

Europa Agenda 2020

10 October 2015 10:45

Dialog Hall

Introductory speech by chairman Prof. Dr. Letzgus on the creation of a European Lions image in the areas of youth work, social engagement and cultural activities. With reference to the Agenda 2020 of the European Union, which focuses on sustainable growth and employment, Lions in Europe should draw up a complementary agenda that reflects the ethos and approach of the Lions as regards the bridge-building between nations, with particular focus on the organisation's core areas of activity (youth work, social issues and culture). Entering into a dialogue with the respective EU commission with a view of establishing a long-term cooperation would be the obvious first step. In order to succeed, it would be advisable to set up a working group involving a number of supranational districts and multi-districts. The already existing supranational structures that have proven very successful could serve as a template for the further development of decentralised groups, as they provide a good platform for networking.

The next speaker, Markus Ferber MEP, outlined the objectives of the Agenda 2020 of the European Union and explained the approach and envisaged outcomes by picking up a few examples of pressing current problems (including migration policy, currency stabilisation, youth unemployment, energy, telephony, mobility, studying abroad, establishment of interfaces at administrative level, learning foreign languages by staying in foreign countries, etc.)

The contributions of the next speakers concerned existing projects of supranational organisations, their history, objectives and outlook for the future. Per Christensen reported on the work of the Nordic Council. Lutz Baastrup spoke about the Baltic Sea Lions and Robert Gareissen presented the work and aims of the Alpine Lions Cooperation.

Closing the session, Lutz Sass reported on the current state and activities of the Youth Exchange project in Europe, referring back to the envisaged Lions identity in the fields of youth work, social engagement and cultural exchange. It became clear that individual states and districts tackled the issue from very different angles and with a different focus, which can hamper the cooperation and interaction across national boundaries.

About focus.