



VI ESCU Congress in Pulheim, Germany

Bernhard Worms re-elected as President

Declaration of cooperation across generational boundaries/W.Mohaupt is Hon. President

On 2nd October, **Dr. Bernhard Worms** was re-elected by the ESCU's VI Congress as its President by more than 97 per cent of eligible voters. Ingeborg Uhlenbrock (D) remains as Secretary General, while Prof. Walter Paul (A) and Dr. Hermann Berié (D) continue as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. **The 10 Vice Presidents** are: Reinhold Bocklet (D), Elisabeth Dispoux-Cornil (B), Prof. Nicolas Estgen (L), Carlo Fatuzzo (I), Dr. Marilies Flemming (A), Leif Hallberg (S), Maria Mantziafou-Kanellopoulou (GR), Pol Marck (B); Carmen Quintanilla Barba (E) and Dr. Vaclav Roubal (CZ).

Amidst great applause, Vice President **Wilhelm Mohaupt** was named "Honorary President" in recognition of his work since the founding of the ESCU in 1995.

The 200 assembled delegates issued a "**Pulheim Declaration**". In keeping with the theme of the congress ("Old and young together – guaranteeing the future of a united Europe"), cross-generational collaboration was highlighted as prerequisite for managing demographic change.

The Congress commits itself to:

- an economic and social order which provides employment for everyone
- an education policy which also imparts values and virtues, builds bridges between the generations, strengthens our understanding of other peoples and which seeks to implement the "mother tongue plus two other languages" model without delay
- a family policy which is based on Christian concepts, says "Yes" to children and involves grandparents and great-grandparents
- a social policy which provides justice for all generations. Those who have raised children should receive particular consideration.
- social security systems for the elderly in all countries as a task to be shared by all generations.

The ESCU Congress Declaration recognises the 1957 Treaty of Rome as the cornerstone of the "House of Europe", to which Eastern and Central European peoples have also belonged since 1989/90. "United we are strong" was the conclusion, and the need for courage and the active contribution of all generations in shaping the future was emphasised. A "European Constitution" would have to rest on Christian and Western traditions and values such as freedom, justice, solidarity, responsibility, equal opportunities and subsidiarity.

Almost 200 delegates and numerous guests from 21 countries took part in the Congress held in the President's home town in Rhineland. Attending for the first time were senior citizens from Slovenia (representing 3 associations), the UK (Senior Citizens Party) and the Italian Senior Citizens' Party.

A declaration of entry from the Christian Democratic Senior Citizens of Romania (PNTCD) was received by the Congress. The ESCU currently counts 38 senior citizens' associations and/or parties from 23 countries among its membership.

High profile addresses were given by the President of the European Parliament, Prof. Poettering (D), Elmar Brok MEP (D), Dr. Andreas Khol (A), State Ministers for North Rhine-Westphalia Breuer and Laschet (D), Prof. Lehr (D), the President of the EPP Youth Section (YEPP), Yannis Smyrli (GR), who affirmed the desire for cooperation, and Ruth Hieronymi MEP (D).