

According to a survey, 76 percent of Europeans see **Freedom, Security and Peace** as the most important accomplishments of the EU, which for 67 percent of the questioned citizens represents the guarantor of prosperity and safeguarded pensions. Just as high is the number who see the with EU scepticism. ESU President Dr. Worms linked this information before staff in Königswinter with an appeal to Europeans to exercise their democratic responsibility on 7 June, then:



Iris Farndale (GB)

Participation in the European elections on 7th of June will strengthen those political powers which according to Worms are to thank for the recent containment of the economic crisis. Without the Euro this would have been well nigh impossible. The “social market economy” is now drawing attention both throughout Europe and beyond.

According to opinions of the UK section of the European Women's Union, the older generation belongs **in the first line**. The demand is to be reinforced at their conference in February under the slogan “Championing the Older Generation.” The first vice president of the organisation, Iris Farndale (photo), invited ESU general secretary Uhlenbrock (D) and vice president Dr. Flemming (A) as speakers.

For the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust the ESU sent a message of solidarity to the mayor of Oswiecim (PL), Janusz Marszalek. In June President Dr. Worms will follow up his invitation to meet with communal politicians from four countries.

Through mediation by the ESU an exhibition under the title “from the hell of the Concentration camps to Oswiecim, city of peace” was shown in the Brussels building of the European Parliament, drawing great interest from delegates and visitors. Previously Parliamentary President Pöttering received the ESU President and the mayor of Oswiecim, which the Nazis called Auschwitz, for talks.

The Senior Citizens Association of the Vaterlands-Union and Lithuanian Christian Democrats has expanded **with a group in the harbour town of Klaipeda (LT)** with 35 members, communicated their European representative Dr. Genute Kurielene. Chairperson is Elena Bendikiene. There have been groups for years now in the capital (100 members), and in the second largest Lithuanian city Kaunas, and in Kelme (each around 30 members). Kelme is particularly active and is soon expecting further expansion; the next founding is planned in Panevezys.

A **“Lay Initiative”** has been founded by the Bundesobmann (chairman) of the Austrian Senior Citizens Association (ÖSB), Prof. Dr. Khol, along with two other celebrities. (www.laieninitiative.at). directed at occupation of vacant catholic priesthoods. As Khol writes in the info magazine “SIS,” his suggestions include “removal of obligatory celibacy, reinstatement of ordained priests with families, ordination of women as deacons and ordination of mature, experienced men into the priesthood.”

The Ukrainian Pensioners Association (UARP) has introduced new programmes **to protect the savings** of its members despite financial crisis and inflation, as well as to provide small loans. President Dzjobak is also rightfully proud that the health insurance offered by his organisation at reduced contribution rates continues to be in strong demand.

Upcoming ESU Dates: Board on 5th of March (Brussels) and 28th of April (Warsaw; on the occasion of the EPP European Peoples Party Congress); regional conferences: “West” on 17th of March in Eupen (Belgium); “East” 7th – 9th of May in Dresden; “Southeast” 26th – 27th of May in Vienna; “North and Baltic” 24th – 25th of September in Tallinn. Executive committee: Middle of June in Brussels (provisional).