

As of 4th of December **Prof. Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering** heads the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS, St. Augustin and Berlin). The former President of the European Parliament succeeds Bernhard Vogel, who held this position from 1989 to 1995 and from 2001. The President of the European Senior Citizens' Union, Dr. Worms stated "with the appointment of Pöttering a renowned European celebrity has become a chairman who understands international reconciliation and political education as core responsibilities of the foundation. Our member associations in several countries appreciate the fruitful collaboration".

Prof. Dr. Ursula Lehr, age researcher, German Federal Minister of Family Affairs from 1988 to 2001, has been elected the chair of BAGSO (German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations) comprising over 100 German senior citizens' organisations of the political parties, churches, trade unions as well as athletic unions and charity organizations. The senior citizens' unions of the CDU and CSU are also members of BAGSO. The managing director, Dr. Klumpp, pointed out in the interview that BAGSO represents the interests of around 13 million senior citizens and there are (as yet) no other comparable organisations in other countries. Ms Lehr has been a major consultant and associate of the European Senior Citizens' Union for years.

The positions of the European Senior Citizens' Union are mostly attributable to her endeavours. Ms Lehr frequently holds lectures and speeches. Her predecessor, Walter Link, did not candidate for health reasons.



Our photo: Ursula Lehr and Bernhard Worms



The Ukrainian Association of Retired Persons (UARP) proves to be a source of support to many citizens during the banking crisis. The "First Ukrainian Credit Association (PWKS)" founded five years ago is the only financial institution to ensure payment of deposits, redeem loans from the pre-crisis period and take care of complete settlement of the liabilities of their customers. The UARP also prepared a program on restructuring banks left high and dry by the government. *Our photo: UARP President, W. Dżjobak, Kiev.*



"**Constitutional legality, democracy and observance of human rights**" remain, in the opinion of the European Parliament member Doris Pack, the prerequisite for admission of new member states to the EU; this is particularly true for the western Balkan states. "They have already come a long way, and we must help them to manage the remaining part" explained Ms Pack. Accession (later) is not an act of grace but simply necessity due to the geographical location. "Our stability depends on theirs". *Photo: Doris Pack, Member of the European Parliament*

The European Senior Citizens' Union Board hopes that the **new management of the Civic Platform faction (PO)** will found a senior citizens' association. Dr. Worms has renewed his offer on political and logistic support to the Prime Minister and party leader, Mr Tusk. The PO youth organisation recently appointed the former foreign minister and current secretary of state, Mr Władysław Bartoszewski, as their honorary member on the occasion of its 15 years of existence.

During the Senior Citizens' Day in Salzburg the delegates of the Austrian Senior Citizens' Union (ÖSB) demanded from their party, the ÖVP (Austrian People's Party) **assistance for founding of new senior citizens' groups** and favourable positioning of senior citizens on electoral candidate lists. The reintroduction of a seven Euro rail ticket for senior citizens by the Austrian Railways (ÖBB) was raised yet again.

The European Senior Citizens' Board, the General Secretariat and Senior International editorial office would like to wish all our readers a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**. We thank you for translating and distributing this newsletter across the whole of Europe. Copies would be greatly appreciated.