

Round Table on Sport for All in Europe

Meeting organised by ENGSO in Frankfurt/M (Germany)

on January 14 –15, 2006

Summary of Results

Following the invitation by ENGSO President Bengt Sevelius, representatives of seven European and international sport for all associations active in Europe met in Frankfurt to continue their exchange of views on possibilities of closer cooperation among their respective organisations. On the one hand, for further development of sport-political interaction to the benefit of strengthening the voice of sport for all in Europe, it was felt that the Round Table continued to represent an appropriate platform for general communication and co-ordination. On the other hand, in particular with regard to major project-related co-operation, Mogens Kirkeby (ISCA) submitted information about an Alliance of Sport for All, already institutionalized by the two world organisations ISCA and TAFISA, together with the European CESS. This Alliance was open to other potential partners who would be expected to provide practical activities as well as human and financial resources (see presentation paper attached). Participants felt that this initiative was very valuable and interesting, however, for the majority of organisations represented in the Round Table, due to lack of employed staff and financial restrictions, it would be difficult to join this Alliance at present.

Another central topic on the agenda was related to the importance of health, fitness and diet for sport organisations in view of future quality programmes for sport and physical activity. Nominated by ENGSO, Professor Winfried Banzer (Germany) is the only delegate participating in the “EU Platform for Diet, Health and Physical Activities” who represents organised sport in this body. He informed about an astonishing deficit in the awareness of other sectors (including the EU itself) regarding the outstanding role which the organised sport movement could play in the field of prevention. Thus he considered it a clear need and a good possibility to position organised sport, with its large network of local clubs and a variety of special health and fitness programmes already existing in different European countries, as a highly qualified, competent and experienced partner for the activities and aims of this platform. There was general agreement among the Round Table participants that this working field would have an increasing significance for the activities of their respective organisations and represent an important area for closer mutual co-operation and support.

Besides providing information on the current merger process of the German DSB and NOC, which in May this year would form a new “German Olympic Confederation”, DSB Vice- President Hermann Hartmann and the Director of Sport for All Andreas Klages acted as hosts of a social dinner. On this occasion “newcomers” in the Round Table got the opportunity to become more familiar with the “older” ones. For ENGSO, represented by President Bengt Sevelius, Jan Holze (ex officio member of the ENGSO Executive Committee in his capacity as Chairman of the ENGSO Youth) and Marlis Rydzy-Götz (Special Adviser to the Executive Committee), this Round Table had shown that there was still a need for such a platform of communication and for a co-ordinating role of ENGSO, but it had also fulfilled part of its original purpose, namely serving as an encouragement for the development of new forms of collaboration and interaction among participating organisations.

(Marlis Rydzy-Götz)