



## **Press Release**

### **Start of project EU:SPORT:FUTURE**

Brussels, 10 February 2009 – On February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> the kick-off meeting of the new project EU:SPORT:FUTURE took place in Brussels in the EOC EU office. This initiative is designed as a broad discussion project, collecting the opinions of both experts and citizens to provide recommendations how the future EU competence in sport should be shaped. The project receives financial support from the European Commission's "Citizens for Europe Programme".

The European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO) implements the project EU:SPORT:FUTURE in cooperation with seven different sport organisations from all over Europe. Birgitta Kervinen, ENGSO President, thanked the European Commission for its support and stated: "During ten months – from February to November 2009 – ENGSO will activate citizens in Europe to participate in the different actions planned in the framework of EU:SPORT:FUTURE. In addition, the project will give not only the European Commission but also the new Members of the European Parliament good insight knowledge what the people expect from the EU in the field of sport. This project is proof that the European Commission is close and listens to citizens."

Citizens have the opportunity to participate in the questionnaire on "Sport and Europe" which can be accessed via its website [www.eusportfuture.eu](http://www.eusportfuture.eu). Participants of the workshops will be drawn out of the pool of the answers received.

In May two workshops dealing with sport and health as well as sport and education will take place in Vienna, Austria. In June workshops concerning employment and volunteering will follow in Paris, France. The fifth workshop discussing social aspects on sport will take place in September, in Budapest, Hungary. These citizen panels will give citizens the opportunity to suggest recommendations what the EU should do in the field of European sport policy. The final conclusions of the workshops will be published at the end of November and submitted to the European Commission.

More detailed and further information can be accessed via the website [www.eusportfuture.eu](http://www.eusportfuture.eu)

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