



SENIOR INTERNATIONAL

News from the European Senior Citizens' Union (ESCU)

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17th EPP Congress (Rome 30-31/3) /Commendation from A. Merkel

The ESCU took an active part in the Congress with voting delegates, political observers, the introduction of two resolutions, and a well-frequented information stand. Following her speech at the plenary session, German Chancellor Dr. A. Merkel expressed her appreciation to President Dr. Worms, during a visit to our information stand, of the voluntary work of the ESCU, intimating her intention to continue supporting the work.

ESCU makes itself heard

The two resolutions tabled by the ESCU met with the unanimous approval of the European People's Party (amalgamation of 70 European parties) at its Congress marking its 30th anniversary.

Indeed, the decision fell in favour of running a workshop entitled "Ageing in Europe in the 21st Century" looking at the consequences of demographic trends.

In a second resolution ("Supporting the Work...") "all member parties of the EPP are exhorted to support the work of the ESCU and - unless they have already done so - to set up and encourage patterns of organisation in their parties which are conducive to elderly citizens taking on voluntary work and helping solve the problems imposed on us by a changing world".

Continued growth

At the time of the Congress the ESCU had over 33 membership associations or parties in 21 countries. The Ukraine Senior Citizens' Union (USU) with its 26,000 members will be accorded observer status at the Berlin "Eastern Region Assembly" at the beginning of May.

In Rome initial talks have been held with potential partners and those with an interest in politics in Italy, France, Poland, Macedonia and Greece. Vice President Leif Hallberg (Sweden) is stepping up his efforts to recruit Danish senior citizens. The regional assembly scheduled to be held in October in Malmö is intended to serve this purpose. Slovenians are being invited to the "South-East" regional assembly, scheduled to be held in the autumn in Graz, which will be looking at the issue of "Caring for the Carers" (responsible for organisation: Austrian Senior Citizens' Union/Dr. Khol and W. Mohaupt).

Greater emphasis on public relations

As announced by Dr. Worms to the Committee in Rome, the long-awaited ESCU office in Brussels is due to open soon and details will be imparted to the Committee on 28 June and to the Executive Committee on 29 June at the place itself.

The Committee approved the "Formalities Governing Public Relations Work". These include the regular "Circulars from the President" and other written information, press conferences and articles (e.g. interviews with publications of member associations), policy papers, website updates, yearbooks and brochures. The CDU Senior Citizens' Union magazine, "Souverän", in which the ESCU has a 1 ½-page report published quarterly, will be sent to all member associations.

The updated website (www.eu-seniorunion.info) will be available shortly.

New ESCU publications (available from General secretariat: esu@cdu.de)

- Pocket book containing our "Madrid Manifesto" dated October 2005 entitled "Senior Citizens in Europe - Mainstays in a Changing World" (in four languages)
- Leaflet outlining the aims of the ESCU, including a current list of members (German/English)