



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



**SENIOR INTERNATIONAL**

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**Statement by ESCU President.** ESCU President, Dr. Worms, issued a statement on the occasion of the "UN International Day for the Elderly" on 1st October (German and English versions are available at [www.eu-seniorunion.info](http://www.eu-seniorunion.info)). Turning to the world's media, he called for trust instead of threats of violence, the development of democracy in all countries and in particular for solidarity with Belarus. Referring to the "Declaration of Human Rights" adopted 60 years ago, he stated: "Stand up for your elderly fellow citizens who remain an indispensable and valued part of society – given access to paid and voluntary work and adequate provision for sickness and invalidity. Let those in retirement and pensioners have their share in the growing prosperity of the population...! Fight against all manifestations of discrimination based on age, wherever they might occur."

**Wiesbaden: CDU Seniors' Union Electoral Congress.** Prominent speakers affirming their solidarity with the 56,000 members included ESCU President, Dr. Bernhard Worms, CDU Chairwoman and German Chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel, the Minister for Family Affairs and Senior Citizens, Dr. Ursula von der Leyen, and Philipp Missfelder, leader of the Young Christian Democrats. The welcome address was given by Romualda Hofertiene from Lithuania. As President of the senior citizens' association of the "Fatherland Union/Christian Democrats", her central message was: "We are not departing this world as long as Stalin is still alive in Europe!"

Dr. Otto Wulff was re-elected Chairman of the Seniors' Union by the Congress with almost 98 % of the vote.

The delegates issued a declaration with their demands concerning the current financial crisis.

**Lithuanian senior citizens in Germany.** As part of the partnership agreement signed in Berlin in 2006, a four-strong group of Lithuanian senior citizens spent a week in Germany. Romualda Hofertiene was joined by the Vice President, Jonas Volungevicius, architect Kazys Kitkauskas and the German scholar and translator, Irena Tumaviciute. At the invitation of Baron von Stetten and the Baden-Württemberg Seniors' Union, they shared their thoughts and experiences in dealing with the consequences of the two dictatorships of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The guests were shown around towns and rural areas accompanied by Mrs. Erika Reinhardt (new ESCU Executive Committee member and re-elected Vice Chair of the CDU Seniors' Union). The relationship will be extended in 2009 with a bus trip to Lithuania.

**Forthcoming ESCU events.** On 21/22 October, the first "Central" Regional Conference takes place in Saarbrücken. The Board and Executive Committee of the ESCU meet in Berlin on 6th November and Dr. Angela Merkel is expected to attend. Another "Central" Regional Conference is to take place in Eupen (Belgium) on 17th March. The European People's Party (EVP/EPP) holds its congress in Warsaw from 28th to 30th April, where the ESCU will be represented. The 4th "East" Regional Conference is planned to take place in Dresden in May (probably 7-9). Invitations to Vienna will be issued for the "South East" Regional Conference set for the end of May. The European Parliamentary elections take place on 7th June, and a "North and Baltic States" Regional Conference will take place in Tallinn on 24/25 September.

**Speech to European conference.** Vice President, Dr. Marilies Flemming (A), presented a position paper at the first European conference on the topic of "The integration of migrant elders" held in Bonn (D) in early October. The event was organised by North Rhine-Westphalia's Ministry for Intergenerational Affairs and "Active Ageing of Migrant Elders across Europe" (AAMEE). Other ESCU participants at the congress were ESCU President, Dr. Worms, Secretary General Uhlenbrock, academic expert, Dr. Ursula Lehr, and Board member, Dr. Hermann Berié.