

## Secretary General Report

Believe it or not, dear Colleagues, I stand before you here after two years.

Allow me, first of all to thank you for the trust you expressed when you elected me for the ENGSO Secretary General, in spite of the fact that I was not present at the last GA in Riga (Latvia), in last April, so I can only imagine the courage and determination you expressed, as I suppose that there are many of you who do not even know me.

This has been a great responsibility and a task, primarily for myself, but then also for the President and all ExCom members.

I must underline the exceptional assistance of enormous experience and knowledge of Ms. Marlis Rydzy-Goetz, previous Secretary General, and her unselfish help and support in transfer of all authority and activities organization of such an institution as is ENGSO. It is an honour and great pleasure to convey to her my highest expressions of gratitude. But that makes me confident that I will be capable of responding properly way to all responsibilities of this significant function.

Maybe the situation that prevented me from attending such an important event as is ENGSO GA, due to lack of entry documents, shows how many more political separations and obstacles stand in the way of realization of basic principles of our organization, which is actually one of the reasons for accepting this demanding responsibility.

Explaining the function of ENGSO in building the bridges which will serve to connect, we used expressions of "old" and "new" Europe. It is maybe time to innovate it and promote it into "connected" and "unconnected" Europe.

Sport is one of the basic factors of cohesion on our continent. If we analyze further, then it is clear that it concerns specific competition systems, or the top level sports achievements.

But the unity of sport in its wider sense, building up of a pyramid from the grass roots to the top level of different target groups included in sports activities, be it children, young, women, elders, persons with disabilities, etc., remains on the outskirts or completely out of range of the existing "sports" organizations.

A step further in the analysis will present a burning need for establishment of relations between countries that are members of the EU and other part of Europe, a close cooperation between NGO and GO on all levels.

It seems a lot when we speak about ENGSO field of activities and priorities, but I am convinced that it does present an essential need of all of us, members of the only pan-European organization that has such an extensive approach to the general idea of sports and the sport itself without any political supplements and interests.

Building up a common platform for our cooperation, exchange of experience, knowledge and experts between our members and an attempt to establish a common approach in the decision-making process, primarily towards the Council of Europe, and then within EU presents in my opinion, one of our priority tasks.

Basis for such an approach also is presented through ever faster development of means of communication on an appropriate technological level.

In that sense, we have concluded a transfer of the website host from Swissolympic to the NOC SCG platform in Belgrade. The ENGSO website is now updated by our experts under the supervision of Mr. Jan Boháč, ExCom member in charge of these activities.

By such organization of data, the ENGSO website, namely [www.engso.com](http://www.engso.com), contains all basic information about ENGSO, but it also provides necessary information about the work of the ENGSO Youth, EU Working Group, ExCom decisions and all other activities of our organization, including the Newsletter.

Allow me to express gratitude on behalf of all of us to the Olympic Committee of Switzerland for their inestimable and extraordinary contribution in establishing the website without any compensation in the previous period.

Thanks to unselfish engagement of our President, Mr. Bengt Sevelius, Finnish Sports Confederation and especially Ms. Essi Puistonen, for which I have to express our special appreciation, ENGSO Newsletter has provided us in detail with information about the activities of our organization.

We have established an office of ENGSO Secretariat in the building of the Association of Sports of Serbia and Montenegro, in downtown Belgrade. Ms. Snežana Mišić is taking care of all issues related to the work and activities of ENGSO. Snežana is a long-standing member of staff of the Association of Sports of Serbia and Montenegro in the domain of international affairs, speaks more than four languages and in her engagement for ENGSO has prepared four ExCom sessions, ENGSO Forum and this GA. The Office is fully operational and equipped with all devices necessary for functioning of the Secretariat (PCs, internet connections, fax, copying machine, etc.), and a meeting room where the 53<sup>rd</sup> ExCom session was held.

Once the registration of ENGSO is finalized within the CNOSF, we will be able to proceed with process of completing the ENGSO Statutes as a non-governmental organization registered in EU with offices of the Secretariat in Belgrade.

All ENGSO documentation has been sent and packed in the new ENGSO Secretariat with enormous effort and support of dear Marlis, who has also conferred to us so generously all the technology of her work and know-how necessary for continuation of all ENGSO bodies on the established principles.