



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

25 October 2007

The Portuguese Presidency of the European Union, in the presence of the European Commission, outlines the following conclusions drawn from the Informal Meeting of Ministers of Sport, which took place in Lisbon on 25 October:

1. The Ministers unanimously applauded the Agreement reached by the heads of State and Government of the European Union regarding the future Treaty of Lisbon and believe, in particular, that the text supplies a solid basis for the development of Sports within the European Union. The Ministers realised the important implications of the Treaty for Sport, namely the possibility of formal meetings among Ministers of Sport and plans for a new European Programme for Sports. They undertook to cooperate with the Commission in the preparatory phase leading to the implementation of the stipulations of the new Treaty in the area of Sports, including the drawing up of a European Programme for Sports, and called for future Presidencies to encourage discussions at Ministerial level.
2. The Ministers applauded and expressed their support for the White Paper on Sport presented by the Commission and emphasised the importance of the broad preparatory phase of consultation and public discussion involving all the interested parties, as well as the effort to gather different contributions throughout the process. They thanked the



Commission for grasping this political opportunity to launch an important European Union initiative, aimed at encouraging sport and physical activity in Europe, making sport a high priority in European policies and national policies and deepening dialogue and cooperation in the area of sport among all the interested parties. Aimed at encompassing sport into the European Union's current programmes and initiatives, the Ministers invite the Commission to undertake this task in accordance with the goals of the White Paper.

3. The Ministers also applauded the "Pierre de Coubertin" Action Plan and the initiatives proposed by the Commission as regards the principle of subsidiarity, notwithstanding acknowledgment of the autonomy of sports organisations. They reinforced the importance of close collaboration between the member States and the Commission with a view to ensuring efficient, transparent and timely implementation of the actions outlined in the "Pierre de Coubertin" Action Plan.
 - The development, in 2008, of strategic guidelines for physical exercise. On this matter the Ministers applauded the progress made by the Working Group on Sport and Health.
 - Support to volunteers in sport and the voluntary work of non-profit sports organisations. The Ministers are aware of the role that the Working Group played in relation to the non-profit sports organisations in contributing to this debate.
 - The quantification of the economic importance of sport as a basis for sport policies. The Ministers thanked the Working Group on Sport and Economics for the progress achieved towards a statistical definition of sport and encouraged the continuation of this work.



4. The Ministers applauded the proposed strategy of the White Paper on Sport to build on the “Pierre de Coubertin” Action Plan:
 - To strengthen political cooperation at European level based on an ongoing reinforced agenda for sport so as to ensure greater efficiency and continuity in the debates;
 - To reinforce the structured dialogue with the sports movement;
 - To establish social dialogue structures in the sports sector.

5. The Ministers expressed their willingness to deepen cooperation with the Commission and among the Member States in the area of sport, especially in relation to priorities such as protection of minors, sports financing, exploitation of audiovisual rights, sports betting, agents’ activity, national teams, protection of local youth training and the fight against doping. In particular the Ministers agreed on the importance of reflecting on the financing of Sport, including the need to discuss contributions deriving from profits generated from sports betting and audiovisual rights and to strengthen mechanisms of solidarity with the Sports structures; the Ministers also confirmed the need to identify possible solutions at European level to eradicate improper practice in the activity of sports agents and applauded the approach suggested by the White Paper. They also drew attention to the need to reinforce legislation protecting minorities in sport. Finally, the compatibility between rules for national players and EU law must be analysed. As for non-discrimination of national citizens from the Member States as regards access to sport, the Ministers recommended close collaboration with the Commission to help in the task of guaranteeing compliance with EU legislation but underlined the need to deepen the debate in the European Union taking into account the specific characteristics of sport.



6. Also taking into account the Action Plan presented by the Commission, the Ministers agreed to review and reinforce the Rolling Agenda and as such invited the Commission to present specific proposals.
7. Having realised the important contributions of the White Paper for clarification of the autonomy and specificity of Sport and the terms under which it is subject to Community law, the Ministers agreed on the need for more work to clarify this issue so as to tighten legal safety, and recommended that the Commission encourage initiatives on this matter.
8. The Ministers agreed to pursue their effort to reinforce this cooperation, and therefore maintain the informal working group that was set up to monitor the White Paper on Sport.
9. The Ministers expressed their willingness to reinforce the structured dialogue with the social partners and sports agents through the creation of a European sports forum.
10. They also took note of the conclusions of the first Meeting of Directors of WADA accredited Anti-Doping Laboratories in European Union Countries and applauded the holding of this unprecedented event, on 23 October 2007 in Lisbon.
11. The Ministers also took note of the conclusions of the Pan-European Conference on Doping in Sport, which was held on 24 October 2007 in Lisbon, acknowledging its relevant contribution towards the 3rd World Conference of the World Anti-Doping Agency.



12. The Ministers agreed to deepen cooperation so as to ensure suitable representation of Europe in international efforts to fight doping in sport, especially by the World Anti-Doping Agency. The Ministers regret the withdrawal of the candidature of Jean François Lamour for the presidency of WADA, and having analysed the situation feel they are not in a position to declare their support to the sole candidature for the position. Hence, in the CAHAMA meeting to be held on 13 November 2007 in Madrid, complementary information will be gathered and a final decision made in the background of Pan-European cooperation.