



SENIOR INTERNATIONAL

News from the European Senior Citizens' Union (ESCU)

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PRESS COVERAGE. The “*Neue Zürcher Zeitung*”, “*Welt am Sonntag*” as well as other national and regional newspapers reported on the VI ESCU Congress. Further interview requests have been received by the President, e.g. from a radio station in the Netherlands. Comments related to the re-election of Dr. Bernhard Worms as President and the “Pulheim Declaration” (online at: www.eu-seniorunion.info).

The “*Kölnische Rundschau*” local newspaper for Cologne covered the video message by Dr. Merkel, German Chancellor and CDU Chair (D), which had emphasised the need for inter-generational cooperation. The Minister for Inter-Generational Affairs for North Rhine-Westphalia (D), Armin Laschet, was quoted as calling for regular contact between young people and the elderly.

WIDER DISTRIBUTION. Seven more languages are to be covered in future publications of “SENIOR INTERNATIONAL” for distribution in their respective countries: Swedish: Berit Wirödal; Latvian: Solveiga Lidia Elsberga; Lithuanian: Genute Kurielene; Polish: Jerzy Wojciewski; Slovenian: Eva Perman; Maltese: Lina Caruana; Italian: Mario Barco. Please send specimen copies to the Editor. Who else translates into other languages?

ELECTIONS IN POLAND. A message of congratulations on the excellent results achieved in the Polish parliamentary elections (PL) was forwarded by President Worms to Prof. Jan Czaja, who chairs the senior citizens' organisation affiliated to the ESCU of the “Polish Peasants Party” (PSL). The PSL is likely to enter into a coalition government under the leadership of the Civic Platform (PO) headed by Donald Tusk. Prime Minister Elect Tusk renewed his offer of cooperation to Worms.

EU REFORM TREATY. The agreement reached on the EU Reform Treaty was judged by ESCU Vice President Flemming (A) to be “an historic step”. “The EU is now shifting closer to the people and – with a stronger role for Parliament – becoming more democratic,” she declared. For the first time, “people would gain fundamental rights at the European Court of Justice which are enforceable, including social rights.” (Info: SIS 43/2007, Vienna)

CARE CONGRESS. “Preserving human dignity – care that meets needs” is the title of a declaration approved by the “Care Congress” of the CDU Seniors' Union held in Hanover (D) on 15th October. There was a call to expand the term “in need of care” to include those with dementia and to establish a “care budget”. (www.senioren-union.de)

AMALGAMATION. The two ESCU member associations in Estonia have amalgamated as of 6th October. Nominated for the Executive Committee were Chair Ann Ämet; Deputy Dr. Aili Kogerman and Dr. Helle Mäeltseemes. Some 100 people took part in the founding ceremony. An internet publicity campaign which has since been launched by the Senior Citizens' Union has created a great deal of interest and the first applications to join have already been received.

BOARD. The Board elected at the Congress will come together for its inaugural meeting on 6th December in Königswinter (D). There will be discussions on the content, structure and organisation of future business. This will include cooperation with the EPP and its associations, in particular the youth organisation; with the Parliament, political foundations and associations such as AGE and EURAG, as well as with research institutions. Decisions will also be made about the 2008 regional conferences and the financing involved as well as about public relations work. Please forward your suggestions to the General Secretariat in Brussels.