

European Forum 2014 at Papendal was a great success

On Monday 22 September 2014 various directors, managers and coordinators of High Performance Centers from Europe, South Africa and Canada gathered at Papendal, the Netherlands for the European Forum 2014. The Forum was opened by ASPC vice-present Tapio Korjus and the director of Papendal Jochem Schellens. After the opening the Papendal tour started. During a two hour tour the attendees got a good impression of the various top level facilities of HPC Papendal. After the tour they enjoyed an informal dinner giving them the opportunity to interact and share their knowledge and experiences.

On Tuesday morning the attendees got acquainted with the working methods, structure and services of Papendal during different presentations about the Center for Elite Sports & Education (CTO) Papendal and about the Innovation sports lab Papendal. Then Jochem introduced the topic 'Commercial activities and cooperation' by presenting the commercial activities of Papendal. Then all attendees were divided into four small groups. In four rounds the small groups discussed four topics leading to concrete points of action. After lunch Performance manager of the NOC & Chef de mission of Paralympic TeamNL André Cats held a presentation about integrating Paralympic programs at a HPC and how Paralympic athletes can inspire Olympic athletes. After an active break, a fun workshop wheelchair basketball, two additional presentations were held. Then the group went to the Elite Sports Restaurant at Papendal. Manager and head chef Erik te Velthuis, captivated everybody when he talked about the activities of the Sports restaurant. In small groups nutritious and healthy food was made which tasted really good after a long but very productive day.

Maurits Hendriks, Technical Director of the NOC and Chef de mission of TeamNL, opened the last day of the Forum with his presentation concerning the skating success of TeamNL in Sochi and some key points towards Rio de Janeiro. After his very interesting presentation, Germany and Finland presented their road from Sochi to Rio followed by another very useful interactive session. After the lunch break some attendees joined a small tour by bike to the BMX track, archery range and event terrain of Papendal. In the afternoon the last session took place. This session was about the European Union and how HPC can cooperate to get more funding for projects in Europe.

Ultimately all directors, managers and coordinators left Papendal and the Netherlands to return to their own HPC with a bag full of inspiration.