

**Many countries held events to commemorate the beginning of the Second World War** with Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939. In Gubin (PL) Polish and German citizens assembled for a mutual prayer for peace in front of the ruins of the city church, which had been the house of god of the German city of Guben and was razed down to the curtain walling during the fighting. With united efforts from both sides, the gothic hall church dating to 1200 has been gradually rebuilt as an important architectural monument. The walls have been secured and the crown on the tower replaced. The neighbouring town hall from the 16/17<sup>th</sup> Century has long since been rebuilt. The prayer for peace on September 1 was preceded by German-Polish choir singers.

**"Healthy Aging"** was the theme of the 7<sup>th</sup> Regional European Senior Citizens' Union Conference "North" at the end of September in Tallinn (Estonia), opened in the Museum of Occupation and Resistance; the conference was held in the parliament building (Riigikogu). Vice President Hallberg (S) and Ann Räämet, president of the Senior Citizens Union of the united parties Pro Patria and Res Publica (EST), greeted the European Senior Citizens' Union President Dr. Worms and delegates from eleven countries. (for report see: [www.eu-seniorunion.info](http://www.eu-seniorunion.info)).



Gubin, Poland

On October 1, the "International Day of the Older Generation", **the 4<sup>th</sup> Austrian Senior Citizens Conference** discussed the topic of "Social Participation, Self-Determination and Recognition of Senior Citizens" in Salzburg. The event was held at the University under the direction of Prof. Dr. Andreas Khol, the Bundesobmann (federal president) of the Austrian Senior Citizens Association (ÖSB). Prof. Khol had been re-elected as head of the ÖSB during the Federal Senior Citizens Day held the day before, receiving congratulations from Dr. Worms.

**In view of his 60 years of membership** the "Katholische Arbeitnehmer-Bewegung KAB" (Catholic Workers Movement, D) thanked Dr. Bernhard Worms in a letter from the leaders of the movement for his "faith, commitment and prayer for solidarity and justice." Worms has also been a member of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) for sixty years. In a press conference on the occasion he briefly stated defence of human dignity as the greatest and most important task which German law sets for all citizens.

The presidents of the Senior Citizens Union and the Youth Union (D), Prof. Dr. Otto Wulff and Philipp Missfelder, appeared **together over 70 times** in the run up to the German Bundestag elections. They explained the Christian Democratic Union's program before audiences of thousands, the party winning the strongest position with 33.8 percent and which will form the coalition government along with the Free Democrats (FDP). Dr. Angela Merkel remains Federal Chancellor; Guido Westerwelle will become Vice Chancellor.

**Despite the financial crisis** the All Ukrainian Pensioners Association (UARP) continues its work, writes Wolodymyr Dzjobak from Kiev. The situation in the country and especially that of pensioners is "very serious" due to rising prices but stationary incomes. His organisation has had to postpone help for housing construction at reasonable prices and other programmes; "However, we keep on working" says Dzjobak.

The Belarusian Senior Citizens Organization "Nashe Pokolenie ("Our Generation") has now officially aligned itself with **the opposition under Alexander Milinkevitsch**. According to their bulletin they joined the European Forum, which supports Milinkevitsch.

**Newsflash:** the European Senior Citizens' Union Executive Committee meets in Brussels on December 8.