

Ciné-ONU and the European Commission are proud to present

## Ping Pong

### About the film:

Set in the cut-throat world of international table tennis, Ping Pong is a documentary that features skilled competitors, fierce rivalry and intense performances in the fight to become world champion. There are medals, tears and twitchy nerves. The action criss-crosses the globe from England to Inner Mongolia, where the world championships are held in a stadium full of supporters no less ecstatic than at an international football match. Again and again you are amazed by the mental strength – not to mention fitness – that drives its devotees. And like all great documentaries it lifts the lid on a world you never knew existed. These gladiators of the ping-pong table in their 80s and 90s put the rest of us to shame.

*"It is about ageing, mortality, friendship, ambition and love. The stories stay with you for hours, weeks, after the credits have rolled."* - Matthew Syed - The Times



### Our Speakers



**Hugh Hartford** - Director

Hugh is a producer and director of documentaries for UK and international broadcasters through Banyak films - a company he co-founded. Hugh's last project as producer, 'Us Now', was first aired on Channel 4's international feature documentary slot True Stories. He regularly makes current affairs documentaries for Al Jazeera English. Ping Pong is Hugh's first directed feature documentary.



**Anne-Sophie Parent** - Secretary General of AGE Platform Europe

Anne-Sophie Parent is Secretary General of AGE Platform Europe, a EU network representing directly 30 million people aged 50+ across the EU. Ms Parent has 20 years experience in dealing with policy and project development at EU level, having been Director of Autism-Europe for 6 years and President of the Social Platform for two mandates. She sits on various advisory committees set up by the European Commission, she is a member of the Advisory Group of the United Nations – Economic Commission for Europe Generations and Gender Programme, a member of the Advisory Board of the World Demography & Ageing Forum and she sits on the Steering Committee of the Social Justice Programme of the King Baudouin Foundation.



**Sven Matzke** - Leader of the Team for the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012

Sven Matzke works at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion in the unit dealing with social protection issues. He headed the team which managed the 2012 European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. Sven Matzke recently became team leader for health and long-term care. Since he started his career at the Commission in 2006, he has worked on issues of demographic change and family policy. A German national, Sven Matzke studied political science in Münster, Paris and Berlin.

## **UNECE Index shows that Nordic countries are leaders in Active Ageing in the EU**

Within the framework of the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, UNECE, in cooperation with the European Commission and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna, developed an Active Ageing Index for countries of the European Union. The objective was to measure older people's economic and social activities as well as their capacity for active and healthy ageing.

The Index makes use of a dashboard of indicators, organised under four different domains: (1) Employment of older workers; (2) Social activity and participation of older people; (3) Independent and autonomous living of older persons; and (4) the capability to actively age. The index quantifies the extent to which older people have and can further realise their potential with respect to employment and healthy, independent and autonomous living and in making other unpaid family, social and cultural contributions to the society.

Sweden, Finland and Denmark, followed by the Netherlands, Ireland and the United Kingdom, come at the top of the Active Ageing Index 2012. The index also shows that the majority of the Central and Eastern European countries as well as Malta and Greece have lots of space for improvement when it comes to their active ageing policies.

The experts who developed the index explain that the lower position on the active ageing index in many of the Central and Eastern European countries can be explained by their lower scores in the fourth domain. Indicators like social connectedness, remaining life expectancy at age 55, use of ICT, mental well-being and educational attainment, bring these countries down in the ranking.

On the other hand, Cyprus and Portugal and also Estonia and Bulgaria do particularly well in the employment domain; while Italy, France and Spain are lagging behind. Spain and Italy and also Finland and Belgium do relatively well in the social participation domain, while the outcomes could be better for Estonia, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

**European Year for Active Ageing  
and Solidarity between Generations 2012**



**Future Cine-ONU screenings:**  
11 March: Sweet Dreams

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