

II.

OFFICIAL MINUTES on the formalities, resolutions and elections as determined by the agenda for the V. Congress of the European Senior Citizens' Union

**27th to 29th April 2004 in Bonn/Bad Godesberg
and Königswinter**

ITEM 1 Opening and welcome

The President of the European Senior Citizens' Union, Dr Bernhard Worms, opened the Congress against the historic backdrop of the accession of 10 new members to the Union. He welcomed the delegates, especially the many who were attending from the new member countries. He thanked Frau Dr Marilies Flemming in particular, who has supported and endorsed the ESCU in every respect during her membership of the European Parliament. He was sadly unable to extend a personal welcome to the Honorary President of the ESCU, Stefan Knafl, who, despite firm intentions, was prevented from attending by ill health.

Dr Worms also thanked all those who had worked in an exemplary manner to make preparations for the Congress and played a decisive role in its success. Similarly, thanks were due to the North Rhine-Westphalia Senior Citizens' Union and its Chair, Herr Leonard Kuckart, for organising the singularly successful trip on the Rhine for the Congress delegates the previous evening.

The delegates rose for a minute's silence in honour of those friends who have passed away since the last Congress.

ITEM 2 Greetings to Congress

The observations made by the Mayoress of Bonn, Frau Dr Pia Heckes, are reported on in Part I. Greetings from Prof. Dr Wulff, the national Chair of the Senior Citizens' Union of Germany and from Frau Ruth Hieronymi, MEP, also on the agenda originally, were postponed until the afternoon session or until the following morning.

Dr Pál Aszódi from Hungary also greeted the Congress on behalf of all the representatives from the acceding countries. Frau Sawade from the federal working party of the German senior citizens' organisations passed on greetings from its Chair, Frau Roswitha Verhülsdonk and from the federal working party. She gave a particularly warm welcome to the delegates from the new member countries.

A message of greeting from the Greek Prime Minister, Dr Kostas Karamanlis, was also read out to the Congress.

As Congress proceeded, words of greetings were also extended to the delegates by Prof. Saulius Razma (Lithuania), Dr Vaclav Roubal (Czech Republic) and Dr László Harsányi (Hungary).

ITEM 3 Procedural resolutions

Resolutions were passed on the planned composition of the committee for the day, the mandate audit and election committees and the confirmation of the returning officer.

ITEM 4 Reports

President Dr Bernhard Worms, Secretary General Dr Conrad Schroeder, Treasurer Prof. Walter Paul and Auditor Georges Locht gave their reports. The respective reports, in several languages, have been distributed with the Congress folders.

On behalf of the mandate audit committee, Prof. Dr Gerhart Bruckmann announced the numbers of delegates: of the 169 delegates invited, 146 (86.4 %) were present. As such, the Congress was declared quorate.

Note: The number of delegates attending has risen by 73 % as compared with the last Congress two and a half years ago. This reflects the remarkably dynamic growth in membership of the ESCU, thanks particularly to the expansion to the East!!!

In addition to his written report, Dr Worms also pointed out that the future of a new era had dawned – babies born today could expect to live to the age of 100 as standard. This makes it more important than ever to acknowledge and endorse the strengths of old age, avoiding any form of conflict between the generations and nipping in the bud killer arguments such as "the burden of age". It must be made possible to live a life of self-determination and independence up to a ripe old age. This would also ultimately lead to preventing the "decline of the western world".

Dr Worms closed with an urgent appeal to do everything to guarantee the continued success of the ESCU's work.

In the discussion which ensued comments were made by MEP Marilies Flemming (A), Elisabeth Dispaux-Cornil (B), Ernestine Mohaupt (A), VP Maria Kanellopoulou-Mantziafou (GR) and Henri Catherin (F), Dr Ivo Kujundzic (HR), Klaus Panther (D), Franz Karl (A), Joseph Soler (M) and Dr Anton Neuwirth (SK).

Then the board and treasurer were unanimously discharged with the abstention of the aforementioned.

ITEM 5 Motions

For reasons of time this agenda item was postponed until Thursday morning. The ESCU's "Bonn Declaration" was first up for discussion under the Congress motto, "Responsible, bold and uncomfortable".

Dr Worms included this document in several languages in the Congress folders, mentioning that, having taken the Luxembourg text as a basis, he had largely been inspired by Frau Prof. Dr Ursula Lehr and the Königswinter Committee working party. He asked the Congress to endorse this version of the text, it having also been approved by the Committee and the Executive Committee.

In the ensuing discussion, the following delegates indicated their wish to verbalise proposals for amendments or additions: Dr Edeltraud Paul (A), Annemarie Harsányi (H), Elisabeth Dispaux-Cornil (B) and Dr Horst Röpke (D), Helge-Carl Wendt (D), Klaus Panther (D), Siegfried Sattelberger (A), Henri Catherin (F), Dr Anton Neuwirth (SK) and Prof. Dr Gerhart Bruckmann (A).

Dr Worms fielded all the requests and promised to include them in the text in an appropriate form. Given this condition he took a vote on the Declaration. It was adopted with two votes against and no abstentions. A duly revised and supplemented version of the Bonn Declaration is enclosed with this report.

Vice President Wilhelm Mohaupt petitioned an amendment of the statutes which has proved to be imperative owing to the amendment made to the law relating to the Austrian association which governs the ESCU statutes. The amendments are largely procedural and affect Article 8 (Congress), 9 (Executive Committee) and 13 (Arbitral Tribunal). The proposed amendments were unanimously adopted. A duly revised version of the statutes is also enclosed with this report.

ITEMS 6 - 8 Elections and announcement of election results

The ballots were presided over by Secretary General, Dr Conrad Schroeder. He explained the electoral procedure in detail.

6. 1 Election of President of the ESCU.

Dr Bernhard Worms was the only candidate nominated.

He was elected with 98.6 % of the votes polled.

6.2. Election of the seven Vice Presidents and the three other Committee members.

The Swedish Vice President, Frau Dr Görel Bohlin, announced that she was no longer available to stand for re-election. Mr Leif Hallberg from Sweden, whom she introduced to the Congress, was to stand in her place. Also leaving, the Slovakian Vice President, Herr Dr Jan Gurega is to be replaced by Herr Dr Pál Aszódi from Hungary, and Frau Carmen Quintanilla Barba is to replace Manuel Nunez Perez who has now been otherwise engaged for several months now. The remaining Vice Presidents were nominated for re-election.

The details of the election results were as follows:

Percentage of valid votes polled

Carmen Quintanilla Barba (E)	93.0 %
Dr Pál Aszódi (H)	93.0 %
Prof. Niclas Estgen (L)	92.3 %
Wilhelm Mohaupt (A)	90.1 %
Leif Hallberg (S)	88.0 %
Pol Mark (B)	88.0 %
Maria Kanellopoulou-Mantziafou (GR)	87.3 %

It was proposed to re-elect the present members for the three other places on the Committee.

The results of the vote were as follows:

Dr Gebhard Glück (D)	90.8 %
Josefina Leoncio i Montfort	88.0 %
Elisabeth Dispoux-Cornil (B)	85.9 %

Election of auditors and deputy auditors

Dr Karl Mitterdorfer (I) and Mr Georges Locht (B) were unanimously elected as auditors.

Prof. Dr Gerhart Bruckmann (A) and Dr Jan Gurega (SK) were likewise unanimously elected as deputy auditors.

The re-elected President of the ESCU, Dr Bernhard Worms, took the chair and nominated Frau Ingeborg Uhlenbrock for the office of Secretary General and Prof. Walter Paul - as before - for the office of Treasurer.

Both candidates were unanimously elected.

ITEM 9 Closing words from the newly elected President

Dr Worms closed the V. ESCU Congress in Bonn, expressing heartfelt thanks to those leaving - Vice President Frau Dr Görel Bohlin, Vice President Dr Jan Gurega and Secretary General Dr Conrad Schroeder - as well as to all who prepared and ran the event, which had gone extremely well, including the mass rally, but particularly to the tireless Frau Ute Besmer who had overall responsibility for the event.

Dr Bernhard Worms

President of the European Senior Citizens' Union

Dr Hermann Berié

Minutes Secretary