



## *EUROPEAN SENIORS' UNION (ESU)*

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**All NATO and EU Member States** now belong to the anti-IS coalition, politicians stated with relief on 26<sup>th</sup> May in Brussels. In parallel with the inauguration of a new NATO headquarters, Montenegro will become the 29<sup>th</sup> state in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) with effect from 5<sup>th</sup> June. At the NATO headquarters, monuments from the time of the Cold War can now be viewed, as well as remains of the “Berlin Wall” (1961-1989).



*Where on Sundays thousands had gathered under the motto “Pulse for Europe” Berliners and guests from all over the world celebrated a service for the opening of the Evangelical Kirchentag on 24<sup>th</sup> May, in the year of the Reformation Jubilee. Photo: U.W.*

**In talks with Barack Obama and Bishop Bedford-Strohm**, Dr. Angela Merkel promoted the political involvement of all citizens. She spoke in front of the Brandenburger Tor in Berlin on the occasion of the 36<sup>th</sup> German Evangelical Kirchentag on 25<sup>th</sup> May. The German Chancellor said that she would promote matters of which she is convinced irrespective of setbacks. According to experience, major changes - such as the fall of the borders in Germany and Berlin - are only achievable in the long term

Two days later, six of the seven participants at the summit of the G7 countries in Sicilian Taormina experienced unexpected disappointments. The experiences with the US President at the NATO headquarters and in Italy on 28<sup>th</sup> May, brought Angela Merkel in Munich to the conclusion that: “we Europeans must really take our fate into our own hands. The times when we could completely rely on others are now over. I have witnessed this in the last few days.” Following this statement, some commentators already speak of a “turning point in transatlantic post-war relations.” Today, the Chancellor has repeated her assessment.

The fact that in France, Emmanuel Macron is a convinced European and head of state is seen in the circles of the European Seniors’ Union as a sign of hope for a promising, future-oriented development of the EU. Macron today agreed with Putin in Paris to work together for common action against terrorists. However, the topics of Syria and Eastern Ukraine were discussed controversially.

### *A House of European History ...*



*... was opened on 5<sup>th</sup> May by Parliament President Antonio Tajani in Brussels. The idea goes back to one of his predecessors, Dr. Hans-Gert Poettering. Originally, the house was to be handed over in 2014 (100 years since the beginning of the First World War).*

*Photo: JSWD Architects*

**The Robert Schuman Institute (RSI/Budapest)** invites 18- to 25-year-olds from the EPP's sister organisations in Bratislava from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June for practical training. The event has the title “Millennial Leaders - Political Communication for a New Generation”. Applications from Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia have so far been submitted. *Contact: zsofia.erdelyi@schuman-institut.eu*

**The results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Policy for the Elderly** of 2002 will be presented and discussed at a meeting, which will be held by BAGSO (Federal Working Group of Seniors' Organizations) in the Ministry for Families in Bonn on 27<sup>th</sup> June. All interested parties from civil society, from politics and science are welcome. Janusz Marszalek, President of the Polish Seniors' Union and Vice-President of ESU, has been invited as one of the speakers on “The Situation of Older People Worldwide”. *Contact: leicht@bagso.de*

**Only a third of citizens over 65 years of age** own and use the internet in Germany. For Prof. Dr. Wulff, the chairman of the CDU Seniors' Union, the cause was “fear of the unknown.” He called on the politicians of today to help older fellow citizens to better cope with technology. If bank statements are only created digitally, the “off-liners” will be at a disadvantage. The same applies to health programs and cheap shopping offers. Wulff calls for a “concept for digitisation in an ageing society” and suggests thinking about a “digital museum”. The fact that adult education centres and trade unions offer special courses are welcome initiatives for Wulff, which, however, reach too few older people.

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