



## SENIOR INTERNATIONAL

News from the European Senior Citizens' Union (ESCU)

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### **Board meets at new EPP Headquarters**

At its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March at the new EPP headquarters in Brussels, the Board also “moved in” to join the General Secretariat of our Association which is already housed there. (Rue du Commerce 10, B-1000 Brussels; tel. +32 2 3008005; fax +32 2 3008011; email: [esu@epp.eu](mailto:esu@epp.eu)). The Board called for an “alliance of the generations”, expressed its support for the nomination of Dr. Helmut Kohl for the Nobel Peace Prize and advised on preparations for the VI. Congress (29.09.07 - 02.10.07 in Pulheim, Germany). Joint future plans were discussed with EPP Deputy Secretary General **Vandeputte**, including a conference on “social Europe”. Vandeputte commented: “The ESCU performs an important multiplier effect!”

### **New ESCU member association in Slovenia**

On 29<sup>th</sup> March, the Board approved the application by the “Slovenian People's Party Union of Retired People” (Zveza upokojenecv pri SLS (Slovenska Ljudska Stranka)) for membership of the European Senior Citizens' Union. The Union President is Bogdan Bradac and the General Secretary is Ivanka Brezigar. Peter Volasko, International Secretary of the SPP, expressed his belief in response to the approval that the active participation of the senior citizens' union in the activities of the ESCU would “significantly broaden and enrich” political activity in Slovenia. The membership of the ESCU now comprises 35 senior citizens' associations and/or parties from 22 countries.

### **“European unification is a triumph for freedom!”**

So proclaimed Dr. Wulff for the German CDU Seniors' Union on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome. On behalf of the 56,000 members of his organisation (which became a member of the ESCU in 1995), Wulff welcomed the fact that on the occasion of the European summit in Berlin “as well as the Council of Ministers and the Commission, the European Parliament had also fulfilled its due role” and that its President, Dr. Pöttering, had documented its growing significance. On joining the Seniors' Union, Pöttering emphasised the solidarity which exists between the generation who lived through the war and the post-war generation, “for whom a free and peaceful Europe is a dream come true”. A large number of senior citizens joined the celebrations at the Citizens' Party on 24/25<sup>th</sup> March hosted by the current holders – until 30<sup>th</sup> June - of the EU Council Presidency. Our President, Dr. Worms, was a guest at the EPP summit.

### **Increased allowances for carers**

was the call from the ESCU South East Regional Conference held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March in Graz in Austria. Continuing the theme set by the President's opening remarks were expert contributions from the hosts, ÖSB (G. Hammerl), from Hungary (Vice President Dr. P. Aszodi), from Croatia (Dr. I. Kujundzic), from Bavaria (Board member Dr. G. Glück) and from Slovakia (Dr. M. Gibalowa). The conference took place under the co-chairmanship of Vice President W. Mohaupt and former MEP and member of the Executive Committee, Dr. M. Flemming. Mohaupt gave his support to an allowance for voluntary carers also in Austria, where almost 426,000 people are being cared for at home. A care insurance scheme such as in Germany was discussed as a possible way forward. The ESCU will continue to take the issue of “Care” seriously, declared Dr. Worms at the conclusion. More than 50 people, including a number of Slovenians, were in attendance.

### Late news

### **To counter years of unscrupulous practice involved in “promotional excursions”**

*an initiative has been launched in Austria involving Parliament and the Seniors' Council. Basically, the ÖSB advises you not buy anything which is sold in this way!*