

MEDIA RELEASE

Newly Elected ASI Europe Executive Committee Ready to Move Forward with Christ

SOFIA, BULGARIA – October 23-26, 2024 – With the theme “*Forward with Christ*,” the ASI (Adventist-Laymen’s Services and Industries) Europe Convention welcomed attendees from 24 countries to Sofia, Bulgaria. The event inspired a renewed commitment to sharing Christ and marked the election of a new ASI Europe Executive Committee.

New Leadership Team Elected

A key highlight was the election of a new ASI Europe Executive Committee, led by TED Field Secretary Ian Sweeney in a spirit of prayer and unity. Stepping into leadership roles, the new team includes:

- **President:** Carlos Dias (Portugal)
- **Secretary:** Daniel Klop (UK)
- **Treasurer:** Dominik Ritler (Switzerland)
- **General VP:** Michael Garkov (UK)
- **VP Evangelism:** Kris Lennart (Austria)
- **VP Marketing & Communication:** Daniel Pedley (Sweden)
- **VP Membership Growth & Development:** Casiana Fometescu (Romania)
- **VP Logistics:** Malin Valchinov (Bulgaria)
- **VP Youth:** Joakim Hjortland (Sweden)

Carlos Dias, the newly elected President, expressed gratitude to outgoing President Dr. Christiane Theiss for her seven years of dynamic leadership and 25 years of service to ASI Europe. “Her enthusiasm, energy and commitment to chapter growth and fostering unity across divisions has left a lasting impact,” Dias said.

Dias emphasized the vision for the future, stating: “The new leadership team is focused on supporting all the evangelistic projects led by laypeople across all ASI chapters in Europe, while keeping ASI Europe growing in many aspects of Seventh-day Adventist spiritual life. Sharing Christ in the marketplace is our 24/7 challenge, as we are missionaries in our daily activities, from interactions with customers to colleagues. Each stakeholder has an opportunity to share Christ.”

Highlights of the Convention

The convention reached its peak on Sabbath, October 26, with 900 attendees participating in worship. Pastor Robert Folkenberg Jr., President of the Southern New England Conference, delivered a moving sermon encouraging courage in sharing the Gospel. His powerful messages, shared throughout the event, inspired attendees to deepen their spiritual walk and embrace their roles in God’s mission. Recordings of the presentations were produced by Hope Channel Bulgaria.

The presence of ASI leaders, including NAD ASI Director Andi Hunsaker, Dr. Daniel Duda (President of the Trans-European Division), and Mario Brito (President of the Inter-European Division), reinforced the sense of unity and purpose that characterized the gathering.

The special Sabbath offering raised over €230,000 in pledges to support 41 projects across 16 countries in Europe, reflecting the shared commitment and mission-driven spirit of the attendees.

Music played a key role, with Bulgarian artists, including a local bagpipe player, uniting participants in heartfelt praise. The National Adventist Choir “The Voice of Hope” led the evening’s evangelistic concert, drawing a standing ovation.

In addition to worship, the convention featured an evangelism expo and 13 seminars led by international leaders, offering practical tools for outreach. These sessions reflected ASI’s dedication to empowering professionals and laypeople alike to integrate their faith into daily life and mission.



United in Mission

ASI Europe is dedicated to advancing the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church through initiatives in health, education, evangelism, and community service. Rooted in the inspiring counsel of Ellen G. White, ASI emphasizes the vital collaboration between laypeople and church leaders to spread the Gospel. As Ellen White wrote, *“The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers”* (*Gospel Workers*, p. 352).

This challenge continues to guide ASI Europe as it empowers members to unite their talents, time, and resources for Christ-centered outreach. The 2024 ASI Europe Convention embodied this unity, as participants left with renewed hearts and a shared commitment to move forward in Christ. Reflecting on the event, outgoing ASI Bulgaria President Michael Garkov shared the prayer of John 17:21: *“That they all may be one.”* The gathering celebrated the joy, inspiration, and purpose found in working together, firmly grounded in the promise that God will lead His church to the end.

About ASI Europe

Adventist-Laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI) Europe is a supporting organization established to strengthen the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church within the Inter-European (EUD) and Trans-European (TED) Divisions. Through collaboration with members from diverse professional backgrounds, ASI Europe promotes outreach programs aligned with the Church's principles and values.

The roots of ASI trace back to Madison College, a self-supporting institution founded in 1904 near Nashville, Tennessee. Strongly supported by Ellen G. White, the college became a model for mission-driven education and service. ASI was officially formed in 1947 in the United States, with its inaugural meeting affirming its commitment to Ellen White’s vision of empowering laypeople to engage in God’s work.

Since its founding, ASI has grown into a global network of members committed to “Sharing Christ in the Marketplace.” This motto reflects the organization’s mission to integrate faith into daily life, inspiring professionals and business owners to represent Christ in their work and personal lives.

Today, ASI Europe provides resources such as funding, training, and expertise to support mission-driven projects, including health, education, evangelism, and community initiatives. Guided by its core values—togetherness and inspiration—ASI Europe works to share the Gospel, demonstrate the love of Jesus, and prepare all for Christ’s soon return.

For more information about ASI Europe or how to get involved, visit www.asi-europe.org.

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