

STANDING COMMITTEE (T-RV)

EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON SPECTATOR VIOLENCE AND
MISBEHAVIOUR AT SPORT EVENTS AND
IN PARTICULAR AT FOOTBALL MATCHES



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European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches (T-RV)

Project on Compliance with Commitments

Respect by Serbia of the Convention

**Follow-Up Report by Serbia
on the recommendations of the Standing Committee
following the Consultative visit on 19-21 November 2008**

FINAL

Adopted at the 33rd meeting of the Standing Committee

Follow-up Report on the consultative visit to Serbia on the implementation of the Convention.
The consultative visit took place in Belgrade from 19 to 21 November 2008.

As a result of its consultative visit to the Republic of Serbia, the T-RV team presented 22 recommendations, ie. that the Republic of Serbia

1. develop a long-term plan including all the measures recommended or suggested in this report and rank them in order of priority;
2. establish an effective National Council on Sport-Related Violence and determine an overall national strategy;
3. adopt a checklist on security and safety measures, based on the checklist of the Standing Committee of the Council of Europe, and determine in writing who is responsible for what;
4. balance the powers and responsibilities of the Ministries of Youth and Sport, the Interior and Justice, in the law on preventing violence and misbehaviour at sport events and other regulations on sport-related violence;

On 29th May 2009, the National Council for preventing violence and misbehaviour was established and held its first meeting. The Chair of the Council is the Prime Minister of the Serbian government, the Co-Chair is the Minister of Interior. The Council also has two vice chairs: the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Youth and Sport. The members of the Council also include the President of the Parliamentary Board for Youth and Sport, the President of the Supreme Court, the Public Prosecutor, and the presidents of the most important sport federations (football, basketball, handball, volleyball and water polo), the Olympic committee and the Serbian sports association. The Council is working very efficiently. The Action Plan, based on the T-RV team recommendations, was adopted by the National Council. Since its foundation, the Council has held ten sessions. The National Council was officially established by the Law on Sport.

5. invite experts from the European Think Tank on football safety and security to assist the Serbian authorities in any way they can to implement practical measures in conformity with the specific Serbian situation, legislation, structures and background;
6. seek to strike a balance between prevention and repression in the law on preventing violence and misbehaviour at sport events;
7. make an evaluation of the offences to be included in the law and implement a stadium ban penalty;
8. lay down, in the law or the contracts with football associations, obligations for the national FA and clubs regarding safety and security issues, with a sanction mechanism as back up;
9. clarify which body is entitled to apply sanctions against offenders and focus on ensuring that the procedure and the sentence are rapidly implemented;
10. determine the police operational profile on the basis of a dynamic risk assessment: “public relations” police officers to welcome spectators and to communicate and interact with them, riot

police for public order interventions (not visible or with low visibility) and police officers responsible for gathering evidence;

11. introduce intelligence officers and a police spotting system;
12. establish a specific training programme on policing football matches, aimed at police commanders, spotters, NFIP personnel and intelligence officers, take part in the European training and in existing peer review schemes;
13. create communication structures between clubs, police and supporters' organisations;
14. establish a National Football Information Point (NFIP), which can also be used for other sports events, at the National Police Headquarters, and learn from best practices in other countries through visits abroad;
15. implement a programme designed to restore and modernise stadia infrastructure;
16. enact specific legislation on stadium control rooms and CCTV;
17. enact specific legislation on safety officers and stewarding as set out in the report;
18. give careful consideration to devising and progressively implementing measures to ensure control of the spectators within the stadium in a non-repressive manner;
19. enact legislation on the licensing of stadia and other sporting infrastructure, lay down clear rules on determining the safe capacity of sports venues and establish an independent stadium inspection body;

Serbian authorities permanently monitor public order at sports events, with particular emphasis on supporters' groups and undertake activities for combating violence and misbehaviour of spectators at sports events.

In May 2011, in accordance with the Recommendations of the Council of Europe and UEFA, Serbian police established an NFIP. Appropriate police units were also formed within Regional Police Directorates in Serbia. In April 2011, the Regulation on the training program about stewarding at sports events was adopted and the activities for starting steward training are currently being prepared. After the training it is expected that stewards will perform their duties and exercise their powers efficiently. The project called "Records of Risk Supporters" is in the process of implementation. It comprises a centralised electronic database on supporters.

In March 2011, a new Law on Sport was adopted with articles about the event organiser's responsibility for safety and security.

With a view to sharing good practices in the field of preventing and combating violence at sports events, the Serbian police is fostering intensive cooperation with the police of other European countries.

Following the visit by UEFA's president to the president of Serbia, the Task Force for preventing violence was established. It comprises representatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor's Office and representatives of the Serbian Football Association. The Serbian Task Force has had two meetings with UEFA and Pan European Think Tank for Football (Belgrade in April 2011, and Vienna in September 2011). It was agreed to adopt an Action

Plan for Prevention of Violence and that the results should be presented to UEFA. UEFA will submit its report in late December 2011.

The cooperation with the EU Think Tank and UEFA was also recommended by the National Council for preventing violence.

20. set up a national plan on sports ethics, ensuring that all partners involved assume their responsibilities;
21. step up the fight against racism and xenophobia by co-ordinating the work of all the bodies involved; and
22. invest in a social-educational action plan, aimed at children and youngsters at an early stage, based on the T-RV document on the subject;

Preventive activities: in 2011 the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Ministry of the Interior supported the New Policy Centre's "Serbia without Violence" project with the objective of reducing violence in sports by framing effective policies, creating sustainable institutional mechanisms, and mobilising key state and non-state actors in combating this phenomenon.

The purpose of the project is to determine the causes of violence in sport by conducting a comprehensive, research-based study that will offer preventive and repressive measures, targeting both the causes of violence in sports and its consequences, and will actively engage all key state and non-state actors in the process of formulating policies and legal recommendations in order to increase their accountability, build consensus, and create a sense of ownership in this process.

The first European Conference on preventing racism and violence through diversity in sport also took place in Belgrade in October 2009. It was organised in co-operation with the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia, the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) and the T-RV Standing Committee of the Council of Europe. More than 150 state and non-state representatives were present. The Conference included six workshops and the main subjects were educational and preventive measures and legal measures for preventing violence.