, my goal would be to enhance the visibility and impact of the European Seniors Union across Europe. I am particularly passionate about advancing digital inclusion for seniors and promoting active political engagement among older adults. I believe that by leveraging innovative strategies and strengthening partnerships, we can further empower seniors and elevate their voices in shaping Europe's future.

Guido Dumon is, of course, irreplaceable. However, it is in his spirit that I wish to carry forward his work to the Presidency. Together, and strengthened by all of you, let us make Guido proud and let us continue working together for an strong and effective ESU.

Thank you for considering my application. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the European Seniors Union in this new capacity.

Warmest regards,

Noëlla Jacobs
njacobs@cdenv.be
0032 471226197