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## Press information

### **Patronage by EU Parliament at Minority Marathon in Flensburg**

(Flensburg) In the fourth year of its existence the European Minority Marathon (YOU!MM) has won the patronage of another prominent organisation. In his letter to the organising committee the President of the European Parliament, Prof. Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering, wrote that the YOU!MM's objective deserved the patronage of the European Parliament due to its combination of sporting and cultural events and its commitment to a peaceful coexistence of minorities and majorities within Europe. Prof. Dr. Pöttering also described the special relation of the European Parliament to the dialogue of cultures and the protection of national minority groups in majority societies and hoped for a broadening of this process with the help of the Minority Marathon.

The European Minority Marathon starts in Flensburg on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007 for the fourth time. Its track leads partly through the neighbouring Kingdom of Denmark as there exists a special political relationship to its southern national territory caused by the fact that a German minority lives there. On this occasion the Danish Minister of State, Anders Fogh Rasmussen together with the German Chancellor at that time, Gerhard Schröder, had taken on the patronage over the YOU!MM in 2005.

This year, due to the inclusion of the half marathon, 2500 sportsmen and women are expected to take part in the marathon in Flensburg, the place of the general office of the Federal Union of European Nationalities. The titleholder of the male athletes is David Buzza from Cornwall (2:36:04), the German Verena Becker (3:11:11) is the defending champion of the female athletes. Apart from the individual athletes there will also be relay teams consisting of five runners. Last year a first participation record was achieved when 160 relay teams took part in the marathon. In the discipline of in-line skating the participants can also choose between the full and the half marathon. All runners, no matter whether from minority organisations or not, are invited to register online at [www.flensburgmarathon.de](http://www.flensburgmarathon.de) by 18<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

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For further information and inquiries please contact:

Ulrich Scholl

press spokesman

mobile phone +49 177 6060117

**media-office:**

Rathausplatz 15 \* 24937 Flensburg

Telefon +49 461 182 95 23 Telefax +49 461 182 95 25

[info@you-mm.de](mailto:info@you-mm.de)