

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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## AD HOC CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORT

Brussels, 20-21 March 1975

TEXTS ADOPTED

TEXT ADOPTED No. I

Recommendation

on the adoption of the  
EUROPEAN SPORT FOR ALL CHARTER

The European Ministers responsible for Sport, meeting in Brussels,

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;
4. REAFFIRMING man's need for a certain amount of physical exercise for both his physical and his mental well-being;
5. 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;
6. EMPHASISING that the concept of sport for all, first formulated by the Council of Europe in 1966 to promote permanent education and cultural development, relates to policies which seek to extend the benefits of sport to as many people as possible;
7. STRESSING the comprehensive nature of this concept which embraces sport in many different forms, from recreational physical activity to high level competition;
8. REALISING that sport for all raises problems which cannot be satisfactorily solved within a purely national framework;
9. MAINTAINING in this context that the adoption of common principles would enable national policies to be progressively harmonised;
10. WELCOMING the work already done by the Council for Cultural Co-operation and various other international bodies in establishing common principles;

11. CONSIDERING that a European Sport for All Charter defining these principles might provide a common basis for the actions of governments and other authorities concerned;

RECOMMEND that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe:

- a. adopt the European Sport for All Charter set out below;
- b. invite the States which are Contracting Parties to the European Cultural Convention to commit themselves:
  - to respect the principles of the Charter in carrying out their national policies;
  - to take all practical steps both at national and European levels, including where appropriate the introduction of legislative measures, to give effect to the obligations stemming from the Charter.

#### ARTICLE I

Every individual shall have the right to participate in sport.

#### ARTICLE II

The promotion of 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 sports participation 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 provision.

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.

TEXT ADOPTED No. II

Resolution

on

THE ROLE OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AS REGARDS THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT FOR ALL

The European Ministers responsible for Sport, meeting in Brussels on 20 and 21 March 1975,

RECALLING the principles of the Sport for All Charter,

CONSIDERING that public authorities play a major role in the promotion of sport for the benefit and welfare of the community as a whole,

ADOPT the following resolution:

1. The responsibilities of public authorities

1.1 Without prejudice to their right of initiative, the public authorities' role is primarily complementary and should take the form of support for private action to the benefit of everyone and the provision of conditions encouraging the greatest possible number of people to practise sport.

1.2 Sport should form an integral part of cultural, educational, social and health development programmes.

1.3 An effective sports policy can only be determined and put into operation through co-operation by all private and public agencies concerned either directly or indirectly with sport, both voluntary and compulsory.

1.4 Encouragement should be given to the training and further training of qualified personnel.

2. Participation by different social groups

2.1 From the point of view of permanent education, closer links should be formed between school sport and physical education, and voluntary Sport.

2.2 The public authorities should, wherever possible, encourage the following to practise sport:

- young workers and apprentices, as well as school pupils and students;

- persons with special occupational and family obligations;

- physically, mentally and socially handicapped persons;
- elderly people;
- migrants.

3. Practical conditions for engaging in sport

- 3.1 Regional development plans should contain planning outlines for the provision of sports facilities.
- 3.2 Legislation should secure access to nature to as great an extent as is compatible with its protection and the provision of adequate playing space in housing areas and whenever urban renewal operations are taking place.
- 3.3 Encouragement must be given to the provision of facilities that can be used for both school sport and voluntary sport and, whenever possible, to the combination of cultural and sports facilities.

4. Finance

- 4.1 The public authorities have a duty to provide voluntary sport with a wide range of aid.
- 4.2 The use of advertising is only acceptable as long as it is in the interests of sport and those who practise it and provided that sportsmen should in no circumstances become a vehicle for advertising.
- 4.3 The local authorities bear as great a financial responsibility as the central and regional authorities.

5. Safeguards for the integrity of sport and sportsmen

- 5.1 Every effort should be made to ensure that sport never gives rise to excessive behaviour nor becomes an instrument of political propaganda, a factor of personal and social alienation, or a means of diverting attention from important economic and social problems.
- 5.2 National legislation should afford those who practise sport the maximum degree of freedom compatible with permanence in the organisation of sport.

TEXT ADOPTED No. III

Resolution

on

AREAS FOR CO-OPERATION

The European Ministers responsible for Sport, meeting in Brussels on 20 and 21 March 1975,

HAVING REGARD to their Resolution on the role of public authorities regarding the development of Sport for All,

WHEREAS that Resolution outlines the range of areas which might lend themselves to joint action,

INVITE the ad hoc Consultative Meeting, pending its conversion into a Council for the Development of Sport, to:

1. investigate the possibility of undertaking concerted action in one or more of those areas, according to an order of priorities to be determined, in co-operation with the Council of Europe bodies dealing with education and culture, local authorities, environment, town and country planning, public health, social affairs, etc;
2. give particular attention to the following forms of co-operation:
  - a. the exchange of information in which the member states are asked to collaborate closely and ensure the efficiency of the Clearing House, particularly through active participation by the liaison offices;
  - b. the co-ordination of member states' efforts in scientific research by means of:
    - circulation of information on research programmes completed, in progress or planned, so as to foster collaboration between countries and between researchers and to avoid duplication;
    - encouragement of division of labour in the execution of research projects on priority subjects selected by the ad hoc Consultative Meeting pending its conversion into a Council for the Development of Sport;

- c. exchanges of persons, visits, twinning arrangements, etc;
- d. the pooling of experience in the construction and management of sports facilities;
- e. the joint study of legislative measures, regulations and financial arrangements designed both to promote Sport for All and to provide safeguards for sport and those who practise it;
- f. mutual assistance for countries which request it;
- g. development of a method of evaluation enabling the results of sports policies to be readily compared.



TEXT ADOPTED No. IV

Resolution

on

MACHINERY FOR CO-OPERATION

The European Ministers responsible for Sport, meeting in Brussels on 20 and 21 March 1975,

BELIEVING that sport is a significant element in educational and cultural development,

AFFIRMING their belief in the principles embodied in the European Sport for All Charter,

RECOGNISING that the implementation of these principles depends on co-operation between member governments, including periodic informal meetings between Ministers with responsibility for Sport and the establishment of working groups of Ministers to consider special areas of policy,

CONSIDERING that such co-operation requires the establishment of appropriate structures,

RECOMMEND that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe transform the ad hoc Consultative Meeting into a Council for the Development of Sport (CDS) with a status which will confer upon it a maximum of prestige and authority within the framework of Council of Europe structures and ensure effective co-operation with other bodies of the Council of Europe;

ENTRUST to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe the task of determining the level and size of the administrative unit necessary for the efficient functioning of the Council for the Development of Sport and the preparation of future Ministerial Conferences.

TEXT ADOPTED No. V.

GENERAL RESOLUTION

The European Ministers responsible for Sport, meeting in Brussels on 20 and 21 March 1975,

WELCOME the Belgian Government's initiative in organising the first Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport;

CONVEY their warmest thanks to the Belgian Government for their generous hospitality;

THANK the parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for the support it has given the efforts of the Council for Cultural Co-operation by adopting Recommendation 588 (1970) 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;

CONFIRM their intention to continue and expand co-operation between them and, each in their own country, to study all measures, including legislation where necessary, to implement the resolutions adopted;

EXPRESS their gratitude to the United Kingdom Government for their offer, in principle, to organise a second Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport in 1977 or 1978.