



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



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Elderly vote for People's Party. In the Austrian National Council elections, there was a well above average turn-out of over-60s for the conservative People's Party, the ÖVP, thus vindicating the efforts of the ÖSB Senior Citizens' Union. However, the party missed out on an overall majority.

ESCU observer status. Following detailed discussions, the Christen Democratisch Appèl party (CDA) gained ESCU observer status at the recent meeting of the Executive Committee. The CDA was already a supporter of the ESCU Congress in 2007. The ESCU is now represented in 28 countries through member associations, member parties or as observers. Since June, the Belarus senior citizens' organisation, "Our Generation", has also joined as an observer, and efforts are now being concentrated in France, Switzerland, Portugal, Denmark, Ireland and other Balkan states.

Thanks to Ruth Hieronymi MEP. ESCU President, Dr. Worms, thanked Mrs. Ruth Hieronymi from North Rhine-Westphalia (D) for the many years that she has represented the interests of senior citizens and the concerns of the ESCU at the European Parliament. As she will not be standing for re-election in 2009, Mrs. Ria Oomen (CDA/Netherlands) is expected take on this role.

New Executive Committee members. New delegates for the Austrian Senior Citizens' Union (ÖSB) are Chairman, Dr. Andreas Khol, and Secretary General, Heinz Becker, while Lithuanian senior citizens are represented by Romualda Hofertiene and Jonas Volungevicius. The CDU Seniors' Union has delegated Mrs. Erika Reinhardt and Dr. Jürgen G. Brandt to the Executive Committee, succeeding Mr. Ulrich Winz and Dr. Horst Posdorf MEP, who have been Board members since 2001 and 2003 respectively.

"Safeguarding fundamental values". At the invitation of the "IRL Seniors", Vice President Leif Hallberg (Stockholm) spoke on the topic of "Safeguarding fundamental values in a changing world" in Tartu/Estonia on 27th September. (English text available soon on the ESCU website.) IRL stands for "Isamaa ja Res Publica Liit" or Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica, and the President of the IRL Seniors is Ann Rääme. Also welcomed at the event, which was attended by around 80 participants from throughout the country, was the former prime minister and current chairman of the IRL, Matt Laar.

Appeal goes out to the public. Out of concern for the loss of historic and cultural assets in the centre of their capital city, Kiev, the UARP (All-Ukrainian Association of Retired Persons, chaired by Volodymyr Dzijobak) has sent out a passionate appeal to the public. The UARP has close to 30,000 members and has become an advocate for many citizens angered at the destruction of historical and architectural monuments and the dubious designation of sites for development and vast car parks. The famous vistas of Kiev city centre are at risk of being lost. The Association is calling on the President, parliament and government to heed the experts and stop the development – for the sake of the country and Europe!

Greetings from Bavaria. With its current membership of 8,500, the Seniors' Union is the fastest growing party organisation of the CSU (Bavaria/D), according to its Chairman, Dr. Weckerle. In his message to the CDU Seniors' Union Delegates' Conference in Wiesbaden, he stated: "We are pursuing a long-term policy - for a high performance economy, sound public finances and above all a fairer share of the burden between young and old. Senior citizens do not want to live at the expense of the future or above our means; senior citizens want to preserve opportunities and prospects for their children and grandchildren."