

“Make delegates into allies” / Executive committee meets

The European Senior Citizens' Union President Dr. Worms reflected on the results of the European Parliament Elections in early June before the Board and Executive Committee. With pleasure he stated that the European People's Party faction remains the controlling power in parliament. He congratulated the newly and re-elected delegates and thanked all fellow campaigners from the EU membership associations for their efforts. The centre right parties remain in first place in at least 17 countries.

“Giving Europe a face” according to Worms was however not achieved, as was also bringing issues crucial to the lives of the people into the forefront; which should also explain the extremely disappointing turnout of just an average of 43%. The older generation voted however practically everywhere for a Christian democrat or conservative party.

In accordance with his press statement of June 7th, the president moved for more transparent and convincing European politics. The parliament must receive the right to introduce laws, up to now reserved to the commission. The chairs of the European Senior Citizens' Union associations called on Worms to make “their” delegates into allies and support their struggle for entitlement to speak in the national parliaments.



View to the meeting hall of ESCU in the European Parliament building, Brussels. (Photo: U. Winz)

The need for spiritual discussion is great, knows Dr. Worms from many encounters. The communication of values, the integrity of creation, the defeat of hunger and poverty as well as the status of education and culture must receive more weight. “Many people are longing for this.”

As general secretary Ingeborg Uhlenbrock informed, with cost contribution from the European Senior Citizens' Union 60,000 copies of the team-developed European elections flyer of the European Senior Citizens' Union was distributed in the national language in at least 12 countries.

In retrospect of the European People's Party Warsaw conference members of the Board spoke out in favour of clarifying talks with the European People's Party leadership, in which better financing of the general secretariat was also to be raised.

After reports on the European conference in Eupen, (vice president Elisabeth Dispoux-Cornil), Dresden (Ulrich Winz) and Vienna (vice president Dr. Marilies Flemming) (see website for reports) and a preview of Tallin (Ann Räämet; Topic “grow old healthily” – 24th/25th of September), the executive committee debated plans for the next few years.

Current topics are to be handled by experts in spring 2010 in a first major event, where the European Senior Citizens' Union intends to demonstrate as a continuously growing organisation its great political and practical competence in times of crisis. All member associations will be asked for suggestions for topics. One of the first suggestions is “human dignity in politics/paths to responsible actions for young and old.” The congress along with new elections takes place in autumn.

Remembered in Honour

The recently deceased members Pal Aszodi und Reszö Fuszek (both Hungarian) as well as Dr. Gebhard Glück (Germany) were remembered with honour in Brussels by the assembled executive committees.