

Press Release

European Federation for Family Employment and Home Care hosts landmark 10th Anniversary Congress in Brussels

33 featured speakers included Vice-President of the European Parliament Marc Angel MEP, Spanish State Secretary for Social Affairs Ignacio Álvarez Peralta, and Chief Political Adviser to the Czech Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Jana Skalková

NO EMBARGO

Brussels, November 15, 2023 – On 14 November 2023, the European Federation for Family Employment and Home Care (EFFE) hosted a landmark Congress to celebrate its 10th anniversary, under the patronage of the European Parliament, the European Year of Skills, and the European Economic and Social Committee. This milestone highlighted EFFE's unwavering commitment to creating a supportive policy environment for family employers and Personal and Household Services (PHS) workers.

"As we celebrate a decade of dedicated service, EFFE remains committed to its vision of a better future for family employers and home care workers."

Marie-Béatrice Levaux, EFFE President

The Congress focused on the key issues affecting the home care sector, with panelists discussing gender equality, workforce shortages, social dialogue, the fight against undeclared work, migration and the need for investment in skills. Keynote speakers offered their perspective on the social policy achievements of the von der Leyen Commission and charted a course for the future after the European elections.

The anniversary celebration brought together prominent social policy figures and thought leaders who have played pivotal roles in shaping policies that impact families and home employment at the European and national levels. Featured speakers included

Michael Falzon, Maltese Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights; Attila Fülöp, Hungarian State Secretary for Social Affairs, and Lieve Verboven, Director of the ILO Office to the European Union and Benelux countries. Their presence underscored the significance of EFFE's work in advocating for the welfare of both family employers and home care workers.

State Secretary **Ignacio Álvarez Peralta**, as Spain holds the EU Council Presidency, reiterated in a [video message](#) the Spanish government's willingness to reform the country's long-term care model and **"to move towards personalized and community-based models through de-institutionalization"**. He added *"it is up to the people receiving care to decide how and where they want to live, regardless of their age, whether they have a disability or a situation of dependency."*

European Parliament Vice-President **Marc Angel** emphasized the need for legal recognition of the sector *"Without a legal framework these workers will remain in the dark. On the other hand, simplification systems, digital tools and incentives implemented by Member States can contribute to transforming a large part of undeclared into declared work and make it more accessible for citizens"*.

Marie-Béatrice Levaux, President of EFFE, said, "As we celebrate a decade of dedicated service, EFFE remains mobilised to its vision of a better future for family employers and PHS workers. It is heartening to see **so many Member States representatives here** with us today to discuss the future and utility of the domestic and home care sector in Europe.."

Karmele Acedo and Andrea Zini, Vice-Presidents of EFFE, expressed jointly, "The journey of the past ten years has been marked by the collaborative spirit of EFFE, working to support the PHS sector across the European Union. **This Congress is a reflection of our unity in advocating for positive change.**"

The event started with insights from high-level figures in European domestic and home care, including representatives from the European Parliament, the European Institute for Gender Equality, and several Member States, followed by three panels discussing the key issues affecting the domestic and home care sector.

The first panel focused on the **demographic challenges and workforce shortages in the sector**. Experts, including Basque Vice-Minister for Employment Alfonso Gurpegui Ruiz, explored strategies to attract new talent.

Panel two delved into the **importance of sectoral social dialogue in improving social rights for domestic and home care workers**. Panelists from EU-level social partner organizations such as UNI-Europa and the European Federation of Food, Agriculture, and Tourism Trade Unions discussed these issues together with Marta Prádanos, Policy Officer in charge of social dialogue at the DG EMPL of the European Commission.

The third panel addressed the **pressing need for professionalization in the sector, with a focus on upskilling the home care workforce**. Representatives from the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Year of Skills team at the European Commission, and leading industry professionals shared insights into strategies for improving professional standards.

The event closed on a forward-looking discussion on the sector's agenda for the next 10 years, ahead of the June 2024 European elections. Policymakers, including members of the European Parliament and representatives from national governments, outlined their visions for the future. **A final session brought EFFE's leadership together onstage to present EFFE's Manifesto which includes organization's proposals for the 2024-2029 European Commission.**

"It is up to the people receiving care to decide how and where they want to live, regardless of their age, whether they have a disability or a situation of dependency."

Ignacio Álvarez Peralta, State Secretary for Social Rights of Spain

Press contact

APCO Worldwide, Augustin de Trogoff – +32(0)499.60.32.02 – adetrogoff@apcoworldwide.com

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About EFFE

The European Federation for Family Employment and Home Care (EFFE) is one of the main actors involved in the Personal and Household Services (PHS) sector at EU level by representing household and individuals directly employing domestic & care workers. Personal and Household Services (PHS) define the work performed by an individual for any household, taking care of household members or performing tasks that other households are usually able to do themselves. PHS encompass direct (such feeding a baby or nursing an ill partner) and indirect (such as cooking and cleaning) care activities carried out by a worker, who is subject to remuneration, irrespective of the nature of the legal relationship with the household.

More information:

www.effe-homecare.eu

<https://www.effe-homecare.eu/en/landing-10-ans/>
