



MEDIA RELEASE

ASI Europe Leaders Gather in Portugal to Strengthen Mission and Collaboration

ALGARVE, PORTUGAL — MARCH 2026

More than 40 ASI leaders, chapter representatives, and ministry partners gathered in the Algarve, Portugal, from **6–8 March 2026** for the **ASI Europe Board Meeting**, a weekend dedicated to prayer, strategic discussion, and renewed commitment to mission.

Hosted by **ASI Portugal**, under the leadership of **Carlos Dias**, the gathering centered on the theme **“Together,”** highlighting the importance of collaboration among lay members, ministries, and church leadership across Europe.

“It was an amazing spirit. We were happy to host everyone,” said Carlos Dias. “These moments together strengthen our vision and remind us that the mission moves forward when we work side by side.”

Set against the scenic backdrop of Portugal’s southern coast, the meeting combined board discussions, spiritual reflection, outreach activities, and fellowship.

Understanding the Times

The spiritual focus of the weekend began with a devotional message from **Dr. Daniel Duda**, President of the Trans-European Division (TED), based on 1 Chronicles 12:32, describing the sons of Issachar who understood the times and knew what Israel should do.

Dr. Duda encouraged ASI leaders to develop both spiritual discernment and cultural awareness, emphasizing that today’s society often experiences a deep spiritual hunger that people themselves struggle to articulate.

He urged leaders to listen carefully to people’s questions and concerns rather than reacting quickly with ready-made answers.

Reflecting on spiritual gifts, Dr. Duda noted that entrepreneurs and business professionals often possess a unique ability to recognize opportunities others overlook.

“When each person works within their spiritual gifting,” he explained, “the work of God can move forward.”

Mission in Focus

Throughout the weekend, **Ruben Fernandes**, evangelist and General Vice President for ASI Portugal, presented a series of messages connecting biblical prophecy, current developments, and the mission of the church.

The conclusion was clear: the church knows its mission — to share the Three Angels’ Messages with this generation in creative, contextual, and compassionate ways.

Board discussions throughout Friday included reports from ASI Europe departments, updates from national chapters, and planning for future initiatives, such as OneVoice27.

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OneVoice27 Initiative

Another key presentation was given by **Paulo Sérgio Macedo**, Communications Director for the Inter-European Division (EUD), introducing the **OneVoice27 initiative**.

The initiative seeks to inspire every church, ministry, and member to participate in mission activities leading up to September 2027, marking nearly 2,000 years since Christ's baptism.

Rather than a centralized project, OneVoice27 is designed as a movement, encouraging churches and ministries to contribute in ways that fit their local context while emphasizing both personal ministry and digital outreach.

From Projects to Ministries

During the board sessions, **Michael Garkov**, ASI Europe General Vice President, challenged participants to think more strategically about the long-term impact of ASI initiatives.

Rather than viewing projects as short-term activities, he encouraged members to develop them into sustainable ministries.

With approximately 1,200 churches across the Trans-European and Inter-European Divisions, participants were invited to imagine the possibilities if every church could partner with or host a ministry initiative.

As the ASI project cycle for the coming year is underway, chapters across Europe were encouraged to motivate their members to submit project applications and expand their mission involvement.

ASI Iceland Officially Welcomed

A highlight of the meeting was the official vote to welcome **ASI Iceland** as the newest chapter of ASI Europe.

Elias Theodorsson, President of ASI Iceland, expressed gratitude for the recognition.

"It took a while," he remarked with a smile as the board welcomed Iceland into the growing European ASI network.

ASI Europe currently represents **19 chapters across 23 countries**, with additional chapters in development in several regions.

Mission in the Streets of Albufeira

The Sabbath program included worship at the **Albufeira Seventh-day Adventist Church**, where ASI leaders joined the local congregation for worship and Bible study.

In the afternoon, the group participated in a practical outreach activity in Albufeira's central square.

Together they:

- Sang songs in multiple languages
- Distributed 200 copies of the book *The Hope*
- Engaged in conversations with passersby
- Prayed with individuals

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With participants representing many nationalities and languages, the outreach created opportunities for meaningful conversations and personal connections.

Fellowship Along the Algarve Coast

In addition to the formal meetings, participants enjoyed moments of fellowship and connection. On Sunday, the group concluded the weekend with a boat excursion along the Algarve coastline, exploring caves and rock formations and searching for dolphins in their natural habitat.

To the delight of the group, several dolphins — including baby dolphins — appeared alongside the boat, creating a memorable close to the gathering.

A few adventurous participants even jumped into the Atlantic for a brief swim, joking that they were “warmed by the mission.”

Looking Ahead: ASI Europe Convention 2026

During the meeting, leaders also shared updates about the upcoming **ASI Europe Convention**, scheduled for **23–26 September 2026 in Fribourg, Switzerland**.

Held every two years, the convention is expected to bring together **500–800 ASI members, ministry leaders, and church partners** from across Europe.

The event will take place at **Forum Fribourg** under the theme “**Sharing Christ Together.**”

Confirmed speakers include:

- **Erton Köhler**, President of the General Conference
- **Jan Harry Cabungcal**, evangelist from the Philippines
- **Daniel Duda**, President of the Trans-European Division
- **Barna Magyarosi**, President of the Inter-European Division

The convention will highlight mission initiatives, ministry collaboration, and practical ways ASI members can partner with the church to share Christ throughout Europe.

A key moment of the gathering will be the **ASI projects offering**, where members present new mission initiatives and ministries, and participants contribute to support projects that expand gospel outreach across the continent.

As participants departed Portugal, the message of the weekend remained clear:

When believers unite their gifts, resources, and vision, under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, the mission moves forward — together.

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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 and how to get involved, visit www.asi-europe.org.

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