



**EUROPÄISCHE SENIOREN UNION  
EUROPEAN SENIOR CITIZENS' UNION  
L'UNION EUROPEENE DES SENIORS**



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Press Release

## **Standing Together as a Lifelong Responsibility**

### **ESCU President Dr. Bernhard Worms on the “European Day of Solidarity between Generations” / Warsaw has given the example**

**Warsaw (29<sup>th</sup> of April 2009). “That old and young stand together is ordained by God and may not fail due to political narrow-mindedness. Anyone recognising the cooperation between generations as the basis of civilisation cannot stop at just statements. Wherever barriers to solidarity between the generations remain, they must be torn down.”**

With this statement the president of the European senior citizens union appealed to the citizens of the continent from Warsaw. In the Polish capital Dr. Bernhard Worms stands at the head of a delegation from his association to the eighteenth Congress of the European People’s Party (EPP), which – coincidentally or not – opens on the first “European Day of Solidarity Generations” on 29<sup>th</sup> of April.

“Anyone comparing Warsaw to the inferno after the Second World War must be struck by the unbending reconstructional will of the population, amid the ruins of the forties and fifties youth, their parents, and their grandparents worked hand in hand on the reconstruction of a city defiled by the Nazis. Warsaw has become a symbol of stalwart energy and fellowship across Europe;”

And Dr. Worms continued:

“and it was the children of those years of reconstruction during the communist period who today in the evening of their lives in democratic Poland harvested not only the fruits of their drudgery, but rather were also able to demonstrate their proverbial Polish hospitality: for the first time in the history of the EPP their capital, their palace of culture, is the meeting point for Christian democratic, liberal and conservative politicians from across Europe who avouch to the “European People’s Party.” Government leaders and parliamentarians wish to give an impulse to the European elections in early June through the meeting.

The selection of Warsaw the EPP demonstrate their recognition of the exemplary function of Polish opposition, associated with the actions of the first free trade union movement, “Solidarność” or Solidarity, and personalities such as Walesa and Mazowiecki.

Europe can be proud of those courageous citizens who held up a torch for the freedom of their people and the whole of Europe on Polish streets in 1956, 1970, 1980 and 1989. Old and young stood side by side again and again; there was solidarity between the generations just as between the strong and weak in society.

Their standing together was however more than just a product of necessity born from emergency, which just as quickly came apart again, the prosperity of families has been promoted over decades by the exchange of expectations and experiences from children, parents and grandparents. Experience, achievement and role modelling all find a place here, a situation of give and take to the mutual advantage of all.”

**Following the words of their president, “the European Senior Citizens Union demands that future politics view the family as a whole and improves the conditions for its continued existence and development. The more harmonious living and working, social conditions and health care, preschool and educational institutions are – the stronger the wish for children will become, which is the best measure of the quality of family policies.”**

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