

The European Association of Consultants to and about Not-For-Profit Organisations



WINTER CONFERENCE, BRUSSELS

29-30 JANUARY 2009

EUConsult conferences provide top-level third sector consultants from across Europe with an active forum for exchange and learning. Non-members are most welcome to participate and find out about the benefits of EUConsult membership first hand.



In 2009 EUConsult is delighted to be hosted by the King Baudouin Foundation for its Winter Conference.

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Programme for Thursday, 29 January

VISIT TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On the Thursday afternoon participants will be able to take part in a guided tour of the European Parliament.



19.30 RECEPTION AND DINNER AT THE ROUGE TOMATE

Belgium is famous for its good food and excellent beer! Conference participants will have the chance to sample both at the Rouge Tomate, which is located on the stylish Avenue Louise. The contemporary atmosphere of the private rooms in this town house, dating from 1883, is the perfect setting for a relaxed evening of networking. The Rouge Tomate, which recently opened a second restaurant in New York, promotes the Sanitas Per Escam philosophy with special attention to “social and environmental consciousness” and “a balanced approach to sourcing and preparing food”. We will be lucky to share a special evening together at a venue that is quite a bit more than just a restaurant!



Programme continued overleaf...



Conference at the King Baudouin Foundation, Friday 30 January

09.45-10.00 *Registration and Coffee*

10.00-10.15 WELCOME ADDRESS

Luc Tayart de Borms, Managing Director of the King Baudouin Foundation, Belgium

Luc Tayart de Borms will welcome conference participants and give an overview of the Foundation's key activities.

10.15-11.05 FOSTERING CROSS-BORDER GIVING IN EUROPE – PUBLIC INITIATIVES AND TRANSNATIONAL GIVING EUROPE

Ludwig Forrest, Philanthropy Advisor, King Baudouin Foundation, Belgium

Veronika Hofmann, Board Member, Maecenata International, Germany

It is well known now that cross-border philanthropy is still not free in Europe. Private donors wanting to support a foreign beneficiary within Europe do not benefit from tax incentives. But interesting national and European developments and the growth and extension of private initiatives like the Transnational Giving Europe network are clear signs that we are progressing (slowly) towards a more enabling environment for European philanthropy.

11.05-11.30 *Break*

11.30-12.30 FINDING A VOICE – THE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE EU-LEVEL VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Anne-Sophie Parent, Director, AGE/European Older People's Platform, Belgium

Diogo Pinto, Secretary General, European Youth Forum, Belgium

Trying to ensure your organisation's voice is heard in the corridors of Brussels can be a lonely task. Leading UK organisations like Age Concern and Help the Aged have joined with their EU peers to create AGE. But how do you present the disparate voices of even one sector at the EU level? How do you disseminate the changing policy messages being developed in Brussels? How can you forge a sense of a single voice for ageing or other social fields for a Union of 450 million people? And what are the organisational challenges?

12.30-13.15 *Lunch*

13.15-14.15 A COMPLEX COUNTRY WITH A COMPLEX CIVIL SOCIETY? THE THIRD SECTOR IN BELGIUM – AN OVERVIEW

Ilja De Coster, Director, Ethicom, Belgium

Belgium is a small country full of complexities. Different language communities make up a very complex federal state structure. What effect does this have on today's civil society? How important is the not-for-profit sector in a welfare state such as Belgium? This session will take a look at the kind of organisations that exist and the recent developments in civil society, including the place for consultancy in Belgium's third sector.

14.15-15.00 HOW TO MAKE YOUR NGO VOICE IMPACT ON EU INSTITUTIONS

Brigitte Degen, Policy Officer, Employment and Social Affairs DG, European Commission, Belgium

Jeremy Smith, NGO Consultant, Netherlands

Having something to say is not the same as being heard. This is certainly true of complex institutions such as the European Commission or Parliament. As a significant funder of NGOs, the Commission is keen to hear the voice of civil society. But this is not the same as those voices truly influencing policies which have real impact on everyday lives. So how do NGOs and their umbrella bodies create real dialogue with policy makers and how do policy makers engage with the sector? What are the case-histories of good practice, the success stories and pitfalls?

15.00-15.30 *Break*

15.30-16.30 DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN FOUNDATION SECTOR

Gerry Salole, Chief Executive, European Foundation Centre, Belgium

The European Foundation Centre is an international association of foundations and corporate funders dedicated to creating an enabling legal and fiscal environment for foundations. The EFC also documents the foundation landscape and works towards strengthening the infrastructure of the sector, promoting collaboration to advance the public good in Europe and beyond. In this session, Gerry Salole will update participants on the activities of the EFC and the latest developments in the European foundation sector.

16.30-17.00 STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFULLY SECURING FUNDING FROM THE EU

Alexandra Debaisieux, Director, YTES, France

European institutions are providing funding for not-for-profit organisations in many different areas. How can you keep up to date regarding existing funding schemes? What do you need to know to put together successful proposals? This session will address these and other crucial aspects of obtaining funding from the EU.

17.00 *Close*