



FINAL CONCLUSIONS OF 11th ENGSO FORUM **The Sports Movement in relation to Civil Society and Health**

Stockholm, 24-25 October 2008

Both President of Swedish Sports Confederation **Karin Mattson Wejber** and the ENGSO President **Birgitta Kervinen** invited a warm welcome to the 11th ENGSO Forum consisting of an EU Seminar on ENGSO's sports political co-operation in the European Union and in the Council of Europe and two main topics Sport and health and Sport and volunteering. 48 participants representing 22 national Olympic committees, Sport confederations and European stakeholders were present at the Forum.

EUROPEAN UNION SPORT POLICY

Implementation of the White Paper on Sport

- There are two highly important processes going on in the European Union concerning sport: one is **the implementation of the White Paper on Sport and the Pierre de Coubertin Action Plan**, the other is the preparation of the possible forthcoming provision on sport in **the Lisbon Treaty**.
- ENGSO emphasises that **the specific characteristics of sport** mentioned in the article should be defined in more detail. It would be necessary to deal with this concept not only concentrating on professional sports and certain sport disciplines but also to have a closer look at the detailed features of the non-profit voluntary sports movement. ENGSO is willing to contribute with its experience to the ongoing EU level discussions on specificity.
- ENGSO is grateful for **the European Commission** for an excellent dialogue and collaboration during year 2008.
- ENGSO is pleased that the European Commission under the Structured Dialogue policy will organise **the EU Sport Forum** in Biarritz in November 2008. ENGSO has been invited to give its perspectives on the item of Support for grassroots sport in Europe.

The EU Presidencies

- ENGSO thanks **the current French Presidency** which has been very inclusive regarding ENGSO's participation in the deliberations regarding sport.
- ENGSO is pleased to see both sport and health and support for volunteering on the agenda of **the 18 months' agenda** of France, the Czech Republic and Sweden. ENGSO hopes that the choice of these topics will materialize in concrete outcomes and will give the full support to further development in this area.

Financing of Sport

- ENGSO underlines strongly the crucial importance of **public funding for sport**. This is generated to a very large extent by the national lotteries both within and without the European Union. ENGSO will continue the excellent partnership with the European Lotteries.
- Furthermore, it is politically important for sport that the European Parliament is going to provide a **budget line for sport** in 2009. ENGSO emphasizes that the future preparatory actions should concentrate on the fields of volunteering in sport and sport and health. The actions should be prepared in a way that voluntary non-profit sport clubs will be able to apply for funding.

Sport and Health

- The issue of Sport and Health is one of the themes of the White Paper on Sport and the Action Plan, as well as one of the priorities of ENGSO 2008 Working Programme.
- ENGSO is a member of the **EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health**, in addition to being a member at **the HEPA Steering Committee**, as well as **Physical Activity Guideline Working Group** of the European Commission. ENGSO promoted to creation of a special workshop in the Physical Activity Platform.
- ENGSO finds the cross-sectoral character of the **Physical Activity Guidelines** significant. ENGSO encourages the sport organisations' involvement along with public authorities in the implementation of the guidelines on a national basis. ENGSO will include the Physical Activity Guidelines in its future health programmes.
- Both the Trim and Fitness International Sport for All Association (**TAFISA**) and the European Sport for All Network (**ESFAN**), as well as other sport stakeholders have offered co-operation with ENGSO in the area of developing health-enhancing physical activity. There is clearly a need to develop sports club on an organizational level to support a healthy way of living through health-related sports activities.
- ENGSO has gathered from its members **best practice examples** to promote Physical Activity and will draft a catalogue and recommendations to the European Union.

Sport and Volunteering

- The issue of Sport and Volunteering is one of the themes of the White Paper on Sport and the Action Plan, as well as one of the priorities of ENGSO 2008 Working Programme.
- ENGSO underlines the work of the **Active Citizenship Group** of the European Commission and is willing to contribute to the aims and participate in the activities of this group.
- ENGSO finds that launching of a new **Study on Volunteering** of crucial importance to ENGSO and its members. ENGSO would like to be consulted, eg. in a stakeholder meeting in an early stage of the study preparation and to give its input and provide experience.
- ENGSO would highly appreciate to be closely involved in the preparation of the priority theme Sport and Volunteering of **the Czech and Swedish Presidencies** in 2009.

Co-operation with European umbrella sport bodies

- ENGSO President underlined importance of close **co-operation with other European umbrella sport bodies** on European sport policy issues. To speak with one voice on common concerns at EU level is important for European sport.

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, EPAS

- **The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport of the Council of Europe**, currently covers 28 European Member States. The EPAS priorities are sports ethics and the study on autonomy of the sports movement in Europe, combating racism and discrimination in sport and organising **the 11th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport** in Greece in December 2008. ENGSO underlines the value of including ENGSO member organisations into their national delegations.
- ENGSO is a partner with EPAS, a Bureau and a Governing Board Member and a member of the Consultative Committee. This Committee will be a new partner body for sport NGO's in the Council of Europe and will start its activity in 2009.
- ENGSO shares the concern of the EPAS's Governing Body on how **to increase the membership of EPAS** not only within the member countries of the Council of Europe but also within sports organisations themselves. ENGSO is willing to assist EPAS in preparing future criteria for its organisational membership. Furthermore, ENGSO Youth is a member of an Advisory Council of Youth.
- ENGSO supports **the future development of co-operation** between the Council of Europe and the European Union in the area of sport policy and is ready to contribute further discussions in this field.