

The Belarusian senior citizens' organisation "Our Generation" ("Nashe Pokolenie") has now officially received "observer" status with the European Senior Citizens' Union following a decision of the European People's Party. The chair, Tatyana Zelko (Minsk) was informed by the General Secretary Ingeborg Uhlenbrock with the letter dated April 2, 2010. The initial contact with the European Senior Citizens' Union was initiated during top-level talks in Vilnius in June 2008.

The President of the European Senior Citizens' Union Dr. Worms expressed **his heartfelt commiseration** on behalf on our union to a string of companions, pioneers and friends in Poland on the occasion of the tragic death of the Polish President Lech Kaczynski and other Polish dignitaries. He wrote to amongst others the president of the city of Oswiecim, Janusz Marszalek, the chairman of the member association of the European Senior Citizens' Union, Prof. Jan Czaja, the Executive Committee member, Teofil Stanislawski, and the Polish staff of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Warsaw. "We can feel how strongly your home country is rooted in the European family" states the condolence letter directed to Lidia Bialek, the vice president of the women's organisation of the European People's Party. May the Lord give us the strength to close the gaps torn in state and society, he continued. – The European Parliament commemorated the victims with a holy mass in the centre of Brussels on April 13, 2010. – Amongst victims of the airplane crash in Smolensk were representatives of the Catholic, Evangelic and Orthodox churches.

The first round of the Hungarian parliamentary elections on April 12, 2010 delivered **good results for FIDESZ**. The FIDESZ alliance chaired by Dr. Viktor Orban comprised of citizens' union and Christian-democratic people's party reached nearly 53 percent of all votes and holds 206 of 386 seats in the parliament. Whether a two-thirds majority can be reached will be decided in the second round of elections on April 25, 2010; Dr. Worms congratulated Victor Orban, the European Senior Citizens' Union sympathiser and the chair of FIDESZ. The electoral success can be attributed to clear political measures and reliable work.



Joseph Daul, head of the European People's Party faction in the European Parliament (our photo) commented on the election results as a decision by Hungary for "fair, successful and stable government succeeding a period of lies, corruption, failure and weakness in the leadership of the socialists". – The appointed Prime Minister Orban chaired the government between 1998 and 2002. He will presumably head the EU Council Presidency of Hungary in the first half of 2011. – The European Senior Citizens' Union has three member associations in the country (FIDESZ, ONYPE and MDF).

Nearly 7,500 abortions take place in Europe every day – this is the sobering and simultaneously terrifying balance of a 2008 survey presented by the Spanish institute of family politics in Brussels; this survey also covers the European part of Russia. Ten years ago the proportion of aborted pregnancies in Europe was lower 8.9 percent. While the proportion of children born in Eastern Europe has grown by nearly 50 percent since 1998, Spain ranks first in the number of abortions (with an increase of 115 percent). This issue must be addressed by the heads of states and governments, demanded Dr. Claudia Kaminski in Cologne. She heads the "A Right to Life for ALL" movement. It is a contradiction in terms to deny the reality on our own continent and simultaneously decry human rights violations in other regions. **The European Senior Citizens' Union sustainably supports this position and requests the leadership to take corresponding action with European institutions.** (www.ipfe.org)

The Austrian Senior Citizens' Union (ÖSB) provides varied events to **prevent loneliness in age**. Including sports, 195 events took place last year in the federal province of Carinthia alone, with nearly 7,000 members (of the total of 320,000 members in Austria). (Source: Josef Rätzenböck, vice chairman of the Austrian Senior Citizens' Union in SIS 12/2010)