



## *EUROPEAN SENIORS' UNION (ESU)*

Newsletter "SENIOR INTERNATIONAL" No. 135 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016

### Aim of the ESU: A peaceful and safe EUROPE!

#### Summer Academy takes on clear commitment

Vienna. The European Seniors' Union (ESU), a member of the European People's Party (EPP) and largest political seniors' organization in Europe, declared the following at its meeting of leaders at the Political Academy of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP):

- We respect the British voters' right to decide their future, but we regret the result of the vote, on the one hand because of the political and economic effects that will follow in the UK, and on the other hand because of the challenges that the British decision will bring for the EU as well as for the 27 Member States.



The Summer Academy of the ESU for Leading Seniors in Vienna was led by its

President, em. Prof. An Hermans (Leuven/Belgium)

- We urge political leaders at all levels to continue to work with commitment for the European project, to defend the principles enshrined in the EU Treaties, and to counteract nationalist tendencies.
- European citizens - young and old - have the right to be more involved in the construction of a common Europe. The EU owes this to the present as well as to future generations.
- An analysis of the results of the referendum shows significant differences relating to regions, education level and age. The ESU stands for cooperation between the generations and that is why we regret that too few young people have participated in the election.
- The older generations of Europeans, who have experienced the horrors of war and dictatorship and have themselves participated actively in the reconstruction of their communities and in the development of modern welfare states, demand that European politicians acknowledge their rights unconditionally.
- Bridging the gap between the generations is an absolute necessity for our society. We need solidarity between the generations in order to ensure further development of a genuine social market economy, more employment opportunities and adequate social security.
- The ESU will continue to support the European project and work towards its main goal, the preservation of peace and security, the development of a strong Europe in a globalised world and to promote a better future for all generations.

Claus Bernhold

Press spokesman of the Board of the CDU Seniors' Union, Germany;  
Member of the ESU's Executive Committee; Vienna 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016

(We will return to other conclusions of the meeting in No. 136)

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Advice of the Anglican Church

The Archbishops Justin Welby (Canterbury) and John Sentamu (York) said that the campaign before the referendum had injured people on both sides. Now one would have to act together "to build a generous and forward looking country, contributing to human flourishing around the world."

Pope Francis regrets

Lesbians and gays should be respected and supported by the Church, the Pope said according to information from epd. Centuries of discrimination against homosexuals by the Catholic Church is regrettable. The Church must apologise "not only to them, but also to the poor, to women and to children exploited at work". -

#### Readiness for dialogue expressed

“Our Church emphasises dialogue, particularly with non-Orthodox Christians”. So commented the bishops from 10 Orthodox churches gathered in Heraklion (Crete/Greece), according to the newspaper die Kirche (Berlin). It was the first meeting of Orthodox churches for 1,000 years. Four churches stayed away from the Council. The meeting of 300 delegates expressed concern about the situation in the Middle East.

#### Common features emphasised

On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the German-Polish Friendship Treaties, Presidents Gauck (DE) and Duda (PL) met and stressed the importance of cooperation at bilateral and European level. This statement has a special meaning against the background of objectionable tendencies in the judicial system by the national-conservative Polish government.

#### Do not be manipulated!

Hans-Peter Luther, Federal Secretary of the CDU Seniors' Union, made a presentation to the Seniors' Association of Brandenburg (DE) about the experience of modern media. He gave them the advice to inform themselves about current events from different sources in order to avoid the risk of unilateral influence or even manipulation. The elderly should make use of these possibilities on social media. He paid respect to the work of the ESU.

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