

European Democrat Students Newsletter



JULY/2010

Closure Of The Working Year!



Dear Friends of EDS,

It is with great pride we are sending you the last newsletter of the working year 2009/2010. Together with my team of vice-chairmen and area directors, we entered this working year with a vision of strengthening EDS' position in the field of youth and student politics on the European arena. We have worked hard for the last year and made many improvements to EDS. We have increased our cooperation with our friends in the EPP, the Council of Europe, YEPP and European Youth Forum. In addition we have increased the visibility of EDS as an organization. For the last year friends, colleagues and alumni have been able to read up to date news about EDS and its members on our website, in addition to a monthly summary of our work, here in this newsletter.

The annual meeting is coming up in just three weeks, the organizers in specific and the bureau in general is working hard in order to make this event a memorable one, and I am sure it will be a great event for the delegates who attend the 2010 Summer University.

I am happy that most of the bureau has decided to run for re-election, and I hope the annual meeting rewards my own and my bureaus hard work by giving us the opportunity and honour to serve EDS for one more term in order for us to accomplish yet another year of ambitious goals on our conquest in order to strengthen EDS as an organization of the future.

I wish you all a wonderful summer!

Sincerely ,

Bence Bauer

Chairman

European Democrat Students

EDS is an official association of:



EDS Policy days in Kiev



EDS Policy days of this working year, with the title "New Challenges or new perspectives for development?" took place from May 10th until May 13th in Kiev, Ukraine. The event was kindly hosted by EDS member organisation USA(Ukrainian Students Association). To answer the question EDS met representatives from the Parliament of Ukraine(Verkhovna Rada), government, senior officials from the Ministry for Family, Youth and Sport as well as activists from political parties. Participants discussed various topics- higher education system in Ukraine and strategy of its development, youth movements in Ukraine, integration of the Ukrainian youth policy in the European structures, elections and campaigning. However, not only politics and student issues were in the programme - EDS also had a meeting with Yevstratyi Zoria - Bishop Vasilkovsky, a Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kiev Patriarchate who gave us deeper understanding about the history of the country and its links with the politics and society of the 21st century. Meetings and discussions showed us that Ukraine has a lot of new perspectives for development towards EU and Ukrainian people, with the support from European friends can overcome any challenges. See more at:

www.edsnet.eu/events

Finland Elects new prime minister!

The Central-Right Government of Finland got a new Prime Minister when the Congress of the Centre Party elected Mrs. Mari Kiviniemi, 41, as their new Chairwoman on 12th June.



Formal assumption of the office of Prime Minister followed some 10 days later. Mrs. Kiviniemi follows Mr. Matti Vanhanen in both offices. She used to serve as the Minister for Public Administration and Local Governance in Vanhanen's second Government.

Both positions became open when Mr. Vanhanen, who served for some seven years, voluntarily resigned. Vanhanen's public support and image had greatly deteriorated in the span of past two years due to various scandals.

The coalition Government of The Centre Party (ALDE), National Coalition Party (EPP), The Swedish People's Party (ALDE) and The Green Party (GREEN), made minor adjustments to their program, but decided otherwise to continue generally with same people in same positions.

EPP Vice Chairman Mr. Jyrki Katainen, who was re-elected as National Coalition's chairman the same weekend, continues as the Deputy Prime Minister. Finland has General Elections scheduled in April 2011.

Centre for European Studies opens its new office!



Centre for European Studies

opened its new office building on 30 June with official welcome by EPP President Wilfred Martens.

CES is a long standing partner of EDS and its executive director Tomi Huhtanen is a former EDS vice chairman.

CES gave a number of workshops for the EDS participants on many occasions, including the upcoming Summer University in Slovakia.

EDS wishes our friends from CES great success and congratulates them with their new venue!

EDS hosted in the Slovak mountains!



ODM Slovakia, as you all be aware is hosting the XXXIV. Summer University of EDS this year entitled "Living Together in Diverse Societies". The north Slovak town of Žilina is a symbolic place, since the well known nest of the nationalist party was beaten in the last elections for mayor, where center-right forces defeated populist nationalist rhetoric. The last parliamentary elections show that this town and region has leaned

towards common sense and thus the more happy ODM is that the event will take place in Žilina.

A number of guests from the second Dzurinda government were invited. ODM is also planning on a many fun activities which shall be taking place after Wednesday's Annual Meeting.

We advise you to bring swimsuits, sun screen but also tennis shoes and sporting clothes for your time with us.

We are all looking forward to see you in Žilina for an unforgettable Summer University.

More information available at:

www.eds-summeru.eu

Chairman's Activities

In June, Chairman Bence Bauer commemorated Ronald Reagan on June 5 with placing a wreath at the Ronald Reagan Statue in Budapest. Between June 10-13, he attended the EDS Policy Days in Kiev. June 24 Chairman took part at the EPP Working Group No 3 and he met EPP Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General in Brussels the same day. He visited the DEMYC Study Session in Prague on June 25 and participated at the MK-RCDS bilateral meeting in Usti nad Labem June 26-27 as well on the SummerU preparation of ODM Slovakia June 27. He met with representatives of the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the FEMAN Foundation to discuss best possible financial support for the SummerU. Unofficial Bureau Meetings took place on June 12 and June 13.

Upcoming events

- **18 - 25 July XXXIII Summer University of EDS in Žilina, Slovakia** - More information is available at: www.eds-summeru.eu