ISCA Europe – report for General Assembly 2010

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**Short introduction of ISCA Europe**

2009 General Assembly decided to establish ISCA EUROPE with the purpose to strengthen European Continental sport political cooperation. ISCA EUROPE was established primarily:

•To create a platform for sport political activities in Europe

• To establish a strong sport political cooperation between European organizations giving priority to ‘Sport for All’

• To establish a strong cooperation between top leaders of the European ‘Sport for All’ sector

• To establish a stronger European ‘Sport for All’ profile.

• To address and influence relevant external European institutions, which have influence on policies and actions for sport and physical activity. (European Commission and Parliament, Council of Europe, World Health Organisation /Europe, etc.)

ISCA consist of all ISCA member organizations in Europe - not exclusively the European Union. ISCA EUROPE is governed by a three person Steering Committee. Filippo Fossati (President of UISP Italy) was elected as Chair person and additionally Benny Andreasen (board member of DGI, Denmark) and Jean-Claude Besnard (board member of UFOLEP, France). The Steering Board works in close cooperation with ISCA president and secretary general.

**Activity report - Overview**

* 1st Top Leader Meeting in Copenhagen 6 March 2010
* Position Paper : “*Working towards evidence based policies for grass-root sport in Europe”* published and presented to the European Commission 1 June 2010
* Public Hearing on Sport and Physical Activity at the European Parliament in Brussels 29 June 2010
* Vision: “100 Million more EU citizens active in sport and physical activity by 2020” published and presented at the Public Hearing 29 June
* 2nd Top Leader Meeting in Brussels 30 June 2010
* Petition Campaign to support the vision: ‘100 Million more EU citizens active in sport and physical activity by 2020” published in August 2010

**Activity report - details**

**1st Top Leader Meeting in Copenhagen 6 March 2010**

22 Top Leaders from 12 European Sport for All organizations participated in the first ISCA EUROPE meeting. The meeting had focus on the three topics:

* Financing Sport for All
* Volunteers and organizational structures
* Facilities

The three topics were considered as cornerstones of the Sport for All sector and were priorities in the Position Paper. (Report and presentations from the meeting are available at ISCA website)

**Position Paper : “*Working towards evidence based policies for grass-root sport in Europe***

The Position Paper was published and presented to the European Commission 1 June 2010. It served as ISCA’s contribution to the European Commission on-line consultation of the coming EU sport program.

The Position Paper was circulated via ISCA Newsletter and is also included in the on-line media euractiv ([www.euractiv.com](http://www.euractiv.com)). The Position Paper is included in this file.

**Public Hearing on Sport and Physical Activity at the European Parliament in Brussels 29 June 2010**

Via the Position Paper we made contact to Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Mr Seán Kelly, Ireland. Together with Mr Kelly a Public Hearing on sport and physical activity was established. The Public Hearing took place at the European Parliament the 29 June 2010. The speakers were: *MEP Seán Kelly* (EPP, IE), *MEP Emma McClarkin* (ECR, UK), *MEP Joanna Senyszyn* (S&D, PL), *Nicola Porro*, Professor Casino University, Italy, *Pedro Velazquez*, Deputy Head of Sport Unit, European Commission, *Filippo Fossati* and *Mogens Kirkeby*,

The Public Hearing was well attended and recognized by 50 persons representing national Sport for All organizations, international sport federations, ministries, European umbrella organizations for fitness and physical activity, sports industry and medias.

The ISCA EUROPE vision “100 Million more EU citizens active in sport and physical activity by 2020” was presented at the Public Hearing by ISCA

Mrs Senyszyn presented the coming the framework of a “Written Declaration for increased financial support for Grassroots sport in Europe” and invited us to the Launch in September.

**2nd Top Leader Meeting in Brussels 30 June 2010**

24 Top Leaders from 14 Europeans Sport for All organizations were represented at this meeting. The meeting was hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels.

Mrs Erika Koller from the European Economic and Social Committee presented the EESC and the procedure for the EESC to give advice and input on the various processes in the European Commission – including the development of an EU Sport program.

The meeting dealt with three topics;

* Sport and Health
* Sport and Social Inclusion
* Anti-doping in Sport for All and Physical Activity sector (fitness).

Mr Bart Ooijen from the Sport Unit of the European Commission gave a speech on Sport and Social Inclusion. The speech referred to the initiatives of the Commission as well as the latest proposal from the Spanish EU Presidency (1. January 2010 to 30 June 2010) to establish a Working Group on sport and Social Inclusion. (A Working Group consist of a number of members states and some observers).

ISCA has requested to become observer of the Working Group on sport and Social Inclusion and will be invited to the next meeting in the first half of 2011.

After the Second Top Leader meeting a resumé and conclusion of the Seminar was sent to Commissioner (Education and Culture) Mrs. Vassilliou and Commissionr Mr Dally – (Health and Consumer protection) by letter from Filippo/Mogens

**Petition Campaign to support the vision –** [**www.sportvision2020.eu**](http://www.sportvision2020.eu)

As a follow up on the Public Hearing we launched a campaign to give people a possibility to support the vision ‘100 Million more EU citizens active in sport and physical activity by 2020”



The Vision has been quite easy to communicate to MEP’s the Commission and medias. The Petition has met broad support from various organizations individual and shown us that such campaign with very simple slogan can be one of the future tools for ISCA EUROPE to communicate our Sport for All political messages. See the Petition supporters at ISCA website:

**Other meetings and initiatives**

External:

**Launch of the “Written Declaration” 14 September at the European Parliament.**

Five MEP’s : Joanna Senyszyn (S&D, PL),Seán Kelly (EPP, IE) Ivo Belet (EPP, BE) , Mary Honeyball (S&D , UK) and Hannu Takkula (LIB, FIN) has initiated a “Written Declaration on increased support for Grassroots Sport”.

The Written Declaration was presented at a meeting in the European Parliament 14 September. Beside the 5 MEP’s Mogens Kirkeby was invited to speak at the launching event. Beside this Filippo Fossatti, UISP international coordinator Daniela Conti and Jacob Schouenborg participated in the launch event and Filippo and Daniela met with Italian MEP’s to encourage them to support the Written Declaration.

The process for the Written Declaration is, that if it is possible to have at least 50 % of the 736 Members of the European Parliament to sign the Written Declaration before 6 December 2010, then the Parliament has to process the Written Declaration to Members States and to the Commission.

We have sent a letter to all ISCA members in the EU to suggest them to contact their national MEP’s and encourage them to sign the Written Declaration. (Written Declaration is included below)

Internal:

During the last year the Steering Committee has met the 12 December 2009; 7/8 February 2010; 31 March 2010 and 30 August 2010. At the meeting in August the future activities and governing structure was discussed.

**ISCA EUROPE – Future**

The first year of ISCA EUROPE gave very good results on communicated ISCA political messages to central members of the European Parliament and the European Commission. The Steering Committee suggests that this strategy is continued and developed in the coming year.

We have started to create a network between the Top Leaders of ISCA EUROPE members through two meetings in 2010. The Steering Committee suggest to put efforts into such meeting. The goal is that he Top Leader gets knowledge about and inspiration from Sport for All realities in the different European countries. Such knowledge can be used in the national political argumentation. (Example: Top leader from country A refer to “good practice” or “bad practice” in Country B and uses this in national political argumentation).

The Steering Committee suggest that Top Leader meetings can be organized both as plenary session and in smaller group divided by personal interest of the Top Leaders.

This year the Top Leader meeting has recruited participants among the ISCA members. The Steering Committee suggests that Sport for All interested non-member Top Leaders are invited where relevant.

Language might not be a barrier, however it is considered as an obstacle for the free floating debate.

We should therefore consider a meeting format with translation if it is possible to finance.

The Steering Committee suggests the following topics to be given priority in 2011:

* EU Sport Program
* Volunteering - recruitment, education and support to volunteers in Sport for All sector
* Sport for All and the environmental challenges
* ?

**Governing structure – Steering Committee**

The first year ISCA EUROPE has operated with a flat structure consisting of all European Member and with a three person Steering Committee having the role of initiating, planning and implementing the activities.

The Steering Committee has discussed three future scenarios:

1. **Continue existing model**

Same member base ISCA members in Europe (However, free access for non-members can be developed). New or re-election of chair and steering group. Time period can be considered.

1. **Open model with invitees**

Instead of being an organization of the members of ISCA within the European continent an open model is introduced. An open model could extend invitations to both national and European organizations. Such organization would possible need new (less ISCA profiled) name and leadership. Depending on which organizations would be invited, there might also be a need a change in focus/activities. (example: if non-specific SFA organizations from the physical activity sector are included other topics than topics closely related to SFA issues should be on the program). The model would change in direction of less ISCA focused and with more than Sport for All topics.

1. **Strategic partnership within or beyond Sport for All sector**

ISCA establish defined cooperation with one or more organizations/institutions, either within or without the Sport for All sector. ISCA identify one or more organizations and establish a strategic cooperation. The partners and the cooperation could be Sport for All centered or have a wider focus (physical activity, health, social inclusion, citizenship, etc.)

The model would change in direction of less ISCA profiled organization.

**The Steering Committee suggests** that we continue with the existing model that ISCA EUROPE is the European ISCA members. However, it should be opened to relevant national Sport of All interested organization. Also organizations which are not - yet – members of ISCA.

**The Steering Committee suggests** that we continue with the existing governing structure with at Steering Committee of three persons (1 Chair and 2 members).

The European members at the ISCA General Assembly should elect the chair and the members of the Steering Committee.

Candidate for chair and member of the Steering Committee can put forward there candidature to the ISCA Secretary General. The Deadline will be Saturday 23 October at 12.00.

The current chair Filippo Fossati is candidate and standing for re-election

The current member Benny Andreasen is candidate and standing for re-election

The current member Jean-Claude Besnard is candidate and standing for re-election

**Appendixes:**

ISCA Position Paper: <http://www.isca-web.org/files/ISCA_Europe/ISCA%20Europe%20position.pdf>

Petition: <http://sportvision2020.eu/>

Written Declaration on Increased financial support to grassroots sport in Europe: <http://www.isca-web.org/files/ISCA_Europe/Decl_EN_SPORT_FINAL.pdf>

EU Sports Milestones: See below.

EU Sport Milestones

**European Union expected Milestones on Sport**

31 Aug. 2010: Deadline for submission of proposals.

Nov. 2010: Grant agreements to be signed.

Nov. 2010: Commission communication on impact of Lisbon Treaty on sport.

Nov. 2010: Commission draft decision on EU sports programme and budget.

2010, 2011: Preparatory actions for sport.

2012-2013: First limited EU sports programme.

2014-2020: First full EU sports programme

**Historical Milestones on Sport in EU**

\* 11 July 2007: Commission adopted a White Paper on Sport.

\* 8-9 Oct. 2007: Commission conference to discuss the White Paper with sport stakeholders (see

conference report and structured dialogue paper).

\* 18 Oct. 2007: EU leaders agree on the final text of the 'Reform Treaty'.

\* 13 Dec. 2007: EU leaders signed the new EU Treaty.

\* 17 March 2008: EU sports ministers adopted a joint declaration on Social Significance and Dialogue in Sport, outlining the direction for a European Programme for Sports.

\* 8 May 2008: Parliament plenary voted on a motion for resolution on the White Paper on Sport.

\* 26-27 Nov. 2008: The first European Sport Forum took place in Biarritz, France. Read the report from the forum.

\* 12 Dec. 2008: European Council adopted a Declaration on Sport.

\* March 2009: Commission adopted its €7.5 million 2009 annual work programme on grants and contracts for the preparatory action in the field of sport and for the special annual events.

\* 15 May 2009: Commission launched a €4 million call for proposals for "preparatory actions in the field of sport".

\* 29-30 Oct. 2009: Final conference of the EU:Sport:Future project to present recommendations for the future EU policy.

\* 1 Dec. 2009: The Lisbon Treaty enters into force, giving the EU a competence on sport.

\* 15 Jan. 2010: Deadline for EU 2020 public consultation on EU's long term strategy.

\* First half of 2010: Commission to consult member states and stakeholders regarding the implementation of Lisbon Treaty's sport provisions.

\* 25-26 Feb. 2010: Informal meeting of EU Sport Directors.

\* 19-20 April 2010: The second European Sport Forum took place (see forum report).

\* 10 May 2010: First official EU Sports Council.

\* May 2010: Commission to launch call for proposals under the 2010 Preparatory Action in the field of sport.

\* Nov. 2010: Commission communication on the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on sport.

\* Nov. 2010: Commission draft decision on the EU's sports programme and budget.

\* 2010, 2011: Preparatory actions for sport.

\* 2012: First limited EU sports programme (2012-2013) expected to come into force.

\* 2014-2020: First full EU sports programme