



SENIOR INTERNATIONAL

News from the European Senior Citizens' Union (ESCU)

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BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. At its inaugural meeting in Königswinter (D) on 6/7 December, the Board decided to hold its 2008 meetings generally at the same time and location as the Regional Conferences. The Executive Committee (comprising two persons per member organisation) will meet around the middle of 2008 in Brussels.

MEMBERSHIP OF AGE ("European Older People's Platform"). The ESCU has confirmed that Vice President Elisabeth Dispaux-Cornil (B) will act as its representative on AGE. She advised the Board of AGE's General Assembly which is due to take place in March.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES for 2008 will take place: from 23rd to 26th May in Nicosia (Cyprus) for Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Italy and Spain (Mediterranean Region); in June in Vilnius (Lithuania) for Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, (Eastern) Germany and Ukraine (East Region); in Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) for the host country as well as Austria, Bavaria (D), Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and other Balkan States (Southeast Region) – date to be announced; in Saarbrücken (D) for (Western) Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, France and Switzerland (West Region) – probably in Autumn.

SENIOR CITIZENS PROTEST. Organised by the Austrian Senior Citizens' Union (Chairman: Andreas Khol), 600 senior citizens took to the streets in Vienna to demand an amnesty for illegal care-workers, calling for an extension of at least six months - albeit to no avail.

ANOTHER MERGER? After the amalgamation of the two ESCU member associations in Estonia (see Issue 12), the two ESCU senior citizens' groups in Lithuania might also be about to merge. This is prompted by the planned amalgamation of the "Fatherland Union/Lithuanian Conservatives" and the "Lithuanian Christian Democrats".

"ROMANIA AND EUROPE". This topic dominated Dr. Worms' first visit as ESCU President to Romania in October, where he appeared as a guest on a live TV talkshow. He was accompanied by Honorary President Mohaupt, Vice President Flemming (both from Austria) as well as Secretary General Uhlenbrock (D), and the visit came in response to an invitation from PNTCD Chairman Milut, whose senior citizens' group recently joined the ESCU.

KONRAD WECKERLE CONFIRMED IN OFFICE. The President of the CSU Seniors' Union (Bavaria, D) has been re-elected with more than 98% of the vote. Delegates gave their unqualified approval to a resolution calling for payments of unemployment benefit to be prolonged for elderly citizens.

PULHEIM DECLARATION TRANSLATED. Vice President Roubal (Prague) has arranged for the "Declaration" which was adopted at the VI Congress in Pulheim to be translated into Czech and distributed throughout the country. A Czech version of "Senior International" is to follow, as well as a translation into Greek. (Please send us sample copies of all your translations.)

MULBERRY TREE PLANTING CEREMONY. The mulberry tree donated by the VI Congress last autumn to Pulheim (D) was planted out in its permanent position in the municipal park by President Worms on 13th December. The town already has a 1,200-year-old specimen in the courtyard of the Brauweiler Abbey, which has had to be protected from tree vandals with a fence.

QUOTE FROM OTTO WULFF. *"Europe must define itself not just as a currency union, but as a union of assets.... whoever wants to work for longer should be able to work for longer. ... whoever approves of the building of mosques in Europe should also defend the building of churches in Islamic countries... consensus and cooperation between generations is the only thing that will help us move forward."* (Prof. Wulff, Leader of the German CDU Seniors, Berlin, 11/10/07)

WHAT DONALD TUSK SAID: *"Today, young people in Poland do not need as much help as the older generation. My liberal spirit is well disposed towards young people but the Civic Platform's (i.e. his party's) conservative maturity will guarantee elderly people a social policy rooted in solidarity."* (Quote from "Gazeta Wyborcza" dated 05/11/07)