

Sports **in** Europe

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A future concentrated ENGSO Forum held in Budapest

The ninth ENGSO Forum was held on 27-28 October. About 50 participants were welcomed by the new President of the Hungarian Sports Confederation, Mr. **Tamas Erdei**.

Responsible for the organisation was **Marianne Erdös** who together with her colleagues prepared the forum and served the participants in an excellent way!

The programme of the ENGSO Forum was built on four pillars:

- EU-seminar (more on page 3)
- Information about European Association of Sports

- Employers and ENGSO ENTER! Programme
- Sport as Health Promoter
- ENGSO Development Work (more below)

A heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the good results!

Merry Christmas and all the best for 2007!

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In which direction should ENGSO go?

This question was one of the main discussion themes at the ENGSO Forum. A draft strategic plan had been distributed to ENGSO members before the Forum. The draft contained suggestions for a new vision, mission statement, core activity areas and development areas for ENGSO. The draft also contained suggestions for adapting ENGSO's internal structure.

Before discussing the future of ENGSO, the outcomes of two evaluation tools of ENGSO were presented. They were the member survey conducted and the stakeholder analysis. The summaries can be found at www.engso.com soon.

The draft strategic plan was then discussed intensely. The members present at the Forum gave valuable input and prioritised ENGSO's future tasks and responsibilities.

Important next steps

Next step in the Development Process of ENGSO is to adapt a draft strategic plan based on the input from the ENGSO members. A new draft will then be sent out to all members in December 2006. This draft can be used to discuss the future of ENGSO within the ENGSO member organisations.

3-4 February 2007 an open Reference Group meeting for the Development Process will take place in Bratislava. To this meeting the Reference Group participants will be invited, but there is also an open invitation to other ENGSO members who want to give more input and discuss the finalising of the draft strategic plan. If you want to participate in this meeting please contact the process leaders before 1 January 2007.

In March 2007 the EDG will submit the finalised strategic plan to the ExCom. The ExCom will distribute the plan to ENGSO members, as part of the General Assembly documents. Finally we look forward to an interesting and active General Assembly in Helsinki the 4-6 May 2007.

Your involvement remains essential!

The EDG continues to have as much interaction with members as possible during this crucial process. Besides the draft plan itself, there are many relevant questions that need to be discussed in your organisation.

Questions relevant for ENGSO's future are for example:

- **How will you motivate your own Executive Committee in the ENGSO work?**
- **Who will you nominate as a candidate to the ENGSO ExCom?**
- **Who will you nominate to the different Expert Groups?**
- **Are you able and prepared to pay a higher membership fee to ENGSO?**

As mentioned above your involvement is also possible through participation in the Reference Group meeting in Bratislava on 3-4 February 2007, which is an open meeting.

Please forward your replies and any questions you may have related to the EDG to the process leaders:

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EU Sport Directors welcome recommendations of EYSF 2006

Young sport diplomats – our future

On 4-11 September 2006, 40 youngsters from Austria, Czech Republic, Germany and Hungary gathered in Budapest for a youth exchange programme, which was financed by the European Union's Youth Program Action 1. This was the first time for the Youth College of the Hungarian Sports Confederation to host such an event.

The aim of the project was to facilitate the learning and exchange of experience of young volunteers. During the project, the participants discussed and studied volunteerism, healthy life style, youth co-determination and fund-raising in the form of round table discussions, group works and lectures. Participants took also part at a conference organised in cooperation with the Hungarian Olympic Committee, with the title *Young sport diplomats - our future*.

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ENGSO Youth Assembly is coming up

Parallel to the ENGSO General Assembly ENGSO Youth will hold its third Youth Assembly in Finland 3-6 May 2007. The GA is combined with a youth assembly that gives the national delegates the chance to work in interesting workshops, learn new issues and to discuss youth and sport related issues.

One male and one female youth delegate younger than 35 years per ENGSO Youth member is invited to take part. During the GA will be the elections for the next ENGSO Youth Committee. Motivated young people are encouraged to stand for the coming elections.

For further information, please contact engso-youth@dsj.de

A detailed information pack will be delivered soon.

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A five day European Youth and Sport Forum 2006 culminated to the presentation of a declaration to the representatives of the European Commission, Finnish Ministry of Education, Finnish Sports Federation, European Non-Governmental Sport Organisation ENGSO and International Sport and Culture Association. One hundred 18-30 year old future sport leaders from 32 European countries worked devotedly and were a credit to both themselves and their countries. The declaration reflects the beliefs and desires of young people directly involved in sport and it is designed to assist in the development of future European and national policies in sport.

The participants state that young people should be given opportunities across Europe to participate in the decision making in sport clubs and federations. Different organisations and clubs should have at least one person under 30 years old to give the opinion of the younger generation. The young leaders also need mentors for their support.

The participants believe that to promote equality teachers and coaches need to have skills to be able to provide sporting opportunities for everyone – not just the talented and able. This approach needs to be taken into consideration in the education of teachers and coaches.

The participants recommend that every European country develops "free physical activity on prescription". Instead

of taking medicines sport should be used as a preventive action.

The three main themes active citizenship, health and equality raised enthusiastic discussions. They were tackled in the light of new research results, but the main focus was in the exchange of participants own experiences and good practices. The views of the participants crystallised into the declaration. However, in addition to that they wrote an action plan on how they will personally promote these issues in their organisations.

The forum was organised during the Finnish EU-presidency. The recommendations were also presented to the EU Sports Directors, who met in Naantali, Finland on 5-7 October. The EU Sport Directors welcomed the recommendations of the EYSF 2006. It was taken forward to the EU Sports Ministers meeting on 27 November.

The EYSF 2006 was organised by the Finnish Sports Federation, ENGSO Youth, International Sport and Culture Association, Young Finland Association and Finnish Gymnastics Federation. The EYSF was organised for the third time. The next EYSF will take place in Bonn in June 2007 during the German EU-presidency.

To read the whole EYSF 2006 declaration, please visit www.engso.com/youth

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Editors group of the EYSF 2006 declaration. On the right group's facilitator Judith Wood from ENGSO Youth Committee

White Paper on Sport

– action from ENGSO members needed



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The first day of the ENGSO Forum in Budapest was all about EU related matters and developments, as these affect sport in ENGSO members' countries more and more.

The main subject was the White Paper on Sport (summer 2007) and in particular one of its supposed building blocks, the so-called *Independent European Sport Review*, better known as the *Arnaut Report*. The report is about

governance in sport and has caused considerable commotion on the sports political stage in Europe. (The whole report can be found at <http://www.independentfootballreview.com/>)

ENGSO has stated that this report does not reflect day-to-day sports clubs nor does it recognize the diversity of sport. The report is about professional football.

Moreover, ENGSO has stressed that the independence and autonomy of sport must be respected by the European Commission (EC), sport must be responsible for sporting governance and the EC should support sport organisations, such as ENGSO, in the ongoing work. As such there is no need for a new European level sports organisation.

The ENGSO EU Working Group will coordinate a response on behalf of its members to the White Paper, which will most likely include parts of the Arnaut report. This response will be done in close co-operation with EOC and where possible with European federations.

In the EU Working Group ENGSO members from the following countries are represented (until May 2007): Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK.

For more information on the EU WG, please contact the ENGSO secretariat.

Marije Dippel

We request your active participation in three ways.

1. Send your feedback on the White Paper to the EU Working Group. ENGSO will communicate the collective response to the EC.
2. Ensure that your Minister for Sport is also aware of your views and the implications on the White Paper.
3. Contact your MEPs – ask them to represent your views in the Parliament and send them the ENGSO response to the White Paper.

The Social Responsibility of Sport and Future European Sports Cooperation

Round-Table of the Council of Europe Sprint Countries, Ljubljana

On 11-12 October 2006, the Ad hoc Committee for the Agreement on Sport (CAHAS) in co-operation with the Council of Europe, the Ministry of Education and Sport and the Institute of Fair Play and Tolerance in Sport was hosting a Round-Table of the Council of Europe Sprint Countries.

Participating in the event were senior national sport authorities from all SPRINT CoE member countries, representatives of CoE, CAHAS Bureau, European Commission and ENGSO, as well as national umbrella sports bodies contributing their views and adopting conclusions on:

- State of affairs regarding sport and the Council of Europe
- Sport as a School for Democracy – Good Governance as seen from the national governments sports policies perspective
- Social responsibility of sport as seen from the Slovenian perspective: So-

cial value of sport, Sport and international society, Sport and health, Sport and economy

- Future prospects of sports co-operation in Europe: Impact of the CoE work to date on the national governments sports policies (CoE), Future Constitution Article (EU Commission) and Role of partners (ENGSO)

The aim of this event was to exchange views with the national sports authorities of the Council of Europe SPRINT member countries on the role and responsibility of sport and the future perspectives of cooperation in sport in enlarged Europe and in the light of the Informal Ministers' Conference in Moscow 10-21 October 2006.

The welcome address by Minister of Education and Sport, Dr. **Milan Zver**, was followed by **Ita Mirianashvili** from CoE Sport Unit and **Miro Cerar** as the

distinguished guests of the Round Table. The above programme was chaired by Mr. **Zoran Verovnik**, adviser for International affairs at the Ministry of Education and Sport, Sport Unit, who once again showed great skills and knowledge on EU Sport issues.

On this occasion, the ENGSO President **Bengt Sevelius** met, among other eminent national and international personalities, also with **Tone Jagodic**, Secretary General, **Damjan Pintar**, Marketing Director and **Manica Lipec**, International Officer from the Olympic Committee of Slovenia – Association of Sports Federations and **Miroslav Cerar**, Ambassador of Sport, Fair Play and Tolerance and President of the Slovenian Olympic Academy.

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ENGSO CALENDAR

ENGSO Executive Committee

19-21 January, Sesimbra

ENGSO EU WG

26 January, Brussels

ENGSO ENTER!

27-28 January, Paris

ENGSO EDG

3-4 February, Bratislava

ENGSO GA

4-6 May, Helsinki

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ENGSO NEWSLETTER

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www.slu.fi/english



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: essi.puistonen@slu.fi
tel. +358 9 3481 2600.

ENGSO GA 2007 – elections

Who will you nominate?

As you all know, the elections are ahead of us during the GA 2007 in Helsinki. Three ExCom members and ENGSO President are to be elected for a four year period. It is therefore utterly important that each member organisation gives enough time and consideration to possible nominees (all information available on website www.engso.com and www.engso.eu).

In order to further strengthen the sport political profile of ENGSO and to successfully lead and manage the organisation, it should be expected that potential candidates for ENGSO leadership fulfil some general conditions and criteria, which will not only enable them to meet the challenges and responsibilities of an ENGSO mandate effectively, but may also contribute to the most rewarding impression to be serving the aims and policies of ENGSO by means of a quite demanding but also highly satisfactory and enjoyable commitment.

When considering nominees, in view of improving the gender balance in the ExCom, special efforts should be made to find qualified

female candidates. In addition, taking into account the need for specific professional input to the ExCom, consideration should be given to the possibility to find candidates with a legal background and/or knowledge in economics, finances, marketing.

Please remember that there are indeed many things to be done and that ExCom officers and members have to dedicate a lot of their time to ENGSO and that they or their organisations should take on board all travel and accommodation costs there incurs throughout the year representing ENGSO.

In addition, please also consider who you will nominate to the different ENGSO expert groups.

Proposals from ENGSO members to the GA agenda and nominations for election must have reached the Secretary General at least thirty days before the date of the General Assembly, so take your time and be in Helsinki to give your say!

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Dr. Michael Vesper - the new Director General of the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB)



Before starting in this position in October 2006 Dr. **Michael Vesper** was the Minister for Urban Development, Housing, Culture and Sports of the Land North-Rhine Westphalia. In 2005 he became the vice-president of the Parliament of the Land North-Rhine Westphalia, as well as the sport political spokesman of the Green Party. Being Director General of the DOSB Mr. Vesper resigned from his political tasks.

Mr. **Bernhard Schwank**, former Secretary General of the National Olympic Committee for Germany, has been appointed as the Sports Director of the DOSB.

Ms. **Katrin Merkel** is in charge of International Relations at the DOSB.



*Thank you for your
co-operation during 2006.
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year 2007!*