

The theme of the 1st Summer Academy of the European Senior Citizens' Union for executives taking place from 23rd to 25th August, 2010 in Vienna is **"Senior Citizens – active life with strong values"**; the event is organised by the Austrian Senior Citizens' Association (ÖSB) with support of their Political Academy and the European People's Party.

In Bonisław Komorowski Poland has elected a pro-Europe president. The European Senior Citizens' Union President, Dr. Worms speaking to us: "I expect the European integration of Poland to become reinforced through this election as well as blocking of the pension and health reform to finally end." Komorowski was the candidate of the ruling party "Civil Platform" ("Platforma Obywatelska") chaired by the prime minister Donald Tusk. Komorowski was born in 1952 as the son of displaced Eastern Pole in Silesia.

Honouring "Silent Heros". The Senior Citizens' Union of the Christian Democratic Union (D) has honoured **Nasra Shebab** and **Roni Hirshenson** with the "Golden Medal for Endeavours in Reconciliation and Understanding between Nations." The two are members of the Palestinian-Israeli organisation **"Parents Circle"**, which brings together the relatives of victims killed in assassinations and war and advocates peaceful coexistence in schools; Prof. Dr. Wulff (r.) welcomed the Federal Chancellor, Angela Merkel, at the beginning of the ceremony who wished people in the Middle East endurance and strength and to "find a path to reconciliation from the sorrow". Nasra and Aharon who lost their own children are an example of such reconciliation and according to Otto Wulff "a sign of hope".

Integration is not a one-way street Following the words of archbishop Marchetto at a Vatican conference on migration and globalisation no assimilation may be demanded however all migrants should pursue social integration in their new home country. The accepting state has to "respect the cultural heritage of everyone". The European Senior Citizens' Union supports this viewpoint. (quotation from the Catholic New Agency, KNA)



Dr. Worms expressed cordial congratulations to **Christian Wulff (Christian Democratic Union)** on behalf on the European Senior Citizens' Union on the occasion of being elected as German Federal President. Dr. Worms also congratulated the new Hungarian President, **Pal Schmitt (FIDESZ)**.

In a passionate speech held before the executive bodies of the European Senior Citizens' Union, President Dr. Worms advocated **conformity between the statements and actions of politicians**. "We, the elderly bearing political responsibility, could enlighten the path for the upcoming generations. We stand together and ensure the truth is always expressed." Capital and labour must reach an agreement as a prerequisite of higher levels of social justice and social progress stated Worms.

The Board and the Executive Committee agreed in an extensive discussion over several hours on **the drafts of Statutes, Statement and voting procedure** to be presented to the VIIIth Congress of the European Senior Citizens' Union in Bad Honnef, Germany from 2nd to 4th November, 2009. In the future twelve instead of ten Vice Presidents will be responsible for their particular business activities and/or regions.

The Dutch CDA party (observer status with the European Senior Citizens' Union) intends to found a senior citizens' union according to a statement by member of the European Parliament Ria Oomen-Ruijten.

Georgios Saridakis (Greece), Prof. Dr. Constantin Fatu (Romania) and María Teresa Guanabens Rodon and José María Regás Graupera (Spain) were welcomed in Brussels **as new members of the Executive Committee**.

Dr. Worms met the member association of the European Senior Citizens' Union and persons interested in founding a new Christian democratic party in the capital of Latvia, Riga.

Spain (spring) and Greece (autumn) announced **regional conferences for 2011**. Prerequisites for holding a conference in Bulgaria will be investigated.