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ENGSO - THE VOICE OF VOLUNTARY SPORTS MOVEMENT IN EUROPE

Dear ENGSO Member Organisations and European Sport stakeholders,

I am most happy to invite you all to participate in the 19th ENGSO General Assembly, the ENGSO EU Seminar "Sport for an active and social Europe" and the ENGSO Youth Assembly to be held in Tallinn - the Cultural Capital - on 19 - 22 May 2011. These meetings are being organized in excellent cooperation with the Estonian Olympic Committee.

This meeting will be of special importance because of the ENGSO Strategic Plan for the term 2011-2015, which is to be presented for adoption in the upcoming GA. During the past years many changes have made to European sport policy. At the same time a certain clarity and focus has emerged regarding the role and responsibilities of ENGSO. This clarity is expressed in the 2011 -2015 strategy plan. In that plan ENGSO's role regarding the safeguarding and support for grassroots sport and as a credible partner in European sport policy is to be respected. The plan also promotes ENGSO's role in serving as an effective platform for an active network of sport organisations.

During these years networking with European stakeholders will become more and more vital for sport governing bodies. Without close cooperation and mutual aims, influencing on the most important European sport policy issues would not be possible. In particular, for ENGSO's membership in the ENGSO EOC EU Office and partnership with such organizations as European Olympic Committees, TAFISA and European Lotteries is of the utmost importance, as well as ongoing dialogue both with the European Union and the Council of Europe, EPAS.

It is time for me to thank all ENGSO Members and European Colleagues for your excellent cooperation and close partnership we have enjoyed during these last four years. This truly has been an active period in European sport policy. Personally, together with you I have experienced a lot, learned so much – and enjoyed every moment of it.

I would especially like to express my gratitude to the ENGSO Executive Committee Members and ENGSO Secretariats for your wholehearted support and for the outstanding team spirit during the last four years. There have been several meetings – the last was also in Tallinn, in February of this year and next in France in the beginning of April. There have been a lot of demanding duties, a long row of European and international meetings to participate in, to influence, to network with other stakeholders. I am pleased to tell you that we matched and excelled in all these events. The ENGSO Executive Committee, Secretariats, ENGSO Working Groups and ENGSO Youth have functioned extremely well together and supported ENGSO Member organisations to reach the common aims in the field of European sport policy.

Please let me take this opportunity to invite all ENGSO Members, future sport leaders and European stakeholders to Tallinn in May 2011.



Birgitta Kervinen
ENGSO President



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Tallinn, European capital of culture in 2011, will host, among other cultural events, an important ENGSO event, the 19th General Assembly.

The year 2011 is the year of partial elections or re-elections in ENGSO, which still makes it more important that your organisation partake in the General Assembly. Certainly, we have to remind you that in order to be entitled to voting, your organisation must have paid its

membership fees.

In its activities, ENGSO ExCom has carefully followed the Strategic Plan adopted by the ENGSO General Assembly in Helsinki four years ago. ENGSO has gone a long way, in particular in the last couple of years in becoming more professionalized, but also an ever more important stakeholder in the European sports environment, as was its mission and vision, having its real say in the decision-making process in Europe related to sport political issues.

With the four year period over, ENGSO ExCom is preparing a proposal for the new Strategic and Action Plan, to be approved and adopted by the General Assembly. We wish that the representatives of your Organisation take an active part in deciding about what ENGSO should represent in future and what should be done in the aspect of the current and future sports political situation in Europe.

Beside the ENGSO General Assembly, ENGSO Youth shall also have their Assembly in Tallinn and it would be indeed very important that the representatives of Youth from your organisation also be involved.

For more information, go to <http://www.engso.eu/clanek.php?id=7&tab=activities>

WILD PROGRAMME DRAWS TO A CLOSE AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Women's International Leadership Development (WILD) Programme, successfully run in seven European countries since the beginning of 2010, came to an end at the 3rd European Training at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 16-17 February.

Speakers of the third training included MEP Jean-Luc Bennahmias (ALDE), who encouraged the WILD women to take the lead in promoting gender equality in sport, and Professor William Gasparini from the University of Strasbourg, who gave an academic perspective to gender-based inequalities and discrimination in sport. Sonia Parayre, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport, informed the participants on the Council of Europe's activities in promoting gender equality in sport, attesting herself that while challenges do exist, women can advance in their careers.

The stars of the final European training were, however, the participants of the WILD programme. Six women from each partner country had been trained in personal and management skills for 14 months, and each had their learning experiences to share. "It has opened my eyes and mind to the importance of female leaders in different national and international positions", said Anna Linner from Sweden. "It was an important experience for me, because it gave me a lot, especially for my work. I saw new goals to be realized and I reflected on my strengths and awareness, as I never have before", remarked Cinzia Sandulli from Italy.

The WILD Programme, consisting of three national trainings, three European trainings and mentoring, will run until the end of March, with some national trainings still remaining. Inspired by the Programme, the Women Sport Commission of the Czech Olympic Committee will organise a seminar for 60 women leaders in July. The WILD Programme is supported by the European Union.

Website of the WILD Programme: www.wildsports.eu

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening and welcoming addresses
2. Address of ENGSO Partners
3. Official announcements
4. Adoption of the agenda
5. Minutes of the 18th General Assembly in Belgrade
6. ENGSO Activities 2010
 - 6.1 President's Report
 - 6.1.1 EU WG Report
 - 6.1.2 C&M Report
 - 6.1.3 ENGSO Youth Report
 - 6.2. Secretary General's Report
 - 6.3. Treasurer's Report
 - 6.3.1. Auditors' Report
7. ENGSO Strategic Plan 2011-2015
8. ENGSO Action Plan 2011-2012
 - o Sports Political Lobbying
 - o Priorities
 - o Activities in relation with the EU
 - o Activities in relation with the EPAS
 - o ENGSO Youth
 - o ENGSO EDU Network
 - o Health Activities & ENGSO PROHEALTH
9. Budget for 2011
10. Elections for ENGSO ExCom 2011-2015
 - o President
 - o Treasurer
 - o Members (2)
11. ENGSO MEMBERS' Reports
12. Next ENGSO FORA & General Assemblies
13. Miscellaneous
14. Closing

ENGSO EU PROJECT CREATING A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD LAUNCHED



The new ENGSO EU project "Creating a Level Playing Field" was launched in Brussels on 31 January - 1 February. Project coordinators from each of the ten partner organisations got together to exchange their expectations and to discuss guidelines for the implementation of the project.

Each organisation presented their current activities in the field of social inclusion in sport through mini presentations that reminded one of speed dating; following this, the partners got to choose which other organisation they would like to hook up with for a bilateral study visit. The first round of study visits will be taking place during spring and summer 2011. In October, a wider conference concentrating on sharing good practices and drafting recommendations will take place in Extremadura, Spain.

The project "Creating a Level Playing Field" aims at exchanging best practice examples on the inclusion of immigrants and people of foreign origin in sporting activities between sport organisations, public authorities and organisations working in the field of social inclusion and anti-discrimination. In addition, an analysis of the best practice examples will be done, hoping to identify the successful elements of these projects and how they could be transferred to other settings. The project is supported by the European Union.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF VOLUNTEERING 2011

One of the coordinators of the European Year of Volunteering 2011 (EYV2011) is the EYV2011 Alliance. ENGSO is a member of the Alliance, representing volunteers in the field of sports. Sign up now for the EYV2011 Alliance newsletter "EYV Flow". This monthly publication will keep you updated about all the European events, possibilities for getting involved and other developments around the EYV2011. Sign up now: go to <http://www.eyv2011.eu/newsletter>, where you can also find the previous editions of the newsletter.



EUROPEAN YEAR OF VOLUNTEERING 2011: CONFERENCES BRINGING TOGETHER VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS AND POLICY MAKERS

As part of the official programme of the EYV2011, the European Commission is organising a series of conferences on volunteering. Three more European conferences remain: First, the conference "Volunteers: the difference they make and the challenges they face" will take place on 23-24 May 2011 in Brussels. Second, a conference on the quality of volunteering, targeting civil society organisations, will be organised on 3-4 November in Athens. Finally, the closing conference will sum up the EYV2011 in early December. While these conferences tackle issues related to all volunteers, the Polish EU Presidency is also planning a sport-specific conference on volunteering in September.

Many more conferences, seminars and hearings will take place during the Year on national level and in other European institutions. To learn more and to get involved, check out the EYV2011 websites and contact your national coordinating body.

EYV2011 Alliance website:

<http://www.eyv2011.eu>

EYV2011, Commission website; contacts of the national coordinating bodies:

<http://europa.eu/volunteering>

10TH EU WG SPORT&HEALTH MEETING



Cyprus Sport Organisation (ENGSO observer) hosted the 10th EU Working Group Sport & Health Meeting which took place March 17-18 in Cyprus. EOC EU Office and ENGSO were observers in the Group. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Michael Krejza, Head of the Sport Unit. Mr. Gregory Paulger (Director for Youth and Sport) and Ms. Despina Spanou (DG SANCO) presented the EU policy context for sport, physical activity and health.

ENGSO was invited to present the activities related to health enhancing physical activity and Physical Activity Guidelines. Some of the activities that were emphasized in the presentation are the data from the ENGSO PROHEALTH analysis related to the actual health situation such as the influence on the national strategies, health programmes, as well as main problems related to health issues in member countries. For example, some of ENGSO members have great influence on the national basis, especially related to the health legislation (Norway, Denmark and Turkey). Swedish Sport Organization is a consultative body related to health issue on national basis. Two Projects from Czech Sport Association „Us Sportuj s nami” and from the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark the Project “Staevenesnack” (<http://www.staevnesnacks.dk>) were mentioned as good examples Related to the document Physical Activity Guidelines, ENGSO achieved some of the activities related to the guidelines number 10 (13th ENGSO Forum in Dubrovnik with the topic: Social Inclusion and Education through Sport) and 13. (Sport and Health).

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Vassos Koutsoundas from the Cyprus Sport Organisation, presented what are to be their priorities in sport and health fields during the Cyprus Presidency (second part of 2012), namely school sport, active aging, and governance of local sport authorities.

Excellent organisation of the host organisation, very good atmosphere as well as the above mentioned Cyprus Sport Organisation priorities could be one of the reasons to consider organising some of the future ENGSO events on Cyprus.

DUAL CAREER - END OF THE A2B PROJECT



The final A2B Conference was held in Budapest, Hungary, on March 29-30, 2011, with ENGSO being one of the Project partners. Project started in January 2010 with a partners meeting. ENGSO representative on the Project was ExCom member, Romana Caput-Jogunica. Through the ENGSOEDU network we tried to involve experts from the ENGSO members to take part in the Project's workshops and study visits. Beside the ENGSO official representative, our members were represented also by Mr. Miloš Milenković (NOC Serbia), Ms. Heidi Pekkola (Finnish Sports Federation), Mr. Duarte Lopes (Portuguese Sports Confederation). It is important to emphasize that all participants in the 13th ENGSO Forum (Dubrovnik, Croatia, October 8-9, 2010) gave their contributions' obligations in this area in the Forum Booklet that was published prior to the Forum and by active participation during the Project workshop organised at the Forum.

ENGSO ExCom is grateful to Mr. Folker Helmund, EOC EU Office Director who asked ENGSO to be a partner in the Project. We should like to express our sincere thanks to Project Managers, Mr. Michael Trinker and Ms. Melanie Strauch for their work and effort in this project. The project result in the document "A2B Guidelines".

The document was sent to all ENGSOEDU registered experts. We would appreciate if ENGSO members would give more attention and make additional effort regarding this issue in future to disseminate the document and establish cooperation with the organisation(s) or persons responsible for education and sport on national level, etc. with aim to help young athletes in their dual careers.

You can find more information about the A2B project on the Project website <http://www.athletestobusiness.eu>



The President of ENGSO Birgitta Kervinen took part in a panel of 13 representatives of sports organisations and governments at the EU Sport Forum on 22 February in Budapest. In her opening remarks, she raised three themes: safeguarding the sustainable financing of sport, volunteering, and social inclusion.

Kervinen split the financing of sport into two equally important issues: on the one hand, she insisted that sport must have its own funding programme under the new multiannual financial framework of the European Union. "For many European citizens and sports organisations, an EU Sports Programme is of utmost importance; it is the most concrete way for them to visualise the EU in their daily activities", she pointed out. On the other hand, she emphasised the importance of national lotteries to the sustainable financing of sports, especially on grass-roots level.

In the field of volunteering, President Kervinen underlined that since volunteering is not mentioned as a specific theme in the Commission's Communication, the Commission must ensure that it remains a priority as outlined in the White Paper on Sport of 2007. "Volunteering and non-profit voluntary sport organisations are the absolute foundation of the pyramid sport model. Volunteering and its significance must be recognized, and thus it is imperative that it will be included among the priority areas of the future EU agenda on sport", she remarked.

The third theme that was raised by the President was social inclusion. She reminded the participants of the Forum that broad-based social inclusion in sport can be a powerful tool in including people from different backgrounds. "Sport can help facing the challenges outlined in the EU 2020 Strategy", she concluded.

During the EU Sport Forum, ENGSO President Kervinen met with Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou who was very interested in the Women's International Leadership Development (WILD) Programme, run by ENGSO and supported by the EU's Preparatory Actions in the Field of Sport 2009.

ENGSO ADOPTS POSITION ON COMMISSION'S COMMUNICATION ON SPORT

After a long wait, the European Commission adopted a Communication entitled "Developing the European Dimension in Sport" on 18 January 2011. Building on the 2007 White Paper on Sport, the Communication sets out the Commission's ideas for future EU-level action in the field of sport. It proposes concrete actions for the Commission and the Member States within three chapters: the societal role of sport, the economic dimension of sport and the organisation of sport. The Communication is accompanied by a Staff Working Document on the free movement of professional and amateur sportspeople in the EU.

In order to gather the views of member organisations on the EU sports agenda, ENGSO launched a consultation inviting members to contribute to the ENGSO position on the Communication. Following this exercise, the Executive Committee adopted a position paper in its meeting on 7-10 April in France. In the position paper, ENGSO criticises the absence of volunteering and references to a sport funding programme, and highlights the need for cooperation with sports organisations in the implementation of the proposed actions.

To read the ENGSO position on the Commission's Communication, go to the ENGSO website:
http://www.engso.eu/clanek.php?id=59&tab=latest_news

The Communication "Developing the European Dimension in Sport" is available here:
http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/news984_en.htm



ENGSO CALENDER

19th ENGSO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- May 19-21, Tallinn, Estonia

ENGSO Youth

- ENGSO Youth Assembly, May 20-21, Estonia

European events

- EC Conference "Volunteers: the difference they make and the challenges they face", May 23-24, Brussels
- EPAS Governing Board Meeting, June 7-8, Strasbourg, France
- Poland Presidency conference on sport volunteering, September 13-14, Poland
- TAFISA GA & Congress Sport for All: Building Bridges, November 10-14, Antalya, Turkey
- EYV2011 Closing Conference, December 1-2, Warsaw, Poland

SUCCESSFUL WOMEN'S DAY FUN RUN AND WALK



A beautiful sunny Sunday morning saw Marsaskala Bay turn into a hive of activity with people running or walking or browsing the exhibition stands. Around 200 men, women and children took part in the 2nd Women's Day Fun Run and walk, organised by the MALTESE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE and sponsored

by Cymalon. Smiling, happy faces were to be seen all around. There were children in carnival costumes and professional makeup artists provided face painting in different themes. The lively music created a lovely atmosphere and got the participants ready for action. A guided aerobics session served as warm up for the 5K run and walk which followed the picturesque promenade along the bay.

Maltese Olympic Committee President Mr Justice Lino Farrugia Sacco gave the start signal. St Joseph Running Club helped in the setting up and The Malta Girl Guides, M'Scala Division marshalled the event. All participants were given a commemorative T-shirt which was worn for the event.

Carol Edginton from Devon, UK, who is holidaying in Malta, commented that : "We arrived in Malta 2 days ago and saw the run advertised in a local newspaper. This is a lovely location and I really enjoyed running by the sea. This event was well-worth supporting and I liked the fact that I could register on the day".

Crowds of people toured the exhibition. Actavis distributed giveaways and gave advice on the use of Cymalon. The Health Promotion Department gave information on healthy lifestyles and eating. Weight loss aids were promoted by Alli. Starbene displayed Gensan supplements and Collis Williams exhibited a variety of products. Information was also distributed by Mediteranean Bank and Multigas. Summer Nights Restaurant supported the exhibition and provided coffee.

Cymalon, which is an over-the-counter first line treatment for cystitis, were major sponsors for this event. Mauro Abdilla, Marketing Support Manager for Actavis Ltd, Malta, said "Actavis are happy to support activities which promote healthy lifestyles in the community. Cymalon's role is to help in overcoming cystitis without resorting to stronger drugs".

This event was organised by the Women in Sport Commission of the Maltese Olympic Committee, chaired by Dr Lucienne Attard, who commented "We are very happy with the number of people attending this year, which was very good in spite of this being carnival weekend. It was a pleasure to see people enjoying themselves while doing something to improve their health. Regular exercise and a healthy diet are very important for everyone regardless of age or gender".



NATIONAL CONCESSION OF SUPPORT FOR SPORT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Finally, National Concession of Support for Sport in the Czech Republic was approved by the govern-

ment. Whole Conception had been preparing since 2009 in coordination of Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, team of experts representing Czech sport organisations (leading role had Czech Sports Association and Czech Olympic Committee), academic sphere and involved public. Such collective approach was applied for the first time. Main aim of this document is to gradually improve financing of sport in the CR by e.g. new law of Sport, amendment of gambling law, changing law of income tax in favour of sport donors, direct support for volunteers in sport etc. Between priorities of state support for sport are mentioned among of others sport for all as well as sport for disabled people. All sport movement expect that the aims of the Conception come true in years to come.

SPORTS TELEVISION- THE FIRST SPECIALIZED TV CHANNEL IN CROATIA



On December 16th 2010, Sports television, the first specialized digital television channel based on the decision

of the Croatian Council for Electronic Media, was granted the national concession. Although the competition was fierce the company HOO TV Ltd., which is 100% owned by the Croatian Olympic Committee (COC), obtained this right. Thereby the COC, as a component of the international Olympic movement, is written down in history as a pioneer of the global sports movement in the use of modern digital achievements. Precisely the use of digital technology achievements is one of the fundamental recommendations of the 13th Olympic Congress, not only in terms of adaptation but also in terms of initiatives in order for sports and Olympism to be more accessible and open for the community.

Sports television started broadcasting on April 4th 2011.

ENGSO President
Radiokatu 20, Helsinki
FI-00093 SLU, Finland

ENGSO Secretariat
35, Terazije (II floor)
11000 Belgrade, Serbia

ENGSO Policy and Communication Officer
EOC EU Office
Bureau des COE auprès de l'UE
52, avenue de Cortenbergh
B - 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium
e-mail: hamalainen@euoffice.eurolympic.org