

Conclusions

of the Informal Council of Ministers of Sport of the European Union

Lisbon, 10 May, 2000.

The Sports Ministers of the Member States of the European Union, at an informal meeting in Lisbon on May 10th, 2000, agreed, in the framework of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, on the following:

1. To recommend the setting up of an informal working group with the participation of the European Commission, with the aim of proposing to the governments of the Member States the contents of the representation, forms of financing and of a more active participation of the European Union both in the World Anti-Doping Agency and in multilateral relations.
2. To support the Lisbon Declaration on the Social Dimension of Sport, and invite the Council of the European Union, at their meeting in Feira in June 2000, to take up in their conclusions the following text:

«Sport today has a major social dimension in its cultural, scientific, pedagogical, and aesthetic aspects and affirms itself as being of enormous importance as an agent with the ability of enriching the intercultural relations between the countries of the European Union.

When it is given a correct orientation, it constitutes a fundamental means for citizens' education and training, making indispensable contributions to the multilateral training of youth, in the building up of self-esteem and self-confidence, to the promotion of health and professional performance of the populations, to the improvement to the quality of life and of spare time occupation, or as a factor of socio-cultural development and education to democratic citizenship.

Being a clear manifestation of the right to individuality and difference, contemporaneous sports practice is subdivided in expressions that complement each other and need to be taken into account by the European Union's policies related to sport: movement in harmony with the natural environment; the "running faster, during more time, and jumping higher " related to the progress of technological and scientific knowledge.

Being a precious factor of the development of a “feeling of belonging” as an expression of social cohesion and warrant of community life and solidarity, and also being an element of socialisation of groups and individuals that cannot be ignored, contributing to the strengthening of civic society, sport through its federations, associations, educators and voluntary workers, wishes therefore to be respected in its specific aspects within the space of the European Union, and to that end the specific aspects of sport, namely its social dimension, should be taken into consideration in the implementation of community policies.»

And, following the aspects focussed in this Declaration, also agreed to:

3. Recommend, following up the proposal made at Paderborn on June 2nd 1999, the creation of a joint working group with representatives of the European Union and the Commission, charged with studying the harmonisation of the specific aspects of sport with the Treaty of the Union.

* This item was refused by the United Kingdom with regard to the creation of a working group for the inclusion of a new paragraph in the Treaty of the European Union.

4. Recommend the creation of community training and exchange programmes for young sportspersons that can contribute to the exchange of knowledge, on the basis of mutual solidarity, to the development of European sport;
5. Recommend the creation of a sports information network in the framework of the member countries of the European Union as an interactive support of relation between the sporting specifics of each country through the collection, treatment and selective diffusion of information regarding sports policies, regional and local development projects, sports infrastructures, fight against doping, legislation and opportunities of sports training and that allows also the ordinary citizen to reflect on sports development strategies in the European Union.