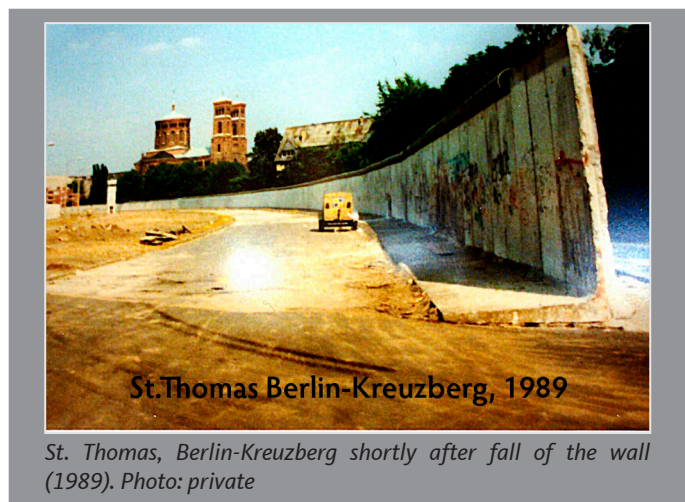


**EU Reform Treaty Ratified** The welcome news on 3<sup>rd</sup> November was received with great relief and satisfaction by the European Senior Citizens' Union Board. With a positive decision by the Czech constitutional court behind him Vaclav Klaus became the last head of state to sign the document so important for the development of the European Union at the Prague Palace. The European Senior Citizens' Union vice-president Dr. Vaclav Roubal (Prague) and his Christian Democratic Seniors were anxious about the decision up to the very last moment, writing to the editors that "we are all here confident that there will shortly be a positive signal from our country".

President Dr. Worms described Klaus' signature as a long awaited indispensable necessity, also in terms of avoiding Czech isolation in Europe.

Numerous events around the world are commemorating the **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall**. The German chancellor and CDU president Dr. Merkel spoke on this issue at both houses of the US congress advocating American-European cooperation. "Walls must again be torn down" to prevent weapons of mass destruction, create economic regulatory frameworks and make progress in global environmental policy. The freedom gained in 1989 should be used responsibly for both present and future.

On "Reformation day" in St. Thomas in Berlin between the Kreuzberg and Mitte districts where the wall once stood, evangelical bishop Huber gratefully recollected the peaceful revolution in the DDR and other eastern central European states. Huber spoke in the presence of federal president Horst Köhler, the archbishop of Berlin Cardinal Sterzinsky and several representatives of the ecumenical council.



The European Senior Citizens' Union President Dr. Worms had the honour of experiencing a meeting of Helmut Kohl, George Bush Sen. and Michail Gorbatschow, the "Architects of German Unity," in Berlin. Through innumerable trust building talks in East Germany Worms has had to date a considerable personal participation in the convergence of Germans towards the "inner unity" of the country.

According to the invitations the **Congress of the European People's Party (EPP)** on 9 and 10 of December in Bonn (D) should contribute to strengthening the social market economy and further integration of Europe. The delegates of the 74 member parties from 36 regions and the associations – including our European Senior Citizens' Union – elect the EPP president and other leading figures. Several heads of state and government will speak. The congress will be hosted by the CDU and CSU.

**"Innovation and Solidarity / Pillars of the Future of Europe"** has been chosen by the European Senior Citizens' Union Board in Königswinter (D) in early October as the motto of the VII Congress to take place in Germany in early October 2010.

The senior citizens unions of Austria, Bavaria (D) and South Tyrol (I) have passed the **"Resolution of Bolzano"** containing ten demands for all politicians – not just those from the three Alpine regions – which has been published by the European Senior Citizens' Union on their Internet website ([www.eu-seniorunion.info/mainmenu.html](http://www.eu-seniorunion.info/mainmenu.html)).

**The Christian Senior Citizens of Slovakia** recently chose as topic for a seminar: "20 Years after the Velvet Revolution of 1989/The Role of Senior Citizens", on which subject several founder members of the senior citizens union of the Christian democratic movement (KDH) spoke from personal experience. The former EU Commissioner and new KDH president Jan Figel and European parliamentarian Dr. Zaborska drew attention to current events in the European Union. - In Badin near Banska Bystrica the Senior Citizens Association re-elected Dr. Josef Miklosko as president. As Jan Gurega imparted, the board also contains some "younger faces".