

## On the European Elections

The congress of the **European People's Party (EPP)** from 29 to 30 April in Warsaw is dedicated to this topic. The European Senior Citizens Union is contributing further participants from its ranks and an information stand for the success of through their delegates entitled to vote. The ESCU will have the Board meeting before the congress starts. The venue for the event is the centrally located Palace of culture and science dating from the fifties, now a part of the skyline of the capital.

**"30 years of direct European parliament elections"** is the theme of an event in Berlin. On the invitation of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Dr. Wolfgang Schäussel, Austrian Chancellor from 2000 to 2007, and the European parliamentarian Dr. Ingo Friedrich (Germany) traced the path of the European Parliament "from advisory organ to active participant." They appealed to European citizens to exercise their democratic rights and vote; in most countries on 7 June.

**EUROPE – Common Heritage – Common FUTURE** is the motto of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional ESCU Conference "East" from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of May in Dresden. The concentration camp survivor Tadeusz Sobolewicz (85) from Oświęcim (a.k.a Auschwitz, Poland) has confirmed his participation.

**"The EU as Driver of European Solidarity"** is the topic of the third regional ESCU conference "South East" to be held in Vienna on 26 and 27 May by the Austrian Senior Citizens Union. General secretary Heinz K. Becker will present himself as a senior citizen candidate for the European Parliament.

## Mourning for Dr Gebhard Glück



ESCU president Dr. Worms and the chairman of the CSU Senior Citizens Union, Prof. Dr. Weckerle, regret to have to inform you that Dr. Gebhard Glück passed away on the 24 March at the age of 78. Both organisations commemorate him with respect and gratitude. He will be remembered by the delegates of the VI<sup>th</sup> Congress (Pulheim 2007) as a prudent Congress chairperson.

Gebhard Glück was Bavarian Minister of State and for many years chairman of the CSU (Bavaria/D) founded in 1999. In his obituary Weckerle said Glück had "brought the older generation back from the verge of insignificance and given them a public face." Glück was a member of the ESCU presidium until two years ago.

Amid many fellow campaigners at the service in the Passau Cathedral, minister president Horst Seehofer characterised the deceased as a dynamic campaigner and ingratiating person.

## Patron Angela Merkel

From 8 to 10 June the city of Leipzig expects around 20,000 participants for the 9<sup>th</sup> "German Senior Citizens Day" under the motto, "Enjoy your age and act responsibly" hosted by the BAGSO (Federal Association of the Senior Citizens Organizations), the association of over 100 senior citizens unions with over 13 million members and which will be 20 years old in January. The senior citizens unions of the CDU and CSU are also members, and patron and first speaker at the senior citizens day is German Chancellor and CDU party leader, Dr. Angela Merkel.

## First Day of Solidarity between Generations

A core issue for the ESCU will be addressed for the first time on 29 April with the European day of solidarity between generations, a ruling of the Slovenian presidency of the EU Council in 2008, with the VI Congress 2007 being built around this theme, and at the end of April there will be a European information campaign and other events highlighting the "Old and Young Together" theme.