

ENGSO Policy Review Working Group – CONCLUSIONS

1. Background – mandate.

In September 2009 the Executive Committee of ENGSO appointed a Policy Review Working Group (PRWG) based on proposal of Members at General Assembly in Paris 2009. The „terms of reference“ for PRWG by ENGSO´s ExCom included – among other issues – the following:

„Regarding the work of the former Development Group and especially in accordance with the decisions made by the ENGSO GA 2009 in Paris and proposal of ENGSO members, a new Working Group, ENGSO Policy Review Working Group, will be established with the aim at evaluating and reviewing the development process and the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2007-2011.

Objectives

- *To analyze the policy and role of ENGSO in the European Sports Political field*
- *To act as a consultative body for the ExCom*
- *To be responsible for the identifying of new human resources, both paid members of staff and volunteers on the ENGSO Committees and Working Groups, from amongst the membership.“*

2. Observations – procedure.

The PRWG has organised three working sessions, and has reported to ENGSO Forums in 2009 and 2010 and the General Assembly in 2010, whereas the PRWG has

- made an effort to analyse why a recently approved Strategic Plan of one quadrennial is being reviewed merely two years into its implementation.
- taken into account the defined role of ENGSO assisting in „improving sports development – from children and youth sport, over „sport for all“ activities to elite sport – in the Member Countries.“
- respected the clear objectives and principles set out from the start of the PRWG to realize who ENGSO is working for and what are their needs and interests, ENGSO not having an autonomus purpose for existing beyond the Members' interests and needs.
- observed and taken into account external changes in the European Sports political field, and internal changes within ENGSO, drawing new boundaries for ENGSO and its Members.
- carried out analysis and opened discussion on the current and/or desired structural location of ENGSO in the European Sports political field.

The PRWG would like to draw the ExComs attention to...

...the already submitted opinion that the internal structure and framework of ENGSO is strong – although a clear communication plan is needed where stakeholders are identified, and channels / objectives of communication towards those stakeholders defined.

...inconsistency in ENGSO´s defined functions according to it´s website on the one hand and the General Statutes on the other hand. Current actions and functions of ENGSO appear to be not fully consistent with this, either by exceeding these perimeters or not fulfilling the defined functions properly.

...weaknesses in connection between ENGSO´s bodies and the Members – this among other being reflected in insufficient participation at ENGSO´s events, distance from political decision makers of Members, and lack of information of needs and interests of Members for role and functions of ENGSO.

...possible conflicts in the composition of membership within ENGSO, whereby a great majority of Members are Olympic Committees where a clear information or definition is not adequately available for background and need/value for current ENGSO´s functions.

...that profile and respect of ENGSO could be raised towards stakeholders, internally and externally.

3. Conclusions – proposals

The PRWG concludes it to be priority of the ExCom to analyse and – if needed – amend the membership level of ENGSO towards the current functions. This should be carried out in the following steps.

- To have ExCom members – or other advisors – visit Members for analysing politically and technically their needs for ENGSO's political functions at European level – and subsequently discuss/assess how ENGSO can increase cooperation and internally/externally meet their needs.
- To meet with Sports Ministers and governmental representatives (GOs) in the Member Countries to achieve comprehensive understanding of the status of Members within the respective country, and assess optional changes respectively – and with mutual flow of information to promote ENGSO's role, functions, profile and respect with governments and GOs at national level.
- Based on assessment of previous steps, respectively to allow for opening of membership within ENGSO for e.g more than one organisation within each Member Country.
 - This will need detailed work on membership criteria – and process of application.

The PRWG concludes that it is for the benefit of the objectives of ENGSO to cooperate with the diverse and various NGOs working within similar sport political areas in Europe, and provide for even becoming an open membership (or associate) umbrella for all Pan-European Sport NGOs with shared objectives.

The PRWG supports – taking previous comments into account – that ENGSO remains as a voice for its Members at European Sports Political level, in good cooperation with other stakeholders. This requires ENGSO to be stronger platform in sharing information – improving communication with Members – and be clear on which messages and objectives to transfer from Members to the European level.

The PRWG on the other hand strongly proposes that more emphasis of ENGSO be directed internally to Members, and taking on functions in direct cooperation with Members, their respective governments and other stakeholders – according to analysis of needs and added value to the Members. This could include

- analysing / transferring model practises of good governance / legal structure in Member countries
- actively campaigning for autonomy of Members – in return improved governance of Members.
- facilitating platform for (European) sport policy at national level – in cooperation with stakeholders
- providing licensing / certifying of sport bodies for governmental institutions / GOs – quality control
- increasing focus on educational roles and connecting academic institutions to the sports society.
- transferring actively best-practise sport projects of e.g. anti-obesity between Member Countries.
- initiating active cooperation for recruiting, motivating and educating volunteers at grassroot levels.

The PRWG believes these functions should fit within objectives of ENGSO, and should provide diverse opportunities for new financial resources – without overlapping, in unexploited areas of European sports.

The PRWG suggests a study on ENGSO becoming the European sports organisation which regularly brings together interests of sporting GOs and NGOs in Europe – optionally by an annual conference.

The PRWG is consent with participation of Projects at ad hoc basis within the objectives of ENGSO – and even beyond the defined objectives if ExCom regards this as sports related and within interest of Members – as long as this can provide new financial resources without conflict with Members.

The PRWG suggest an immediate work to be launched to have consistency with ENGSO General Statutes and defined functions by ExCom – this including both public website and actions by ExCom.

The PRWG recommends only one secretariat / residence to be decided for ENGSO.

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