

# Forum on the Political, Social and Economic Implications of an Aging Europe

The Center for Strategic and International Studies  
April 20, 2001

The Forum on the Political, Social and Economic Implications of an Aging Europe, featuring Kurt Biedenkopf ( view [speech](#) ), Minister President of Saxony. The Global Aging Initiative and the Europe Program at CSIS and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation are jointly sponsoring this meeting, which will be held on Friday, April 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Conference Room B1 of the CSIS building, located at 1800 K Street, NW.

Population aging may be the most powerful force shaping the global economy in the twenty-first century. Within the decade, every developed country could face unprecedented labor shortages and rapidly rising old-age dependency ratios. By 2050, Germany and Italy are among several European countries that could have more citizens over 80 than under 20. In addition to dramatically slowing economic growth rates, these trends could lead to fiscal crises, asset deflation, and currency and interest rate shocks-even as manpower and fiscal constraints precipitate a dramatic weakening of European defense capabilities.

Professor Biedenkopf, Germany's leading expert on pensions, will open the session with an address on "Aging Societies from a European Perspective." He will then participate in a panel discussion, including Stefano Fassina, Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund, Paul Hewitt, Director, CSIS Global Aging Initiative, and Robert Holzmann, Director of Social Protection, World Bank.

## Biographical Information

### Kurt Biedenkopf

Dr. Kurt Biedenkopf is currently serving his third term as Minister President of the eastern German State of Saxony.

Kurt Biedenkopf has had a distinguished career in both politics and academia. He received his doctorate in law in 1958, his Master of Law from Georgetown University in 1962 and his habilitation in 1963. Prior to his election to the top political office in Saxony, Kurt Biedenkopf accepted a professorship in economics at Leipzig University.

After holding a top management position in the private sector in the early seventies, Professor Biedenkopf joined the national leadership of the CDU as Secretary General from 1973-1977. Subsequently, he served as CDU state chairman and state legislator in North Rhine-Westphalia and as Member of the Bundestag (1976-80 and 1987-90).

### Paul S. Hewitt, GAI Project Director and Commission Member

Mr. Hewitt, a research fellow at CSIS, is director of the Global Aging Initiative. He is currently working on a book concerning Social Security reform and the global economy. Prior to his work with GAI, he was a consultant to the CSIS *National Commission on Retirement Policy* (NCRP). Before joining CSIS, Mr. Hewitt was executive director of the National Taxpayers Union

Foundation, where he oversaw the development of the *National Thrift Plan*, the first comprehensive proposal to privatize the Social Security system. He also served as president of Americans for Generational Equity, an organization he co-founded with former Senator David Durenberger (R-MN). Mr. Hewitt has written and lectured extensively on aging policy issues. He holds a B.A. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley and an M.A. in public administration from American University.

### **Robert Holzmann**

Dr. Holzmann is director of Social Protection at the Human Development Department of the World Bank. His team primarily addresses issues related to aging and the elderly. Dr. Holzmann is also professor of economics at the Institute for International and European Economy at the University of Saarland. Additionally, he is research director of the Ludwig-Boltzmann Institute for Economic Analysis in Vienna. Dr. Holzmann serves as a consultant for numerous organizations, including the IMF, the World Bank, the OECD and the Commission of the European Union. He is the author of several books, most recently *The Mixed Blessing of Financial Inflows - Transition Countries in Comparative Perspective*. Dr. Holzmann graduated from the University of Graz with an M.B.A. in economics, and holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Vienna.

### **Sylvester J. Schieber**

Dr. Schieber is director of Watson Wyatt Worldwide's Research and Information Center in Bethesda, Maryland. He has served on the Board of Directors of Watson Wyatt (1989-96) and the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), and the Pension Research Council at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania (1985-present). Before joining Watson Wyatt, he was EBRI's first research director, as well as deputy director of the Office of Policy Analysis of the Social Security Administration. Dr. Schieber has testified before several Congressional Committees on public and private retirement policy and health policy issues, and he has written and lectured extensively on the subject. He received a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Notre Dame.

### **Simon Serfaty**

Simon Serfaty is the Director of the Europe Program at the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, DC and Professor of U.S. Foreign Policy with the Graduate Programs in International Studies at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. From 1972 to 1993, he was associated with the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), serving as the Director of the Center of European Studies in Bologna, Italy (1972-1976), before becoming the Director of the Washington Center of Foreign Policy Research.

Dr. Serfaty is the author, coauthor, and editor of numerous publications. His most recent books include *Taking Europe Seriously* (1992), *Stay the Course: European Unity and Atlantic Solidarity* (1997), *Memories of Europe's Future: Farewell to Yesteryear* (1999), and *Europe 2007: From Nation-States to Member States* (2000). His articles have appeared in most leading professional journals in the United States and Europe, and he has been a guest lecturer in 40 different countries in Europe, Africa, and Asia. Dr. Serfaty holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Johns Hopkins University. He speaks French fluently.

### **Gerhard Wahlers**

Dr. Gerhard Wahlers has been Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Washington Office since January 1997. Previously, he was the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's Representative in Israel (1994-1996). Dr. Wahlers joined the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in 1990 as head of the

International Institute's North America and Japan desk. He studies history, political science, sociology, and economics at the University of Münster, where he received his Ph.D. in history in 1989.