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**PRINCIPLES
PERSPECTIVES**

**POSITIONS
Demands**

- "MAGNA CHARTA" Policies with
senior citizens for seniors citizens

proposed at the Brussels congress 2001
of the European Senior Citizens Union (ESCU)

The main statement of the "Magna Charta" is based on three pillars:

- ❖ Europe is a reality
- ❖ History offers to the occident a new chance
- ❖ a challenge for senior citizens

Our principles

On the basis of the decisions of the founding congress of 1995 in Madrid, the Vienna declaration of 1996, the Cologne decisions of 1999, ESCU rests on inalterable principles:

- Any human action must be guided by the Christian view of mankind.
- Mankind is destined for freedom!
There is agreement between ethic demands and economic decisions.
- Human beings are guided by conscience. Conscience enables choice and leads into freedom in responsibility.

Our positions

ESCU stands for:

- the inalterable dignity of human life
- a balance between individual and society
- the absolute value of life from its beginning to its end
- the welfare-state demand: Work for all and
- intergenerational solidarity as the result of a dialogue of the generations.

ESCU shows ways which, on the basis of these principles and positions, will lead to results which shall avoid the often cited “unavoidable” generation conflict.

Our perspectives

We strive for an

ACTIVE CITIZEN SOCIETY

- In an active citizen society the family will regain its role as the centre of human life. Family is the foremost and first entity to resolve all difficulties of life.
- Active citizen society also means a new distribution of tasks between government, citizens and voluntary societal groups in interactive cooperation.
- Active citizen society resolves centralized superstructures. In social policy, it is based on the subsidiarity principle, on voluntary solidarity and finally in publicly organised solidarity for people proven to be in need.
- Active citizen society knows that work can primarily be created if political conditions provide a climate of free enterprise.

Our demands

Our demands are addressed to ourselves, to government and to society.

- In a mature age, we wish to learn to recognize and to appreciate fundamental interconnections. Otherwise, we would be condemned to fight against diminishing self-esteem and against an ever-increasing youth culture.
- Life-long learning also means the capability to handle personal longevity.
- By creating a better society for older people, this goes not at the detriment of the young, but rather means an investment into their future (medicine, bio-ethics, technology).
- New medical research should be seen in connection with the question how we wish to live in Christian responsibility.
- All problems of social policy (pensions, health, taxes, etc.) are interconnected. Interests of special groups should not dominate.
- The responsibility of the media must refrain from tearing down people, cultural and moral values.
- The responsibility of labour unions is incompatible with a policy simply to preserve the status quo! Their goal should be to assume a new role within “social market economy” in recognition of newly emerging markets.
- Solidarity and equity can only be achieved on the basis of our Christian values.
- In place of a disempowerment of old age, we strive for a world that will respect the “fascination of gained years”.

To wait for a world government that will implement a “new order”, is neither realistic nor desirable. This underlines the importance of subsidiary voluntary structures, based on the Christian value system as developed in the European occident.