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11th Council of Europe
Conference of Ministers
Responsible for Sport

Athens, Greece

10 – 12 December 2008

Adopted Resolution Nr 3

Current Political Issues on the Pan-European Sports Co-operation

prepared by

The European Ministers responsible for Sport, meeting in Athens for their 11th Conference from 10 to 12 December 2008:

With regard to the EPAS

- Wishing to see sport develop in the spirit of the European Sports Charter and the Code of Sports Ethics;
- Stressing the importance and significance of sport in modern society, notably from the political, social, cultural and economic perspectives;
- Recalling the Action Plan of the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Warsaw 16-17 May 2005), and attaching great importance to promoting the role of sport in the process of building a more humane and inclusive Europe and continuing the Council of Europe activities which serve as references in the field of sport;
- Bearing in mind the results of the 50th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention, on the basis of which, and over many years, the Council of Europe has provided the platform for intergovernmental co-operation on questions related to sport;
- Recognising that this pan European co-operation, has led to the adoption of key texts for national and international sports policies, including three treaties¹ and the European Sports Charter, as well as numerous texts showing the contribution of sport to modern society;
- Noting with pleasure the adoption of the Council of Europe Resolution CM/Res(2007)8 on 11 May 2007 and the creation of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS);
- Invite all member States of the Council of Europe, who have not yet joined the EPAS to consider doing so;
- Invite non-governmental sports organisations, European sports federations (and, where appropriate, international sports federations) to become active partners of EPAS as the European platform for structured dialogue and co-operation in the field of sport;
- Accept the kind offer of the government of Azerbaijan to organise the 18th Council of Europe Informal Meeting of Ministers responsible for Sport at Baku in autumn 2010.

¹ The European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches (CETS 120), and the Anti-Doping Convention (CETS 135) and the Additional Protocol to the Anti-doping Convention (CETS 188)

With regards to the European Union

- Underlying the unique role of the Council of Europe in sport cooperation in Europe;
- Reaffirming in this context the importance for the future of European sports cooperation of the necessity for close ties between the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe;
- Convinced that there is a need to identify possible new ways of co-operation between the two institutions in the field of sport;
- Stressing the importance of avoiding the overlap of activities between the work programmes of the European Union and the Council of Europe in the area of sport:
 - Ensure the promotion of complementary activities in the field of sport between the European Union and the Council of Europe;
 - Invite the European Union to consider closer cooperation with the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS);
 - Invite the Committee of Ministers to consider the introduction of sport in its report on cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Union as part of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between these two institutions, in order to promote co-ordination and to avoid overlapping or duplication of activities related to sport;
 - Invite the European Commission and the Council of Europe to develop, where appropriate, partnership agreements in the field of sport;
 - Welcome that the Biarritz declaration of EU sports ministers proposed to involve the Council of Europe in the structured dialogue that will be developed between the public authorities and the sport movement at the level of the EU and express readiness to take part in this dialogue.

With regards to European Cooperation with WADA

A.

- Recognising that the European Coordination Forum on the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA) has achieved significant progress for the co-ordination of governmental positions on issues regarding the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) at pan-European level and is considered as a reference for anti-doping policies in Europe;
- Reaffirm full commitment for the co-operation within the CAHAMA in order to facilitate the building of a European consensus position on WADA issues and to defend this position with one voice in WADA bodies;
- Request the CAHAMA to initiate and prepare a debate at the Unesco Conference of Parties (October 2009) on important issues such as the status of the Standards, as well as the system of representation of countries and the revision of the continental contributions and representation in WADA;
- Encourage CAHAMA to strengthen consultation and co-operation with public authorities of other continents as well as the sport movement represented in the WADA governing structures with the aim to reach a common understanding and positions on the WADA agenda and to remain in contact with their counterparts between the WADA meetings;
- Reiterate their invitation to member States to ratify, as soon as possible, the Anti-Doping Convention and its additional protocol, as well as the Unesco International Convention against Doping in Sport.

B.

- Recognising that the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) stands for a world-wide cooperation in the fight against doping and that continents have to be supportive to each other in order to reach common goals and harmonisation
- Reaffirming their continuous support of WADA since its creation in 1999, bringing together in a unique way public authorities and the sport movement;
- Recalling the commitment of the Copenhagen Declaration to abide by the principles of the World Anti-Doping Code through a Convention, and that the timely ratification of the International Convention against Doping in sport constitutes an essential expectation of the sport movement to seal this alliance;
- Expressing their concern that Europe's role and its real value in anti-doping is not recognised and that the influence of European public authorities is not in conformity with the efforts they deploy within WADA and within the field of anti-doping in general and therefore stressing the necessity for a better proportionality in this respect;

- Taking into account the strong concerns expressed by many countries at the EU Sports Ministers informal Meeting in Biarritz regarding decisions taken at the recent meetings of the Executive Committee Foundation Board on the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information against the European position:
 - Call WADA to start, at political and senior-management levels, an open dialogue with Europe on how to take appropriate measures to better reflect the important role Europe plays in anti-doping standard setting and implementation;
 - Urge WADA, both at political and senior-management levels, to fully take into consideration the recommendations of the CAHAMA, which represents public authorities of the 49 State Parties to the European Cultural Convention;
 - Recognise that WADA has started to take into account European concerns with regards to statutory review, the elaboration of a comprehensive set of rules of procedures for WADA and therefore propose to start work on this issue as soon as possible;
 - Urge WADA:
 - to consider the CAHAMA recommendations to review the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information and
 - to take into account that the Standard in its adopted version is not applicable in Europe and that Europe is ready to continue working on it in cooperation with WADA;
 - Urge the informal meetings of representatives of public authorities in the WADA Executive Committee and Foundation Board to adopt guidelines defining their competencies and procedures;
 - Invite each sport minister of the States parties to the European Cultural Convention:
 - to inform anti-doping organisations and participants under their jurisdiction that the international Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information is not in line with the European legal provisions on data protection and
 - to take steps to accordingly restrict the exchange of information;

*With regards to the European member of the
WADA Executive Committee (2009-2010)*

- Designate Mr Jaime LISSAVETZKY as the candidate for the position of European member of the WADA Executive Committee for 2009-2010;

- Invite the EPAS and the CAHAMA to speedily address and monitor the issues mentioned in the present resolution and, if required, to propose to invite an *ad hoc* informal ministerial meeting in the second half of 2009.