



The 7th ENGSO FORUM – an ideal platform for exchange and dialogue

About 50 ENGSO delegates met at the Dutch congress and sports centre in Papendal 22-24 October 2004 for the 7th ENGSO FORUM to share ideas and experiences with international experts on three main topics: "Sport Development", "Sport and Education", "Sport and Taxes".



For the opening panel discussion NOC*NSF President **Erica Terpstra** had invited high ranking representatives of the European Parliament, the EU Commission, the EU Sport Unit and the Dutch Government. They commented the risks and chances of sport in view of the new EU Constitution, possible sport-related activities until its full ratification and

the contribution of the sport movement to the European identity among the citizens.

Under the first main topic Sport Development, an expert of the research institute W.H. Mulier explained the results of a survey on sport for all in the Netherlands, comparing them with trends and findings in other European countries. Possible action fields for ENGSO in this

context were further discussed in workshops.

Sport and Education was introduced by a representative of the Dutch Ministry of Education, while workshops debated on possibilities of improving co-operation between clubs and schools and implementing national sport policies at local levels.

Sport and Taxes was, no doubt, the most interesting topic, not only for ENGSO participants but also for representatives of European sport federations. A tax expert of Ernst & Young explained the general effects of different taxes and taxation systems on sport (individuals, clubs etc.). Country examples of Sweden, Slovenia and the Czech Republic showed how differently the respective tax systems may handle sport – from generous tax relief possibilities to an equal treatment of sport like any economic enterprise. The panel discussion concentrated on how to lobby at national level in order to achieve a preferential tax treatment for sport, with tax allowances, tax relieves, free amounts, tax-free donations by sponsors etc.

Warm Thanks to our Dutch hosts for their excellent organisation and great hospitality. The 7th ENGSO FORUM was a real success.

Marlis Rydzy-Götz
ENGSO Secretary General

Welcome to the 13th ENGSO General Assembly and the 2nd Youth Assembly! 14-17 April 2005, Riga, Latvia

It is a great pleasure for the Sports Federations Council of Latvia in co-operation with Latvian Sports department, Latvian Olympic Committee and Riga City Council to be the host of the ENGSO General Assembly, Youth Assembly and Youth Conference for the first time.

For us this is not only a formal meeting of umbrella sports organisations of European countries, but also an opportunity to welcome our old friends to our country – the ENGSO family and especially the ENGSO Youth!

The 13th ENGSO GA will have elections for several functions in the Executive Committee, among them the position of the Secretary General. According to the Statutes, the mandate of Marlis Rydzy-Götz (Germany) will

expire, after two re-elections. ENGSO member countries are therefore invited to forward their suggestions in writing to the Executive Committee.

The conference center MARITIM Park Hotel Riga is located near the airport and close to the Riga City Center. Together with the hotel staff we will do our best



with accommodation, conference and cultural program: sightseeing in Riga, sports activities and excursions to Jurmala and Sigulda.

We want to thank **Marlis Rydzy-Götz** for her hard work and great energy with the preparations of this Assembly and as the secretary general of ENGSO through the years.

We wish you all a successful Assembly and pleasant stay in Riga as well as good luck to the candidates for ENGSO Executive Committee!

Andris Kalnins,
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ENGSO Youth continue dialogue with the European Youth Forum

One of the aims of ENGSO Youth is to become a member of the European Youth Forum (EYF), which is the European platform for youth organisations including political organisations, national youth councils, student organisations, trade unions etc. ENGSO Youth wants to be the first youth sport organisation represented in this platform to include sport youth matters in the debate.

The second period of ENGSO Youth starts in April 2005 - New candidates welcome!

Since 2003 the **ENGSO Youth** has had an official status in the ENGSO structure. The decision making body of ENGSO Youth is the ENGSO Youth Assembly which will meet again in **Riga, 14–17 April 2005**. The ENGSO Youth Assembly will elect the second ENGSO Youth Committee including Chair, Vice–Chair and seven members.

We hope that all ENGSO member countries support our youth activities and nominate candidates representing their national sport organisation.

The Youth Assembly will be connected with a Youth Conference where participants discuss and work on different youth sport matters, exchange new information and enjoy a social programme.

We are trying to get EU-funding from the YOUTH-programme for the Youth Assembly. Early in 2005 we will send all ENGSO members an official invitation for two participants per country to the second ENGSO Youth Conference and Assembly with a preliminary programme and other necessary information.

More information about the application on our website: www.engso.com (youth section).

We hope to see you and your YOUTH in Riga 2005!

Ulrike Gruber
ENGSO Youth Committee member

This is a big challenge and a long process. The circumstances have been in our favour:

- European Year of Education through Sport
- European Constitution with an article on sport
- New generation of the youth program "Youth in actions" including the word sport
- 2005 International year of sport declared by the United Nations.

ENGSO Youth has worked very hard toward the goal: Many of our members provided information about their youth sport policy and projects as well as made close contacts with the youth organisations in their own country. As the chair of ENGSO Youth I would like to thank the ENGSO Youth Committee and our networks who have supported us through the European Institutions.

ENGSO Youth met the membership criteria

16 July 2004 **Ms Jennifer Hedderich**, ENGSO Youth Executive Secretary, and **Ms Rosemary Paul Chopin**, ENGSO Youth Chair, had a meeting at the French Olympic Committee in Paris with representatives of the EYF **Mr Pierre Evrard** and **Ms Luiza Bara** to fulfil the administrative criteria. This was the last step and condition for ENGSO Youth to be invited and written on the agenda of the EYF General Assembly to present ENGSO Youth to 250 young people in Madrid, 11-13 November 2004.

I explained to the Assembly why ENGSO Youth as a youth organisation dealing with sport at European level has the full right to be included in the EYF platform. Together with Jennifer Hedderich we made an effort to meet as many

people as possible during these four days to explain what kind of sports we want to promote and how we could cooperate with other youth organisations.

Unfortunately, we did not reach our goal yet. The vote was negative with a considerable number of abstentions, which illustrated the fear of youth organisations toward sport matters.

This happened despite the fact that we fulfilled the membership criteria and had the support of the Commission for applicant members, of the Board of the EYF and of the Council of Europe.

ENGSO Youth inspired reflections on sports' links with other youth activities

Youth organisations were not yet ready to integrate youth sport organisations in the EYF platform largely because of their unfamiliarity with sport as

a tool developing societal interests such as gender equality, education through sport, sport and health, sport and integration.

Changing mentalities is a long process. The advantage of the General Assembly and the entire process was, however, that now all the youth organisations in Europe know ENGSO Youth and will begin to reflect on sport's links with other fields of youth activities. I am convinced that national cooperation will improve between our members and the youth organisations to prepare for the future!

Rosemary Paul Chopin
Chair of ENGSO Youth
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Joint meeting with ENGSO Youth and the Hungarian Youth College

Hungarian Youth College invited ENGSO Youth Committee to hold its meeting in Budapest in September 2004. This initiative shows the will of this sport organisation to build a youth policy and means to do it.

The joint meeting gave both organisations a chance to learn about each other's structures and members, share experiences and to sketch future cooperation in the field of youth sport activities.

ENGSO Youth values these kinds of

contacts that allow us to be well informed about the local reality. Countries have different approaches in their youth policies and we have to be able to adapt to our members' requests.

The meeting also included our participation in their European project supported by the European commission as part of EYES 2004. ENGSO Youth was very impressed with their organisation and enthusiasm. It is a good illustration of cooperation between parents, local clubs and public authorities in favour of

the welfare of young people through sport activities. Last but not least, **Tamas Nagy** from the Hungarian Youth College participated as ENGSO Youth member in a training course in Strasbourg regarding youth in decision making.

Once again, thanks a lot for this fabulous experience!

Rosemary Paul Chopin
Chair of ENGSO Youth
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The last Hurdle for the European Constitution: Referenda in the Member States

After the heads of states and governments signed the European Constitution 29 October 2004 in Rome, there is one last hurdle for the Constitution to enter into force: The referenda in the Member States.

Nine countries have so far announced to hold a referendum. If everything goes well and the referenda are positive, the Constitution and its article on sport may take effect in 2007. If the Constitution, two years after its signing, is only ratified by 4/5 of the member states, and at least one member state has had difficulties in the ratification process, the European Council will have to review the text.

This and other current EU issues stood high on the agenda of the ENGSO EU working group meeting 22 October 2004 in Papendal prior to the ENGSO Forum. The EU group also exchanged information on lobbying initiatives of several sport organisations on the EU directives on services in the internal market and on the driving licence, both directives having the potential to affect sport interests negatively.

The group discussed the consequences

for sport regarding the new European Parliament (EP) and Commission. The new "sport commissioner" will be **Mr Jan Figel** from Slovakia. According to Figel sport is part of culture with an important role to play in education, from both physical and moral perspective. Sport, he says, is a way to create involvement and get people to take part in the European project.

The ENGSO EU group will stay involved: see Engso Calendar. Officials from the new Member States as well as from the accession countries are warmly welcomed to participate in the EU working group.

For further information please contact:

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Community Amateur Sports Club Scheme (CASC) brings enormous cash and tax benefits to sport clubs in the UK

The CASC scheme came into existence two years ago. The scheme recognised that sports clubs are different from commercial organisations, and should be treated as such. Government also voiced recognition of the contribution which grassroots sport and recreation make to the cultural fabric of the UK. The 2002 Finance Act therefore offered community amateur sports clubs a range of fiscal and tax benefits, designed to keep money in the voluntary sport and recreation sector, and stopping leakage back into the UK Treasury.

A year later the 2003 Local Government Act bestowed CASCs with their most prized benefit – mandatory 80 % rate relief from local authorities, with the possibility of up to 100 % relief at the discretion of each authority.

The CASC scheme was the result of a sustained lobbying campaign by stakeholders, including the CCPR, along with voluntary, public and private sector organisations. CCPR, as an NGO, independent of government, was able to campaign and lobby for the measure, and to secure the support of MPs and peers from all political parties. The initiative also had the support of the Minister for Sport and Tourism, **Richard Caborn**, Liberal Democrat Peer and founder of a leading UK charity law company. The measure was widely welcomed in the sporting community.

A sports club has to meet a few simple requirements in order to qualify for CASC status: the club must have an open membership policy and not discriminate in any way; must be a non-profit organisation with all profits re-invested into the club; must promote one or more eligible activities as its core objective; and in the event that the club is wound up, individual members must not gain financially. The benefits of registration are not as extensive, as those granted to registered charities. However, CASC registration and regulatory process is less bureaucratic.

Nearly 2000 clubs have registered as CASCs, although many thousands more are eligible. Clubs' meeting cycles and the need to amend their governing documents are slowing the registration process down. Yet many clubs have already saved significantly, and the overall cash benefit of the scheme has been estimated at £4.7 million – money that can now be invested in supporting voluntary sports clubs across the UK.

Sarah Woolnough
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Working at Heights

The Temporary Work at Heights Directive (2001/45/EC) aims to reduce the number of deaths and injuries caused from work at heights. The directive will apply to the construction and window cleaning industry, with an annual fatality rate of over 60. Unfortunately the Directive also covers mountaineers, mountains, caving and climbing up the mast of a yacht.

The original draft Regulations produced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) apply to professionals engaged in climbing, mountaineering and caving. The draft Regulations include specific requirements that threaten the essence of adventure activities and are at odds with current best practice. Following the consultation on the draft Regulations the HSE received approximately 750 responses, of which over 350 were from the adventure activities sector.

Adventure activities crisis committee dialogue with the HSE

In January 2004 an adventure activities crisis committee was established, which comprises of **John Cousins**, Mountain Leader Training UK; **Doug Jones**, Mountain Leader Training UK; **Simon Waring**, Outward Bound Trust; **Brian Lamb**, Institute of Outdoor Learning; **Tom Redfurn**, National Caving Association; **Ian Hey**, British Mountaineering Council and **Charlotte Edward**, CCPR.

The committee has devoted time and energy to dialogue with the HSE to ensure that National Governing Body current best practice is

understood and recognised. Throughout the year the committee has gained cross party support from many politicians, MPs, and Peers.

Following the committee's meeting with **Jane Kennedy**, Minister for Work and Pensions, she stated that "I have asked officials to leave no stone unturned in considering options for an exemption. I am keen to find a solution that is acceptable to all and one that works."

The Crisis committee are awaiting a Ministerial decision on an exemption

The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) are investigating the possibility of exempting the adventure activities sector, by looking at a number of options:

1. Exempt the activities
2. Use participation figures set against accident rates as part of a risk and impact assessment
3. Exempt specified workers within the activities – HSE have proposed that all licensed centres and /or all NGB qualified individuals would be exempt.

The possibility of an exemption has been discussed with the Chair of HSC, **Bill Callaghan** at a recent meeting attended by the crisis committee, HSE advisors and **Kate Hoey** MP and **Alistair Burt** MP. The committee are now awaiting a Ministerial decision on an exemption.

Charlotte Edward,
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ENGSO CALENDAR

ENGSO Executive Committee

10-12 December 2004 Riga

ENGSO EU Working Group

17-18 February 2005, Brussels

2-3 June 2005, Brussels

Fall mtg: in conjunction with the ENGSO Forum

ENGSO Youth Committee

9-12 December 2004 Riga

4-6 February 2005 Malta

13th ENGSO General Assembly 2nd ENGSO Youth Conference and Assembly

14-17 April 2005 Riga

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ENGSO NEWSLETTER

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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 Nelli Koivisto at the Finnish Sports Federation, SLU:nelly.koivisto@slu.fi, tel. +358 9 3481 2605.

A chance to participate: IOC/IAKS Award for Exemplary Sports and Leisure Facilities 2005

The IOC/IAKS AWARD is the only international architecture prize for sports and leisure facilities of exemplary design and function. The winning projects can be new buildings or existing facilities that have been extended or modernized.

The competition is sponsored by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS).

Together with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the IAKS is also awarding the IPC Distinction for sports facilities suitable for the disabled. The IPC Distinction aims to promote accessibility to sports facilities and all other buildings to give people with disabilities the opportunity to practise or view sport without limitation or barriers.

Eligible to compete are clients/operators (operators) and architects/engineers (designers). The entry must be submitted jointly by operators and designers.

According to their use and location, facilities are assigned to different facility categories and assessed according to certain selection criteria.

The results of the IOC/IAKS AWARD will be presented at the International IAKS Congress in conjunction with the International Trade Fair for Amenity Areas, Sports and Pool Facilities (FSB) in Cologne.

Closing date for entries is **30 April 2005**.

For complete competition rules:
<http://www.iaks.org/en/en40.htm>

Swedish sports go to Brussels

EU proclaimed 2004 to be the **European Year of Education through Sport (EYES 2004)**. The Swedish International Programme Office for Education and Training, who administrate the Leonardo da Vinci programme in Sweden, destined an application round directly to sports organisations in Sweden because of EYES 2004. The measure within the Leonardo programme that was open for applications from Sports organisations was trans-national mobility. This area aims to give support for the trans-national mobility of people undergoing or responsible for vocational training. It should be said that sports organisations always are welcome to apply for the different measures in the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

The Swedish Sports Confederation wrote an application in May 2004. The project consists of a placement program of trainees or stagiers in Brussels for seven employees at different sports organisations throughout Sweden. The participants come from both national and local levels of Swedish sports. The partner in Brussels hosting the placement is the German EU-office of sports. The project will be carried out during 2005.

One person at a time will spend six weeks at the EU-office and take part in the daily work. They will also perform special tasks provided by the Swedish Sports Confederation. The objective is to improve the skills and competencies of

the participants, gain valuable experience and build a network of contacts in Brussels, which will benefit all sports in Sweden. They will also share their own experiences from their work in Sweden with EU-related issues that will hopefully be of interest for the members of the EU-office. After the placement program the participants will hold lectures and spread their new knowledge in the different sports organisations in Sweden.

The project was approved in early September 2004 and the total grant awarded is € 20 400.

Mattias Claesson
Swedish Sports Confederation



New Executive Committee formed in the Estonian Olympic Committee

The new Executive Committee of the Estonian Olympic Committee consists of President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary General and 13 members; 12 men and one woman. Elections took place 11 November 2004 in Tallinn. Current president **Mr Mart Siimann** and Secretary General **Mr Toomas Tõnise** were both re-elected for the coming period.

Toomas Tõnise
Secretary General
Estonian Olympic Committee