



EU Conference on Sports Agents

9-10 November 2011, Brussels

Introduction

By organising an EU conference on sports agents, the European Commission implements the action announced in the Communication on Developing the European Dimension in Sport (January 2011): «organise a conference to further explore possible ways for EU institutions and representatives of the sport movement (federations, leagues, clubs, players and agents) to improve the situation with regard to the activities of sports agents.» The conference builds on previous activities of the Commission. The 2007 White Paper on Sport referred to reports of bad practices linked to the activities of sports agents and pointed out that regulations (public and private) applicable to the profession of agents differ greatly, stating that the Commission would evaluate whether action at EU level was necessary to address the issues in question.

The study

The independent study on sports agents carried out by KEA, CDES & EOSE on behalf of the Commission in 2009 provides an overview of the activities of sports agents in the EU. Sports agents are mainly active in team sports such as football, basketball or rugby and to a lesser extent in individual sports. The main problems identified are of an ethical nature, such as financial crime and exploitation of young players, thus threatening the fairness of sporting competitions and the integrity of sportspeople. Concerns also exist regarding the lack of transparency of the financial flows involved. The study also identifies discrepancies in the way the activity of agents is regulated by public authorities and private bodies in Europe.

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The purpose of the EU conference on sports agents is to evaluate the current situation concerning the activities of sports agents in the dominant team sports in Europe. In line with the Commission's function as a facilitator and a partner for dialogue with the sports movement, the conference offers a platform to key stakeholders to exchange views and best practices in place at national and international level. The structure of the conference aims to inform public authorities and sport stakeholders about possible solutions to the problems identified. The conference provides an opportunity to all stakeholders to discuss the role of the EU in this particular context.

The European Commission welcomes all initiatives by stakeholders to develop feasible solutions to the abovementioned problems. With regard to FIFA's approach to implementing a revised regulatory framework as well as other approaches, the conference is intended to serve as a reference point for further debate.