



SENIOR INTERNATIONAL

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In mourning for Wilhelm Mohaupt and Walter Paul. On 27th June, the ESCU suffered two great losses. Following serious illness,

***ESCU Honorary President Wilhelm Mohaupt, and
ESCU Treasurer Prof. Walter Paul***

passed away in Vienna.

ESCU President, Dr. Worms, expressed his heartfelt condolences to the families and took part in the funerals, accompanied by other ESCU leading figures.

Our Austrian colleagues, Messrs. Mohaupt and Paul, were comrades-in-arms from the outset. They influenced the development of the ESCU enormously with their ideas and their drive and secured a place in the hearts of many thousands of members throughout Europe. (See also www.eu-seniorunion.info/mainmenu_en.html)

Belarus guest. Mrs. Tatyana Zelko from Minsk was the first representative from Belarus to be received by the ESCU. Dr. Worms granted her an audience and offered observer status for Executive Committee meetings as a first step towards cooperation. Mrs. Zelko chairs the "Our Generation" organisation, which is still to be registered with the state. The association already has more than 1,800 members – located in many parts of the country. Out of a population of 9.5 million, 2.5 million are of pensionable age and "eke out a wretched existence". Mrs. Zelko was warmly welcomed at the "East" Regional Conference in Vilnius and hopes to make contact with neighbouring senior citizens in Lithuania.

Growing influence. Membership of the "Association of Czech Christian Senior Citizens" (SKS) has grown to some 800 under the leadership of Dr. Vaclav Roubal. His organisation is represented in all the major cities in the country through its own groups and through associated clubs.

Unification completed. The two Lithuanian ESCU member associations have now amalgamated, as Jonas Volungevičius (Christian Democrats) and Romualda Hofertiene (Fatherland Union) followed in the footsteps of their parties. The decision to amalgamate was taken in order to consolidate their strengths into one single organisation and to strengthen their position in relation to other senior citizens' associations in the country. The unification charter was signed on 17th June under the watchful eye of Povilas Katilius, former head of the Christian Democrat senior citizens, and in front of the "East" Regional Conference in Vilnius. First to congratulate the new association were Dr. Worms and Vice Presidents Roubal (CZ) and Hallberg (SE).

At the heart of life. "We will not be restricted to issues and activities specific to senior citizens," declared Dr. Konrad Weckerle in Vienna. Rather, the duty of the older generation is to bring its experience to the policy-making process relating to all generations. And that applies to all countries. "We want to be active rather than passive in policy-making." The Chairman of the Bavarian CSU Seniors' Union (D) was speaking at the "South East" Regional Conference at the end of May. He caused great hilarity by remarking that "We will not be dictated to by those who have seen nothing of the world outside the maternity ward and the lecture hall." His organisation has 8,300 members, and membership increases every year by some 10 per cent. (Report on Vienna Conference at www.eu-seniorunion.info).

European elections in sight. Dr. Horst Posdorf was mandated by the CDU Seniors' Union (D) to stand again as a candidate in the European Parliament elections in June 2009.

Dr. Wulff and Leonhard Kuckart praised the MEP in front of the CDU Executive Committee for his commitment to issues relating to senior citizens, development policy and EU relations with South Eastern European states.

Pleasing pronouncements from Poland. In a letter to Dr. Worms, the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Europe at the Sejm, Andrzej Grzyb, affirmed his willingness to extend cooperation between the senior citizens' section of his party (the PSL or Polish Peasants' Party) and the ESCU as a "platform for understanding, action and political mobilisation for the broadest possible range of groups of Polish senior citizens...". Grzyb is leader of the PSL in the Voivodship of Great Poland (Poznań) and made a key contribution to the success of the Fifth German/Polish Seminar held by the Brandenburg Seniors' Union (D). (Report on ESCU website)