

21st ENGSO General Assembly

Belgrade, Serbia

June 7-8, 2013

The 21st ENGSO General Assembly and the ENGSO Youth Assembly, together with all accompanying events were held this year in Belgrade, capital of Serbia, in the facilities of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Hotel "Falkensteiner".

Starting with ENGSO ExCom, EU WG and ENGSO Youth meetings, ENGSO events took off with EU Seminar that was held on the first day, with the main topic, the European Sport Policy.

EU Seminar

The first part of the Seminar focused on the presentation of Pedro Velazquez, Acting Head of Sport Unit of the EU Commission, related to the current and future EU Sports Policy.

Ewa Markowicz, Chair of the EPAS Governing Board updated the GA participants on the current issues of EPAS and the Council of Europe.

Helena Carlsson, ENGSO EU WG member and Heidi Pekkola, ENGSO Communication and Policy Officer introduced the European Week of Sport with possible ideas and activities, and presented existing national practices in order to have the European Week of Sport better implemented in all member countries.

Now already standard "Breaking News" focused on what ENGSO has done in its past year of activities, while Poul Broberg, Chair of the ENGSO EU Working Group consulted members on the future of the EU work plan on Sport and on ENGSO priorities through a workshop involving all present participants of the ENGSO General Assembly.

Poul Broberg, EU WG Chair, concluded the EU Seminar summing up the presentations, ideas and discussions.

21st ENGSO General Assembly

1. General Assembly - Official Opening

Opening of the 21st ENGSO General Assembly was held in the Palace of Serbia, magnificent mansion from the early 60ies, home of the government of the Republic of Serbia, including the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Serbia, the host of the official opening ceremony.

ENGSO President, Birgitta Kervinen officially welcomed all participants and guests speaking of ENGSO's achievements, the importance of ENGSO, its projects, bridge-building opportunities and its role in the sports policy arena.

President Kervinen then asks Ewa Markowicz, Chair of the Governing Board of EPAS (Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport) of the Council of Europe to address the present delegates.

Ewa Markowicz, Chair of the Governing Board of EPAS (Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport) of the Council of Europe thanked President Kervinen and presented EPAS, the work and efforts of EPAS in the sport policy and activities of EPAS in the past year.

President Kervinen thanks Ewa Markowicz and asks Pedro Velazquez to

Pedro Velazquez, acting Director of the EU Sport Unit gave an overview of the activities of the Sport Unit and presented the current issues important for the EU sport policy, underlining the significance of EU sport policy equally for EU and non-EU countries and for their activities.

President Kervinen thanks Pedro Velazquez and asks Alisa Maric to address the participants and officially open the 21st ENGSO General Assembly in Belgrade.

Minister Maric, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia addressed the participants, welcomed them and gave a short overview of the importance of sport and its impact on the society of Serbia, their cooperation with the NGO sport structures and officially proclaimed the General Assembly OPEN.

Following the official opening, the guests representing partner organisations of ENGSO took the floor to present their updates and express their gratitude for the cooperation established with ENGSO.

2. Official announcements

Predrag Manojlovic, Secretary General informed all participants about the relevant content and proceedings related to the work of the General Assembly and confirmed the quorum with 24 current members present. He also informed participants of all that had been organised for the upcoming days in Belgrade.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Having defined the official proceedings of the General Assembly, participants unanimously adopted the Agenda, with an inclusion of the presentation within the item 11, Miscellaneous.

4. Minutes of the 20th ENGSO General Assembly in Sunny Beach, Bulgaria

With the Minutes of the previous, 20th edition of the GA sent in time due and without any remarks or objections to it received by ENGSO, the members were asked to adopt them, which was done unanimously.

5. ENGSO Activities 2012

Report on this item for the past period was sent within the material and presented in a summary by the ENGSO President Birgitta Kervinen. In her report, President Kervinen presented the activities carried out by the Executive Committee since the last GA, particularly pointing out the main results, challenges and successful actions in the past period.

ENGSO Treasurer, Carlos Cardoso, submitted to ENGSO members financial reports for ENGSO and ENGSO Youth for 2012, providing all necessary clarifications.

One of the Auditors, Karin van Willigen, reported on their auditing and stipulated the results achieved in 2012. All reports were unanimously adopted by the Assembly.

6. ENGSO Strategic and Action Plan 2013-2014

ExCom member, Lotte Buechert, presented the ENGSO activities within the Working Programme for the period 2013-2014, based on the work of the ExCom, with regards to the work of EU WG, ENGSO EDU and ENGSO Health, ENGSO Youth and the proposal for the ENGSO Programmes and Priorities and Actions Plan for the current and forthcoming period 2013-2014, including the priorities that shall be focused on the major projects of ENGSO bodies as mentioned above.

ENGSO Youth Chair, Jan Holze, presented the plan for ENGSO Youth activities and gave brief overview of the opportunities and benefits for ENGSO Youth and its members to act upon, showed the challenges ENGSO Youth is facing, and finally presented new strategy for youth sport in Europe related to the new circumstances for funding possibilities.

ENGSO Policy and Communication Officer, Heidi Pekkola, presented the new ENGSO Communication Plan.

Participants of the ENGSO General Assembly were invited to give their position on the issue of the above documents and presentations and discuss related issues of special concern.

Participants gave their comments on the problems exposed, and shared their thoughts on the presentations that were shown. They officially adopted the ENGSO Work Programme for the period 2013-2014.

7. ENGSO Budget 2013.

ENGSO Treasurer Carlos Cardoso presented the proposal for ENGSO Budget 2013 regarding the possibilities for additional financing and all planned activities for the short term period, taking into account the obligations undertaken by ENGSO within the Strategic and Action Plan and in accordance with the adopted financial regulations. He underlined the complexity of financing in ENGSO and all responsibilities towards its stakeholders.

Due to the fact that following the elections a new Executive Committee was to be formed, no mid and/or long-term proposals could be made.

The proposal for the budget was unanimously adopted

8. Election of the new ExCom Members

Following an explanation by the Secretary General, Predrag Manojlovic, that, in accordance with the ENGSO Statutes, delegates were able to vote by acclamation as for each vacancy there was only one proposed candidate, the delegates were asked to proceed with the election as proposed, which was unanimously accepted.

Following the nominations, the 21st ENGSO General Assembly unanimously elected the following members for the ENGSO ExCom:

- **ENGSO Vice-President:**
 - **Predrag Manojlovic (SRB)**

- **ENGSO Secretary General:**
 - **Helena Carlsson (SWE)**

- **ENGSO ExCom Members**
 - **Sallie BARKER (GBR)**
 - **Lotte Buchert (DEN)**

New members were congratulated for their election.

Following the election procedure, the Assembly was also asked to elect Auditing Countries or persons for the year 2013.

Having thanked the auditors for their professional work and engagement for the year 2012, Ms. Pirjo Rusanen from Finland and Karin van Willigen from the Netherlands, it was suggested to the general Assembly that they continue with their work, having all the experience and knowledge for this important task, which was unanimously accepted by the ENGSO GA Delegates.

10. ENGSO Members Report

This item involved the presentation of member countries' annual reports, all advantages and disadvantages the new online system involved. In absence of Jan Boháč, creator of the method, the results from this survey were presented and several countries presented their activities in the previous period.

11. Next ENGSO FORA & General Assemblies

ENGSO FORA

In spite of the plans to hold the forthcoming ENGSO Forum in Strasbourg, France, new offers came from Albania and Lithuania. The proposals are yet to be confirmed officially.

Member countries were invited to propose organisation of the Fora in 2013 and onward.

ENGSO GAs

The organization of the next General Assembly, to be held in spring 2014 should be confirmed in the forthcoming period, as the offers from Greenland and France for the next period were yet to be confirmed officially.

Member countries were invited to confirm and propose organisation of the ENGSO GA in 2014 and onward.

President Kervinen thanked for the proposals, promising to have more information within a short period.

11. Miscellaneous

At the proposal of the ENGSO ExCom that received an application for membership from the Flemish Sport Federation and their Statutes, it was decided that Philippe de Witte, EU Projects Manager presented their application to become member of ENGSO.

ENGSO's member organisation from Belgium is Belgium Olympic Committee and in order to have another member from the same country, ExCom would need to have an official written approval of its current member.

ENGSO GA accepted the presentation and gave the mandate to the ExCom to consider further their application in sense of ENGSO Statutes.

12. Closing of the General Assembly

President of the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation, Birgitta Kervinen, thanked the members of the General Assembly and the guests of this event for their active participation and invaluable contribution, ENGSO Youth for their fresh approach and great ideas and work, and expressed sincere gratitude to the hosts, Olympic Committee of Serbia (SRB), as well as the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Serbia for the remarkable event they organised in Belgrade, Serbia, for all their efforts in making all participants feel welcome and at home, and everyone for making this a very successful ENGSO General Assembly.

She once again thanked the Secretariat in Belgrade for their activity and work over the previous eight years and wished that the new Secretariat would continue in future with the same enthusiasm.

With the words of gratitude, President Kervinen closed the 21st ENGSO General Assembly, held in Belgrade, June 7 & 8, 2013.

In Belgrade, June 2013