



Dr Bernhard Worms, as Europe knows him: principled - committed - convincing - motivating. "SI" congratulated the European Senior Citizens' Union President on his 80th birthday on 14th March. Photo: U.W.

European Senior Citizens' Union President Dr. Worms is dismayed by the arrests in **Belarus**. He joined the protest by the European People's Party and demanded the release of detainees.

As "SI" from Minsk learned, "temporary detentions and repression are currently the norm in the country." Particularly perfidious methods are being applied against pensioners, commitment to mental hospitals. Worms to "SI": "Our sympathy goes to all who support democratic development. They will be ultimately successful!"

The Seventh European Senior Citizens' Union Congress will be held from 4 to 6 November in the vicinity of Cologne (Germany) under the motto "INNOVATION AND SOLIDARITY – the pillars of Europe's future". Delegates and guests from all affiliated with European Senior Citizens' Union seniors organizations and parties are expected – currently approaching 40 guests. The Board will meet in Brussels on 23 March and 29 June in preparation, the Executive Committee on 30 June.

The Senior Citizens' Union of the German Christian-Democratic Union party will hold the delegates convention from 24 to 26 October in Recklinghausen, which is associated with elections of the Executive Board and Chairman.

The European Senior Citizens' Union holds great leadership expectations in **the new president of Ukraine**. Following victory in the runoff Mr Yanukovich has to put his pro-European statements into action, said Dr. Worms in Brussels. We now expect concrete measures to be taken in Kiev to socially secure pensioners and the disabled, who suffer most from the financial and banking crisis and political mismanagement. The strongly committed social association UARP under Volodymyr Dzubak deserves our full appreciation."

At the invitation of the Adenauer Foundation **the Croatian prime minister** spoke in Berlin on her reform policy with which the country expects a successful conclusion of EU accession negotiations toward the end 2010. On a question from the "SI" editor, Ms Jadranka Kosor stressed the high value their government places on the most vulnerable. Thus, despite major problems with the state budget, a reduction of the maternity allowance has been averted and pensioners have been paid the first instalment of a pension's adjustment missed during wartime. The consistent fight against corruption showed initial results in the struggle for the social security and welfare of the whole population. The senior citizens of their HDZ party (Croatian Democratic Community) have been members of the European Senior Citizens' Union for years.

With her series of articles on the Treaty of Lisbon **European Senior Citizens' Union Vice-President Dr. Marilies Flemming (A)** has raised a great interest for the EU in Austria. In the weekly magazine "SIS" of the Austrian Senior Citizens Association (ÖSB) she explained the content and importance of the EU reform treaty in force since December, and declared herself ready to respond personally to all your questions about the European Union. Please write to; ÖSB, Lichtenfelsgasse 7, A-1010 Vienna, email: skofler@seniorenbund.at Ms Flemming, who is also the ÖSB representative responsible for European affairs, told "SI" "The individual citizens must have feeling they are involved in the great work of peace through European integration."

The first senior citizens groups celebrated **their 20th anniversary** in Eastern Germany (German Democratic Republic until October 2, 1990). Dr Worms congratulated. The groups in Eberswalde and Cottbus (both in Land Brandenburg) began it all in February. On 18 April 1990 the Senior Citizens' Union of the German Democratic Republic was founded in East Berlin. With their joining at the end of 1990 came the all-German Senior Citizens' Union of the German Christian-Democratic Union party, which was led until 2002 by Dr. Worms – since then Honorary Chairman. Chairman is Prof. Dr. Otto Wulff.

The annual meeting of the Christian Senior Citizens' of Czech Republic (SKS) on March 24 is dedicated to the elections in the autumn. Interlocutors are the regional Christian Democratic Union representatives, informs Chairman Dr. Roubal, who is also vice president of the European Senior Citizens' Union.

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