

**CONTRIBUTION OF EUSA TO THE AIMS
AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**
by **Dinos Pavlou, Vice-President EUSA**

The general idea behind the foundation of the European Union was the initiative of the Governments of five European Countries to facilitate the development of Trade and Commerce among them.

Gradually they understood that their cooperation could expand to a wider cooperation in almost all the aspects of life not only in the original five countries but also in almost all the European countries.

Today we have reached the number of 15 countries and in the next year another 10 countries will become full members of the new European family, thus raising the numbers to 25.

Each member, big or small in population, has its own expectations from this membership, depending on the internal conditions, the regional conditions and the future prospects, which will result from the proper operation of the Union.

These expectations are not restricted any more to the development of the trade and commerce only. The European Union went many steps further in its aims and objectives. It shows a great respect to human rights, to the human dignity and all the human freedoms, which raise the standard of living.

At the same time it requires from all the members to respect the differences in the culture of the various peoples of the different countries and accept their individualities.

But how can this be achieved? How can all these peoples understand and respect each other? Is it enough to send a few representatives to the European Parliament, to discuss and vote some general rules and laws to be applied by the peoples of the different countries, and say that we succeeded to make the European people?

In my opinion there is a lot more to be done before we arrive to the “European people”.

People must be facilitated to travel to other countries and mix with other people. They must have the chance to come in contact with other cultures, with different ways of thinking. They must also have the chance to discuss with other people and try to understand their thinking. This is the only way to accept each other and to enable them to live the one next to the other, and to work together to achieve the noble objectives of the European Union.

Here, the European University Sports Association comes in.

The objectives of the EUSA include the following:

- to represent university sports in general and the national university sports federations in particular in relation to European organisations, and

- to co-ordinate competitions, conferences, mass-sport-events and other activities both at university and national level.

Within these objectives the EUSA contributes and can contribute further to the aims and objectives of the European Union in the following ways:

- the organisation of the annual European University Championships in a different country every year, gives the chance to many young people to visit a different country, stay together, discuss with each other play together and develop friendships which may last for a life-time.
- the organisation of the EUSA Symposium, with its philosophy and structure- which consists of formal seminars with discussions among students and officials, sports activities among all of the participants, cultural activities from various participants and visits to historical, cultural and other places of interest in the hosting country-brings all these people closer together and help them understand each other much better and easier.
- the establishment of the Students Commission has already showed very good results. A European student network has been established and our students can communicate throughout Europe much easier and more frequently than many of the officials.
- The development of the “Student Exchange Programme” seems to have greater acceptance within the objectives of the European Union, especially under the “Thematic Networks” of the programme ERASMUS.

Of course these contributions, as well as more others that can be studied and developed in the near future, should not be restricted within our seminars. They should be formulated and promoted to the appropriate offices of the European Union for their information and for their support.

For this reason I would suggest the following actions to the Executive Committee of EUSA.

- a. Prepare a plan of specific objectives for the near future which, being within the general objectives of EUSA, would also satisfy some of the aims of the European Union, in the area of Education, Environment and Public Health.
- b. Members of the Executive Committee meet with the appropriate offices of the European Union in order to present EUSA as an autonomous organisation, which is ready and willing to co-operate with the E.U. in the achievement of the common objectives.
- c. Ask for the recognition of the E.U. as the only University Sports Association operating in Europe.
- d. Ask for moral and financial support of the E.U. for the achievement of the specific objectives through the specific activities, which will be presented.

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