



Safeguarding of interests is weakening in European sport and civic co-operation

The work of Council of Europe's Committee for the Development of Sport (CDDS) is being shut down by appealing to the problems in the budget. If sport experts in the member states of Council of Europe lose this common political forum, also the work of national sport federations as builders of wellbeing, democracy and active citizenship is being underestimated, says ENGSO Vice-President Birgitta Kervinen.

The preparatory work of the Secretariat of Council of Europe, tight schedule and unclear plans are making the European sport directors and sport leaders worried. In spring 2005, governments and sport federations' representatives were, perhaps for the last time, in a joint meeting of CDDS. In the meeting the shutting down of CDDS was not on the agenda. The Bureau had to take a stand to the budget matter in June 2005. The proposal for the problem was **Partial Agreement on Sport (PAS)**.

What does PAS mean?

PAS, Partial Agreement on Sport means that in the member states of Council of Europe the ministries responsible for sport and other organisations in sport co-operation will pay a separate fee to the Council of Europe for developing, sustaining, organising and making of common sport policies. Depending on the size of the member state they will have to pay thousands of euros yearly. So far there has been no proposal for a separate fee for ENGSO.

PAS also means that after this year CDDS will not officially exist. If the plans come into force the sports sector will not have its own budget and the sports ministers will not have European wide prepared meetings.

"Also the European co-operation between member states' ministries and NGOs is over. All the good that the Council of Europe has done in safeguarding of interests of sport in co-operation with east, west, north and south of Europe will now break down. What also worries me, is that PAS will not guarantee that all the countries will participate and so the equality between members states of Council of Europe is endangered", says Vice-President Birgitta Kervinen .

No time to loose

In the meeting in autumn 2005 ENGSO criticised the plan and expressed its worry for the shutting down of CDDS.

"ENGSO has consistently brought up the meaning of GO-NGO co-operation and emphasised the meaning of CDDS as the joining lobby organisation of European sport. In addition, we have contacted the Secretary General of Council of Europe **Mr. Davis**. In our appeal we stressed that if the plans come in to force, the European sport political discussion and extensive safeguarding of interests will disappear. Sport sectors activities are much more than anti-doping work and work against violence in the audience", emphasises Kervinen.



Europe more united than ever – safeguarding of sports interests neglected

- Sports ministers face important decisions in Moscow

During 2006 Ad hoc Committee for the Agreement on Sport CAHAS, former CDDS Bureau, is responsible for sport in Council of Europe. It had its meeting in the beginning of February.

The Bureau decided to do Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Feasibility Study on the Agreement on Sport (AS). The work is lead by **Heinz Keller** (CH), a long term CDDS member. The former CDDS Presidents **Raija Mattila** (FIN), **John Scott** (UK) and **Tomas Tönise** (EE, ENGSO) were appointed as the specialist for this work.

The result of this study will deliver crucial information for the Sport Ministers Meeting organised in Moscow 21-22 October. In this meeting the co-operation of Council of Europe and European sport will be solved. The theme of the meeting *The Future of European Sport* is very much up to date.



European Youth and Sport Forum 2006 will be held in Finland

The European Youth and Sport Forum 2005, organised during the British EU-Presidency, was a great success. The final declaration of the Forum brought up the political voice of European young leaders in sport. They addressed their thoughts and ideas directly to Rt. **Richard Caborn** - Minister for Sport in the UK. He sent the declaration to the other EU-ministers responsible for sport and he is willing to take the declaration on the agenda of the next informal EU Sport ministers meeting.

The Finnish Sports Federation (SLU), the Finnish Gymnastics Association (Svoli), Young Finland Association, ISCA and ENGSO Youth

agreed to co-organise the European Youth and Sport Forum 2006 during the Finnish EU Presidency in Finland. More than 100 young leaders in sport will be invited to take part in developing a European policy on the sport related themes: Health, Volunteering and Fair Play. The event will take place at Pajulahti near Helsinki from 26 September to 1 October 2006. Please contact ENGSO Youth Secretary Rebekka Kemmler (rkemmler@web.de) for further information.

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National Youth Day at the French NOC

On 4th of March the National Youth Committee of the French NOC organised a seminar for young sport leaders. Presentations were given by Youth, Sport and Associative life Ministry, National Youth Committee of the French NOC, National Youth Agency and French German Youth Office. In addition there were workshops on the topic: Responsibilities for the youth in the regional policy.

Now the National Youth Committee of the French NOC would like to invite DSJ for a formal meeting in order to organise a common project on a national training for young leaders in the sport movement.

Rosemary PAUL CHOPIN

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ENGSO Youth contributing to the EWS Conference

The European Women and Sport Conference will be held from 24 to 26 March 2006 in Vienna. The guiding theme is "Good governance in sport – sport as a role model for the new civil society".

ENGSO Youth is invited to make a contribution to two of the three thematic blocks. **Ilonda Luse** (LAT) will take part at the Open Podium Discussion and **Jan Holze** (GER) will give a presentation about education and motivation of young people in sports.

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ENGSO Youth selected as a new member of Council of Europe's Advisory Council on Youth

Rosemary Paul Chopin (vice chair of ENGSO youth) is representing ENGSO Youth in the Council of Europe's Advisory Council on Youth during the period of 2005-2008. It was the first time a youth sport organisation was selected to be part of this co-management system. In February 2006, Ms Paul Chopin took part in a training session organised by the Directorate of Youth and Sport at the Council of Europe. This was done in order to prepare the new members of the advisory council for the future work.

Jan Holze, Chair of ENGSO Youth, sees the membership of ENGSO Youth as a very positive signal. "It shows that ENGSO Youth is recognised by European institutions and our work is well acknowledged", says Holze.

The Advisory Council on Youth has 30 representatives from non-governmental youth organisations and networks. It provides opinions and input on all youth sector activities and ensures that young people are involved in the Council's activities.

The European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) brings together the representatives of ministries or bodies responsible for youth matters from the 48 State Parties to the European Cultural Convention.

The Joint Council on Youth is a co-decision body, bringing the CDEJ (GOs), and the Advisory Council (NGOs) together. It establishes the youth sector's priorities, objectives and budget lines.

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Lottery and amateur sporting activities excluded from the Directive of Services in the first plenary voting of the European Parliament

Strong lobby work has been done by ENGSO, national sports confederations and Olympic committees in order to exclude gambling and lottery games out of the scope of the Directive of Services. Finnish Sports Federation had successful cooperation with MEP **Anneli Jäätteenmäki**, former Prime Minister of Finland, who proposed the exclusion of non-profit amateur sporting activities.

The European Parliament had its first voting in the Plenary Session on Directive of Services in Strasbourg on 16-17 February. Parliament received more than 1000 amendments to EU Commission's initial text. Exclusions of both gambling and non-profit amateur sporting activities were adopted in the plenary with a clear majority.

This means that decision making in organising gambling and lottery activities could be done on national level in the future as well. MEP Jäätteenmäki's proposal of sports clubs in a Recital text of the Directive was: "Non-profit amateur

sporting activities are of considerable social importance. They often pursue wholly social or recreational objectives. Thus they may not constitute economic activities within the meaning of Community law and fall outside of the scope of this Directive."

The Union should take in to consideration the status of non-profit organisations as a whole. It is of primary importance that non-profit association activity remains under national regulation. Although it may be difficult in some cases to draw a line between non-profit and business activity, it should be

done as quickly as possible on the level of the whole EU.

Services Directive will be still debated in the Commission, in the Council and most likely in second reading of the Parliament during this spring. The Finnish EU Presidency in the second half of 2006 is prepared to conclude the final decision. The Directive will take force earliest within 3 years time, most probably after 2010.

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Sport in Europe – Where will we go to?

Austria is holding the EU-presidency from January to June 2006. In an information seminar organised by the Austrian Sports Federation in January 2006, the priorities for sport during the Austrian presidency were presented.

The key note speaker, State Secretary for Sport, **Karl Schweitzer**, presented topical issues such as sport and the economy as well as sport and health. During the upcoming months the discussions of EU decision makers will focus around these themes. Prof. **Wolf-Dietrich Brettschneider** from the German University Paderborn presented the results of his European wide study on obesity. He underlined, with astonishing empirical data, that sport must be used as a preventive tool in fighting back the increasing obesity.

Furthermore, the speakers regretted that the constitutional treaty with the sport article is put on hold. The Austrian presidency will present in June 2006 a road map of what will happen next to the European constitution. From sports point of view the European constitution entry into force would be very positive as the political standing of sport would be increased at European level and finally a European sport funding programme could be implemented.

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Round Table on Sport for All in Europe Summary of Results

In January 2006, following the invitation by ENGSO President **Bengt Sevelius**, representatives of seven European and international sport for all associations active in Europe met in Frankfurt to continue their exchange of views on possibilities of closer cooperation among their respective organisations.

During the Round Table **Mogens Kirkeby** (ISCA) submitted information about an Alliance of Sport for All, already institutionalised by the two world organisations ISCA and TAFISA, together with the European CESS. This Alliance is open to other potential partners who are expected to provide practical activities as well as human and financial resources. Participants felt that this initiative was very valuable and interesting. However, due to lack of employed staff and financial restrictions, they felt that it would be difficult to join this Alliance at present.

Another central topic on the agenda was related to the importance of health, fitness and diet for sport organisations in the view of future quality programmes for sport and physical activity. Nominated by ENGSO, Professor **Winfried Banzer** (Germany) is the only delegate representing organised sport in the "EU Platform for Diet, Health and Physical Activities". He informed about an

astonishing deficit in the awareness of other sectors (including the EU itself) regarding the outstanding role which the organised sport movement could play in the field of prevention. Thus he considered it a clear need and a good possibility to position organised sport. There was general agreement among the Round Table participants that this working field has an increasing significance and represents an important area for closer mutual co-operation and support.

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ENGSO visit to the Sport Unit of the EU Commission

On 7 March ENGSO delegation visited the EU Commission's Sport Unit. The meeting dealt with the topics considering ENGSO and EU, equality matters, youth sport matters, ENGSO GA's pre-seminar and ENGSO Forum.

ENGSO CALENDAR

ENGSO Executive Committee

17-19 March, Paris

4-5 May, Malta

1-3 September, Faroe Islands

26-27 October, Budapest

Extraordinary General Assembly

5 May, Malta

General Assembly

5-7 May, Malta

- EU pre-seminar 5 May, Malta

ENGSO Forum

27-29 October, Budapest

7th European Women and Sport Conference

24–26 March 2006, Vienna Austria

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We would like to hear from you

The success of the ENGSO communications depends on the active participation of the ENGSO members. Should you have any ideas for articles about current topics, interviews and/or short news from your organisation, please contact Essi Puistonen at the Finnish Sports Federation, SLU:

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Greetings from ENGSO Secretary General

One year, and what a year. It is not easy to fulfill expectations when succeeding a person such as Mrs. **Marlis Rydzy-Götz** who, in the past ten-year period, has invested so much of her efforts and time into ENGSO and into the movement that ENGSO represents in its core.

ENGSO has further strengthened its profile in Europe, insisting on remaining the strong and competent partner of co-operation with other European bodies and advocating the concerns and interests of our member organisations, and in that regard will be registered in one of the EU countries, namely in France within CNOSF.

With our new aim, to amend Statutes at the next GA, and to create new future for its Members with the ENGSO DG, it will be an even more challenging task to implement our new aims, making ENGSO a unique organisation representing sport of all levels on behalf of its members.

Highly interesting and challenging as Marlis said once, this is a position giving entirely fascinating possibilities, which will be fully realized with my devoted efforts and commitment to ENGSO tasks.

Predrag Manojlovic
ENGSO Secretary General

Important decisions at the 14th ENGSO General Assembly

The 14th ENGSO General Assembly will be held at 5-7 May in Malta. However, before the ordinary General Assembly starts there will be an EU-pre-seminar and an extraordinary General Assembly.

At the extraordinary General Assembly very significant issues, adoption of the modifications of the Statutes and registration of ENGSO, will be decided.

The ordinary General Assembly will also have very important topics, like the development and future of ENGSO.

Active participation to this event is expected from all ENGSO members as this meeting will have a considerable influence to the future of ENGSO.

For further information, please visit: www.engso.com

ENGSO development process - Important input by Reference Group

To get further input on what the members of ENGSO have in mind concerning the work of ENGSO Development Group (EDG), a reference group meeting was held in Paris on 18 March.

At the first reference group meeting in Paris, at which the ExCom, the EDG and the reference group were present, an analysis of ENGSO's role, aims, policies and strategies was made. The tool used for this process was the SWOT-analysis, looking at ENGSO's Strengths and

Weaknesses, and at Opportunities and Threats.

After this exercise, the results will be used to continue the future development discussions. Coming steps in the process will include analysis of the mission statement and core values of ENGSO.

For the members of the EDG and the Reference Group, contact details of the EDG members, and the timeframe of the ENGSO Development process, please visit: www.engso.com

Join us at the EWS Conference

The European Women and Sport network is looking forward to welcoming participants from all over Europe at the 7th European Women and Sport Conference in Vienna, from March 24-26.

The Austrian hosts are convinced, that an interesting mix of keynote speeches, contributions and projects has been prepared, and that the conference will be a milestone not only for women in sport, but also for sport on the European landscape in general.

It is the first time that a sport conference features as part of the EU-presidency of

the host country – and of course the first time that women and sport are a focus. The organisers are proud to be able to welcome EU-Commissioner Jan Figel' at the conference and members of the EU parliament.

The conference will conclude the discussions with the "Decisions of Vienna", which should bring the EWS to a new level of development and importance within the European sports structures.

For more information, please visit www.ews-online.org or contact Erika König-Zenz, +43 1 504 44 55-17.