



EUROPÄISCHE SENIOREN UNION
EUROPEAN SENIOR CITIZENS' UNION
L'UNION EUROPEENNE DES SENIORS



SENIOR INTERNATIONAL

News from the European Senior Citizens' Union (ESCU)

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New Slovenian member. The Board welcomed the senior citizens' association of the "New Slovenia Christian People's Party" (Nova Slovenija Krscanska Ljudska stranka) to the ESCU on 18th March. Its President is Frank Slak. Two representatives had already taken part in the VI Congress as guests. Currently, 38 member associations and/or member parties from 23 countries belong to the ESCU, including three organisations from Slovenia, which holds the EU Council Presidency for the first half of 2008.

European Parliament birthday greetings. Dr. Worms sent greetings to its President, Dr. Pöttering, on the occasion of the European Parliament's 50th anniversary. Worms stressed that, thanks to the work performed by MEPs in the full assembly and at home, the Parliament enjoys the highest profile and greatest respect of all EU institutions. He emphasised that the forthcoming European elections in 2009 would represent a common cause for us.

New status for ESCU. Following a ruling by the European People's Party (EPP), the ESCU will be run from now on as a "Member Association" of the EPP, rather than an "EPP-recognised association", as all associations had been known up until now. As Secretary General Uhlenbrock assured the Board, the new status will not result in any changes in respect of independence and financial cooperation.

New ESCU address. From February onwards, our General Secretariat is based in Frechen; the Brussels office will continue to operate. Staffing the General Secretariat is Mrs. Marita Schlieper, who recently introduced herself to the Board. Tel.: +49 (0)223 4188419; Fax: +49 (0)223 4188410; e-mail: marita.schlieper@cdu-rhein-erft.de ; postal address: Hermann-Seger-Str. 23 D-50226 Frechen.

New friends in Oswiecim (Auschwitz). Following a visit by the ESCU President to Oswiecim in Poland, residents of the town will take part in a ceremony at Pulheim-Brauweiler (D) in 2009 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War. Delegates will include old and young citizens. Lord Mayor Marszalek also proposed the formation of an ESCU "base" in Oswiecim to Dr. Worms (detailed report to follow). With Polish assistance, the ESCU website will also be available in Polish in future.

Board and Executive Committee. The next meeting of the ESCU Board and Executive Committee is scheduled for Thursday, 12th June, in Brussels (Parliament Building). Cost implications prevent Board meetings from being held parallel to Regional Conferences.

Regional Conference in Cyprus. Representatives of ESCU member associations from the Mediterranean Region are to meet for the first time on 23rd to 26th May in Cyprus. The conference is arranged by the Organisation of Senior Citizens of Cyprus (OSSC), chaired by Phoebus V. Zachariades. The conference aims to address the main issue at the 2007 VI Congress in depth with the topic of "The Struggle for Inter-generational Justice / Young Today – Old Tomorrow".

At the invitation of the Austrian Senior Citizens' Union. The "South East" Regional Conference which is being arranged by the ÖSB in Vienna for the 29th/30th May will be devoted to the "Political and Economic Response to Demographic Trends in Europe". ESCU member associations from Slovenia, Croatia, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and the German State of Bavaria are invited. Vice President Flemming (Vienna) is also seeking participation by representatives of senior citizens from other Balkan states where our Union does not currently have a presence. The conference was originally planned to take place in Sarajevo. Please contact: bundesorg@seniorenbund.at

Regional conference in Vilnius. The "East" Regional Conference due to take place in the Lithuanian capital on 15th-17th June will be opened by Dr. Landsbergis MEP. The general topic chosen for the conference is: "The Experience of Eastern European Senior Citizens in Gaining Freedom and Political Responsibility". Delegates from (Eastern) Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Ukraine and the host country will be participating. A number of reports are expected, including a report on the political and social situation in Belarus.