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## 11<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sport

Athens, Greece

10 – 12 December 2008

**Adopted Resolution Nr 2**

**Autonomy in sport**

prepared by

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

- Convinced of the need to determine the fundamental principles that should be incorporated in a general policy for autonomy of the sport movement;
- Conscious of the substantial work done previously by the Committee for the Development of Sport (CDDS) in developing policies designed to promote in practice the autonomous functioning of the sport movement;
- Remembering the conclusions relative to autonomy as represented in Resolution 1602 (2008) 1 'The need to preserve the European sports model adopted on 24 January 2008 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Aware that the concept of autonomy of the sport movement covers different realities depending on cultures and organisational models and wishing to respect this diversity;
- Welcoming the work done in Europe to prepare position papers and studies on autonomy in sport, whether at the initiative of governments, international organisations or the sport movement;
- Considering that non-governmental sports organisations (whether at international, European or national level) are key players for the development and continued survival of democratic sport, and also make a unique contribution to the realisation of societies based on the rule of law, pluralist democracy and respect for human rights - which are the guiding principles of the Council of Europe;
- Reaffirming their commitment to the principles of good governance in sport and reiterating that the implementation of principles such as democracy, accountability, fairness, solidarity and transparency is key to widening the popularity of sport and strengthening the position of sports NGOs in civil society;
- Note with satisfaction the research conducted in the context of the EPAS concerning the autonomy of sport in Europe;
- Consider the proposed definition to be a useful contribution to the political debate on autonomy of sport;
- Invite the EPAS to expand its research on autonomy to all member states of the European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe and to complete it with examples of good practice, with a view to its publication in paper and electronic version;

- Invite countries and sports organisations which have not yet done so to complete the questionnaire on autonomy in sport so as to help broaden this study;
- Reiterate their view that as part of the autonomy of sport, the specific features of sports should be properly taken into account when law (international, European or national) is applied on sporting issues;
- Suggest to the EPAS that the joint meetings between the public authorities and the sport movement be used to discuss:
  - the various positions on the question of autonomy;
  - subjects of dispute;
  - the possibility of promoting, at European level, a definition of autonomy;
  - potential operational indicators specifying this definition, making it possible to analyse and discuss practices;
- Welcome the invitation of the Czech Republic, in the framework of its European Union presidency, to co-operate in future works on the issue of autonomy.