

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RESOLUTION (76) 41

ON THE PRINCIPLES FOR A POLICY OF SPORT FOR ALL

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 24 September 1976
at the 260th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

1. Recognising that the aim of the Council of Europe is the achievement of greater unity between its Members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and of facilitating their economic and social progress, in particular by pursuing common objectives designed to protect and promote European culture ;
2. Recalling Recommendation 588 (1970) of the Consultative Assembly on the development of sport for all and the creation of co-ordinating structures, and Recommendation 682 (1972) on a European Sport for All Charter ;
3. Aware of the diverse contributions which sport can make to personal and social development through creative activities and recreational pursuits and of man's need for physical exercise for both his physical and his mental well-being ;
4. Acknowledging the universal appeal of sport and its particular value in a rapidly changing world which is characterised on the one hand by increasing leisure and on the other by urbanisation and technological development that tend to isolate man from his natural environment ;
5. Emphasising that the concept of sport for all, first formulated by the Council of Europe in 1966 to promote cultural development, relates to policies which seek to extend the benefits of sport to as many people as possible ;
6. Stressing the comprehensive nature of this concept which embraces sport in many different forms, from recreational physical activity to high level competition ;
7. Realising that sport for all raises problems which cannot be satisfactorily solved within a purely national framework ;
8. Maintaining in this context that the formulation of common principles would enable national policies to be progressively harmonised ;
9. Welcoming the work already done by the Council for Cultural Co-operation and various other international bodies in establishing common principles ;
10. Recalling the Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport held in Brussels (1975) ;
11. Considering that a text defining these principles, as retained by that Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport under the title of the "European Sport for All Charter", might provide a common basis for the actions of governments and other authorities concerned,

Recommends to member governments :

- a.* to base their national policies as far as possible on the principles contained in the "European Sport for All Charter" appended to this resolution ;
- b.* to distribute the "Charter" as widely as possible among interested persons and bodies within their territory.

Appendix to Resolution (76) 41

PRINCIPLES FOR A POLICY OF SPORT FOR ALL

(Defined by the Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport in Brussels (1975) under the title "European Sport for All Charter")

Article I

Every individual shall have the right to participate in sport.

Article II

Sport shall be encouraged as an important factor in human development and appropriate support shall be made available out of public funds.

Article III

Sport, being an aspect of socio-cultural development, shall be related at local, regional and national levels to other areas of policy-making and planning such as education, health, social service, town and country planning, conservation, the arts and leisure services.

Article IV

Each government shall foster permanent and effective co-operation between public authorities and voluntary organisations and shall encourage the establishment of national machinery for the development and co-ordination of sport for all.

Article V

Methods shall be sought to safeguard sport and sportsmen from exploitation for political, commercial or financial gain, and from practices that are abusive and debasing, including the unfair use of drugs.

Article VI

Since the scale of participation in sport is dependent, among other things, on the extent, the variety and the accessibility of facilities, the overall planning of facilities shall be accepted as a matter for public authorities, shall take account of local, regional and national requirements, and shall incorporate measures designed to ensure full use of both new and existing facilities.

Article VII

Measures, including legislation where appropriate, shall be introduced to ensure access to open country and water for the purpose of recreation.

Article VIII

In any programme of sports development, the need for qualified personnel at all levels of administrative and technical management, leadership and coaching shall be recognised.