



SENIOR INTERNATIONAL

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Applications to register for the VI Congress (29/09/07 – 02/10/07 in Pulheim in Germany) are to be submitted by 31st July, Secretary General Uhlenbrock advised at the Executive Committee meeting on 5th July in Brussels.

The Italian Senior Citizens' Party (Partito Pensionati) became a member of the ESCU on 5th July. ESCU President Dr. Worms welcomed the party at the Board meeting in Brussels with President Carlo Fatuzzo in attendance who has been an MEP since 1999. A **Romanian senior citizens' union** has expressed interest in becoming a member of the ESCU.

Much is expected of the Portuguese EU Council Presidency by the ESCU. Dr. Worms stated to the Union's leadership and the media the reasons for the special interest in the inter-governmental conference of the 27 member states on the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The resolutions which were drawn up during difficult negotiations at the EU summit are forward-looking and binding on all participants, declared Worms. The ESCU has resolved to support the recent decisions on climate protection and the development of renewable energy sources, as well as Portugal's initiative to combat starvation in Africa.

Closer cooperation in programmes and projects has been agreed between the ESCU and the Directorate-General for Employment at the European Commission. Of topical interest are the proceedings at the ESCU Conference in Graz on the topic of "Helping the Helpers", which the EC intends to address at a conference towards the end of the year.

"Equal opportunities for all" was the topic of an ESCU symposium held on 1st June with the Union of Christian Senior Citizens of the Czech Republic (SKS) in Prague. Partnering the event on 1st June were the European Commission (Prague Representation) and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Prague. The speakers were Dr. Vaclav Roubal (SKS), Deputy Minister of Social Affairs, Dr. Hosek, and Ulrich Winz (for the ESCU). We are advised by Erik Lozak that the Union of Retired People of the Slovenian People's Party (SLS) will tackle this concern in the autumn. Also, the Platforma Senioru (of the Czech Republic) is also planning a conference on this theme in Southern Bohemia. The stimulus for this comes from the European Commission's proclamation of a "European Year" under this banner. (See also www.eu-seniorunion.info).

To pay tribute to the 77,000 Jews sacrificed in Prague, conference participants laid a wreath at the Pinkas Synagogue on behalf of the ESCU President.

The German CSU Seniors' Union (Bavaria) is delighted by the substantial increase in its membership over the past year, with 7,700 elderly citizens currently registered. As reported in its first newsletter, its President, Prof. Weckerle, was awarded the Bavarian Distinguished Service Cross on 11th July by Minister President Stoiber. At his invitation, a meeting will be held in Passau in mid-September with the CDU Seniors' Union and the Austrian Senior Citizens' Union.

A merger between the two Estonian senior citizens' member associations took place on 26th May. Prior to this was the merger of their respective parties, Res Publica and Pro Patria. The first official event is due to take place in mid-October with elections to the board, with Dr. Helle Mäeltsemees nominated for President.

"Cross-border cooperation in policy relating to senior citizens" is the headline for the Northern Regional Conference to be held in Malmö in Sweden and Copenhagen in Denmark from 26th to 28th August. Leading the organization of the event is Vice-President Leif Hallberg.