



Sports in Europe

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June

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 or short news from your organisation, please contact Jan Bohac at bohacj@cstv.cz.

ENGSO signs grant agreement with the European Commission



Birgitta KERVINEN,
ENGSO-President

ENGSO proposed successfully to the European Commission to fund its activities in 2008 within the Europe for Citizens Programme. To authorize the EU funding to ENGSO, Birgitta Kervinen, ENGSO-President, signed the grant agreement with the

European Commission on the 5 June 2008 in the House of Sports in Paris. The EU-grant gives support to especially selected organisations such as ENGSO active at European level.

Ms. Kervinen stated: "This grant of the European Commission for ENGSO recognizes ENGSO's role as the voice of sport in Europe – its past and present achievements – and underlines our high quality work and increase in importance at Euro-

pean level."

ENGSO has a long tradition in supporting the legal recognition of sport in the EU-Treaties and contributed substantially in drafting the EU White Paper on Sport. During its consultation on the White Paper the European Commission has picked up many of ENGSO's issues like the role of voluntary non-profit sport organisations or enhancing public health through physical activity as priority key policies. In addition, due to ENGSO's continuing demands, the article on sport has been finally incorporated in the Lisbon Treaty. "ENGSO – representing the largest social movement in European societies – will be a key stakeholder on how to shape a future EU sport policy," described Ms Kervinen the role of ENGSO in view of the structured dialog with the European Commission.

"ENGSO has the same objective as the EU in the field of sport: Promote and develop sport at European level. ENGSO will therefore continue to contribute to the implementation of the EU White Paper and is looking forward to this new enhanced cooperation with the European Commission." concluded Ms. Kervinen the signing ceremony.

ENGSO intensifies cooperation with European Lotteries

Sports organisations have many sources of income, however, revenues generated by state-owned or state-licensed lotteries and gambling operators are by far the most important source of income in many Member States. Due to various complaints both at national and at European level, the system of state-owned or state-licensed gambling companies is threatened.

Many ENGSO members support the system of state-owned or state-licensed gambling companies to secure public funding for sport. ENGSO therefore considers the contribution made to the financing of non-professional sport by state-run lotteries and licensed gambling bodies operating in the general interest as indispensable. No other sustainable and politically feasible solution has so far been either proposed or discussed to make up for the substantial losses from these sources of

financing to be expected if profit-making enterprises were authorised to operate in Member States.

In order to achieve the political aim of safeguarding the public financing structure of sport, ENGSO intensified its cooperation with the "European Lotteries and Toto Association" which is an independent European association composed of State Lottery and Toto companies established in Europe.



Rupert Hornig, European Lotteries

ENGSO CALENDAR

- ENGSO Youth Committee Meeting, September 26-28
- ENGSO FORUM, October 24-26, Stockholm
- EU working group meeting, September 8
- Communication & Marketing working group meeting, October 26, Stockholm

ENGSO General Assembly 2008

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ENGSO NEWSLETTER

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Birgitta Kervinen, ENGSO-President, opened on the 16 June 2008 the 16th ENGSO General Assembly. Preceding the General Assembly, an EU-seminar was organized which was dedicated to topical European issues. Guest speakers from the European Commission, Mr. Pedro Velazquez, and European Lotteries, Mr Rupert Hornig, updated ENGSO members on crucial European policy issues.

"The White Paper is the first comprehensive initiative on sport and outlines a strategic approach to pave the way for the future", Mr Velazquez commented the White Paper on Sport. He then motivated the representatives of sport organisations: "The White Paper also aims at better mainstreaming sport in the existing EU funding programmes. Now, sport organisations have to submit their projects to profit from this new window of funding opportunities".

In connection to the White Paper Ms Kervinen stated: "ENGSO contributed substantially to the drafting of the White Paper on Sport of the European

Commission. ENGSO therefore is now ready to cooperate with the European Commission to implement the measures proposed in the Pierre de Coubertin Action plan. "

Mr Hornig informed ENGSO members about the latest developments on the liberalization of gambling markets. "Several complaints and cases are pending both at national and European level which might threaten the system of state-run or state licensed gambling companies."

Furthermore, President Kervinen informed the members that ENGSO has been selected to receive structural support from the European Commission. The General Assembly adopted therefore unanimously agenda item 10 requesting ENGSO-members to take active participation while implementing the action plan and to ensure that ENGSO's work programme is carried out accordingly.



f.l.t.r: Togay Bayatli, President of NOC of Turkey; Birgitta Kervinen, ENGSO-President; Mehmet Atalay, The General Director of Youth and Sport of Turkey; Pedro Velazquez, Deputy Director Sports Unit, European Commission; Predrag Manojlovic, ENGSO-



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ENGSO EU working group prepares recommendations on a future EU competence in sport

Michael Trinker, European Affairs Officer of the Austrian Sports Federation, has been appointed as the new chair of the EU working group by the Executive Committee. On behalf of the EU working group Mr. Trinker would like to remind that the membership to this group is open to all and interested ENGSO-members are invited to join.

One of the objectives of the EU working group is to monitor and impact the EU sport's political agenda, share relevant information, coordinate activities and report to the Executive Committee. Besides implementing its work programme for 2008, the EU working group prepares a discussion project entitled EU:SPORT:FUTURE with ENGSO as the lead organisation and several other ENGSO-members as partners. The aim of this project is to provide the European Commission with recommendations on a future EU-competence in the field of sport.

The next meeting of the EU working group is scheduled for the 8 September 2008.

For more information about your membership in the EU working group or about the project please contact Michael Trinker at trinker@eu-sports-office.org.