

## Motion to Congress about vegetarian food

We suggest at least 50 % of the food at Active's seminars and camps will be vegetarian, that is at least one dish (lunch or dinner) per day.

### Background

Active is a solidarity organization that gathers people from all over Europe. We can make a difference in the world. An easy step in order to be more solitary towards our planet and the animals that we share it with is to eat vegetarian food instead of meat. If we would decrease meat consumption with 50 % on our bigger events, that would make a big difference in a long term perspective. Not only would fewer animals die, but we would also do nature a great favour. In fact, 18 % of global warming is due to meat industry. Meat production takes a lot of the earth's resources like water and ground where to grow animal feed. It is not environmentally sustainable to first grow for instance soy and corn and feed the animals, and thereafter eat these animals, when humans could have eaten the soy and corn directly. 7 % of all world's water resource is used in this production of animal food, meanwhile every 5<sup>th</sup> person doesn't have daily access to clean drinking water. For these reasons, we don't believe it is a huge sacrifice for anyone to eat more vegetarian food. This is solidarity in action! Therefore, for the reasons mentioned above, we suggest that Active's seminars and camps have at least one vegetarian dish (lunch or dinner) per day.

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Source: Djurens Rätt (Swedish animal right's organization)

# **Development of political work**

## **Introduction**

Active is a unique youth organization – not just because of its philosophy and because it is the only European temperance organization but also because of the pillars the organization is standing on. Active functions as umbrella organization for its member organizations, that enables and facilitates exchange of knowledge and experiences that creates activities in a multicultural and tolerant environment for young sober Europeans and that helps both individuals and organizations to grow and develop. At the same time Active functions, and should function as advocacy organization which invests efforts to make the world a more sober, a better place by sharpening European alcohol policies. Active is unique and outstanding in this holistic approach and needs permanent and continuous development and improvement.

## **Challenge**

The world will only become more sober, more democratic and safer for Europe's youth if Active manages to continue to work in both these ways. The first one is not possible without the other one. On the contrary, both support and give energy to each other. The advocacy work Active successfully conducted in 2009 and 2010 clearly showed that Active needs to be visible and perceivable in the political arenas on European level in order to access financing from the European Commission and by doing so being able to get grants and secure Active activities in a long-term perspective. This is an important fact and the challenge we stand in front of.

The other fact is that there is a need for Active to be the voice for restrictive alcohol policies in Europe. Reality shows that more and more processes are started on European level that then influence member states – even if they are not EU member states; more and more decisions are taken in Brussels which influence how young people in Hamburg, Helsinki, Bratislava, Sofia etc live. What happens in Brussels is highly relevant for the way we grow up in our home

environments, wherever we are situated. In order to protect as many young people as possible all over Europe we are in need of tougher legislation in questions of alcohol and other drugs.

## **Solution**

Main aim of this motion is that Active will be able to influence the key political actors effectively and continuously as well as being able to continuously be present in Brussels. This will add an important and all too often overheard voice and perspective on policy making, contributing to better decisions.

In order to achieve the main aim, we propose for the Active congress to decide

**That** Active continuously is visible in the most important political forum, debates and processes on European level.

**That** Active has met 50 EU parliamentarians by the congress 2012 through its different member organizations.

**That** Active is seen as important resource for the decision makers in alcohol policies by the congress 2012.

**That** at least 40 members of Active's different member organizations are present on different occasions in alcohol policy arenas on EU level.

**That** Active arranges at least two seminars in the European Parliament in close cooperation with Members of the European Parliament.

**That** Active contributes with data material from Active's and Member Organization's work to the European Commission in relevant questions.

**That** Active facilitates that at least 10 Member Organizations conduct mystery shopping in relevant numbers, preferably in a systematic approach, by the congress 2012.

**That** Active appears in genuinely European media at least 5 times until the congress 2012.

**That** Active sends out at least 40 press releases until the congress 2012.

**That** Active starts a long-term effort to be able to run an attractive knowledge centre about its core questions in Brussels.

# Change of the structure of Active's Plan of Action

## Introduction

A Plan of Action (PoA) should focus on what should be achieved between two congresses. It should contain the goals prioritized by the congress for the following term. The most important decision making body between two congresses is the Active board. Therefore it is the task of the board to examine the best possible way to achieve the goals chosen and prioritized by the congress. The board decides about the strategy and creates the tactics that suit best for achieving the goals. And the board delegates responsibility and operative work in order to ensure that preferably all goals are achieved.

## Challenge

Active's PoA today contains a variety of items and texts about *what* to do, *how* it should be done and *who* should do it. This makes the PoA unfocused and it limits the board's freedom to choose the most effective tools according the circumstances for reaching the goals set up by the congress. Therefore UNF wants Active to only work with so-called WHAT-goals - goals that tell WHAT should be done, what should be achieved. Explanations, phrases and specifications that involve *how* the goal should be achieved or implemented are the board's task to figure out and decide upon. Statements in the PoA that include who is responsible should be a part of the delegation scheme. It may be necessary for the Active Board to review the delegation scheme.

## Solution

If there only are WHAT-goals in the PoA, the Congress can treat each goal equally and prioritize among them. The PoA will be clearer and micro-management can be avoided by simply focusing on the goal. This gives the Active Board the possibility to decide *how* to reach the goal in the best way based on the situation, resources and conditions there are at hand. To develop a good PoA is a long process but with focus on WHAT-goals we are convinced that it is possible for the next Congress in 2012 to decide about a newly structured PoA.

Therefore UNF would like to give the Active board the task to submit a proposal to the next Congress in 2012 that includes a PoA only containing WHAT-goals.

UNF proposes for the Active congress to decide

**That** the PoA for 2012 will only contain WHAT-goals.

**That** the Active board gets the task to change the structures of the PoA in order for it to contain only WHAT goals.

**To** make clear distinctions between the PoA, the scheme of delegation and the working regulations and to create three separate documents for each.

## **Organizational development**

For Active to achieve its vision of a better world it is essential that both the umbrella organization as well as the member organizations is strong, big and highly performing.

The three fundamental conditions to be able to attain strong, big and highly performing organizations are: a more stable economy, a pluralistic member base and more members in the member organizations. UNF holds that there lies value in us being many and in us notoriously attempting to recruit more members. Among other positive consequences Active gains from this: more young people who actively decide to promote a life free from alcohol and other drugs by their own abstinence; more young people who spread and voice our messages and vision; and a heavier weighing political mandate to speak on behalf of Europe's youth.

UNF further holds that all young people in Europe should be offered the possibility to join Active and in doing so, finding as much fun, learning as much and contributing as much to a better, more sober world as we all who have already joined an Active member organization do. Eventually this is a question of fairness – to offer the chance to become part of our fantastic organization to all young people.

In order for Active to grow and develop it is necessary that its member organizations develop and grow bigger; and for them to be able to do so, it is crucial to give maximum support and encouragement to the leaders for their personal growth and development of their leadership role.

It is necessary to conduct a more sustainable and stable economical work in order to induce long-term strength into Active and give the organization continuity. This will partially be achieved by increasing the number of member organizations and partially by finding access to a variety of financial sources. The simple idea is that more member organization will generate more opportunities for cooperation projects. This creates even more forms of activities to participate in and increases the chances to learn from each other, to spread know-how beyond

borders and by doing so create a bright future for Active. More organizations furthermore mean that more members will get the chance to learn about different cultures, to see the world from different angles, to travel abroad and to create their own exchange and cooperation courses.

There lies an immense value in finding more member organizations from all over Europe, and especially from European Union Member States, because of two reasons: it enables Active to access a bigger variety of financial sources to support activities and projects and it strongly empowers Active to conduct political work in Europe and by doing so changing Europe's attitude towards alcohol.

Having outlined this background we suggest the Active congress to decide

**That** the aim for Active's organizational development be

**That** Active in 2012 is not in need of financing from the member organization other than the membership fee.

**That** Active strives for growth in its economical capabilities by – among others – accessing grants from the European Commission.

**That** Active has member organizations in at least 13 European Union member states by the congress 2012.

**That** at least 60% of Active's member organizations have increased their membership numbers by the congress 2012.

**That** Active increases its total membership number with 25% until the congress 2012.

**That** Active builds and provides a network for the leaders of its member organizations and that it has conducted at least one leadership training course by the congress 2012.

## Motions

### Active board

- does not support the motion Vegetarian food
- does not support the motion Development of Political work
- is in favor of the motion Change of the structure of Active's Plan of Action
- does not support the motion Organizational Development