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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  
Czech Republic's compliance with the Convention**

**Reports by:**

**Czech Republic  
The Evaluation Team**

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## **A. Report by the Czech Republic**

### **1 Introduction**

Football is the most popular sport in the Czech Republic. It is played, or at least followed by, most people in the country. The football leagues are divided as follows:

I. fotbalová liga (The Premier League) – 16 teams, II. fotbalová liga (The Second League) – 16 teams, Česká fotbalová liga (The Bohemian Football League) – 18 teams and Moravsko-slezská fotbalová liga (The Moravian and Silesian Football League) – 16 teams (the last two comprising the Third League) and Divisions (Divisions A-E, of which A, B and C are teams from Bohemia, D teams from Moravia and E teams from Silesia). There also are lower leagues such as county, regional, local and municipal.

Apart from Football, Czechs also support ice hockey to a great extent. The Ice Hockey Extraliga (Premiership League) or I. liga (Second League) matches are free of serious incidents, because there are no organised gangs of hockey hooligans. However, violent incidents can be provoked by football hooligans attending ice hockey matches, especially supporters of AC Sparta Praha (football), who will also visit home ice hockey matches of HC Sparta Praha when such matches follow.

In keeping with Act no. 2/1969 Coll., on Ministries and other Central Government Bodies of the Czech Republic, as amended, The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports is responsible for sports, being the agency whose responsibilities include physical education, sports, tourism, and sporting representation of the country (Section 7 Para 1). Spectator violence itself is the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, the central Government agency responsible for home affairs, especially public order and other security issues in the defined range (Section 12 Para 1a). Based on this, the Ministry of Interior also implements crime-prevention measures. The Police of the Czech Republic is subordinate to the Ministry of Interior (Section 3 of Act no. 283/1991 Coll., The Police Act, as amended) – see Part 5.

The Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Education co-operate, as far as football and spectator violence are concerned, in the Co-ordination Commission on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football – see Part 3. Other activities include delegation of a Ministry of Interior representative for the Czech Republic into the Standing Committee of the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches.

The European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches (see Memorandum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs No. 118/1996 Coll.) has been binding for the Czech Republic as of June 1, 1995. Because of its contents and since the Czech Parliament has not ratified this document yet, the Convention does not have superiority over domestic legislation.

The Czech Republic, as a member of the European Council and a Party to the above Convention, fulfils and observes all obligations under the international law, in keeping with Article 1 Para 2 of the Act no. 1/1993 Coll., Constitution of the Czech Republic, as amended.

### **2 Spectator Violence**

Spectator violence, consisting of mutual physical assault by enemy fans of individual clubs and in general misbehaviour prior to, during and after sports events, is sometimes seen as part

of extremist behaviour. The security risks associated with hooligans lie in the fact that these violent and alcohol-influenced people may be easily directed against anybody. The football hooligan movement as such may not be seen as an extremist movement, even though it contains extremist elements due to the number of skinheads among hooligans and perpetration of extremist criminal activities during football matches.

Large numbers of hooligans (football supporters trying to provoke disorder, fights and violence at stadiums and outside of them) are recruited among skinheads.

### **2.1. Spectator Violence - History and Development**

In the past, supporters of one football club were a complex group of individuals who met ad hoc at their club's matches. Problems during football matches started appearing at the beginning of the 1980's. It was caused by emancipation of part of the young generation (especially working professions), which became immune to the communist regime's propaganda, but was not ready for any open anti-regime protests and started to discharge their frustration by association with football clubs and excessive misbehaviour during football events.

In the former Czechoslovakia, hooligans were first noticed on a wider scale in June 1985, when Prague's FC Sparta fans destroyed an entire train on their way to a match in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, causing damages in excess of CZK 500,000. In the following years, several more or less organised groups of "fans" of the largest football clubs, then Sparta Praha, Baník Ostrava and Slovan Bratislava were founded.

The political changes following November 1989 had a great influence on the development of spectator violence. The new freedom was followed by increased confidence and violence in hooligans and recruitment of new members of the groups from younger generations became easier. Temporary low activity of the law enforcement and its disorientation in the new system also had a negative influence on the inability to suppress some hooligan behaviour. Members of the Skinheads movement started frequenting football matches.

Between 1990 and 1992, nationalistic aggression related to rising tension between Czechs and Slovaks was very typical. After the split-up of Czechoslovakia and the conception of a new Czech National Football League in 1992, the situation calmed down partially.

### **2.2. Spectator Violence - Current Situation**

In the second half of the 1990's, hooligan gangs with stable names and consistent members were founded around several clubs and established themselves as part of the hooligan scene, regularly attending football matches and taking parts in fights.

At the moment, fans prefer smaller and well-organised gangs, several to each football team (for example ACS, Red Pirates Sparta and Brigade Drápek z lasičky associated with AC Sparta Praha). The level of their organization is documented, among other facts, by their coalition agreements, often international, concluded between different fan clubs that then support each other during high-risk matches. The groups have their flags, emblems and websites where they present themselves, evaluate individual "trips" to away matches, or declare peace/war.

Hooligans are often skinheads whose only motivation is to provoke violence and break public order. Previously-known and notoriously violent hooligans of AC Sparta Praha and FC Baník Ostrava („FCB“, „Barabi“, „Chuligani z Bazalu“), now include SFC Opava hooligans (mostly skinheads) and FC Slovan Liberec hooligans („Dead Boys Liberec“), also recruiting from supporters of the skinheads movement. The most militant gang in 2002 was Brno's Johnny Kentus Gang, which also attacked local alternative and far-left youth.

### **2.3. Development of the Crime of Spectator Violence**

Significant increase in misbehaviour has been recorded recently, along with property damage caused during travels to away matches, when petrol stations are looted. Hooligans are associated mostly with AC Sparta Praha, FC Baník Ostrava and 1st FC Brno. The FC Bohemians Praha hooligans are mostly anarchists (militant wing of the AFA) - club rivalry is now accompanied by political rivalry.

In 2003, the highest-risk matches were those between FC Baník Ostrava, AC Sparta Praha and 1st FC Brno. Verbal and physical assaults were recorded most often. In 2003, the following numbers of serious offences (racially motivated offences, serious injury and assault of a public official) were recorded: international club matches - UEFA Cup (3), Czech National Team matches (7), and National league matches (9).

As far as public order violations or criminal offences in connection with football matches are concerned, and to the contrary to the past situation, the national team matches are also considered high-risk events now. In 2003, a steep increase in the number of Czech fans travelling to Czech national team's away matches or club away matches abroad was recorded - these included high-risk fans. However, in most cases, the Czech fans do not behave violently during Czech national team's away matches - for example at the European Cup in Portugal in 2004. The only serious incident was recorded at a game in Austria in the autumn of 2003, when the Czech fans flew a banner supporting the Temelin nuclear power plant during a qualification game for the Portuguese Cup. Another serious incident at the club level took place on 26/ 11/ 2003, when an AC Sparta Praha high-risk fan was detained during a game in London for racist (vulgar gestures and verbal attacks on a black steward).

The most famous incidents involving Czech hooligans:

AC Sparta Praha - 3rd preliminary round of the League of Champions 2002/2003 - a group of approximately 50 Sparta hooligans assaulted a group of KRC Genk (Belgium) fans in and in front of a McDonald's at Prague's Letná stadium. The assailants used bruisers, knives and belts with metal studs. The assault was very quick and the perpetrators dispersed immediately afterwards. Several KRC Genk fans were injured, mostly as a result of the use of bruisers and/or kicking/beating. These injuries were classified as light and treated on the location. One KRC Genk fan was seriously injured on the arm by a belt with a metal stud. The injured was taken to a hospital with a 2.5 cm deep wound on his forearm. The patient was operated and dismissed only after two days. Following this incidents, the Belgian fans - escorted by the police - were assaulted by approximately 50 Sparta fans, who threw objects at them over the police lines. The Police of the CR reacted immediately, several assailants were detained.

FC Slovan Liberec - During a game (high-risk) FC Slovan Liberec fans threw three smoke shells onto the ground. The Organisers decided to remove these fans (who were being monitored by the camera system) from the stadium. During the attempt, the security officers were assaulted and in the ensuing Police intervention, two Police officers and one Police dog

were injured. Four fans were detained and charged with misbehaviour, damaging property and assault of a public official.

1. FC Brno - on 26th July 2003, during an Intertoto Cup game between 1st FC Brno and FC Guingamp (France), 4 French fans were brutally attacked by a group of Brno hooligans. One of these fans suffered serious injury, which resulted in a three-week hospitalisation.

The number of Czech high-risk fans is estimated at 700. Out of this number, approximately 200 are category „C“ and 500 category „B“. Experience of the Police of the CR shows that even these fans are trying to travel to the Czech national team's away matches (for example 5,500 fans to Holland, out of which 100 were “C“ and 300 “B“ category and 10,000 fans to Austria, 150 “C“ and 300 “B“ category) – see Chapter 5.

Statistics used in the national reports:

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Incidents during international matches - MAJOR	0	0	3
Incidents during international matches - MINOR	5	4	12
Incidents during domestic matches - MAJOR	6	13	5
Incidents during domestic matches - MINOR	64	41	22

### **3 Co-ordination Commission on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches**

The Government Decree No. 27 of January 11, 1995 to the proposal to adopt in the CR the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches requests the Minister of Interior to establish a Co-ordination committee to fulfil the tasks under the Article 2 of the Convention. Based on the Decree, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports concluded an Agreement on Establishing Co-ordination Commission on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football. The Agreement was concluded for an unlimited period of time.

The interagency Co-ordination Commission on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches is therefore responsible for Co-ordination of measures to combat spectator violence and misbehaviour at sports events and in particular at football matches. The Co-ordination Commission has eight members (6 from the Ministry of Interior, 2 from the Ministry of Education). The Co-ordination Commission invites representatives of the Czech and Moravian Football Association, the Ice Hockey Professional Club Association, and experts on spectator violence to its meetings as guests.

The Co-ordination Commission activities:

- Coordinating activities of the parties in the field of implementation of the Convention provisions in the CR,
- Co-operation with citizen groups, especially sports clubs, and the media for the purpose of elimination of spectator violence,
- Preventive, educational, and informative activities,
- Support of educational, informative, and research programs whose goal is to eliminate spectator violence,

- Monitoring of spectator violence and misbehaviour during sports events and in particular football matches,
- Yearly National Report for the Standing Committee,
- Co-operation with the liaison bodies of the foreign parties of the Convention – via its representative at the Standing Committee.

### **3.1. Commission Activities**

The Commission has been working since May 1996 and has discussed many issues and proposed various measures. Its standard responsibilities include communication of current situation in spectator violence, compliance with the Stadium 2003 project, information from meetings of the Standing Committee, preparation of major championships, events and training seminars, and drafting of the National Report. The Commission has also discussed several major incidents in detail.

The most important measures implemented by the Co-ordination Commission:

#### *1) Publishing the European Convention and its distribution*

The European Convention was published by the Ministry of Interior in 1996, with a foreword by the Deputy Interior Minister and the Deputy Minister of Education. The publication was distributed to Police stations and other relevant locations.

*2) Improved police training in the field of maintaining law and order* (in cases related to spectator violence).

#### *3) Appointing staff in charge of spectator violence*

In spring 2000, the Office of the Criminal Police, section extremism, appointed one officer in charge of spectator violence. Since the EU enlargement, the officer has acted as the National Football Information Point. The Office of the Criminal Police regional staff in charge of extremism has received new responsibilities (under the Police internal rules, lastly the Police President binding decree No. 100 of 2002 – see point 5)

#### *4) International police Co-operation in the field of spectator violence*

When the Police of the Czech Republic first sent its liaison officer to the European Football Championship in 1996 in the Great Britain, it was not yet under the umbrella of a fully fledged international spectator violence Co-operation programme. The first formal international spectator violence Co-operation activity was the deployment of a delegation of police spotters and one liaison officer to the European Football Championship in the Netherlands and Belgium in 2000. Since then, exchange of spotters has come without saying.

#### *5) Visegrad Co-operation in the field of preventing spectator violence*

Based on the decision of the Visegrad and Austrian Ministers of Interior (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria and later Poland), the Czech Republic hosted a working group of representatives in charge of spectator violence. The group members exchanged experience, established personal relationships, and debated relevant current and future legislative instruments. The members informed the Ministers of Interior on the conclusions made.

6) *Meeting of the Working Group to draft recommendation of the European Convention Standing Committee on Racism and Intolerance.*

The Working Group met in Prague in December 2000. The CR invited to the meeting representatives of NGOs and the football association to inform them about the basic principles of the recommendation.

7) *Questionnaire project regarding stadium facilities and steward deployment at the 1<sup>st</sup> league football clubs*

The Ministry of Interior contacted representatives of all 1<sup>st</sup> football league clubs at the end of 2000 with a request for information on the condition of stadium facilities and steward services. To provide a compatible format, the questions were prepared into a questionnaire divided into four main sections: Co-operation with the Police, stewards, communication with spectators, and technical facilities of the stadia.

The part regarding communications with the spectators revealed that very few clubs coach their fans or otherwise systematically work with them. On the other hand, all clubs communicate with their fans and provide them with necessary information (on boards, tickets, through regional media, fliers, bulletins, etc.).

About half of the stadia met the Czech and Moravian Football Association and UEFA norms, the rest of them are under reconstruction or have planned for it. Since the questionnaire, the technical conditions of stadia have improved and at the moment all stadia have or are about to implement measures to comply with the Czech and Moravian Football Association and UEFA norms.

Parallel to the questionnaire, the evaluators debated the issue of removal of fences (see Standing Committee Recommendation No 2/1999). The experts concluded that fences should be removed in the future, but conditions stipulated in the Recommendation have not been met yet.

8) *Stewarding seminar*

The seminar was organised in compliance with provisions 2b) and 3 of the Co-ordination Commission on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Resolution of February 13, 2002, which require the Department of Crime Prevention at the Ministry of Interior to organize, in Co-operation with the Czech and Moravian Football Association a seminar on stewarding (stadia safety).

The seminar „Safety at Football Stadia“ took place in Prague on February 27, 2003 and was organised in Co-operation of the Department of Crime Prevention at the Ministry of Interior, the Czech and Moravian Football Association, and the Embassy of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland in Prague. It was attended by representatives of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> league and relevant Police officers from regions and counties.

The guest speaker, Mr. John de Quidt, director of the British Football Licensing Office and the ex chairman of the European Convention Standing Committee on Spectator Violence, delivered a presentation of the British and European experience with providing safety and security at football stadia, with creation and performance of stewards, stadia safety management, and selected structural issues. The participants discussed measures necessary to improve stadia safety and security and prevention of spectator violence. To conclude with, the

participants received a Czech translation of the Council of Europe Recommendation on Stewardship and Ticketing.

*9) The Czech - British Co-operation in the Field of Prevention of Spectator Violence*

In the years 2003 and 2004, the Embassy of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland run a joint project focused on prevention of spectator violence and the use of football in the community work. In December 2003, a group of high ranking representatives of the Ministry of Interior and the Police of the CR, headed by the 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Minister of Interior Mgr. Koudelný, visited the Great Britain. The group received information regarding the stadia safety and security, licensing of stadia, NCIS activities in the field, stadium bans, and community work with young fans at Charlton and Millwall clubs. The visit was covered extensively by both the general press and sports magazines.

The visit was complemented by a seminar, in March 2004, for municipalities hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> league matches.

The seminar was organised in compliance with provision 4 of the draft measure of the Analysis of the Current Regulatory Tools at big sports events (requiring to organize a seminar for representatives of municipalities hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> league matches with the intention to involve them more in the safety and security measures related to football matches) approved by the Minister of Interior in July 2003.

The agenda of the seminar was as follows:

- The role of municipalities in maintaining law and order and providing security in relation to sports events;
- Police security measures as sports events;
- Prevention projects of fan coaching (FC Slovan Liberec),
- Examples of how to regulate sports events based on generally binding regulations issued by municipalities;
- Stadium bans as a limiting measure under Act No. 200/1990 Coll., on Administrative Violations.

The guest speaker, again Mr. John de Quidt, delivered a presentation devoted to the British experience in the field of Co-operation of clubs and municipalities in maintaining law and order and providing for security of football stadia, including licensing of stadia performed by municipalities themselves. Other speakers, representatives of a football club from Charlton (Great Britain), running a project called „Football in the Community“, shared with the audience their experience with their community project.

Conclusions of the seminar:

There are places the safety of which may require, after having performed and analysis of the local situation and the need for regulation, a generally binding regulation. It remains very important to sanction violations or non-compliance with such regulations. The municipalities should, in keeping with Section 46 Para 3 of the Act on Administrative Violations (violations of the local administration rules), fine violators up to CZK 30 000, and enforce their decisions. The same is true for sanctions imposed on businesses violating or failing to comply with provisions of generally binding regulations (Section 58 Para 4 of the Municipalities Act, a fine up to CZK 200 000). Speakers from the municipalities of Brno and Ostrava supported such binding regulations and presented them as beneficial in combination with the clearly divided responsibilities between Municipal Police forces and the Police of the CR. The

discussions at the seminar reveal, that stadium bans as a sanction for violations, related to a football match committed at the stadium or in its vicinity, represent an efficient tool to punish offenders (and should be used more often). Stadium bans, however, will not be efficient unless strictly enforced.

*10) Analysis of the Tools Currently Used to Control Big Sports Events*

The Minister of Interior, in reaction to the growing number of incidents, decided on drafting an Analysis of the tools currently used to control big sports events. The analysis describes control mechanisms, such as stewarding, legal and other mechanisms available to the Police of the CR and the Municipal Police, public and local authority tools (employed by towns and municipalities), fire safety measures, and information on enforceability of the above tools plus on Co-operation and Co-ordination between the Police of the CR and the Czech and Moravian Football Association.

Structure of the Analysis:

- 1) Introduction;
- 2) law enforcement tools;
- 3) public administration tools;
- 4) organization of sports events as a business;
- 5) internal instruments of the Czech and Moravian Football Association;
- 6) stewarding;
- 7) conclusions and proposed measures.

The analysis includes the position of the Police Academy of the CR, which was invited by the Czech and Moravian Football Association to perform a legal analysis of stewarding.

The Czech and Moravian Football Association drafted a sample of Visitor rules for the sports stadia and a sample directive to guide stewarding (both as appendices to the Analysis).

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Agreement between the Police of the CR and the Czech and Moravian Football Association on mutual Co-operation in maintaining law and order and protecting people and property at football matches

Appendix 2 - Regulation No. 10/2001 on maintaining local law and order in the municipality of Brno

Appendix 3 - Generally binding regulation of the municipality of Ostrava č. 8/1999 on maintaining local law and order in the municipality of Ostrava

Appendix 4 - Visitor rules

Appendix 5 - Rules of stewarding

Appendix 6 - Steward's Code of Ethics

The analysis shows that the Police tools are sufficient. It is important to perform annual evaluations of the implementation of the Convention. The evaluation process may be combined with training of the Police command officers in charge of sports events security and for the Service of the Criminal Police and Investigation officers in charge of spectator violence. The law enforcement representatives should pay more attention to informing the public about sanctions for spectator violence to show that such behaviour will not be tolerated.

The existing criminal or administrative proceedings against perpetrators of spectator violence are sufficient. There are, however, proposals for improvement and extension.

Limiting measures (bans) may be imposed in keeping with the Code of Criminal Proceedings, the Criminal Code, and the Administrative Code. Steps have been taken to improve enforcement of the above measures.

Although the local authorities have extensive powers to maintain law and order at sports events, they use them very little. The most important tools at hand of the local administration are in the field of handling Organisers of the sports event. Such tools need to be used more.

Legal tools to limit business in case of spectator violence incidents are limited. The only possibility is to use the contractual relationship between the Organiser and the spectator buying a ticket to guide the rights and responsibilities of spectators.

Powers and responsibilities of stewards are extensive enough. The Czech and Moravian Football Association has made a big progress in this respect. Attention should be paid primarily to the recruitment of stewards.

The government authorities have sufficient tools to interfere in case of an incident.

In the field of prevention, the Police has certain powers, which are, however, not sufficient. That is why it is very important to employ the Czech and Moravian Football Association, clubs, and municipalities. To secure peaceful sports events, all parties involved should maintain the agreed upon roles and procedures.

#### *11) Stadium bans – see 4.3.*

In relation to the recent incidents, the Police invited, in April 2003, the Supreme Office of Prosecution to consider more frequent use of the Code of Criminal Proceedings and the Criminal Code in imposing stadium bans. The Supreme Prosecutor promised to instruct the prosecutors to impose stadium bans more frequently.

#### *12) Activities of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport*

Within the framework of 'sport for all' and also within the framework of the national educational policy the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport supports a number of activities aimed at youth and schoolchildren to promote the spirit of fair play, tolerance and a non-violent way of life. Activities are performed within so-called "Minimal preventive programmes in schools" and also within a number of sports clubs, youth organisations and NGOs, the work of which is supported financially by the Ministry.

#### *13) Initiative of the city of Opava*

After serious disturbances connected with the domestic match SFC Opava – Baník Ostrava on 15 May 2004 the Opava city council made an appeal for national measures aimed at the suppression of spectator violence. The appeal was launched on 27 May 2004. Its 9 points appeal to namely football clubs and football associations, encouraging disassociation of violent fans, improvement of ticketing and co-ordination during the transport of supporters, a hardening of sanctions on clubs whose supporters would cause incidents, and evaluation of supporters' behaviour in FA delegates' reports. Opava city council also committed itself to organising a discussion forum to put forward practical proposals. This discussion forum took place on 13 July 2004 and resulted in the start of the Municipalities Association's involvement in the fight against spectator violence and in putting the issue higher on political agenda. The city of Opava also committed itself to social and educational work with violent or would-be violent fans.

## **4 Legislation**

### **4.1. Organising Football Matches – Activities of the Administrative Authorities**

#### **4.1.1. Municipalities – The Municipality Act no. 128/2000 Coll., as amended and Act no. 131/2000 Coll., on the Capital of Prague, as amended**

Municipalities and Prague (under Section 10 of the Municipality Act; and in Prague under Section 44 of the Act on the Capital of Prague) have, in keeping with the above acts, the power to issue, when needed, a generally binding regulation to help maintain law and order; in the regulation, they may stipulate that activities threatening to disturb law and order, be in contrast with good manners, or compromise security, health or damage property, may be performed only at places and in time stipulated by the regulation. The regulation may also forbid such activities at public places and may stipulate binding conditions for Organisers of public sports and cultural events in the extent necessary to maintain local peace and order.

It is fully in the discretion of the municipalities and their representatives to issue a regulation to guide sports events. Should a municipality decide to issue such regulation, it may sanction a legal or physical person violating such regulation, with a fine up to CZK 200 000 (Section 58 Para 4 of the Municipality Act; and in Prague under Section 29 Para 1 of the Act on the Capital of Prague).

In keeping with Section 46 Para 2 of the Act on Administrative Violations, an administrative violation of local administration rules is understood to be violation of responsibilities as stipulated by the generally binding regulations issued by municipalities and regions for issues under their responsibility. A physical person not doing a business may be, in keeping with Para 3 of the above provision, sanctioned for violation of a municipal rule up to CZK 30 000.

Municipalities may, in keeping with Section 54 of the Municipality Act, (in Prague under Sections 28 and 28a of the Act on the Capital of Prague) conclude an Agreement on Co-operation with physical or legal persons. Such Agreement helps divide responsibilities between the municipality and the Organiser of the sport event (especially in case of regular events).

#### **4.1.2. Municipal Police – The Municipal Police Act no. 553/1991 Coll., as amended**

Municipalities may, in keeping with Section 35a Para 2 of the Municipality Act, establish the Municipal Police. The foundation and performance of the Municipal Police are guided by the Municipal Police Act. In keeping with the Act, the Municipal Police is a body subordinated to the municipality, which may be established or abolished by a generally binding regulation. The Municipal Police helps maintain law and order in the municipality and, should it be required to do so by the above or another Act, it may perform other tasks. The Municipal Police closely cooperates with the Police of the CR.

The Municipal Police helps maintain law and order in the municipality as follows:

- a) protects people and their property;
- b) maintains civic coexistence;
- c) detects administrative violations;
- d) warns physical and legal persons of violations of the generally binding rules and implements measures to remedy the violations.

At football matches, the Municipal Police, in Co-operation with the Police of the CR, attends and supervises the event (only should the municipality decide to deploy its police to the event). Should the Municipal Police not be deployed, the Police of the CR shall act on its own.

#### **4.1.3. Sale of Alcoholic Beverages – The Czech National Council Act no. 37/1989 Coll., Prevention of Alcoholism and other Addictions, as amended**

In keeping with Section 4 Para 1 letter a) 5, it is prohibited to sale or serve alcoholic beverages or otherwise facilitate their consumption at sports events (including football matches).

The local authority may sanction legal persons violating this provision (Section 12) with a fine up to CZK 50 000. Physical persons selling goods or providing other services and violating Section 4 Para 1 letter a) may be sanctioned up to CZK 5 000.

Although the ban on alcohol sales has been in force since 1989, alcohol remains readily available at most Czech stadia. It is especially true for beer, which is sold at all stadia but FC Slovan Liberec and AC Sparta Praha grounds.

#### **4.1.4. The Fire Brigade – The Fire Safety Act no. 133/1985 Coll., as amended**

In keeping with Section 27 Para 2 letter b) 5 of the Act on Fire Safety at Sports Events (football and others), attended by crowd, the regional council may, by way of a regional regulation, determine conditions necessary to provide for fire safety. A municipality may, in keeping with Section 29 Para 1 letter o) 2 of the Act on Fire Safety at Sports Events issue a generally binding regulation to guide fire safety requirements at events attended by crowds. Section 9 of the Government Decree No. 172/2001 Coll., to implement the Act on Fire Safety at Sports Events as amended by the Government Decree No. 498/2002 Coll., stipulates the contents of the fire safety documentation required for events attended by crowd.

The fire safety documentation required for events attended by crowd includes the following:

- a) types of events attended by crowd, which require municipal or regional conditions;
- b) fire safety requirements at events of the above type and their implementation;

The Ministry of Interior – Central Fire Brigade Headquarters – issued a methodology to standardize the above fire safety documentation. The Methodology for the purposes of the fire brigades at regions – Regional Decree – stipulates fire safety requirements at events attended by crowd. The regional methodology serves as a source for various fire safety related rules issued by the regions.

Violators of the Fire Safety Act – legal persons and physical persons doing business – may be sanctioned in keeping with Section 76 Para 1 and 2. A physical person not doing business may be sanctioned in keeping with Section 78.

## **4.2. Activities Related to Organising of Football Matches**

### **4.2.1. Regulation of Assembly Rights – The Right of Assembly Act no. 84/1990 Coll., as amended**

There may be, under certain circumstances, a spontaneous gathering of fans prior or after a match. Such assembly is guided by the Right of Assembly Act, Section 12 Para 3, stipulating assemblies which were not formally convened and announced. Such assembly may be terminated should it display features which would otherwise lead to its prohibition under Section 10 Para 1 – 3 (violence, violations of human or political rights. etc.). Such assembly

may be terminated by a representative of the local authority (Section 12 Para 1) or, under certain circumstances, by the Police of the CR.

#### **4.2.2. Unauthorised Enterprise – unauthorised sale of tickets (The Criminal Code Act, no. 140/1961 Coll., as amended)**

A perpetrator of Unauthorised enterprise (Section 118) is a person providing services or doing business generating profit in violation of the Act No. 455/1991 Coll., on Small Enterprise (Small Enterprise Act). To qualify, the Unauthorised enterprise has to be of wider extent. It shall be an activity comparable to a full time job performed with the intention to gain a stable source of income. To qualify, such violation shall have features of a real small business. It shall be an activity performed more than once or over a longer period of time (e.g. over a period of six and more months). It may also be one extensive violation, which needs to be differentiated from a single act, e.g. a single sale of a number of items (tickets), which is not considered a violation for it is not an activity resembling a real small business. The Criminal Code also stipulates that the violator should be providing services or be involved in production or any other profit generating activity, i.e. act as a real entrepreneur.

The crime of Unauthorised enterprise may be applied, in some cases, to the ticket dealing for the Czech legislation does not recognize a separate crime or Unauthorised ticket sale. The above shows, however, that the ticket dealers are very hard to sanction, even under the Section 118 of the Criminal Code.

#### **4.3. Stadium bans**

In the Czech Republic there is no special system of stadium bans. A ban may be imposed, on both criminal and administrative levels, primarily as a limiting measure.

##### **4.3.1 Criminal Code**

The Criminal Code includes several provisions which may be used by the court to impose bans or limiting measures to a violator thus making him change his lifestyle to the better. Such measures may include facility bans, including stadium bans.

In keeping with Section 26 of the Criminal Code (alternative punishment - probation) and under the conditions stipulated by Section 24 Para 1 (should the crime committed be minor should the perpetrator be remorseful and willing to remedy the crime) the court may decide not to sanction. The court may combine the probation with a number of limitations and responsibilities in order to make sure that the violator changes his lifestyle (Section 26 Para 3). The list of the appropriate limitations (Section 26 Para 4) is demonstrative and it is at the discretion of the court to impose the most adequate one – one stadium ban, general stadium ban, a particular match ban, a ban on entry in a particular town, etc.

In keeping with Section 45 (community sentence) the court may, for the period of the sentence, impose on the perpetrator proportionate limitations and adequate responsibilities in order to make him improve his lifestyle. The provision relates to Section 26 Para 4, and the above therefore applies.

In keeping with Section 57a (residence ban) the court may impose a residence ban for a period of one to five years to a perpetrator guilty of a premeditated crime should it be required - given the lifestyle of the perpetrator and the location of the crime – to protect public safety, family, health, morals, or property. The residence ban may not be imposed on the place of permanent residence of the perpetrator. Should the perpetrator be only formally registered to

reside at the given place, the court may impose a residence ban covering this place, too. The place of residence is understood to be the place, where the perpetrator currently resides, not where he is registered to reside. That is why it is important to investigate the place of true residence.

The court may, for the period of the sentence, proportionate limitations and responsibilities. Since the underlying conditions are not specified, the above applies.

The court may, in keeping with Section 59 Para 2, impose proportionate limitations and responsibilities as stipulated in Section 26 Para 4, in order to make the perpetrator improve his lifestyle – see above.

In keeping with Section 60 Para 1 letter c), the court may, exceptionally and in respect to the circumstances of the crime and the perpetrator, maintain the conditional sentence even should the perpetrator not violate the conditional sentence and impose new proportionate limitations and responsibilities stipulated in Section 26 Para 4, in order to make him improve his lifestyle – see above.

In keeping with Section 60a Para 3 the court may impose on a perpetrator on probation, proportionate limitations and responsibilities stipulated in Section 26 Para 4, in order to make him improve his lifestyle – see above.

In keeping with Section 63 Para 3 the court may impose on a perpetrator on parole proportionate limitations and responsibilities stipulated in Section 26 Para 4, in order to make him improve his lifestyle – see above.

The stadium ban may be, in keeping with the Criminal Code, imposed as a limiting measure solely on a perpetrator guilty of one of the crimes stipulated in the Code and not as a separate punishment. To impose a stadium ban, the perpetrator must be guilty of a crime stipulated in the Criminal Code, e.g. rioting, damage of property, etc..

#### **4.3.2. Code of Criminal Proceedings – Act no. 141/1961 Coll., Code of Criminal Proceedings, as amended**

The Code of Criminal Proceedings, in Section 307 Para 4 (conditional termination of criminal proceedings) guides for a possibility to require the perpetrator to, for the period of probation, maintain proportionate limitations and responsibilities in order to change his lifestyle. Since the conditions for imposing such limitations are not stipulated, the provisions of the Criminal Code apply.

The same is stipulated by Section 19 of the Act No. 218/2003 Coll., on Liability of the Youth for Crimes on and Youth Justice, as amended (Youth Justice Act), which empowers courts, and, under certain circumstances, prosecutors, to impose so called disciplinary limitations, such as ban on selected events, facilities, or any other places threatening to compromise the young individual's good manners. The limitation may also be imposed only to a perpetrator having committed a crime (in such a case the court may also order a stadium ban).

#### **4.3.3. Administrative Violations – Act No. 200/1990 Coll., on Administrative Violations, as amended**

The Act on Administrative Violations empowers the court to impose, as one of the protective measures (Section 16) a limiting measure (Section 17) in form of a ban on entry of public

places and facilities where alcohol is sold or public sports or cultural events organised. Such ban may be imposed on a perpetrator guilty of an administrative violence in the field of alcohol or other substance abuse (Section 30), violations of law and order (Section 47 and 48) and violation of civic coexistence (Section 49).

The same rule applies as with the Criminal Code – the violator must be found guilty of an administrative violation (and may be fined) and only subsequently the administrative body may impose a stadium ban as a limiting measure. The limiting measure imposed must be proportionate to the character and degree of the violation and may be imposed only in combination with a sanction and for a maximum period of one year. When imposing facility bans, the administrative body may limit only within the territory of its administrative unit.

The compliance with the limiting measures is supervised by the administrative body which had imposed it (Section 93). Premeditated failure to comply with the limiting measure is qualified as an administrative violation (in keeping with Section 21 Para 1 letter ch) of the Act on Administrative Violations.

#### **4.3.4. Stadium bans in keeping with the Civil Law (by the football club)**

The contractual relationship which originates at the purchase of a ticket to a sports event, and its potential changes or termination, is not stipulated by any regulation. The Section 6 of the Act No. 634/1992 Coll., on Consumer Protection, as amended, prohibits any discrimination of consumers. Not selling a ticket to a spectator or denying entry into a stadium (unless under a stadium ban imposed by a court or the local administration), may constitute a violation of the above provision.<sup>1</sup>

Should a club “decide” to ban a particular fan from entering the stadium and should it circulate his/her name and picture, such behaviour would constitute a breach of the right of privacy, for in keeping with Section 11 of the Civil Code, each individual shall have the right to protection of his/her personality, primarily life and health, civic honour, human dignity, privacy, name, and other elements of personal nature.

The privacy law and elements of personal nature may be breached in the following two cases:

- a) upon consent of the person in question with taking or using his/her picture, image recording, or sound recording concerning his/her privacy or elements of personal nature,
- b) the consent is not required in case of so called *licenses*, i.e. legal exception from the privacy law:

- 1) in cases stipulated by Section 12 Para 2 and 3 of the Civil Code
- 2) in cases of limitations stipulated by other legal instruments (Code of Criminal Proceedings, Code of Civil Procedure, administrative law rules, etc.).

At the moment is it therefore not possible for a club to use its discretion to impose a ban or to publicize the name and picture of the person in question.

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<sup>1</sup> The Section 6 understands consumer discrimination as a violation of good manners. In this respect, a business shall not:

- Refuse to sell products displayed (in the shopping window, sales counter, etc.) or otherwise ready to sell
- Deny a service which it is capable of providing;
- Tie sale of a certain product to a purchase of another one.

As far as the term "good manners", which is, despite its vagueness, frequently used primarily in the private law (Civil Code and Business Code) is concerned, violation of good manners would represent behaviour which is contradictory to the generally accepted norm.

#### 4.4. EU Legislation

The two key football related EU legal instruments are the following:

1) Council decision of December 6, 2001 (2001/C22/01) on a manual including recommendations for international police Co-operation and measures to prevent and control violence and hooliganism related to football matches attended by at least one member state. The manual is a tentative document guiding recommended standards for the police preparation for matches, Co-operation among police forces of the countries involved, Co-operation between the police and stewards, communication with the media, and requirements on the Organisers.

2) Council decision of April 25, 2002 (2002/348/JHA) on security in connection with international football matches. This document is binding and stipulates for a foundation of a National Football Information Point as a central body to collect and exchange information concerning international football matches.

#### 5 Activities of the Police of the CR (Act No. 283/1991 Coll., Police Act, as amended)

The Police Act, in Section 2 Para 1, stipulates that the Police of the CR shall, among others:

- Protect people and property,
- Help maintain law and order and, in case of violations, help restore law and order,
- Detect crime and investigate perpetrators,
- Detect administrative violations and, should it be required to do so by a special act, prosecute violators.

Tasks of the Police of the CR in the field of combating extremism (including spectator violence) are guided by the Binding Decree of the Police President No. 100 of June 6, 2002. Part five of the Decree is devoted to the activities of experts in the field of combating spectator violence. It describes in detail their activities before, during, and after a match. Based on Article 16, the Police communicates in advance with the representatives of the football club and, optionally, with a representative of the local authority. At the meeting, the parties discuss the most risky matches, likely to be attended by a number of local and visiting fans and therefore potentially dangerous (violence and violations of law). Based on the analysis of the situation, the parties agree on their joint action. Articles 17 and 18 stipulate forms of Co-operation of various Police services and describe tasks of the officer in charge of the security measures. Article 19 serves as a guideline for classifying individual football matches as to their potential of violence outbreaks. There are three categories of matches: category „A“ – violence not expected – fans will not engage in a conflict, category „B“ – a chance of trouble – slightly risky crowd, may engage in violence or confrontation, especially related to alcohol consumption, category „C“ - risky – risky crowd hungry for violence, including key Organisers of incidents. Based on the categories, the parties adopt relevant measures.

Prevention of the spectator violence and related misconduct is in the hands of the Police of the CR in Co-operation with the Czech and Moravian Football Association (and representatives of clubs and stewards). Once a match has been classified (in keeping with Article 19 of the Decree No. 100/2002) the Police shall take appropriate measures to prevent violations of law by the football fans. The Czech and Moravian Football Association, based on an Agreement between the Police of the CR and the Czech and Moravian Football Association, shall cooperate with the Police on the prevention activities – see 5.2.

To transport the fans to the match, authorities often use special trains despatched by the Czech Railway Company and special busses (often organised by the clubs or fans themselves). The Police of the CR shall supervise such transportation.

### **5.1. The Role of the Police in Maintaining Local Peace and Order**

The Police shall cooperate, based on special regulations, with the local authorities in maintaining local peace and order. In keeping with Section 103 of the Act on Municipalities, mayors may require the Police of the CR Co-operation in maintaining local peace and order. Similarly, the Section 72 Para 5 of the Act on the Capital of Prague gives the Mayor of Prague the power to ask the Police of the CR to assist in maintaining local peace and order. The Police of the CR shall provide the required services unless prohibited to do so by other laws. In keeping with Section 98 of the Act on the Capital of Prague, the Mayor of Prague has the power to request Co-operation of the Police of the CR or the Municipal Police in maintaining local peace and order. The Police of the CR of the Prague Municipal Police shall provide the required services unless prohibited to do so by other laws.

In keeping with Section 45 Para 1 of the Police Act, the law enforcement authorities and the local authorities shall exchange information necessary to fulfil the mission of maintaining local peace and order. In keeping with the Government Decree No. 397/1992 Coll., which stipulates in detail the relationship between the Police of the CR and the local authorities and municipal police forces, the local authority may require the law enforcement to perform tasks necessary to help maintain local peace and order.

### **5.2. Agreement between the Police of the CR and the Czech and Moravian Football Association**

In 1995, The Police of the CR – The Police Presidium and the Czech and Moravian Football Association concluded an Agreement on Mutual Co-operation in Maintaining Law and Order, and Safety and Security of the Public and Property

The Agreement stipulates the responsibilities of the Czech and Moravian Football Association vis a vis the clubs (for example to ensure that its elements (clubs) are punished with disciplinary and/or technical sanctions for violations of public order during a football match, to determine professional football codes, league schedules and other documents, stipulate responsibilities of match Organisers, etc.), and responsibilities of the Czech and Moravian Football Association vis a vis the Police (the obligation to ensure that its elements (football clubs) maintain footage of any serious disturbance of public order, at least in the sectors where the most radical spectator groups are and to present it to the Police upon request, to enable the Police to make video footage on the situation within the stadium in case of a Police action and documentation of illegal activities of spectators or other persons (during a serious breach of public order), upon agreement of the head of the Police with the main Organiser, etc.

The responsibilities of the Police in this Agreement are based on the Police Act. The Police shall deploy, during 1<sup>st</sup> league matches and, in exceptional cases, during 2<sup>nd</sup> league matches, a police officer – spotter - see the Binding Decree of the Police President No. 100/2002).

Should the Police identify perpetrators of crime or violation, it shall provide the football club with documents enabling to make property and damage claims at the expense of such persons. The Agreement was concluded for a period of one year, but its force shall automatically prolong every year. On 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2003, a new Agreement (of the same name and between the same subjects) was signed, replacing the Agreement of 1995.

The Agreement contains the following new provisions (on top of those taken from the 1995 Agreement):

- The Czech and Moravian Football Association and its clubs shall organize a meeting prior to start of the championship season (Autumn - Spring) with the relevant Regional Police President and a representative of the local authority to discuss the tasks for the upcoming season.
- The Czech and Moravian Football Association shall prescribe for its clubs (in the professional football code, the league schedules and other documents) the responsibilities of the match Organiser: to ensure suitable stadium layout for safety of visitors and prevention of spectator violence, to inform the regional public authorities of all matches and to require co-operation in ensuring safety and public order, especially outside the stadium (entrance and exit, access to stadium).
- The Czech and Moravian Football Association and its clubs shall ensure presence of a Police representative at the steward licensing procedures.
- The Czech and Moravian Football Association shall require its clubs to comply with the requirement that the main Organiser informs the head of the Police intervention on the expected number of fans of the guest club, the time and location of their arrival (public transport, or individual transport) and in case of a change in the planned time of the match, immediately inform the local Police.
- The Czech and Moravian Football Association shall require its clubs to provide suitable facilities for the head of Police intervention (room), including mobile communication with the main Organiser and to create suitable condition for the Police (parking, welfare facilities, etc.).
- The Czech and Moravian Football Association shall require the main Organiser of a match to meet with the head of Police intervention or another representative of the Police of the CR and the Czech and Moravian Football Association delegate. The meeting should evaluate preparations, course and conclusion of the intervention, and discuss problems in co-operation.

At the present, a new Agreement is being prepared, with more emphasis on requirements included in the European Council and European Union documents (See Decision of the European Council 2001/C22/01).

### **5.3 International Police Co-operation**

Based on a decision by the European Council of 25<sup>th</sup> April 2002 (2002/348/JHA) on security in relation to international football matches, the National Football Information Point was established in July 2002 at the Police Presidium. It acts as a central point of contact for exchange of relevant information and to simplify international Police Co-operation in relation to international football matches. It is included in the hierarchy of the Police Presidium, Service of the Criminal police and Investigation. Its main task is to ensure co-operation with foreign Police forces during preparation for important matches.

The Police of the CR is co-operating with foreign Police forces based on a decision by the European Council of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2001 (2001/C22/01) – Recommendation for international Police co-operation and measures for prevention of violence and misbehaviour in relation to football matches with at least one member-state taking part. Between 2002-2004 (August), the Police of the CR received a group of 16 members of foreign Police forces in relation to the Masters League, the UEFA and Intertoto Cups and the 2004 European Championships.

## **6 The Czech and Moravian Football Association**

Professional football matches in the Czech Republic are organised by the Czech and Moravian Football Association. The Czech and Moravian Football Association is an incorporated association founded on the basis of Act no. 83/1990 Coll., on Public Association, as amended.

The basic document for football match organisation are the Rules of football competition issued by the Czech and Moravian Football Association, which contain provisions on stewarding, its performance, club responsibilities, professional match procedures, etc. Other legal instruments, such as the Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, Rules of Registration, Arbitration Commission Covenant, etc. relate to the internal activities of the Czech and Moravian Football Association bodies.

### **6.1. Match Organisers**

Organisers, stewards, and related issues are guided by Articles 19 to 24. The organising club is obliged to, among other things, ensure order at the stadium (Article 19), provide Stewards in the necessary number and qualification (Article 20), and prevent access of intoxicated persons and persons carrying banned objects (Article 21). Breach of these provisions is sanctioned by a fine, disciplinary proceedings, or play results.

### **6.2. Stewards**

Article 23 of the Czech and Moravian Football Association professional football code guides the position and activities of stewards. It specifies that a steward must be a physical person older than 18 years of age and trained in his duties and obligations by the main Organiser.

The steward service includes personnel at the following positions:

Main Organiser's deputy, stewards, ushers and cashiers, medical service (doctor or an experienced paramedic), announcer and the main light technician.

The number of stewards for individual matches is specified by the controlling body in the league schedules, or, depending on local situation, case by case.

Stewards are delegated by individual football clubs. The stewards are volunteers subordinate to the main Organiser. In some cases, stewards include staff of private security agencies. In both cases, there is a contract between the football club and the security agency and/or between the club and the physical person. The reason for this contractual relationship is the delegation of some rights and obligations of the Organiser to the security agency and/or the physical person.

As far as the legal position of the members of the steward service is concerned, according to the current legislation, its members are in the same position as any other citizen during exercise of their rights and obligations. They have no special rights compared to other citizens. The special nature of their position, however, is temporarily based on their exercise of the steward duty and exercise of rights and obligations of their contractual partner - the football club.

The main activities of the steward service include ushering of visitors, performance of personal searches, provision of information, ticket checking, and ensuring of a secure course of the match.

The tasks and responsibilities of individual stewards are outlined in the Steward Service Code, issued by each football club with regard to specific local conditions.

Training of stewards is provided by the Czech and Moravian Football Association in co-operation with individual clubs.

### **6.3. Conditions during Professional Matches**

The Czech and Moravian Football Association is authorised to demand that football clubs taking part in events organised by the Association fulfil certain conditions to obtain a license to play championship matches. A club wishing to obtain such a license must fulfil several conditions – from structural design of the stadium, active and passive spectator security conditions, to provision of space for security and medical services. The club must also testify in writing that it is financially secure and will complete the championship. Starting from the 2003/2004 season, new stadium security rules called The Stadium 2003 Project [Project stadia 2003] were adopted. A club playing in the 1st football league must have a stadium where all spectator spaces are for seating only, the ground must have artificial illumination and a minimum size, etc. Licenses are granted by the Czech and Moravian Football Association based on Article 11 and 12 of the Professional Football Code.

As part of the Stadium 2003 Project, new rules for all 1st league stadiums were adopted. These rules are harmonised with those within the European Union. 1st and 2nd football league stadiums in the Czech Republic must all comply with requirements, especially the following:

- exactly marked and confined space for flag-bearing fans of the local and visiting club, with structural fencing, separate access from the outside perimeter of the stadium, separate entrance/exit to/from the sector, separate toilets, refreshment stalls and ticket office,
- stands divided to a minimum of 4 separate sectors (North, South, East, West), with fencing preventing movement between individual sectors and access of spectators to the ground.

## **7 Work with Fans**

### **7.1. Junior Fan clubs**

The project's goal is to communicate with 8 to 12 year olds interested in football and football events, who are not members of any associations/clubs and to provide them with regular activities during the week. This program should gradually build positive relationships between individuals and the football club and develop these relationships using a motivational system. Examples of advantages are numerous: use of club facilities, contact with players, access (limited) to backstage, free or discounted tickets, “protected” space on the stands, outside of hardcore fans' sectors, sports and other activities, possibility to play at a national league ground, etc. Social assistance provided by a club worker will ensure detection and/or solution of members' problems similarly to the half-way houses. Such programs require good co-operation with parents and Co-ordination with specialised institutions (K centrum, pedagogicko psychologická poradna pro děti a mládež [Youth Educational and Psychological Counselling Centre]).

As part of the crime prevention programs at the local level, the Ministry of Interior supported Junior Fan clubs associated to national-league clubs in Opava and České Budějovice in 2001. In 2002, a similar project was funded in Olomouc.

## **7.2. Fan Coaching**

The Ministry of Interior approved financial support of a social project called “Pozitivní fandovství” [Fan Coaching] in 2004. The project is aimed at 10 – 20 year old football fans and intends to create groups of young people interested in positive football supporting and prevent their infiltration by hooligans. The project includes targeted system prevention work with fans at individual clubs, free-time activities, support of positive supporting events, and education toward positive football fan culture. It is currently running in Liberec.

## **7.3. The Fan Embassy**

As part of the participation of the Czech National Football team at the 2004 European Cup in Portugal, the Ministry of Interior financially supported a Fan Embassy project. The Fan Embassy provided Czech fans with event information, information on accommodation, transport, local customs, etc., in the Czech language. As a part of the project, the fans received a printed fan guide.

## **7.4 Government funding of prevention projects related to stadium safety and spectator violence**

The Ministry of Interior has been active in supporting prevention projects and related activities at the club level. Such projects may be financially supported from the Government crime-prevention funds. Surroundings of football stadiums in several cities (Liberec, Teplice, Pardubice) were equipped with CCTV.

## **8 Conclusion**

During the last year, spectator violence became subject to increased interest by the general public, media, and politicians.

The measures to be taken reflect the growing interest of the general public. The measures planned for the future include, among others, the following:

1. Strengthening the role of municipalities in maintaining safety prior to and during sports events.

As described above, municipalities have significant authority in preventing and suppressing spectator violence. However, this authority is not always used to its maximum. The Ministry of Interior, based on positive experience from some municipalities, prepared a template of a municipal ordinance for public order during sports events. Negotiations were held with the Association of Towns and Municipalities to ensure its co-operation with the public authorities, the Police and the football clubs in preparing necessary measures. The role of municipalities is also promoted by recommendations made by the Congress of Local and Regional Administrative Bodies.

2. The interest in preventive work with the youth is growing. The authorities have been considering templates for fan club articles of association and launching of special task oriented associations which would, when needed, help municipalities or clubs prepare and implement prevention projects and exchange information and experience with foreign counterparts. To support the prevention activities, we are preparing a collection of documents of the conference of the Standing Committee of the European Convention and the Congress of Local and Regional Administration in Lisbon in June 2003.

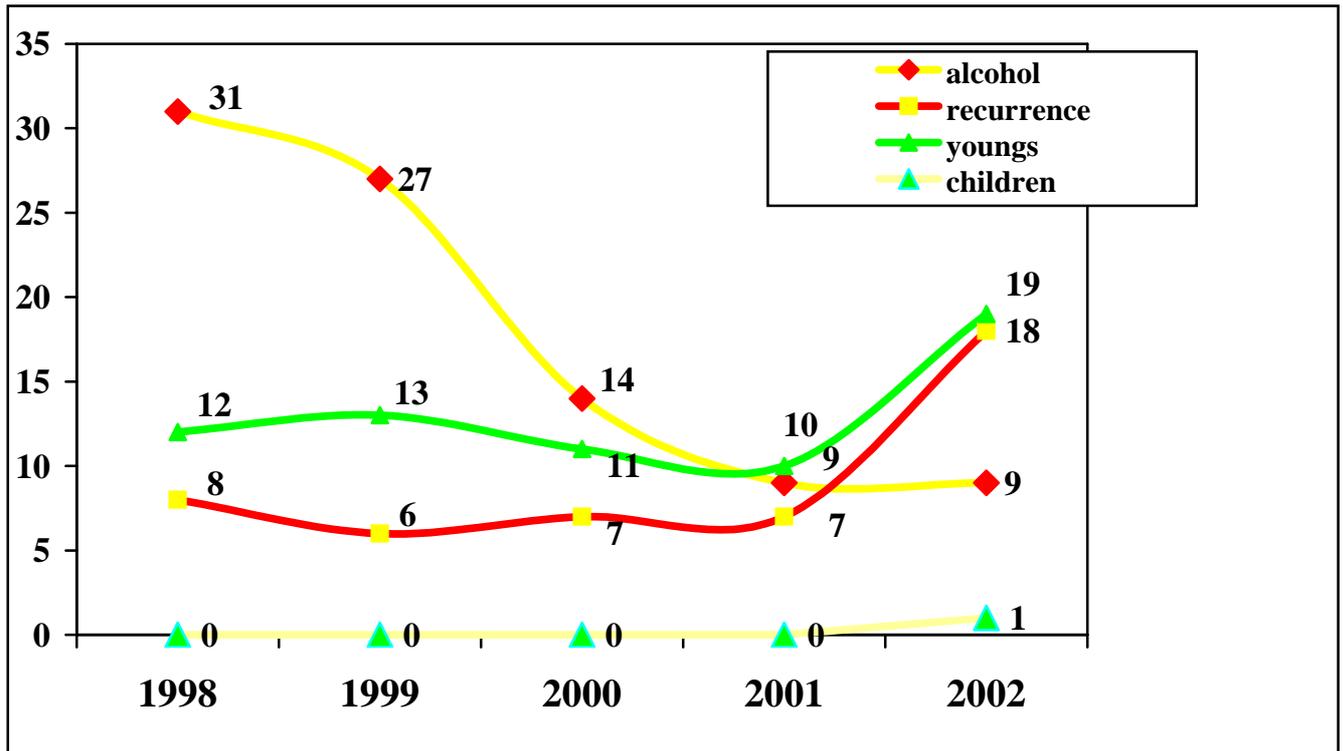
## Comparative table of the Convention provisions and their implementation

MEASURES – EUROPEAN CONVENTION	MEASURES – THE CZECH REPUBLIC
<p><i>Article 2</i> <i>The Parties shall coordinate the policies and activities of their ministries and other public authorities against spectator violence and misbehaviour, where suitable by establishing a Co-ordination Committee</i></p> <p><i>«Article 3 Measures</i> <i>1 - The Parties undertake to ensure the formulation and implementation of measures designed to prevent and control violence and misbehaviour by spectators, including in particular:</i></p> <p><i>a) To secure that adequate public order resources are employed to counter outbreaks of violence and misbehaviour, both within the immediate vicinity of and inside stadia and along the transit routes used by spectators;</i></p> <p><i>b) To facilitate close co-operation and exchange of appropriate information between the police forces of the different localities involved or likely to be involved;</i></p> <p><i>c) To apply or, if need be, to adopt legislation which provides for those found guilty of offences related to violence or misbehaviour by spectators to receive appropriate penalties or, as the case may be, appropriate administrative measures.</i></p> <p><i>2 - The Parties undertake to encourage the responsible organisation and good conduct of supporters, clubs and the appointment of stewards from within their membership to help manage and inform spectators at matches and to accompany parties of supporters travelling to away fixtures.</i></p> <p><i>3 - The Parties shall encourage the co-ordination, in so far as legally possible, of the organisation of travel arrangements from the place of departure with the co-operation of clubs, organised supporters, and travel agencies, so as to inhibit potential trouble-makers from leaving to attend matches.</i></p>	<p>Agreement on the establishment of the Co-ordination Commission between the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports of 1996 – see part 3 of this Report</p> <p>Act No. 283/1991 Coll., Police Act Act No. 200/1990 Coll., on Administrative Offences Act No. 140/1961 Coll., Criminal Code see part 4 of this Report</p> <p>Act No. 283/1991 Coll., Police Act Act No. 553/1991 Coll., on Municipal Police see part 4.1.2 and part 5 of this Report</p> <p>Act No. 283/1991 Coll., Police Act and internal regulations of the Police of the CR, primarily the Binding Decree of the Police President No. 100/2002 see part 5 of this Report</p> <p>Act No. 200/1990 Coll., on Administrative Offences Act No. 140/1961 Coll., Criminal Code see part 4 of this Report</p> <p>Implementation of this article is on the Czech and Moravian Football Association and individual clubs - see part 6 of this Report</p> <p>The Czech legislation does not allow for a travel ban on <u>potential</u> perpetrators.</p>

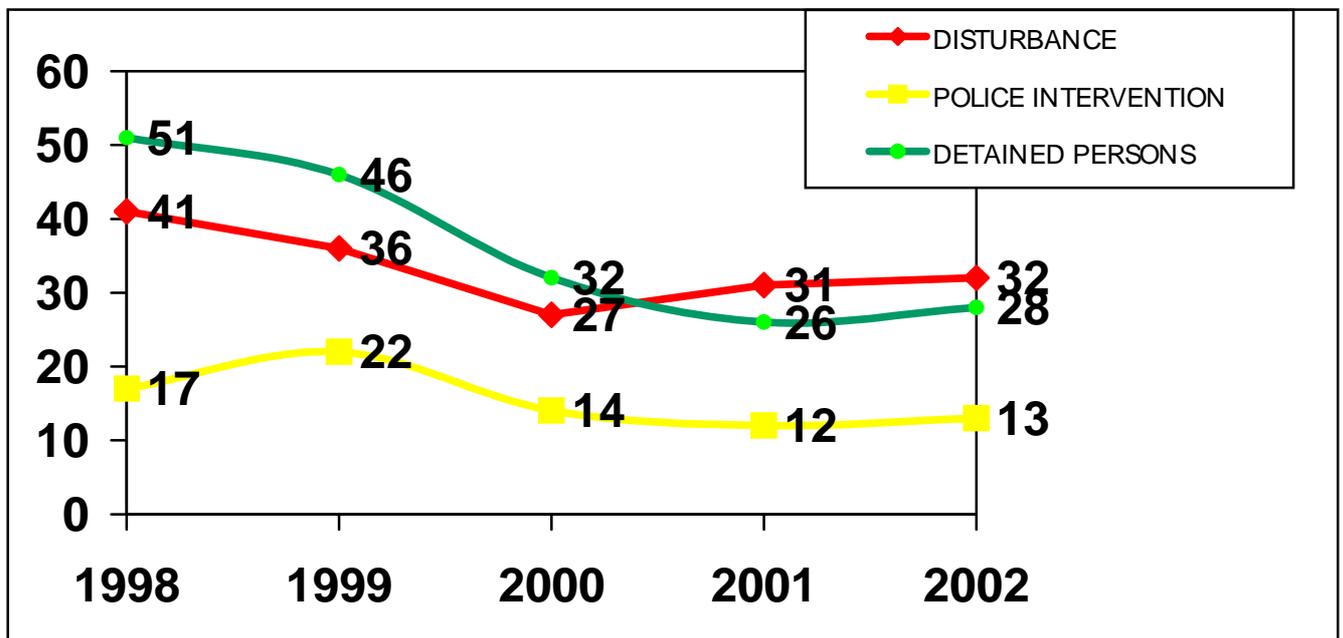
<p><i>4 – The Parties shall seek to ensure, where necessary by introducing appropriate legislation which contains sanctions for non-compliance or by any other appropriate means, that, where outbreaks of violence and misbehaviour by spectators are to be feared, sports organisations and clubs, together with, where appropriate, stadium owners and public authorities, in accordance with responsibilities defined in domestic law, take practical measures at and within stadia to prevent or control such violence or misbehaviour, including:</i></p>	<p>Act No. 283/1991 Coll., Police Act Act No. 200/1990 Coll., on Administrative Offences Act No. 140/1961 Coll., Criminal Code Act No. 128/2000 Coll., on Municipalities Act No. 131/2000 Coll., on the Capital of Prague see part 4 a 5 of this Report</p>
<p><i>a) To secure that the design and physical fabric of stadia provide for the safety of spectators, do not readily facilitate violence between spectators, allow effective crowd control, contain appropriate barriers or fencing, and allow security and police forces to operate;</i></p>	<p>Act No. 128/2000 Coll., on Municipalities Act No. 131/2000 Coll., on the Capital of Prague Act No. 50/1976 Coll., Construction Act Act No. 133/1985 Coll., on Fire Safety Project of the Czech and Moravian Football Association called Stadia 2003 see part 4.1.1, 4.1.4 a 6.3 of this Report</p>
<p><i>b) To segregate effectively groups of rival supporters, by allocating to groups of visiting supporters, when they are admitted, specific terraces;</i></p>	<p>Internal rules of the Czech and Moravian Football Association – Rules of football competition - <i>see part 6 of this Report</i></p>
<p><i>c) To ensure this segregation by strictly controlling the sale of tickets and to take particular precautions in the period immediately preceding the match;</i></p>	<p>Internal rules of the Czech and Moravian Football Association – Rules of football competition -<i>see part 6 of this Report</i></p>
<p><i>d) To exclude from or forbid access to matches and stadia, in so far as it is legally possible, known or potential trouble-makers, or people who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs;</i></p>	<p>The Czech legislation does not allow for a travel ban on <u>potential</u> perpetrators. Act No. 140/1961 Coll., Criminal Code Act No. 200/1990 Coll., on Administrative Violations Act No. 141/1961 Coll., Criminal Code see part 4.3 of this Report</p>
<p><i>e) To provide stadia with an effective public address system and to see that full use is made of this, of the match programme and of other publicity outlets to encourage spectators to behave correctly;</i></p>	<p>All stadia have a mandatory public address and control systems – see Internal rules of Czech and Moravian Football Association – Rules of football competition see part 6 of this Report</p>
<p><i>f) To prohibit the introduction of alcoholic drinks by spectators into stadia; to restrict, and preferably ban, the sale and any distribution of alcoholic drinks at stadia, and to ensure that all beverages available are in safe containers;</i></p>	<p>Act of the Czech National Council No. 37/1989 Coll., on Protection against Alcohol and other Substance Abuse see part 4.1.3 of this Report</p>

<p><i>g) To provide controls so as to ensure that spectators do not bring into stadia objects that are likely to be used in acts of violence, or fireworks or similar devices;</i></p> <p><i>h) To ensure that liaison officers co-operate with the authorities concerned before matches on arrangements to be taken for crowd control, so that the relevant rules are enforced through concerted action.</i></p> <p><i>5 – The Parties shall take appropriate social and educational measures, bearing in mind the potential importance of the mass media, to prevent violence in and associated with sport, in particular by promoting the sporting ideal through educational and other campaigns, by giving support to the notion of fair play, especially among young people, so as to enhance mutual respect both amongst spectators and between sports players and also by encouraging increased active participation in sport.»</i></p>	<p>Controls performed by stewards, the prohibition of dangerous objects is a part of the contractual relationship between the spectator and the club which originates upon purchase of a ticket see part 4.2.2, 4.3.4 a 6 of this Report</p> <p>Agreement between the Police of the CR and the Czech and Moravian Football Association Binding Decree of the Police President No. 100/2002 -see part 5.1 a 5.2 of this Report</p> <p>see part 7 of this Report</p>
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Share of “diverse group” in hooliganism crime from 1998 to 2002



Statistics from 1998 to 2002



## **B. Report of the evaluation team**

### **Introduction**

The visit was carefully organised and warmly hosted by representatives of the Czech Government. The evaluation team was well looked after and provided with comprehensive information and documentation. The high standard of the auto-evaluation report allowed an efficient preparation of the visit and the hearings.

The evaluation team was able to gain an insight into all the relevant aspects of the Czech Republic's spectator violence policy and directly talk to all the key policy-makers, senior officials and practitioners, involved in the fight against spectator violence. The discussions were conducted in a spirit of openness and transparency. Those responsible for preventive or controlling action against spectator violence in the Czech Republic have proved open-minded to new ideas. The opportunity to attend two football matches and to visit another stadium provided the experts with practical experience of the working methods of those involved on the field and the infrastructure.

The present report follows the articles of the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches, of the 19 August 1985. For each article, the article text is reproduced as a reminder, and the team has given its interpretation, analysis and conclusions drawn on the implementation of the provisions, as well as its recommendations for the attention of authorities. At the end of the report, recommendations have been summarised and sorted in order of priority.

#### **Article 1 – Aim of the Convention**

*1. The Parties, with a view to preventing and controlling violence and misbehaviour by spectators at football matches, undertake, within the limits of their respective constitutional provisions, to take the necessary steps to give effect to the provisions of this Convention.*

*2. The Parties shall apply the provisions of this Convention to other sports and sports events in which violence or misbehaviour by spectators is to be feared, as appropriate to the specific requirements of such sports and sports events.*

#### **Observations:**

The European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events entered into force in the Czech Republic on 1 June 1995. Since its entry into force, many decisions and initiatives have been taken under the lead of the Ministry of the Interior.

The evaluation team took note of the commitment of Mr. Koudelny, Deputy Minister of the Interior, and of Senator Jarab, Chair of the Security Committee of the Czech Senate.

Most public effort is focused on football. However, the Ice-Hockey World Championships were held in the Czech Republic in 2004 and the police were in charge of the security of the tournament. Members of parliament noticed an increase in violent behaviour at games and are contemplating which preventive measures should also be applied to indoor sports.

**Comments:**

Spectator violence is generally considered as a primarily criminal issue. Therefore, the Ministry in charge of sport and the sports organisations (including the Football Association) are not very pro-active in tackling the issue of spectator violence.

There has been no major breach of public order in sport, with the exception of football, in the Czech Republic. However, there remain gaps in the legislation and existing legislation could be implemented more effectively.

**The evaluation team recognizes that the Czech Republic has taken appropriate steps to prevent and control spectator violence and therefore complies with article 1 of the Convention. However the Czech authorities may wish to consider further measures to ensure a consistent approach between football and other sports.**

**Article 2 – Domestic co-ordination**

*The Parties shall co-ordinate the policies and actions of their government departments and other public agencies against violence and misbehaviour by spectators, where appropriate through setting up co-ordinating bodies.*

**Observations:**

The Government Decree No. 27 of 11 January 1995, on the proposal to adopt the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches in the Czech Republic, requested the Minister of the Interior to establish a co-ordination commission to fulfil the tasks set out under Article 2 of the Convention. Based on the Decree, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport signed an Agreement on Establishing a Co-ordination Commission on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football in 1996. The agreement was set for an unlimited period of time and launched continuous co-operation between both Ministries, and established a Co-ordination Commission which counts two representatives of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and four representatives of the Ministry of the Interior.

Co-ordination between national governmental authorities and municipalities takes place on an ad hoc basis and varies considerably depending on the place.

**Comments:**

The evaluation team understood from the Ministry of the Interior that it is, to a large extent, the coordinating ministry, as can be seen from the composition of the Co-ordination Commission. In various areas the activities of the Co-ordination Commission have led to changes in policy and approach. Creating conditions in the area of legislation and support for social preventive projects is one of the notable successes of the activities of the Co-ordination Commission.

The evaluation team took note that the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport has become more closely involved in the Co-ordination Commission.

During its evaluation visit, the evaluation team also noticed that a number of other concerned parties play an important role, or could play such a role, in dealing with violence at sports events, in particular football matches. These parties are not represented in the Co-ordination Commission. From the consultations, it has become apparent to the evaluation team that the other parties regret the lack of input from the Ministry of Justice, and/or the State Prosecution department. They are not part of the Co-ordination Commission, however, in processing criminal cases, they have an essential role to play in combating football hooliganism. Similarly, important

responsibilities are given to the Czech and Moravian Football Association in combating football hooliganism, as many seem to consider that football hooliganism is primarily a problem for the Ministry of the Interior as well as for the Czech and Moravian Football Association.

Although the municipalities would have the power to make essential decisions, such as prohibiting matches for safety or security reasons, their rights and duties, as well as their national co-ordination authorities are not clearly defined.

**The evaluation team concludes that the Czech Republic complies with article 2 of the Convention to the extent that basic co-ordination between public authorities has been established, but considers that this co-ordination could be strengthened and widened in order to enhance the involvement of other major players.**

**Recommendations:**

The evaluation team recommends that Czech authorities:

- review the composition of the Co-ordination Committee and clarify the roles and powers of its member bodies.

**Article 3 – Measures**

*1. The Parties undertake to ensure the formulation and implementation of measures designed to prevent and control violence and misbehaviour by spectators, including in particular:*

*a. to secure that adequate public order resources are employed to counter outbreaks of violence and misbehaviour, both within the immediate vicinity of and inside stadiums and along the transit routes used by spectators;*

**Observation:**

The Municipal Police, in co-operation with the Police of the Czech Republic, attend and supervise football matches (but only if the municipality decides to deploy its police to the event). Should the Municipal Police not be deployed, the Police of the Czech Republic must act alone.

The tasks of the Police of the Czech Republic in the field of combating extremism (including spectator violence) are guided by the Binding Decree of the Police President No. 100 of 6 June 2002. Part five of the Decree is devoted to the activities of experts in the field of combating spectator violence. It describes in detail their activities before, during, and after a match.

The evaluation team attended two matches, one in Teplice and one in Prague, where it witnessed police activities and established that police were well aware of their duties and responsibilities. Police were present in sufficient numbers at both matches. Police deployment concentrated mainly on the stands with visiting supporters (Sparta Prague and Banik Ostrava).

In terms of equipment, the evaluation team witnessed that police were well prepared for incidents requiring forceful intervention. At both matches the team was able to witness the deployment of police, and the police in action.

At the Teplice match, the evaluation team observed that police deployment concentrated around the entrance to the visiting supporters stand, whereas there were almost no police at the nearby ticket sales point. Moreover, there was nothing to stop supporters walking around the stadium.

Apparently the atmosphere at the Teplice match was so relaxed that it was decided not to detain visiting supporters in the stand for long enough to let the other supporters out.

At the match in Prague, where the visiting supporters were Banik Ostrava, the police also concentrated on the visitors' section.

At both games the police were involved in various ways in the transportation of supporters to and from the stadium. This involved escorting visiting supporters from the station to the stadium in the cities, and escorting their own supporters to the stadium in the host city. The team also saw 'spotters' and fan coaches who also escorted supporters.

At both matches a large number of police officers were present and visible inside the stadium, particularly around the visitors' section. Some minor problems arose in the stands during and after the match at the game in Prague – these were brought to an end, partly through the intervention of police on the spot.

The evaluation team notes that there was good collaboration between the police and the person responsible for security at the club. Consultations were held and agreements were made in advance. However, there was a lack of communication during the match, between the various parties responsible. The head of club security, the police commander, and the area where the camera monitors were positioned, appeared to operate separately. Communication was by radio and/or phone. This meant there was no direct interaction between the two above-mentioned persons and the camera facilities. If incidents occur, this could hinder police action.

#### **Comments:**

In the opinion of the evaluation team, the police were highly focused on the possibility of forceful intervention. Rather than normal "street uniform" the police were ready and equipped with helmets, face covers, shields and riot batons, prepared to take action if necessary. The team received no advance information on the grounds for police deployment. The first hand experience of the team was that, in some cases, this manner of deployment and equipment could have a provocative, as opposed to de-escalating, effect.

In the team's opinion, the incident after the Prague game was due to poor communication between some of the parties involved in organising the match.

There is certainly a will to collaborate in the stadium. However, the facilities in the stadium – or more accurately the lack of good facilities – hinders adequate action. Communication between the police and the club head of security relies on technical equipment. Cameras in position cannot be used to take direct measures. A control room, with a view of the field, and stands should be a standard fixture in stadiums. The police commander and the club head of security should be stationed in the control room. The camera monitors should also be located in the control room. The stadium in Liberec appeared to meet these conditions in most regards.

**The evaluation team considers that, given the quantity of public order forces deployed, the Czech Republic complies with article 3.1.a of the Convention. However, the concept could be improved with the implementation of a lower-profile style of policing and better communication between the various responsible parties and with spectators. (See also comments on article 3.4.h)**

**Recommendations:**

The evaluation team recommends that the Czech authorities:

- identify what facilities, equipment and procedures are required in order to improve communication between the responsible parties and with spectators;

*b. to facilitate close co-operation and exchange of appropriate information between the police forces of the different localities involved, or likely to be involved;*

**Observations:**

The evaluation team did not witness an appropriate example of information exchange at either of the two matches it visited. However, judging by conversations with representatives of the police and the evaluation report from the Czech Republic, this does in fact occur. According to the Czech evaluation report, there are several groups of high-risk supporters across the country who attend both national and international matches. Information on these groups is highly important in preparation for matches. The national football information centre (NFIP), which forms part of the Police of the Czech Republic, is in charge of collecting and distributing such information. The evaluation team established that nationwide co-ordination is in the hands of a single person.

**Comments:**

Information exchange plays an important role in preparation for matches and the measures to be taken by different parties during the match. The evaluation team can assume, based on international experience, that there is a good level of quality and speed of information and that the parties that need information can actually get it.

However, the evaluation team notes that, given the manpower problem, the NFIP is highly vulnerable and there could be problems with regard to continuity. It would therefore be advisable for its capacity to be reassessed.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic complies with article 3.1.b of the Convention.**

*c. to apply or, if need be, to adopt legislation which provides for those found guilty of offences related to violence or misbehaviour by spectators to receive appropriate penalties or, as the case may be, appropriate administrative measures.*

**Observations:**

From the report of the Czech Republic it can be established that there is specific legislation in place for an effective approach to hooliganism at sports events.

However, the evaluation team learned from meetings that the slow implementation, in particular of the follow-up stage, does not have a preventive effect on perpetrators or potential perpetrators. Too often, apparently, it takes too long – sometimes two or even three years – before the courts reach a judgement.

The evaluation team also understood that the clubs and the Czech and Moravian Football Association do not have any means to impose a stadium ban under civil law (see also articles 3.3 and article 4.4.d).

**Comments:**

Alongside preventive policy, the sanctioning of violent behaviour plays an important role in combating violence at sports events and at football matches in particular. All possible means must be used to sanction offenders. Evidently, it makes good sense to impose the sentence as soon as possible after the offence has been committed. On one hand, the offender sees the connection between punishment and deed, and on the other hand the sanction can have a preventive impact on other potential offenders.

In the Czech Republic, imposing a civil stadium ban is not seen as a possible option. The evaluation team was informed of the background to this. However, by making this possible the Czech and Moravian Football Association and the clubs would also be taking on the responsibility for sanctioning undesirable behaviour.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic is taking the necessary measures to comply with article 3.1.c of the Convention but that its implementation seems to be too slow.**

**Recommendations:**

The evaluation team recommends that the Czech authorities:

- undertake a further study into the possibility of introducing a civil stadium ban, within the legislation of the Czech Republic.

*2. The Parties undertake to encourage the responsible organisation and good conduct of supporters, clubs and the appointment of stewards from within their membership to help manage and inform spectators at matches and to accompany parties of supporters travelling to away fixtures.*

**Observations and comments:**

In consideration of this Article, the evaluation team also took note of the Standing Committee's Recommendation 1/1999 on Stewarding.

The evaluation team noted with pleasure the commitment of the Slovan Liberec Football Club to working positively with supporters to improve behaviour and the overall atmosphere at the stadium. In particular, the club has gradually educated supporters not to bring flares to matches. In the case that they do, the Slovan Liberec Football Club will withdraw its financial assistance to its official supporters' club. The club subsidises the travel costs of the supporters' club's members (but not other supporters) to away matches. These measures, along with the fan-coaching initiatives described under Article 3.5, have cut the number of risk supporters and have encouraged reputable supporters to attend.

The evaluation team was encouraged to hear that supporters' groups at many clubs are also committed to working against violence. It believes that the best way of doing this is through close co-operation between the clubs and their supporters along the lines described above. Clubs, which have not already done so, would benefit from adopting a similar approach.

Some stewards are employed and paid directly by the clubs, others are provided by stewarding companies. They are provided with clearly identifiable, high visibility jackets and are easily distinguishable from police. However, concerns were expressed to the evaluation team about the varying quality of their performance and training. While the Government and the police assist with this, it is largely left to the individual clubs. There would appear to be a strong case for greater co-ordination by the public authorities and/or the Football Association.

The evaluation team noted that major training exercises involving the police, fire and medical services, and stewards, have been staged at three stadiums. Smaller training exercises take place every three months at high-risk clubs. The evaluation team regards this as a positive development and it would be desirable to extend it to all stadiums in the professional Football League.

Nonetheless, it gained the impression that there is some confusion over the powers and responsibilities of stewards. While the Football Association has issued them with a handbook of laws and byelaws, it indicated that these are often not enforced. At the two matches the evaluation team attended, stewards adopted a largely passive role once supporters' tickets and bags had been checked. They did not seek to manage the crowd by keeping gangways or passageways clear, or by preventing spectators from standing and jumping on seats. Moreover, it seems they lack the power to eject trouble-makers.

The evaluation team was informed that stewards at Slovan Liberec are trained to clear gangways, deal with flares and handle situations calmly, but did not have the opportunity to witness this approach in action.

At neither Teplice nor Slavia Prague did the stewards face any significant problems. A heavy police presence prevented any disorder. However, the stewards were poorly deployed, for instance between the perimeter fence and the pitch at Slavia Prague, and in many cases would not have been able to intervene in the event of a safety failure. Indeed those on the entrance stairs and in the visitors' enclosure at Teplice were themselves vulnerable to injury.

**The evaluation team welcomes the considerable progress in the Czech Republic towards full compliance with Article 3.2 of the Convention, in particular through the collaboration between clubs and supporter groups and the development of stewarding.**

**Recommendations:**

The evaluation team recommends that the Czech authorities:

- clarify the stewards' powers and responsibilities and promote a suitable training programme.

*3. The Parties shall encourage the co-ordination, in so far as legally possible, of the organisation of travel arrangements from the place of departure with the co-operation of clubs, organised supporters, and travel agencies, so as to inhibit potential trouble-makers from leaving to attend matches.*

**Observations:**

In the Czech Republic it is not possible to prohibit potential trouble-makers from going to away games. Similarly, it is not possible in the Czech Republic to prevent trouble-makers attending matches by refusing to sell them tickets. To refuse to sell a supporter a ticket would be a form of discrimination. In conversation, clubs mentioned that they are afraid of being fined for discrimination if they refuse to sell tickets to potential trouble-makers.

The evaluation team has seen that (risk) supporters of the visiting club are escorted by the police of the away-club (Sparta Prague and Banik Ostrava). This is done by spotters who can arrest (or have arrested) supporters involved in bad behaviour on the way. This means, ultimately, that these supporters are unable to see the match.

As far as the evaluation team has seen, the club plays no role in transportation of supporters to matches.

**The evaluation team considered that the Czech Republic has not fully implemented article 3.3 of the Convention as it appears very difficult to prevent trouble-makers from attending matches.**

*4. The Parties shall seek to ensure, where necessary by introducing appropriate legislation which contains sanctions for non-compliance or by any other appropriate means, that, where outbreaks of violence and misbehaviour by spectators are to be feared, sports organisations and clubs, together with, where appropriate, stadium owners and public authorities, in accordance with responsibilities defined in domestic law, take practical measures at and within stadiums to prevent or control such violence or misbehaviour, including:*

*a. to secure that the design and physical fabric of stadiums provide for the safety of spectators, do not readily facilitate violence between spectators, allow effective crowd control, contain appropriate barriers or fencing, and allow security and police forces to operate;*

**Observations:**

The professional football stadiums in the Czech Republic are undergoing a major programme of modernisation and upgrading (see Article 6.1 below). All stadiums visited by the evaluation team were generally in good condition and well-maintained. They were all-seater stadiums with good leg room and viewing, except those that were obstructed by the perimeter fence or advertising material. All had installed, or were planning to install, low three-bar turnstiles. These record the number of spectators and can be linked to the ticketing system but require staff to prevent spectators jumping over them.

High perimeter fences at Teplice had an overhang with spikes and were supplemented with a high net to prevent missiles. Similar fences ran to both sides of the visiting supporters. There were no emergency exit gates and all spectators, police and stewards had to exit through a single wide vomitory. At Slavia Prague, the perimeter fence had emergency exit gates but these were padlocked shut, as indeed were the final exit gates checked by the evaluation team. At one of these gates, the steward was entirely dependent upon another steward with a radio, approximately 50 metres away, to tell him to open the gate in case of emergency.

The evaluation team identified a further potentially serious safety hazard at Teplice. A television camera had been installed in one of the vomitories, thereby greatly impeding the entrance and exit of spectators. The club was fortunate that this particular sector was almost empty.

All three stadiums were equipped with CCTV systems, some of which were of high quality. However, the evaluation team was concerned that, at both Teplice and Slavia Prague, the system was not being used effectively. At Teplice, the CCTV pictures were monitored by a police officer in a small room under the stand, with no view of the pitch. He was in radio communication with the police commander in a command room, and with the club safety officer who was moving within the stadium. The arrangements at Slavia Prague were quite similar.

The evaluation team was briefed on the integrated control room at Slovan Liberec where the safety officer, police commander and public address announcer sit together with a view of both the CCTV screens and the pitch. This enables them to reach informed decisions in partnership and to ensure that these are then communicated, where necessary, to spectators. It understands

that the Czech Government and Football Association wish to extend this model to the other stadiums. Indeed such a control room is already planned at Teplice.

**Comments:**

**In consideration of this article, the evaluation team has also taken note of the Standing Committee's Recommendation 2/1999 on the removal of perimeter fences.**

The evaluation team is aware that Czech authorities are committed to removing the high perimeter fences once the conditions set out in the Standing Committee's Recommendation have been satisfied. In the meantime, both the Slavia Prague and Teplice stadiums retain these types of fences in front of certain sectors.

It was unclear what risk assessments had been undertaken at either stadium.

The example of the television camera at Teplice suggests that there is a lack of safety awareness on behalf of the clubs and within the television company, and a weakness in the system for monitoring the match day arrangements – both of which should be addressed without delay.

These were symptomatic of the general lack of co-ordination and poor communication between the police, clubs and Football Association that is discussed in further detail under Article 3.4.h.

**The Evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic has taken significant steps towards compliance with article 3.4.a of the Convention, with regard to the structure and facilities of the stadiums.**

**Recommendations:**

The evaluation team recommends that the Czech authorities:

- consider which additional measures they should take to secure the necessary improvements in stadia facilities, crowd management and safety monitoring.

*b. to segregate effectively groups of rival supporters, by allocating to groups of visiting supporters, when they are admitted, specific terraces;*

**Observations:**

All three stadiums visited by the evaluation team provide separate areas for visiting supporters, with their own entrances. The admission of high-risk spectators is strictly controlled.

Visiting supporters are also detained until home team supporters have dispersed. This, may however, require a heavy police presence to prevent home supporters congregating where they may attack the visiting supporters. Detaining visiting supporters for a prolonged period, as was the case at Slavia Prague where buses failed to arrive on time, may lead to problems.

**Comments:**

Such delay may increase tension and cause even the most passive supporters to feel aggrieved. It may also run counter to the efforts of the home club to provide a welcoming atmosphere.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic complies with Article 3.4.b of the Convention. Nevertheless, the Czech authorities may wish to consider whether a more low-**

**key approach should be adopted to detaining visiting supporters after the match where the risk is lower.**

*c. to ensure this segregation by strictly controlling the sale of tickets and to take particular precautions in the period immediately preceding the match;*

**Observations:**

The evaluation team observed the sale of tickets before the match at Teplice (it understands that similar arrangements apply elsewhere). The club provides separate ticket offices for home and visiting supporters. The system appeared to work effectively and was well controlled. The club reported that it intends to introduce a bar code on tickets in the near future.

**Comments:**

Ticket sales on the day reduce the risk of ticket touting – which is not specifically prohibited, though it may in some cases be caught by the legislation on unlawful enterprises. The system does, however, depend upon supporters arriving in sufficient time and on there being sufficient seats in the stadium for them.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic complies with Article 3.4.c of the Convention. The Czech authorities may nevertheless wish to review the ticketing arrangements for matches at which large numbers of visiting supporters are expected to attend.**

*d. to exclude from or forbid access to matches and stadiums, in so far as it is legally possible, known or potential trouble-makers, or people who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs;*

**Observations:**

Imposing a stadium ban is an excellent method of deterring potential trouble-makers, as long as there are proper checks to prevent such supporters attending matches. However, in the Czech Republic bans can be imposed only by the courts under criminal law and by the local authorities under administrative law (Misdemeanour Act). Apparently, it is not possible for the club and/or the Czech and Moravian Football Association to impose a ban under civil law (see remarks on article 3.1.c).

During the meetings it was stated that court decisions could take a very long time, even up to two to three years after the offence. In such cases the punishment has a somewhat limited effect on the offender.

The evaluation team did not state whether intoxicated supporters attended matches, or whether they were refused entry. There are rules on the sale of alcohol in stadiums, but according to the Czech Republic evaluation report, enforcement is not consistent. At the match at Teplice the sales points for alcohol and food displayed clear notices that no alcohol would be served at this high-risk match.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic complies with Article 3.4.d of the Convention, but should consider how criminal proceedings might be accelerated.**

*e. to provide stadiums with an effective public address system and to see that full use is made of this, of the match programme and of other publicity outlets to encourage spectators to behave correctly;*

**Observations:**

The Czech national report indicates that all professional clubs provide their supporters with information on display boards, on tickets and through the media, flyers and bulletins.

All their stadiums are equipped with public address systems. The system was used very effectively during the match at Slavia Prague to inform the visiting supporters that they would be detained for 15 minutes. However, they do not appear to have been told that they would have to wait for much longer because the buses had been delayed. It was unclear whether this was an inusual breakdown in communication or whether it is symptomatic of a more general problem that needs to be addressed.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic complies with Article 3.4.e of the Convention.**

*f. to prohibit the introduction of alcoholic drinks by spectators into stadiums; to restrict, and preferably ban, the sale and any distribution of alcoholic drinks at stadiums, and to ensure that all beverages available are in safe containers;*

**Observations:**

The evaluation team was informed that, although it is illegal to sell or serve alcohol at football matches, the prohibition is not uniformly enforced by local authorities. At the match at Teplice the sales points for alcohol and food had clear notices that no alcohol would be served at this high-risk match. While some clubs such as Teplice only sell non-alcoholic beer in plastic bottles, alcohol is reportedly available at many other stadiums. The law appears to have fallen into disrepute. Action is clearly needed to regularise the situation.

**Comments:**

Either the prohibition must be correctly observed or alternative arrangements made to ensure that alcohol is sold under carefully controlled conditions, whereby the strength and quantity consumed, as well as the behaviour of the supporters, can be closely monitored.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic complies partially with article 3.4.f of the Convention and that it may wish to review its policy concerning the sale of alcohol in stadia.**

**Recommendations:**

The evaluation team recommends that the Czech authorities:

- take the necessary steps either to enforce the prohibition of alcohol or to regulate the sale of alcohol in stadiums.

*g. to provide controls so as to ensure that spectators do not bring into stadiums objects that are likely to be used in acts of violence, or fireworks or similar devices;*

**Observations:**

The evaluation team learned that, with the notable exception of Slovan Liberec, clubs tolerate the use of flares, despite the fact that they are prohibited by the Football Association.

Flares were in evidence at both matches attended by the evaluation team. Indeed, at Slavia Prague, the home supporters staged a pre-planned fireworks display. The club appeared to have

advanced knowledge of this but made no effort to prevent it. Indeed, it was suggested that the fireworks had been brought in to the stadium in advance. If so, either the stadium had not been properly searched before the gates were opened, or there had been collusion between someone working at the stadium and the spectators.

**Comments:**

The evaluation team was informed that stewards lack the power to administer bodily searches of spectators. While the police were present in force, they did not appear to undertake searches. If this is the case, there is a weakness that may need addressing as soon as possible.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic complies partially with article 3.4.g of the Convention on the grounds that the absence of spectator controls at the entrances could constitute a potentially serious security and/or safety failure.**

**Recommendation:**

The evaluation team recommends that the Czech authorities:

- in agreement with the police and the Football Association, identify whether the controls against the importation of prohibited items, such as fireworks, need to be strengthened and how they should be enforced.

*h. to ensure that liaison officers co-operate with the authorities concerned before matches on arrangements to be taken for crowd control, so that the relevant rules are enforced through concerted action.*

**Observations:**

The evaluation team could establish from meetings that the police are the leading party in the preparations for football matches. In principle, consultations are between police and clubs. However, the role of the local authorities is not always clear. One of the conclusions in the Czech Republic report is: *“As described above, municipalities have significant authority in preventing and suppressing spectator violence. However, this authority is not always used to its maximum”*.

**Comments:**

The impression given is that, in general, there is good co-operation with the police, although co-ordination in the stadiums during matches is clearly open to improvement. The evaluation team has no insight as to what, if any, standard rules on the desired quality for club stewarding, are issued by the Czech and Moravian Football Association, or the national government.

The examining team believes there would be a considerable advantage in gradually moving from a police-driven concept, to one where stewards have a more effective role. There should also be scope for clarifying the responsibilities of local authorities, particularly on match days, and for a review of the way costs are shared between the national authorities, local authorities and sports organisations.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic complies with article 3.4.h of the Convention but that there is scope for a less police-dominated approach.**

**Recommendation:**

The evaluation team recommends that the Czech authorities:

- examine how the system of crowd management and safety could evolve from being driven by

the police to one where the stewards have a more effective role, and the responsibilities of the local authority are better understood.

*5. The Parties shall take appropriate social and educational measures, bearing in mind the potential importance of the mass media, to prevent violence in and associated with sport, in particular by promoting the sporting ideal through educational and other campaigns, by giving support to the notion of fair play, especially among young people, so as to enhance mutual respect both amongst spectators and between sports players and also by encouraging increased active participation in sport.*

### **Observations:**

The evaluation team took note of the experience of Slovan Liberec, where a fan project had been implemented. The football club had developed co-operation with young fan clubs and provided them with support in exchange for a positive involvement and peaceful behaviour. This co-operation was implemented by qualified social workers. The project was initiated by the club with the fan clubs and supported by the municipality and the Ministry of the Interior. This project appears to be an example of good practice; it contributed to reducing the number of fans behaving violently.

The Ministry of Education also supports many projects and initiatives in order to promote the participation of young people in healthy 'sport for all' activities and to promote fair play. It supports NGOs and promotes a national Commission for Fair Play. However, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport is not involved with professional clubs.

The evaluation team was also informed of the initiative for a "Centre for the Prevention of Spectator Violence at Football Stadiums".

### **Comments:**

The evaluation team found the initiatives presented very interesting and valuable. The associations and organisations concerned should share experience and know-how with others.

The evaluation team understood that the strict separation of competences between the Ministry of Youth and Sport (in charge of sport for all activities and promotion of fair play) and the Ministry of the Interior (in charge of public order) made it quite difficult to support fan projects.

The team considers that work with fans should be carried out in more clubs, with a high priority in clubs experiencing problems with supporters.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic complies with article 3.5 of the Convention in some cases. However, its implementation could take place on a larger scale, at least in the cities facing spectator violence problems.**

### **Recommendation:**

The evaluation team recommends that the Czech authorities:

- ❑ continue the co-ordination between the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport and the Ministry of the Interior on educational issues and socio-cultural work;
- ❑ support the development of fan work (through civil society) in other areas and facilitate the international networking of such initiatives.

#### **Article 4 – International co-operation**

*1. The Parties shall co-operate closely on the matters covered by this Convention and encourage similar co-operation as appropriate between national sports authorities involved.*

*2. In advance of international club and representative matches or tournaments, the Parties concerned shall invite their competent authorities, especially the sports organisations, to identify those matches at which violence or misbehaviour by spectators is to be feared. Where such a match is identified, the competent authorities of the host country shall arrange consultations between those concerned. Such consultations shall take place as soon as possible and should not be later than two weeks before the match is due to take place, and shall encompass arrangements, measures and precautions to be taken before, during, and after the match, including, where necessary, measures additional to those included in this Convention.*

#### **Observations:**

Based on the decision of the Visegrad and the Austrian Ministers of the Interior (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria and later Poland), the Czech Republic hosted a working group for representatives in charge of spectator violence. The group members exchanged their experience, established contacts, and debated relevant current and future legislative instruments. The members informed the Ministers of the Interior of the conclusions made.

The Czech Republic has well-developed international co-operation for international competitions and tournaments. The Czech Republic evaluation report shows that, as early as 2000, there was a dedicated police officer in charge of combating ‘spectator violence’.

Even before the entry into the EU, the authorities in the Czech Republic had already based international co-operation on the EU Manual of 6 December 2001.

For international matches abroad a representative group of police is sent to provide support. The same applies to international tournaments.

Experience with the international police support and the related exchange of information has been very good. The information supplied before matches is elaborated and sent to the relevant police bodies in good time. Reports of matches played in the Czech Republic are elaborated, drafted and distributed shortly after the match.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic fully complies with article 4 of the Convention. Indeed, it not only meets the desired level of quality for the international exchange of information and police support; in some aspects it provides an example for other countries.**

#### **Article 5 – Identification and treatment of offenders**

*1. The Parties, respecting existing legal procedures and the principle of the independence of the judiciary, shall seek to ensure that spectators committing acts of violence or other criminal behaviour are identified and prosecuted in accordance with the due process of the law.*

*2. Where appropriate, particularly in the case of visiting spectators, and in accordance with the applicable international agreements, the Parties shall consider:*

*a. transferring proceedings against persons apprehended in connection with violence or other criminal behaviour committed at sports events to their country of residence;*

*b. seeking the extradition of persons suspected of violence or other criminal behaviour committed at sports events;*

*c. transferring persons convicted of offences of violence or other criminal behaviour committed at sports events to serve their sentences in the relevant country.*

### **Observations:**

The evaluation team took note that the identification and prosecution of offenders is controlled in an independent way by the judiciary. The evaluation team experienced cases where offenders were sanctioned more than two years after the offence. Moreover, similar cases are not prosecuted in a similar way depending on the court.

With regard to international judiciary co-operation, representatives of the authorities declared to transfer proceedings against persons arrested in connection with violent/criminal behaviour committed at football matches in their country of residence. They also confirmed that they seek the extradition of persons suspected of violent/criminal behaviour committed at sports events. Moreover, the Czech authorities transfer persons convicted of violent behaviour to serve their sentences in the relevant country.

### **Comments:**

The evaluation team concluded that even though there are provisions in force to prosecute offenders, there is no national policy on how they should be treated.

Under such premise, the preventive deterrent effect of prosecution is diminished.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic complies with article 5 of the Convention but should improve the implementation of the existing provisions.**

### **Recommendations:**

The evaluation team recommends that the Czech authorities:

- consider how best to update the legislation on identification and prosecution of offenders to ensure that prosecutions are conducted faster and more consistently.

### **Article 6 – Additional measures**

*1. The Parties undertake to co-operate closely with their appropriate national sports organisations and clubs, and where appropriate, stadium owners, on arrangements regarding the planning and execution of alterations to the physical fabric of stadiums or other alterations, including access to and egress from stadiums, necessary to improve safety and to prevent violence.*

*2. The Parties undertake to promote, where necessary and in appropriate cases, a system laying down requirements for the selection of stadiums which take into account the safety of spectators and the prevention of violence amongst them, especially for those stadiums used for matches likely to attract large or unruly crowds.*

**Observations:**

The evaluation team noted with approval the considerable improvements in the professional football stadiums of the Czech Republic since 1996 under the Stadia 2003 project. This ambitious programme addressed not only the security of the stadiums, but also issues of amenity and comfort. Inevitably, not all the targets were met, but these have been carried forward into the new Stadia 2010 project.

All professional football stadia have implemented, or will shortly implement, the measures required to comply with the Football Association and UEFA technical norms. These require separate entrances, viewing areas, facilities for home and visiting supporters, and medical facilities. Clubs in the First Division must have all-seater, floodlit stadiums. All clubs must also install turnstiles and CCTV systems. They must also demonstrate that they have sufficient funds to play throughout the season.

Clubs wishing to play championship matches require a licence from the Football Association. A number of clubs have been refused licences for their stadium and must play their matches elsewhere. The Football Association has established a commission for construction and for safety and security to oversee this process. It also provides a consultancy service for clubs that are rebuilding or refurbishing their stadium.

There are no specific requirements from the national or local authorities regulating the design and facilities of stadiums, although standard building regulations apply and projects require the approval of the police and fire and medical services at local level in order to meet the requirements for a licence.

**Comments:**

The evaluation team gained the impression that the Football Association considers itself answerable only to the international football authorities, whose guidance on stadiums is inevitably less extensive (and in some cases less stringent) than might be considered appropriate in other countries.

The evaluation team had reservations about how far the Football Association could reconcile the oversight of its member clubs with the measures necessary to ensure the safety of the public. It was concerned about the apparent lack of co-ordination between the local and national public authorities on one side, and the Football Association and the clubs on the other. This could lead to confusion over responsibility in the face of a threat to public safety. In particular, the evaluation team was unable to ascertain who was responsible for monitoring the condition of stadiums or for determining the safe capacity (which should be reduced when exits are blocked, as was the case during the match at Teplice). Nor was it clear how effectively these tasks were performed.

In other sports, where no specific requirements are given by the association, it is unclear which regulations and quality controls apply.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic complies with Articles 6.1 and 6.2 of the Convention. It commends the Czech Government, clubs and Football Association for undertaking a major programme of improvements during the past few years and welcomes their commitment to the next phase of work. It suggests, however, that the Czech authorities need to promote a closer working relationship between the public authorities**

**(including the police, fire and medical services), the Football Association and the clubs, in order to ensure that the stadiums satisfy local and national requirements as well as those of UEFA.**

**Recommendations:**

- clarify which safety standards and quality controls are required for all sports facilities (not only football stadiums) and by whom they should be enforced.

*3. The Parties undertake to encourage their national sports organisations to review their regulations continuously in order to control factors which may lead to outbreaks of violence by players or spectators.*

**Observations:**

The evaluation team noted that in 1995 the police and the Football Association established a framework for co-operation, under which they agreed their respective roles. This was a useful development but it eventually became clear that it did not go far enough. A new expanded agreement was concluded in 2003, details of which can be found in section 5.2 of the Czech national report. A further agreement that will put more emphasis on the requirements of the European Union is under negotiation.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic complies with Article 6.3 of the Convention.**

**Article 7 – Provision of information**

*Each Party shall forward to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe, all relevant information concerning legislative and other measures taken by it for the purpose of complying with the terms of this Convention, whether with regard to football or to other sports.*

**Observations:**

The Czech Republic usually provides a complete annual national report in the requested timeframe. The authorities are very reliable and ready to share information and to send answers to ad hoc questionnaires or examples of good practice.

**The evaluation team considers that the Czech Republic complies with Article 7 of the Convention.**

## **General conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation team**

The evaluation team considers that the Czech authorities have addressed the problem of violence and misbehaviour in a sensible and structured manner. It took note of the important developments which took place in the past few years. It believes that their commitment to an integrated approach, in which all bodies work together, provides a useful framework for future improvements.

The evaluation team noted that the persons in charge of the fight against spectator violence have a clear view of the present challenges. Moreover, the evaluation team stated that examples of good practice (infrastructure, work with fans, local co-ordination) are available in the country.

**The evaluation team suggests that the Czech authorities may wish to prepare an action programme of further improvements, with a particular emphasis on:**

- ❑ **improving the legal framework governing the powers and responsibilities of the various bodies and sanctions against offenders;**
  - ❑ **ensuring that the sporting authorities and clubs play the appropriate role;**
  - ❑ **reducing the profile of the police and, where possible, replacing them by trained stewards.**
- Within this context, the evaluation team recommends that the Czech authorities should give priority to the following measures, many of which have already been identified by the Czech authorities, supplemented by the various suggestions made in the body of the report:**

<b>Article</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2	to review the composition of the Co-ordination Committee and clarify the roles and powers of its member bodies;
3.1.a	to identify what facilities, equipment and procedures are required in order to improve communication with spectators and between the responsible parties;
3.1.c 3.3/3.4.d	to undertake a further study into the possibility of introducing a civil stadium ban, within the legislation of the Czech Republic;
3.2	to clarify the stewards' powers and responsibilities and promote a suitable training programme;
3.4.a (3.1.a)	to consider what additional measures they should take to secure the necessary improvements in stadia facilities, crowd management and safety monitoring;
3.4.f	to take the necessary steps either to enforce the prohibition or to regularise the sale of alcohol in stadia;
3.4.g	in agreement with the police and the Football Association, to identify whether the controls against the importation of prohibited items, such as fireworks, need to be strengthened and how they should be enforced;
3.4.h (3.4.b)	to examine how the system of crowd management and safety could evolve from being driven by the police to one where the stewards have a more effective role and the responsibilities of the local authority are better understood;

- 5 to consider how best to update the legislation on identification and prosecution to ensure that prosecutions are conducted faster and more consistently;
- 6.1/6.2 to clarify what safety standards and quality controls are required for all sports facilities (not only football stadiums) and by whom they should be enforced;

### **Acknowledgments**

The preparations for the visit to the Czech Republic were excellent. The evaluation team was made to feel extremely welcome and would like to thank all those who contributed to the preparation of the visit and to the visit itself. In particular, it would like to thank the Deputy Minister of Sport, Mr. Koudelny, for the meeting, and Mr. Radim Bureš for the co-ordination of the visit, his hospitality and his readiness to provide us with the information.

## Appendices

### Evaluation visit programme

<b>Saturday – 27. November 2004</b>				
13.00	Meeting with Mr. Sytař, District Police Director, Match commander, Head match organizer	Teplice , Police HQ		
14.00	Meeting with Mr. Hrdlička, General manager of Teplice FC			
14.25	Match Teplice - Sparta	Teplice Stadium		
After match	Debriefing with Match I commander			

<b>Monday 29. November 2004</b>				
9.00	Meeting with Mr. KOUDELNÝ, I . Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Interior	Spirtika training center	Mr. Mazel, Director Security Policy Dept.,	
10.00	NFIP	Lt. Synecký		
11.00	Public order police	Col. Pastyřík		
13.30	Meeting with Czech Football Association	Mr. Lubas, Director the Professional football League		
15.00	Slavia Praha representatives	Rošického stadium tour		
16.40	Match Slávie – Baník Ostrava			

<b>Tuesday 30 November 2004</b>				
9.00	Meeting with Deputy Minister Mr. Hrdý	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport		
10.30	Meeting with senators Jařab and Zoser, Chair of the Security Committee of the Czech Senate	Kolovrat Palace I. floor – Pink room		
11.30	Lunch			
12.30	Departure for Liberec			
14.00	Slovan Liberec – meeting with fan club leader Mr. Váňa			

<b>Wednesday 1 December 2004</b>				
8.30	Debriefing with I. Deputy Minister Mr. Koudelný	Ministry of Interior Letná		

### Composition of the evaluation team:

- Mr John DE QUIDT, Chief Executive of the Football Licensing Authority (UK)
- Mr Henk GROENVELT, Chief Superintendent of the Football National Co-ordination Center (NL)
- Mr Mieczysław BIGOZEWSKI, Chairman of the Safety Council, Ministry National Education and Sport (PL)
- Mr Stanislas FROSSARD, Administrator, Secretary of the Standing Committee of the T-RV, Council of Europe

## Statement of the Czech Republic to the Evaluation report

The Czech Republic welcomes the Evaluation report and appreciates the efforts of the Evaluation team.

A Number of measures to prevent and suppress spectator violence have been adopted since the adhesion of the Czech Republic to the European Convention in 1995. Ensuring a high level of safety and security at sports events remains, however, one of the Czech Republic's priorities and learning from the best European experience is an important way to reach this aim. In this respect Czech authorities will carefully study recommendations presented in the report and will adopt necessary measures.

The process of improving measures necessary for a high level standard of safety and security at sport events is ongoing and since the evaluation visit a number of measures have already been adopted.

Improvements have been made in co-ordination between different agents in spectator violence and safety. Co-ordination commission under the management of the Ministry of Interior has been enlarged. Representatives of the Association of towns and municipalities of the Czech Republic are now full members of the Commission and can represent the interests of municipalities (*See recommendation 2*).

The principle of low profile policing has been taken up well in the Czech Republic and police ground commanders are instructed on various ways to adopt a low profile approach in their practice (*See recommendation 3.1 a*).

The National Football information point has been also strengthened and therefore is less vulnerable from a personal point of view (*3.1. b*).

Further clarification of the role of match organisers and improvement of the co-ordination between club organisers and police during matches is of the utmost and permanent importance. A series of seminars is proposed for clubs representatives and chief stewards.

Recently a new law has been adopted in the Czech Republic setting out conditions on alcohol sales. According to this law, low alcohol beer can be served at stadiums. All beverages available at the stadium are sold in safe bottles. Bringing alcohol into the stadium is still prohibited.

The Czech penal code was amended in 2006 enabling stricter punishments for the perpetrators of sport related incidents.

A lot of effort has been devoted to prevention and preventive projects are vigorously supported. This effort is co-coordinated with local government and NGOs.

In 2005 a large project focusing on training for fan-related social workers started. The project is run by NGO "ProFotbalFans" with the support of the Ministry of Interior and EU funds. The aim of the project is to train social workers to work with fans on a fan clubs level.

Two other projects have been supported by the Ministry of Interior in 2005. Project “We support fairly, we enjoy sport” in the city of Opava focuses on school aged children and helps them to enjoy a match atmosphere without violence. The project “We support sport, we support fairly” in the city of Ostrava focuses on understanding behaviour, habits, practices and organisation of extreme supporters groups.

In 2006 the Ministry of Interior published the Czech translation of the 2003 Council of Europe publication “The prevention of violence in sport”.