



Sports in Europe

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'Europe for Citizens' Programme

With the support of the European Union: Support for organisations active at European level in the field of active European citizenship

ENGSO CALENDAR

- ENGSO ExCom
January 23-24,
2009, Prague
- ENGSO ExCom
February 12-15 (or
February 5-8) 2009,
Lapland
- EU Working Group
meeting 22-23 Janu-
ary 2009, Prague

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Support for grassroots sport in Europe

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European Commission supports ENGSO Project EU:SPORT:FUTURE

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ENGSO EU Working Group: Challenges in 2009

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ENGSO Forum asks for concrete EU-actions to promote health and volunteering in Europe



Source: www.engso.eu

The Swedish Sports Confederation, Riksidrottsförbundet, invited the European sports movement – national sports confederations and Olympic committees – to meet under the umbrella of ENGSO from the 24 to the 26 October 2008 in Stockholm, Sweden, to discuss European sport matters and exchange views on topics such as health and volunteering in Europe.

The programme of the Forum offered keynote speakers of highest calibre. Birgitta Kervinen, ENGSO President, opened the Forum and stated: "We are very happy with the constructive cooperation we have with European institutions such as the European Union, in particular with the Sports Unit headed by Mr. Michal Krejza and the Citizenship Unit headed by Mr. Risto Raivio as well as with the Council of Europe. Many questions have to be answered for sport at European level in the coming years; a good cooperation with all stakeholders involved is therefore necessary for the benefit of sport."

Tomas Johansson, Sport Director in the Swedish Ministry of Culture, presented the Swedish EU presidency priorities in the field of sport, which will focus – amongst other issues – on health and volunteering. He underlined the important role ENGSO plays in the European sports political dialogue. Susanne Hollmann, Administrator in the Sports Unit of the European Commission, reported which actions of the Pierre de Coubertin Action Plan of the EU White Paper on Sport have been and are in the process of being implemented. Stanislas Frossard, representative of the Council of Europe, informed the Forum participants of

the state of play with regards to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport. Michael Trinker, chairman of the ENGSO EU working group, reported on the activities of the group in 2008 and gave an outlook of the work programme for 2009 which will focus on the elections to the European Parliament in June and the future EU competence in the field of sport.

After the EU seminar, the Forum discussed in detail the issue of health and sport. Dr. Winfried Banzer, ENGSO representative in the EU platform on diet, physical activity and health, presented the outline of the EU health policy and emphasized the increasingly recognized role of sport and physical activity for health prevention. Romana Caput Jogunica, ExCom member, reported on ENGSO's health activities, and Sophie Christ, EU working group member, presented examples of best practices of ENGSO members in the field of health and sport.

Furthermore, the health workshop discussed ways of how to better promote health and sport at EU level. One proposal urged the EU to declare a European Year of Active Lifestyle, another to set up an internet database to share European-wide best practices in the field of health promotion in order not to reinvent the wheel.

Susanne Hollmann introduced the second workshop on volunteering and sport and informed about the launch of the European Commission's study on volunteering. Bengt Sevelius, Honorary President of ENGSO and expert in the field of volunteering, underlined in his presentation the importance of voluntary work for sport organisations. James MacDougall, EU working group member, proved this statement with concrete figures.

Based on these presentations, the workshop on volunteering formulated recommendations to EU institutions such as providing tax advantages for not for profit sport organisations or supporting specially designed educational programmes to qualify/ coach volunteers to achieve their goals.

The presentations of the speakers as well as the report of the 11th ENGSO Forum on the EU Seminar and the workshops on volunteering and health can be found at the ENGSO homepage www.engso.eu.

Michael Trinker

ENGSO EU Working Group: Challenges in 2009

The year 2009 will be marked by various important events such as the elections to the European Parliament, the new incoming European Commissioner responsible for sport and the proposed sport budget line 2009. Moreover, the European Commission will carry out studies in the field of volunteering, financing of grassroots sport and mobility in 2009.

"The EU Working Group takes on these challenges and works on proposals for the ExCom to contribute constructively to these debates," states Michael Trinker, chairman of the EU Working Group. "With the publication of the White Paper on Sport and the possible legal recognition of sport in the EU Treaties, sport is entering into a new era at European level. Thus, we would like to take the opportunity offered by the elections to the European Parliament and sensitise on sport issues," continues the chairman. The EU working group will draft a manifesto for actions, forward it to the ExCom and submit it to the European political parties.

Furthermore, the EU Working Group will follow up the issues identified during the workshops on health and volunteering of the ENGSO Forum 2008 and prepare concrete proposals for actions.

The next EU Working Group meeting is scheduled for the 22-23 January 2009 in Prague.

Support for grassroots sport in Europe

The European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation ENGSO represents 40 National sports confederations and Olympic Committees, both within and outwith the EU. The work related to European sports policy is one of ENGSO's main priorities.

Constant dialogue in order to facilitate a platform for discussion between sport federations, the European institutions and political decision-makers has been one of the main aims of ENGSO. ENGSO would like to express its appreciation to the European Commission for re-launching the EU Sport Forum.

At this phase when the White Paper on Sport is being implemented and there is provision for sport in the Lisbon Treaty discussion of all stakeholders representing sport from grassroots to top level is of the utmost importance. And it is our wish that this will continue as an annual meeting point in the future as well.

ENGSO Perspectives on Support for grassroots sport in Europe

Regarding ENGSO's Perspectives on Support for grassroots sport in Europe I would like to underline ENGSO's priority: equal opportunities for participating in sport. The aim of ENGSO is that every European citizen will have an opportunity to be physically active and to have open access to participate in the various activities of sport clubs. This can only be guaranteed through strong public funding for sport.

Well-being through physical activity is a major concrete goal for Europeans. The challenge is to involve people of all ages in sport clubs activities. Both public or low cost sport facilities and direct public support for the non-profit voluntary sport clubs are needed.

As mentioned in the excellent draft text of the EU Physical Activity Guidelines of the EU Working Group Sport and Health, a physically active lifestyle requires a nation-wide system of cost-effective sport facilities. A main feature is that basic sport facilities should be situated near to residents. It is important that the fees for the sport clubs should be low enough for everyone to participate. In addition, stronger co-operation between sport clubs, schools, homes, the private sector and politicians needs to be developed - this is in addition to education for sport leaders at all levels. Removing certain administrative barriers for grassroots sport is also needed, as stated in the French study on financing.

ENGSO considers it is important for sport to obtain a European Union budget line and future preparatory actions for sport in 2009. We also urge the mainstreaming of sports in the existing EU funding programmes and sports recognition in the Structural Funds and the European Social Fund.

Voluntary structures of European sport

The activities of the 700,000 sport clubs in the EU Member States is based largely on the voluntary non-profit work of its members. Recognition of voluntary work as one of the specific and vital features of European sport structure is essential. Voluntary work as the main contributor for grassroots sport is most significant.

Regarding taxation, in all cases voluntary work of non-profit work of sport clubs should definitely be free of tax. Because there are many differences in Europe on VAT in sports between states, national decision making would still be necessary.

At this phase when the White Paper on Sport is being implemented and there is provision for sport in the Lisbon Treaty discussion of all stakeholders representing sport from grassroots to top level is of the utmost importance.

ENGSO also underlines the importance of the European pyramid sport structure and solidarity, as stated in the EOC and IOC position on the specificity and autonomy in sport. ENGSO is in complete agreement with this and urges that the whole pyramid structure need to be carefully considered when decisions are made in sport. Our strong wish is to continue the work of the Working Group of the EU Member States for non-profit sport organisations.



fltr: Patrick Hickey, EOC President, Birgitta Kervinen, ENGSO President, Jan Figel, EU Commissioner responsible for sport

ENGSO Study on Sport Financing

A small-scale survey study on public and national financing was undertaken by ENGSO in 2007. We analysed the financing of sport in 22 countries most of them EU Member States. A major result of the study was that funding from national public authorities and lottery and gambling is most important. The publicly secured funding from state-run and state-licensed gambling operators are the most significant contributors to sport.

As European Lotteries and Toto Association reported in 2006: State lotteries in the EU Member States channelled 33% of their turnover to good causes and governmental taxes while private gaming operators paid less than 3% of their taxes to the government. Moreover, ENGSO believes that gaming operators which are owned and tightly controlled by the government because they have close relationship with public authorities are the more reliable partners for sport when it comes protecting the integrity of sporting competitions, keeping them free from any improper influence associated with sports betting.

Consequently, ENGSO agrees with the European Parliament report on the White Paper on Sport. ENGSO stresses the importance of continuity of the national decision making in the area of gambling or lottery services and voices its concern against potential deregulation of the national gambling markets. Any change in this structure will have a serious impact. This will be even more the case in the current international financial crisis and would have an influence on daily life of grassroots sport and European citizens, if it were changed.

The European Parliament elections will take place in June 2009. For sports club members it is important to have the active participation in the elections and for sport organisations to put sports issues into the agenda. This is a good example of Active Citizenship. ENGSO will support its members in this process.

*Birgitta Kervinen, ENGSO President
Speech in the EU Sport Forum 2008*

High-level discussions in Biarritz on the European sport agenda

The European Commission organized the first ever EU Sport Forum in Biarritz on 26 and 27 November. Key sport stakeholders discussed the implementation of the 2007 White Paper on Sport, the financing of grassroots sport and the specificity of sport. The Forum took place in connection with the informal meeting of EU Sport Ministers under the French EU Presidency on 27 and 28 November. In the presence of IOC President Jacques Rogge sport stakeholders and EU Sport Ministers addressed policy and governance questions in sport.

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**The success of the
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depends on the
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European Commission supports ENGSO Project EU:SPORT:FUTURE



so close to the heart of so many citizens, we are very happy to contribute constructively to the debate on the future of sport in the EU."

ENGSO will receive financial support from the Europe for Citizens' programme to organise "citizen panels" in the year 2009 to discuss how a future EU sport competence should be best shaped to promote the development of sport at European level. Workshops on specific topics such as health, volunteering, education and employment collect opinions of citizens and sport experts on the future EU sport competence. The final report including the EU sport policy recommendations will be presented to EU policy makers in November 2009.

In the framework of this project ENGSO cooperates with organisations from Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Hungary, Slovenia and the United Kingdom.

European Commission publishes Draft Guidelines on Physical Activity

Physical activity, health and quality of life are closely interconnected. However, between 40 and 60% of the EU population still lead a sedentary lifestyle. Therefore, the European Commission discussed with relevant stakeholders EU Guidelines on Physical Activity. These guidelines shall serve as a source of inspiration for public authorities and civil society organisations to define and implement policies which shall better enable Europeans to be physically active.

41 concrete guidelines have been identified in this policy document to be realized to improve public health. Some of these guidelines are very similar to the recommendations which have been developed during the ENGSO Forum workshop on health in October 2008. Consequently, ENGSO will closely cooperate with the European Commission for the benefit of public health in Europe and follow-up the results of the workshop.

http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/news682_en.htm



ENGSO and ENGSO YOUTH on the YOUTH SPORT 2008



prof. Ken Hardman, (invited speaker) prof. Antonin Rychtecky and dr. Tjaša Filipčić (chairs of the Section), Nils Holnegaard (IOC) with the presenters

4th International Symposium „YOUTH SPORT 2008" was held in Ljubljana 14-16 November 2008 in organisation of the Faculty of Sport, University of Ljubljana. In Section 3; European Youth Forum of Sport; Youth Lifestyles, Karine Teow has presented the paper; „Give Youth a real say in sport-international youth work by ENGSO youth".

Second presentation with the title; „ENGSO activities on health promotion" has been presented by Romana Caput-Jogunica.