



Thank you all for 12 inspiring ENGSO years!

In connection with the ENGSO General Assembly in Helsinki I will after 12 years as President leave my position. For me it has been a very interesting and intensive time: full of most varying duties, challenges and meaningful experiences. My focus has been to support and stimulate our members, make ENGSO known and listened to, as well as extend our co-operation with our European partners within sport and the intergovernmental institutions.

In my opinion it is very important that every now and then we, the sport leaders and the sport organisations, put the spotlight on ourselves and evaluate our ways of action and behaviour. That was the main background why we in ENGSO ExCom, on my proposal in August 2005, decided to initiate a process to evaluate ENGSO's position with the aim to strengthen our organisation. An ENGSO Development Group (EDG) was appointed with the tasks to evaluate ENGSO, to identify the mission of ENGSO, to define the priority areas and to outline a long term strategic plan for ENGSO.

Now the EDG has delivered its report to the ENGSO ExCom, which in its meeting in March decided to forward most of the EDG's proposals to our General Assembly in Helsinki in May 2007. Also in the future, the external priority areas of ENGSO will be to strongly influence the sport political agenda and to be a forum for



exchange of knowledge and experiences! The role of ENGSO in co-operation with European Sport Organisations and intergovernmental sport institutions on European level should be strengthened and the ENGSO secretariat supplied with an information officer position.

My appreciating thanks are extended to the group under the professional lead of **Stefan Bergh** and **Catharina Arfwidsson** from Swedish Sports Confederation. I now look forward to the discussions at our General Assembly!

Allow me to stress two crucial matters we in ENGSO should go on fighting for:

* Sport in many European countries is

based on a huge number of regularly active voluntary sport leaders – men and women. To safeguard this system “the voluntary power” of the society must be given a high priority in the future. Long-term methodical recruitment is a must as well as yearly offered training, inspiring activities and clearly defined tasks – all in order to keep the leaders going forward.

* Sport is by far the biggest youth movement of Europe! To safeguard the competence and interests of boys and girls for future sport leadership we have to “give the youth a real say” in decision making forums at all levels. Bear in mind that the youngsters of today are the leaders of tomorrow!

Dear friends, I would now like to extend to my colleagues and friends in and outside the ENGSO my heartfelt and appreciating “**Thank you**” for inspiring and successful co-operation! I wish all of you - the new ENGSO ExCom and its working groups, the ENGSO members and partners all the best now and in the future by saying: “**Sport is still such fun that it is astonishing that it is not yet forbidden**”!

Good Luck in safeguarding and developing the European Sports Movement!

Bengt Sevelius
ENGSO President 1995-2007



ENGSO Youth now member of Eurochild

Eurochild is an active network of organisations and individuals working in and across Europe to improve the quality of life of children and young people. Eurochild's work is underpinned by the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In February 2007 ENGSO Youth became a member of Eurochild.

ENGSO Youth advocates for children and young peoples' rights to be physically active. Eurochild also believes that further engagement in this field is

needed. To concentrate competencies and commitment the ENGSO Youth Committee decided to become a member of Eurochild. "We see a great potential in working together with Eurochild", says **Jan Holze**, chair of ENGSO Youth.

In the future both organisations will work actively together in sport related topics that affect especially children and youth.

More information: www.eurochild.org

Have you lived up to the Challenge?

At the 2006 ENGSO GA in Malta, ENGSO Youth set you the challenge to find young members of your organisation to attend the ENGSO Youth GA in Helsinki 2007. Time has come to see if you have been successful in meeting that challenge and ensuring a sporting legacy for your organisation.

ENGSO Youth and SLU invite you to send young employees and volunteers to their forthcoming Conference

"Future Leaders – empowering young Europeans"

Held in conjunction with the ENGSO GA in Helsinki, Finland, ENGSO Youth's six day Conference will discuss the important topic of youth participation in the governance of sport and will provide participants with skills and experiences that will enable them to develop as the future leaders of sport in Europe.

The Conference will run from 2nd - 6th May. Participants must be under 35 years of age and active within a sports organisation.

To apply to the Conference please visit: www.slu.fi/youth_assembly

Places are limited, so early applications are advised. The deadline for applications is the 16th April 2006.

We hope that you will actively encourage young people from your organisation to take part in what will be an informative, inspiring and enjoyable event and look forward to welcoming them to Helsinki in May.

The ENGSO Youth Committee

Significant Improvement in Youth co-determination in Finland

The Finnish National Youth Committee (LUNK) was established in the beginning of 2006 in co-operation with the Finnish Sports Federation, the Young Finland Association and the Finnish Olympic Committee. The partners believe that "Give youth a real say" will be a good project for the future. The committee consists of 11 members between the age of 19 and 25 years. The main aims of the committee are increasing youth participation and youth co-determination in sport.

Already during the first year of action LUNK has succeeded to improve youth influence in Finnish sport organisations. From the beginning of 2007, the members of the LUNK have gained eight seats in the committees of the Finnish Sport Federation. In addition, **Elisa Kaasalainen**, member of LUNK, has started in the board of the Young Finland Association with the right of speech and attendance. These are positive progresses and give stronger support for the youth committee work. The next goal of the youth committee is to be noted in

the new Finnish Parliament.

The Team Mate project started with success by bringing together active young volunteers and employees (mostly chiefs of junior activities) from over 10 different sport associations. The feedback was positive and both sides got useful information about adult support and ideas on building up a youth network. The Team Mate network continues to grow. Already many sports, for example football and gymnastic, have their own youth committees.

In addition, a co-operation with the Nordic youth committees was initiated and common meetings will be held in the future.

The chair of the committee, **Saara Sutela** has started as a European Volunteer in International Sport and Culture Association ISCA, and her place is taken by the vice-chair **Aarni Nordqvist** until the beginning of October.

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Welcome diversity-Let's move Europe

EYSF 2007 coming up

The European Youth and Sport Forum 2007 will be held during the German EU-presidency 17-22 June 2007 in Bonn. Young people from ENGSO member organisations are invited to take part

in the Forum. For the third time in a row since 2005 the Forum will gather young people across Europe to discuss the

role of sport in regard to social inclusion and diversity. Participants should be between 18-30 years old and bring some experience in youth, community or sport involvement to the

**all different
all equal**

Forum.

For further information and application please visit www.engso.com/youth

ENGSO Meets with the European Commission

At the beginning of March a delegation from ENGSO journeyed to Brussels to meet with **Pierre Mairesse**, Director of Youth, Sport and Citizenship in the European Commission, **Michal Krejza**, Head of the Sport Unit, and key members of his team.

ENGSO's delegation included the President - **Bengt Sevelius**, General Secretary - **Predrag Manojlovic**, representatives from the EU Working Group, **Gernot Wainig** and **Judith Wood** and **Jan Holze**, Chair of the ENGSO Youth Committee.

The purpose of meeting was to discuss the European Commission Consultation on Sport, the forthcoming White Paper and associated issues relating to sport and the EU.

During the meeting ENGSO raised a number of points relating

to questions within the Online Consultation and the 2006 Independent European Sport Review. These included protecting the autonomy of sport, the need for greater focus on sport-for-all issues, the mainstreaming of sport across the whole of the Commission, funding for

sport and data collection.

The meeting was very positive and the Unit stated that they had learnt a great deal from the exchange of views and would amend sections of the White Paper accordingly. It was also agreed that the ENGSO EU WG would seek to work more closely with the Sport Unit in the future, to exchange information concerning legislation and policies and to ensure that the Unit is aware of the views of the sport-for-all sector.

ENGSO has subsequently sent a written response to the Commission's Consultation and invited members of the Commission to attend the GA in May.

**Judith Wood, UK
ENGSO EU WG**

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Photo: Antero Aaltonen

Finnish experience of organising eco-friendly sport events arouses interest in South Africa

South Africa is a sports enthusiastic country. Now, the interest in sports is growing even bigger due to the forthcoming FIFA 2010 Soccer World Cup, which will be hosted in South Africa. It is estimated, that during the four weeks of the World Cup, there will be three million international visitors, which will put pressure not only on tourism, hotels and transportation infrastructures, but also on the environment.

Facing these challenges has increased the South Africans' interest in managing the event in environmentally friendly way. The Finnish Sports Federations environmental co-ordinator **Karoliina Luoto** visited the National Festival of Science, Engineering and Technology in South Africa and lectured on the eco-friendly sport events.

Carrying out an environmentally



friendly event requires action in many different sectors: transportation and logistics, waste management, catering services, water and energy management, purchase, temporary constructions, communications and education. Increasing environmental awareness among people in events is an enormous possibility. The total effect will be remarkable, if the environmental

awareness begins to be reflected in everyday activities.

The topic aroused much interest among both participants of the event as well as the media. People were interested in what kind of effects would the environmental operations have on the sustainable development of the society.

Luoto was invited to South Africa to share the experience of the several environmental programmes carried out in Finnish sports events. The most

extensive environmental programme is the Ecomass - the environmental programme of the IAAF World Championships in Athletics in 2005 done by Helsinki University of Technology. The Ecomass concept, results and lessons have been gathered into Helsinki University of Technology publication *Eco-Efficient Major Event Manual*. Ecomass concept will probably be implemented in South Africa during the preparations of the local municipalities' environmental programme *Greening the 2010*. The co-operation partners are South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Ministry for Environment and Tourism and Helsinki University of Technology as their Finnish partner.

Environment related development work is going on in several Finnish national sports associations. Sustainable development and respect for nature are included in the six general principles of the Finnish sport organisations' common description of good sports and physical activities (the FSF's ethical programme).

**Karoliina Luoto
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ENGSO CALENDAR

ENGSO Executive Committee

3 May, Helsinki
6 May, Helsinki

ENGSO Youth

2 May, Helsinki
1-3 June

ENGSO EU WG

3 May, Helsinki

ENGSO GA

4-6 May, Helsinki

European Youth Assembly

2-6 May, Helsinki

EYSF 2007

17-22 June, Bonn

ENGSO Forum

14-16 September, Torshavn

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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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Welcome to ENGSO GA 2007

Next May, the Finnish Sports Federation will host the 15th edition of the ENGSO General Assembly in Finlandia Hall (May 4-6), and in connection to that the ENGSO Youth Assembly in the Institute for Adult Education (May 2-6). All information about these important ENGSO events will be available on the sites www.slu.fi/ENGSOGA07, as well as www.engso.com and www.engso.eu.

The events start on May 2, with the unique Conference of ENGSO Youth *Future Leaders – Empowering Young Europeans*. On Friday 4th May morning hours the participants of the ENGSO EU Pre-seminar will be presented the most important current issues related to EU and sport. The seminar includes themes under the title *Sport – active player in the future of the European Union* and it has EU specialists as speakers.

During the ENGSO GA, we hope that the guests from the partner organisations in Europe, who are invited to attend the ENGSO GA, will be able to give the participants a better insight into the situation in their organisations as well as their position on these important issues.

Moreover, Helsinki will also be a stopover for the meticulous work carried out by the ENGSO Development Group. It was entrusted with an important task – to put into words the positions of

members, to realize the Strategic and Action Plan and to indicate the direction of the steps to be taken. These results are to be considered by ENGSO members during the GA in Helsinki.

After many versions of the ENGSO Draft Strategic Plan produced by the EDG, numerous meetings involving ExCom members and Reference Group members and many deliberations, the ENGSO ExCom, at its meeting in Prague in March, adopted this final Strategic Plan. This document, together with the report of the ENGSO DG, is now in the hands of the ENGSO GA. If approved, it will be the task and responsibility of ENGSO and its members to implement it as decided by the GA.

To conclude, as the mandate of some ExCom members and officers end, both ENGSO Youth and ENGSO ExCom will be open for elections during their Assemblies.

So, it is important that you all be there to decide what is the most important for the future of ENGSO, and please remember that all nominations, recommendations, motions and suggestions for the agenda should reach the Secretariat before 3 April 2007.

Snezana Misic
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In memoriam

For the Austrian Sports Federation (BSO) the new year began with a huge shock: BSO (and NOC) Vice President

Liese Prokop, Federal Minister of the Interior, died surprisingly as result of an aneurysm. She was one of the best athletes of Austria, won the Olympic silver medal in pentathlon in Mexico City in 1968, she was a World Record holder in pentathlon and European Champion (1969). In 1969, her political career began in Lower Austria, where she was a representative in the regional parliament, then a member of the regional government and finally the vice-governor. In December 2004, she was nominated as the Federal Minister of the Interior of Austria, the position she had until her

sudden death. Thousands followed the funeral ceremonies, as she was not only respected but most popular with all the people she worked with.



After the general elections in Austria in October 2006, a new government was inaugurated in January. The new state secretary for sport is Dr. **Reinhold Lopatka**, who has a track record as marathon runner. His chief of cabinet is Mag. **Fritz Smoly**, who was the secretary general of one of Austria's umbrella organisations. With this

constellation, sport has fostered its position.

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