

**The ESCU resolutions adopted by the EPP Congress in Marseilles** call on (1) the EU to invite all East European states to enter into a close partnership, (2) demand that governments ensure there is equal opportunity for all generations to be involved in society and (3) support the presentation of Older People's Reports on a regular basis in all countries as a basis for political action consistent with demographic change. The speech given to the Congress by the ESCU President, Dr. Worms (D), is available on the website (eu-seniorunion.info).

**The Presidency of the EU Council** passed on 1 January from Poland to Denmark. The Chairman of the EPP parliamentary party, Joseph Daul (FR), acknowledged the success of Poland's presidency to the Polish Prime Minister, Donald Tusk, and his government. He highlighted the strengthening of relationships with East European and South European states. In the second half of 2012, the presidency will be held by the Republic of Cyprus which is due to host to ESCU at its SOUTHERN Regional Conference which will probably take place on 10 and 11 November.

**A message of greetings to UARP President, Volodymyr Dzjobak (UA)**, has been extended by ESCU President, Dr. Worms. He thanked all those who had "worked tirelessly in the pensioners' union for many years for the welfare of tens of thousands of their fellow citizens: we value their work greatly," as it gives their dignity back to those who are in need through no fault of their own, and he added that the projects of the UARP deserve to be continued. Worms is confident that the expectation of closer contact between Ukraine and the EU will be met despite the postponement of the Association Agreement.

**Murders believed to have been committed by extreme right-wing groups** are setting the public agenda in Germany. More and more citizens are calling for a ban on the neo-Nazi NPD Party, which has been linked with the deaths of nine immigrants from Turkey and Greece and a female police officer. ESCU President, Dr. Worms, comments: "I am deeply shocked by the death of innocent people; it is essential that a careful investigation is undertaken and that the perpetrators receive firm punishment." He made a similar call in respect of the **violent acts being committed against Christians of all denominations** in an increasing number of countries.

**The theme of the 2012 European Year** of "Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations" was already the subject of discussion in Lithuania in December in which 75 senior citizens participated who had travelled to Vilnius from all over the country, advises Romualda Hofertiene. Conference participants called for the setting up of a telephone helpline for older citizens and the publication of a magazine aimed at senior citizens. (See report on website > From Country Members)

**The Latvian Senior Citizens' Union** under Guna Putnina has been joined – Jolanta Zarina tells us – by 25 members of the senior citizens' club of the (now defunct) People's Party and they were able to celebrate Christmas together in the middle of December.

#### News in brief

- ESCU President, Dr. Worms, extended his greetings to Ján Benček in Slovakia on the occasion of his 90th birthday and thanked him sincerely for his work in the early stages of setting-up the ESCU.
- The Oświęcim Mound of Remembrance and Peace Project (formerly Auschwitz in PL) has received a donation from the cdH and ASE senior citizens' associations (both in Belgium).
- The operator of the Mound project, the Polish Senior Citizens' Union, was legally registered in December for Warsaw and Mazowieckie.
- Many thanks to Nomeda Hofertaite (LT) and Nadia Papadimitrion (GR) for providing copies of their translations of "SI".
- The new tel. nos. for the ESCU General Secretariat are: + 49 2234 / 201 9690 **and 201 9692**



President Dr. Worms in discussions on 10 November 2011 with (l to r): V. Dzjobak, M. Khrystych (interpreter) and Secretary General I. Uhlenbrock at the European Parliament building in Brussels. Photo: U. Winz