

VIIth Congress of the European Senior Citizens' Union will be convened in Bad Honnef / Board held meeting

The Board decided on 23rd of March in Brussels to convene the VIIth Congress of the European Senior Citizens' Union in Bad Honnef (Rhineland, Germany) from 2nd to 4th of November 2010. The motto of the Congress is "Innovation & Solidarity - the Pillars of Europe's Future". The Congress will discuss upcoming tasks, pass a "resolution" and elect the Board members for the next three year period.

All Board members have the opportunity to discuss and comment in writing on the Congress related papers, provided by the General Secretariat in Frechen (Germany), by 30th of April 2010.

The following **key dates** were also confirmed by the Board: 2nd to 4th of May 2010, Regional Conference "Mediterranean Region" in Malta; 18th of June 2010, Regional Conference "Central" in Brussels; 29th of June 2010, Board meeting; 30th of June 2010, Executive Committee meeting (both in Brussels); 23rd to 25th of August 2010, 1st Summer Academy of the European Senior Citizens' Union in Vienna; 17th to 19th of September 2010, Conference of Lithuanian Senior Citizens with guests from Estonia and Latvia in Klaipeda, Lithuania. (for more details on conference agendas please refer to: www.eu-seniorunion.info/en/noticeboard/index.html).

Numerous congratulations from the European Senior Citizens' Union **on the occasion of the President, Dr. Worms, turning eighty.** The Ukrainian Senior Citizens' Union honoured Dr. Worms for "his commitment to Europe and rights of elderly citizens" with a honorary certificate presented to him by the coordinator of the Region East in the presence of the Board. The Vice General Secretary, Christian Kremer, congratulated him on behalf of the European People's Party in Brussels. The Prime Minister of Rhineland, Mr. Rüttgers, held a honorific speech in Dr. Worms home province during a Christian Democratic Union Party's reception. The European Senior Citizens' Union Vice President, Dr. Fleming, acknowledged the commitment of the President and his achievements since taking office in 2001. Marita Schlieper from the General Secretariat put together a 90 page book with greetings, wishes and memories of visits held by the President to manifold countries, which surprised, moved and pleased Dr. Worms greatly.



President Dr. Worms being congratulated by the Board members of the European Senior Citizens' Union (Brussels, 23rd of March 2010). Photo: U. W.

Dr. Worms presented the Board a positive balance on the occasion of the **upcoming 15 year anniversary of the founding of the European Senior Citizens' Union.** He thanked all staff in leading positions of the member associations, groups with observer status and visiting federations. Despite all the positive outcomes, the concession had to be made "that it sometimes takes longer than expected". He referred herewith to relations with senior citizens' organisations in Poland, Portugal and France as well as the funding of the European Senior Citizens' Union. Promises should always be followed by actions, says the President. Promising prospects seem to be recently coming from the Republic of Moldavia to where the delegation of the European Senior Citizens' Union with Marilies Flemming and Leif Hallberg travelled in February.

The Board of the European Senior Citizens' Union thanked **the honorary citizen of Europe, Dr. Helmut Kohl** – now approaching his 80th birthday – for his astute political commitment to European integration, which with the Treaty of Lisbon – also with the European Senior Citizens' Union – took a further step into the future.

Members of the Board sharply condemned abuse of children and youth placed into the care of institutions. The General Secretary, Ingeborg Uhlenbrock, pointed out – without wishing to detract from the incidents occurring in church institutions – that most abuse takes place in the family. Dr. Worms advocated strict prosecution of any guilty parties.

"In 2010, the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion" politicians and societies in all countries are now to make even greater endeavours for the young generation in particular in view of these incidents" stated Dr. Worms to "Senior International". "Their right to education, training and dignity in life must be finally ensured in all countries once and for all. It is our responsibility as the older generation to support and assist these endeavours as part of the solidarity between generation, which we advocate."