

## ENGSO EXPECTATIONS ON THE EU

In the proposal for a new EU-constitution Sport is included in the form of a so-called "Supporting article"!

There is said: "The Union shall contribute to the promotion of European Sporting issues, while taking account of its specific nature, its structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function"...

"Union action shall be aimed at developing the European dimension in sport, by promoting fairness and openness in sporting competitions and co-operation between bodies responsible for sports and by protecting the physical and moral integrity of sports-men and sports-women, especially young sportsmen and sports- women."

"... excluding any harmonisation of laws and registrations of the member states."

**ENGSO has the following expectations for the future:**

1. **The main aims** of sports movement in our relation to EU **are to safeguard the independence and autonomy** of sports and to reach full **respect for its specificity**.

It is important that the EU institutions realise that most sports are world wide organised and ruled in order to get the organisation, activities and competitions to function all over the world.

European sport organisations are thus only **one** continental part of their international organisation and thus have to follow what democratically has been decided upon by the world organisation. EU decisions and directives therefore sometimes lead to conflicts between regulations of the sports world and EU, as we have experienced. Here early consultations and a positive approach from both sides could avoid conflicts!

2. **Legislative protection of non-governmental /non-profit organisations – is necessary!**

In the opinion of ENGSO it is important that the society improves the pre- conditions for the operation of non-governmental/non-profit associations.

The non-profit structure of associations has no significance in EU- legislation. It would be important for the EU-countries to recognise **the civic activity of non-profit associations as an activity for the public good** and **not** as a business activity! It is furthermore of primary importance that non-profit associations remain under national regulations!

2. **The STATUS and conditions for voluntary work** must be paid attention to in the European Union... and all over Europe!

It is important to recognise the activities of the non-governmental sport organisations which are mainly based on volunteers. The non-profit activity of the non-governmental sport organisations is by nature not a business activity. The activities are managed and maintained mostly by voluntary persons working for no economic benefit.

3. **A crucial question for the moment** affecting both NGO-GO:s in most EU-countries is a strong wish that **gambling must not be included in the service directives** of EU. The national regulations should be safeguarded. It's our clear opinion. Main argument of ours is that the funds given for non profit organisations, as the sports, are primarily aimed at **"public good activities"**.

**In the next 5 years** (2005-2010) ENGSO furthermore hopes on:

- "a **budget line**" for sport
- an improved mutual co-operation between **EU** and the **National umbrella organisation** of sports
- strong **support for health promotion. It is important for the health of all Europeans!**

- EU-commission giving active support to ENGSO and its member organisation in improving of **EQUALITY** in sports - particularly the project “ENGSO mentoring and leadership programme for women”
- the **youth activity of the sports movement** – the far biggest youth movement in Europe – to be **authorised as a full partner of European Youth Movements**. The sports organisations should be **qualified to apply for all existing EU-funds aimed at Youth activities and projects**.
- that the proposed “Supporting article” will allow the EU-commission to financially support **studies of the situation and trends in European sports** that a “Supporting Article” could allow EU-commission to **build up an all European data-base** on different facts and figures needed about sports in Europe
- **financial support for European seminars aimed at exchange of experience** in topical matters for sports as for example “Good governance, social role of sports etc.

**Some final remarks:**

**In a future DIALOGUE** between **EU-commission** and the **Sports Movement**, our strong wish is that the **national umbrella organisations of sport** and the special sports organisations will be heard **before** making important decisions on sports - at all levels of EU; and **that sport matters** and co-operation with the European Sports Movement **will be horizontally included in various EU-programmes**.

We look forward to keep an open-minded dialogue built upon mutual trust, consultations and joint activities! That is a challenge for all of us now and in the future!

Bengt Sevelius