

## **STANDING COMMITTEE (T-RV)**

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



Strasbourg, 8 December 2011

T-RV (2011) 33 FINAL

### **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 Lithuania of the Convention**

**Follow-Up Report by Lithuania  
on the recommendations of the Standing Committee  
following the consultative visit on 23-26 November 2009**

**FINAL**

**Adopted at the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee**

## **1. Introduction**

From 23 to 26 November 2009, Lithuania hosted a consultative visit of the Standing Committee on Spectator Violence of the Council of Europe in the context of the organisation of the European Men's Basketball Championships 2011 ("the EuroBasket 2011"). This consultative visit was part of the Compliance with Commitments project of the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in Particular at Football Matches, which Lithuania signed in 1993 and ratified it in 2000.

The EuroBasket 2011 was awarded to Lithuania by the European Basketball Federation (FIBA Europe) and was held in six cities around Lithuania from 31 August to 18 September 2011.

The Lithuanian authorities were conscious of the importance of holding such a major international event successfully. The EuroBasket 2011 was also an opportunity to gain more international visibility and recognition and improve the national capacities and resources in the areas of national co-ordination, public-private partnership, policing, sports infrastructure and local hospitality facilities.

The Lithuanian authorities specifically sought advice on hospitality principles, the use of public viewing areas, friendly police concepts and the prevention of hooliganism, training safety and security personnel and volunteers, transport, accommodation and information strategies.

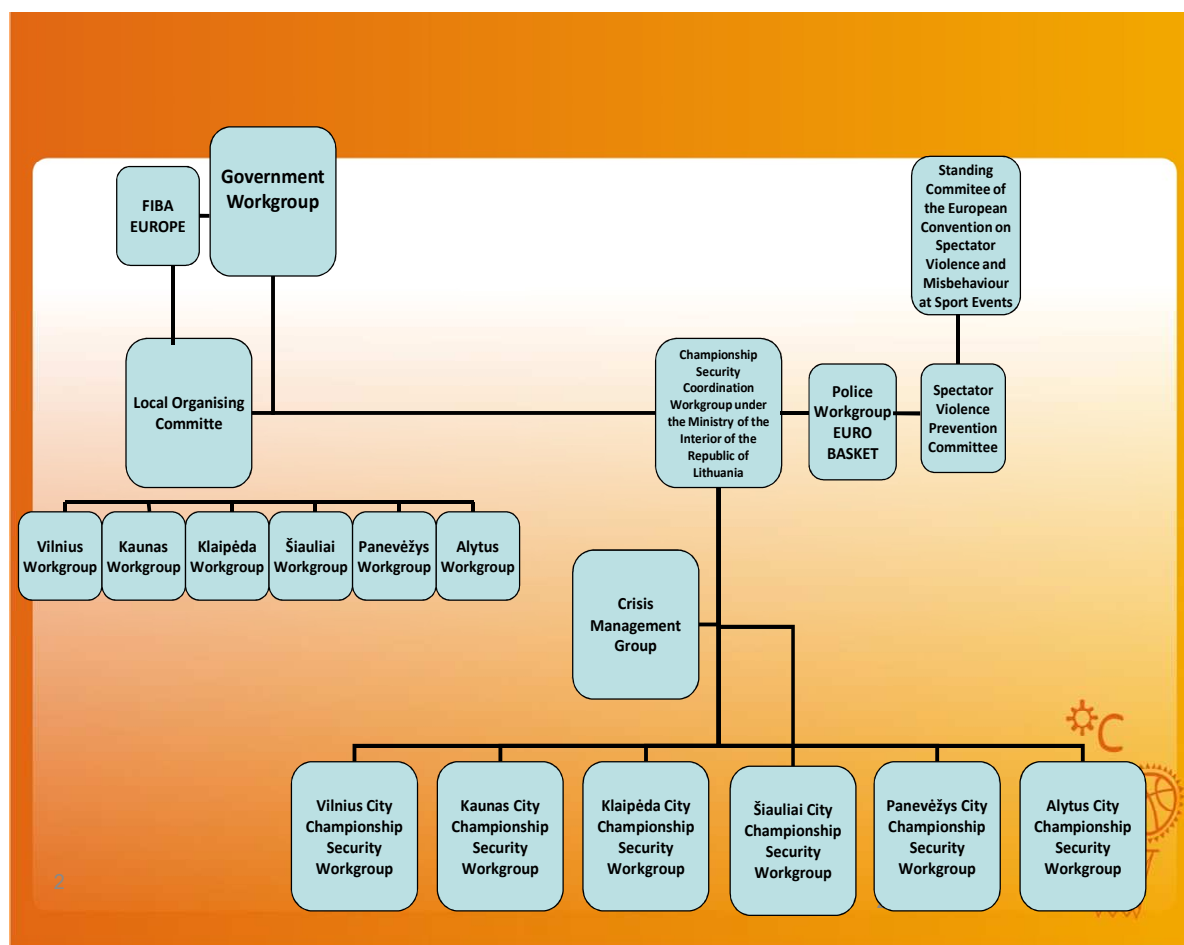
A delegation of the Standing Committee on Spectator Violence of the Council of Europe ("the advisory team") undertook a visit in Lithuania and produced recommendations (T-RV (2010) 10), which were very useful for the Lithuanian authorities and the Organising Committee of the EuroBasket 2011.

## 2. Following the recommendations of the advisory team

### 2.1. Improvements of the organisation of the EuroBasket 2011

The EuroBasket 2011 overall organisation, grounded on a national interagency structure, where the different stakeholders discussed and approved the tournament's security and safety concept and strategy, clarified the roles and responsibilities and made decisions, was improved.

#### Overall tournament's organisational structure



The Concept of Public Order and Traffic Safety Assurance at the 2011 European Men's Basketball Championship and a plan of measures for the implementation of the Concept was approved in November 2010.

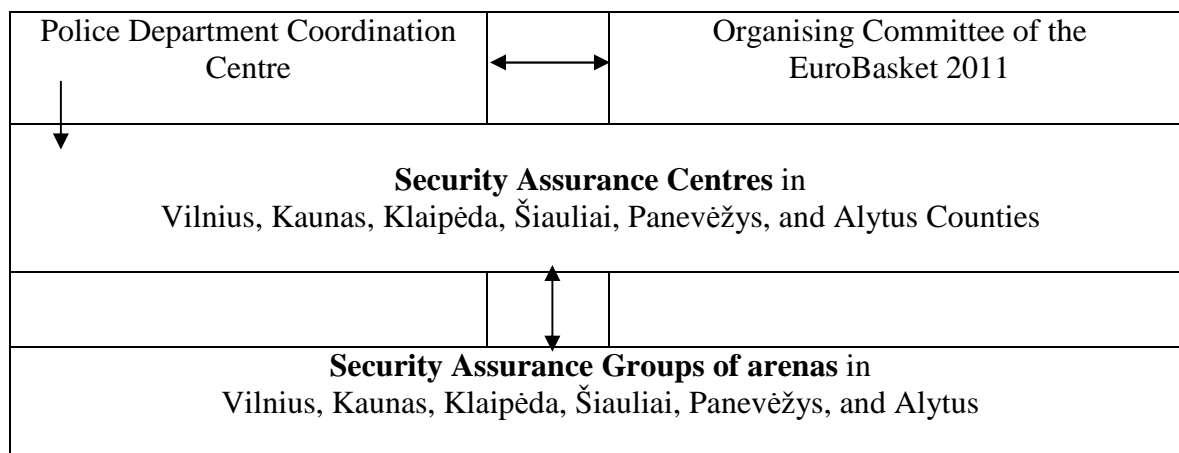
Plans for Public Order and Traffic Safety Assurance were approved by Regional Police Headquarters of Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Panevėžys, and Alytus Counties in the beginning of 2011.

On 10 June 2011, the Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior signed an agreement with the Organising Committee of the EuroBasket 2011 that defined the responsibilities of the police and organisers in maintaining public order during the championship.

The Organising Committee of the EuroBasket 2011 was assigned the responsibility for the safety and security of spectators in the arenas and in public viewing areas at the arenas. In the beginning of 2011, the Safety and Security Group of the Organising Committee of the EuroBasket 2011 was established and the Head of this group was appointed (a paid employee).

The police undertook to maintain public order and traffic safety in the zones adjacent to the Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Panevėžys, and Alytus arenas. For this purpose, officers in charge were appointed in each city. Preventive search for explosives and hazardous substances was conducted in the arenas. Police escort was allocated to basketball teams and referees to ensure public order at the training halls and hotels where participants, organisers, and referees of the EuroBasket 2011 were accommodated.

### Work organisation scheme during the Championship



**The Police Department Coordination Centre** was delegated the following tasks:

- to coordinate activities of the country’s regional police units in maintaining public order and traffic safety;
- to analyse possible risks and evaluate possible threats taking into account the information available about the EuroBasket 2011 events;
- to cooperate with European Union Police Information Centres and other relevant institutions in collecting and sharing information about the supporters travelling and possible threats;
- to organise and address issues relating to the security of Championship events;
- to ensure a continuous exchange of information with the county coordination centres for ensuring security and the groups responsible for security assurance of arenas for Championship events;
- to prepare work schedules (including weekends) for the court judges who are assigned for the Championship and who are competent in expediting criminal proceedings (Article 426 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Lithuania) and to make a list of their contact details.

Co-operation agreements between the Organising Committee of the EuroBasket 2011 and the municipalities of the cities of Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Panevėžys, and Alytus were signed and the provisions of these agreements were fully implemented before

## **2.2. Training of safety and security personnel and the volunteers**

Study visit on safety and security issues of the European Men's Basketball Championship in Poland in 2009 and of the World Basketball Men's Championship in Turkey in 2010 were organised.

Pursuant to the European Union funded project Security during Major Sports Events, 106 Lithuanian, Estonian, and Polish officers were trained in the context of the EuroBasket 2011.

The Police Department organised 6 workshops on public security assurance of the EuroBasket 2011.

Training sessions of all personnel involved in the management of the tournament's safety and security were held in every arena before the championships.

The volunteers were trained according to a training programme of the Organising Committee of the EuroBasket 2011.

## **2.3. Preventive measures**

A group of officers from INTERPOL was invited to inspect documents and people arriving at the Eurobasket 2011 and to assist County Regional Police Headquarters in translations involving Spanish and Balkan region languages.

Preventive inspections and searches for explosive devices and/or substances hazardous to health and life were carried out by the Lithuanian Police Anti-Terrorist Operations Team ARAS.

Threats were assessed in respect of teams playing in the subgroups (e.g. political factor).

Request were issued to assign district court judges competent in expediting criminal proceedings throughout the Championship (including weekends).

A temporary border crossing post was opened in Lazdijai (random inspections of team supporters and their vehicles was conducted between 6–8 September 2011).

Before the EuroBasket 2011 championship-related information was collected from the Eurobasket 2011 Organising Committee, the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), the European Basketball Federation (FIBA Europe), national football information points (NFIPs), the EUROPOL, the INTERPOL and it was analysed.

## **2.4. Threat assessment analysis before and during the championship**

As EuroBasket 2011 was an important event for Lithuania and attracted many people from different countries, during the preparatory stage and during the EuroBasket 2011 events themselves, all incoming information relating to possible threats of terrorism and crime was analysed.

To identify possible threats to EuroBasket 2011, a division of the Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau monitored and evaluated threats intensively throughout the Championship.

As part of the implementation of the planned tasks, the Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau Information Analysis Board assessed threats during the championship.

Each day during the championship, at 09:00 a.m., the Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau Information Analysis Board provided daily statements to the Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau authority and the Coordination Centre of the Police Department about possible (likely) threats.

Cybercrime Board and the Operational Activities Board carried out cyber space checks before and during Eurobasket 2011 both in Lithuania and abroad.

Crime investigation units monitored the sale of illegal ticket sales for the Championship continuously, as well as offences relating to counterfeit money being put into circulation and the use of false payment cards.

International Relations Board of the Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau operated continuously (24/7) and received information from foreign countries about any threats.

Representatives of constantly monitored all the information related to EuroBasket 2011, analysed it and prepared threat assessment surveys.

The daily statement of threats during Eurobasket 2011 events consisted of the following topics:

- a summary of threats identified during the preparatory stage;
- a summary of statistical data;
- analysis of the information on supporters and participants.

Terrorist threats forecast during the preparatory stage did not materialise, as no manifestations of extremism or individual terrorist acts were recorded.

The forecast regarding pecuniary type offences during the Championship materialised as the majority of pre-trial investigations were initiated under Article 178 'Theft' of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania.

The vast majority of criminal offences were committed on the premises of basketball arenas or access zones to the arenas, whereas the rest – in cafes, entertainment centres, pizzerias, and other public places.

Eurobasket 2011 did not affect the normal situation of criminal offences in Lithuania.

Good practice in events of this scope and cooperation of public and criminal police units were successful.

Focused and consistent cooperation with foreign law enforcement authorities and international organisations was successful.

The function of intelligence and a police spotting system was implemented.

### 3. Figures of the EuroBasket 2011

For the first time, 24 of the best European basketball teams took part in the 37th European Men's Basketball Championships, hosted in Lithuania between 31 August and 18 September 2011. This was the biggest basketball event held in Europe.

In the period of 2004–2011, five multifunctional sport and entertainment arenas in Kaunas (15 000 seats), Vilnius (11 000 seats), Panevezys (5 700 seats), Siauliai (5 000 seats) and Klaipėda (5 500) were built and one arena was reconstructed in the city of Alytus (5 500 seats), in which 90 matches of the EuroBasket 2011 were played.

During the event, 158 000 tickets were sold (i.e. 75% of the total sales), 135 000 local viewers (in arenas) and 120 000 people in the public viewing areas (supporter zones) enjoyed the event, 20 000 spectators from abroad visited Lithuania, 1 500 trained volunteers (selected from 6 000) assisted the organizers, and the teams, media representatives, FIBA Europe and FIBA, VIPs and referees were accommodated in 30 official hotels.

The safety and security of the EuroBasket 2011 was ensured by 3 984 persons:

- 1 353 private and security service agents;
- 1 470 policemen;
- 615 employees of the Public Security Service under the Ministry of the Interior;
- 540 Fire and Rescue Service employees;
- 6 employees of the Radiation Protection Centre.

### 4. Remarks

For future events of this nature in Lithuania it would be advisable to include a separate section in both the register of daily events of state border guard services and register of daily events of customs departments relating to the ongoing event or provide daily reports on the occurrences that are directly linked with the ongoing event.

In future, more attention should be paid to electronic intelligence of events of this scope and daily reports about the relevant threats associated with the event to be organised or an ongoing event should be provided.

It would be also advisable to collect and enter into the database personal data on basketball fans who are prone to incite other participants for joint acts of hooliganism.

The organisers of future international sports events should pay particular attention to the safety and security of public viewing areas (spectator zones) where fans of different teams are mixed together.

The organisers of future international basketball events should take advantage of the experience obtained by the organisers of the EuroBasket 2011 in the area of safety and security.



Department of physical education and sports under the government of the republic of  
lithuania  
Vilnius, 2 December 2011