

STANDING COMMITTEE (T-RV)

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



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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

Respect by Finland of the Convention

**Follow-Up Report by Finland
on the recommendations of the Standing Committee
following the Evaluation visit on 11-13 October 2005**

FINAL

Adopted at the 33rd meeting of the Standing Committee

General Conclusions of the Evaluation Team

The Evaluation Team considers that Finland has achieved a very high level of compliance with the Convention having regard to the circumstances prevailing in that country. The measures that it has taken are appropriate and proportionate for the size and risk level.

The Evaluation Team was particularly impressed by the close level of co-operation between the various government departments and other agencies and by the evidence of a co-ordinated strategy. It observed that this encompasses not only security matters but also the welfare of spectators and social and educational measures, in particular action to combat racism.

However, both the stadia and their management systems are likely to require some enhancement to enable them to meet the demands of the occasional high risk event.

In this context, the Evaluation Team puts the following recommendations to the Finnish authorities. While all of these are inherently desirable, they may all be regarded as low to medium priorities. None of them requires to be implemented as a matter of urgency.

Recommendations of the Evaluation Team

1. The Evaluation Team recommends that the Finnish authorities should monitor and evaluate the performance of the stewards on match days with the objective of identifying how this might be further enhanced. Art 3.2

The Security Sector Supervision of the Ministry of the Interior visited all the venues where the Finnish football elite league Veikkausliiga was playing in 2009 and inspected security arrangements and the action of the security crew during league match. The Security Sector Supervision unit made a report of these visits.

The Security Sector Supervision of the Ministry of the Interior was also monitoring the security arrangements and the action of the security crew on world cup qualifying match Finland against Russia. The Security Sector Supervision unit made a report of this monitoring.

2. The Evaluation Team recommends that the Finnish authorities consider whether and how they could introduce a system of stadium bans should this be needed. Art 3.4.d.

Chief Superintendent Tapani Hack (Ministry of the Interior) made a report in 2009 on stadium ban situation in the member states of the Council of Europe. The key findings of that report were dealt in a development seminar concerning the legislation of the private security business organized by Ministry of the Interior. The Police department of the Ministry of the Interior has examined possibilities to modify legislation concerning stadium ban issues. Two separate hearing sessions has been arranged for persons responsible for the security of the major sport events this year.

3. *The Evaluation Team recommends that the Finnish authorities give further consideration to the design and height of the barriers around vomitories and at the foot of gangways. Art 3.4.a.*

During the latest renovation of the Olympic stadium of Helsinki some barriers were constructed for example to those problematic spots the Evaluation team noticed.

In other stadiums the barriers are constructed the way that the construction orders require.

4. *The Evaluation Team recommends that the Finnish authorities give further consideration to the installation of turnstiles where there is a likelihood of high risk matches. Art 3.4.a.*

In 2009 a turnstile system was constructed with the financial support of the Ministry of Education to Sonera stadium of Helsinki and Veritas stadium of Turku for women's European championships. After that tournament both stadiums has been venues for several men's national team matches, in other words matches of high security risk.

The security task force of the Olympic stadium of Helsinki has also debated on all possible solutions concerning territorial security and structural improvements around stadium. But the character of the stadium as national conservation object makes the construction of the permanent structures almost impossible. Therefore activity will be continued at least for now on with temporary structures. At the same time the operation centre facilities for the authorities will be designed as proper and well-serving environment for the action.

5. *The Evaluation Team recommends that the Finnish authorities review the arrangements for controlling entry, searching and keeping the area immediately outside the stadium clear at the Olympic Stadium. Art 3.4.g.*

See answer number four.

6. *The Evaluation Team suggests that the Finnish authorities may wish to share information about their use of "action teams" with other countries whose circumstances are similar. Art 3.1.a.*

At this moment the action described is not lead by police, action teams are gathered in the private security officers only.

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