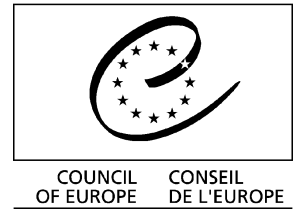


2000



9<sup>th</sup> Conference of European  
Ministers responsible for Sport

Bratislava, Slovak Republic

30-31 May 2000

Secretary General's Report



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## **Part I: Report of the Secretary General**

### **Introduction**

1. The 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Sport was held in the Reduta Hall in Bratislava on 30 and 31 May 2000, at the invitation of the government of the Slovak Republic. The Conference was placed under the patronage of the Prime Minister, Mr. M. Dzurinda.
2. The title of the Conference was “A clean and healthy sport for the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium”. The Bureau of the CDDS prepared the themes for the Conference and a meeting of senior officials was held on the afternoon of 29 May to review the texts. The agenda, list of participants, list of speakers and press release appear in the Appendices of this report. The texts adopted are to be found in document MSL-9 (2000) 11.
3. 180 delegates, including 30 Ministers attended the Conference. Also present were the Chair of the Committee of Ministers’ Deputies of the Council of Europe, representatives from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, the recently established World Anti-Doping Agency, the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention the European Committee for Social Cohesion, as well as Israel, Canada, Australia and non governmental bodies who had been invited as observers.
4. The Conference was opened by Mr Walter Schwimmer, the Secretary General, who thanked the Prime Minister for his presence at the Conference and the interest he had shown in this work. He explained that the Council of Europe promoted sport as a means of improving the quality of life for everyone and facilitating social cohesion and social integration for people who may be somewhat marginalised. A recent area of work related to sports and games for refugees, often traumatised by violence and war. The Council also worked in the problem areas of sport today - hooliganism, doping, sexual harassment and exploitation, and recognised the need for sport to safeguard the natural environment.
5. The Prime Minister of the Slovakia Republic, Mr M Dzurinda, welcomed the participants to Bratislava. He recognised that sport was of increasing importance in the contemporary world: it played a significant role in the development of national consciousness and identity, while for the individual sport was health promoting and improved the participant’s quality of life.
6. Mr Pietro Ago, the Chair of the Ministers’ Deputies of the Council of Europe said that there were problems in contemporary sport, particularly doping and hooliganism. He stressed that there were no miracle solutions. However, the positive aspects of sport were of greater significance. Priority should be given to education, especially in the areas of tolerance and fair play. Active co-operation between the various organisations and implementation and monitoring of the respective conventions on doping and violence in sport were the ways forward.
7. Mr Milan Ftacnik, the Minister of Education of the Slovak Republic, was elected to the Chair and Ms Signe Kivi, the Minister for Culture of Estonia, was elected as Vice Chair.

8. An introductory address covering the themes was given by Mr Milan Ftacnik and was followed by four specific keynote introductory presentations from four Ministers and senior politicians, viz:
- “combating doping”, introduced by Madame Marie-George Buffet, the Minister of Youth and Sport for France;
  - “sport and social cohesion”, introduced by Mr Jan Kozlowski, the Deputy Minister of Sport for Poland;
  - “sexual harassment and abuse in sport, especially in the case of women, young people and children”, introduced by Ms Suvi Linden, Minister of Sport for Finland;
  - “sport and its relationship to the environment”, introduced by Ms Cornelia Sonntag-Wolgast, the Parliamentary State Secretary in the Federal Ministry of the Interior of Germany.

Over the one and a half day meeting 43 delegations took the floor. The important points made on the themes are summarised in the following sections.

### **Combating doping.**

9. In her opening presentation Madame Buffet said that the combat against doping was before everything a fight to conserve the moral and physical integrity of sport and a refusal to allow people to become dependent upon the products or procedures involved. The rise in doping was linked to a series of extraneous factors, such as overfull sporting calendars and the precarious social position and statute of sportswomen and men. These factors must be addressed as well. Responsibility for combating doping should be shared. Certain areas such as legislation were the domain of the state, but it was for the sports federations to invest in the education and the health of their athletes. International co-operation was vital and the creation of WADA was a considerable step forward.
10. Doping was clearly a priority concern and was mentioned by many delegates who spoke. The following points were made:
- the necessity of European co-operation on this question, which could be further, developed through the Council of Europe. The good synergy between EU and Council of Europe in the setting up World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was mentioned;
  - the importance of the Anti-Doping Convention as the first international instrument to address this issue, and its complementarity with the mission and work of the WADA;
  - the question of the Convention’s possible revision, perhaps preceded by a World conference;
  - the encouragement to countries outside Europe to adhere to the Anti-Doping Convention, as recommended at MINEPS III;
  - the role of WADA and the need for it to be seen to be independent, transparent, uncompromising and strong in its work; the questions of its future funding and the need for a strong commitment from governments were also evoked;
  - the need for research to be strengthened and the importance of an anti-doping database;
  - the demand for internationally agreed common high standards which are acknowledged and maintained throughout the sporting world, including common principles for doping control based on ISO/PAS standards;

- the necessity of the political will for new laws and follow-up to legislation in various countries. This should include legislation to protect organisations that apply the law correctly. Legislation should also be harmonised not only between states but also between states and federations. There should also be harmonisation of legislation at international level, particularly in the sale and traffic of substances and the need for acknowledgement of the competence of each country for anti-doping controls of sportspeople training or competing there, without specific bilateral agreements having to be made in each case;
- a certain concern on the possible dangers of using blood for testing instead of urine, as well as economic repercussions for laboratories;
- the acknowledgement that doping was not just an issue for the sports world.

### **Social cohesion**

11. In his presentation, Mr Kozlowski underlined the role sport can play in uniting people and giving them a sense of community. Sport and its advantages should be available to everyone. The advantages sport offered for social integration for three specific groups were outlined -, the disabled, refugees and the unemployed. Sport could also be a source of employment.
12. Among the points made by the delegates who spoke on his subject were the following:
  - there was some reluctance to see sport as a tool for public social policy. Sport was basically a cultural activity;
  - it should not be forgotten that sport brings fun and enjoyment into the lives of many people. Sport can help create a better society by promoting tolerance, encouraging more people to be active citizens and providing a gateway to democratic citizenship. (It is estimated that about 1 billion of the world's population engage in sport of some type);
  - there is a need to develop ways to ensure that some of the profits made by high level sport can be channelled into sport at the grassroots level.

### **Sexual harassment**

13. In her address Ms Linden pointed out that delegates were discussing a new and sensitive subject, but that its connections with human rights issues made it important. It had been a courageous choice for a theme. There had, as yet, been limited discussion of the question at international meetings and research was limited to a few countries. It was necessary firstly to define what constituted sexual harassment, possibly as "unwanted sexual attention".

It would be difficult to define measures that would be suitable for all European countries and similarly impossible at present to have one set of rules applicable to everyone. The first concrete step was to adopt the draft recommendation and implement it by preparing appropriate national policies.

14. Other points made during the debate were:
  - a national study in one country had shown that one third of its athletes had experienced some form of unwanted sexual attention;
  - need for the matter to be tackled throughout the sports movement. Prevention of sexual harassment should be discussed in every association/federation and club. Clubs also

had a duty of care in teaching children and young people to defend themselves against harassment and abuse;

- possible links with the EU “Daphne” programme should be explored.

## **Environment**

15. In her presentation Ms Sonntag-Wolgast stressed the responsibilities of the State in the pursuit of sustainable development in all areas - social, economic and the socio-cultural domain which includes sport. The draft Code was seen as a progressive step in line with Article 10 of the European Sports Charter. Agenda 21 of the International Olympic Movement was also a significant achievement.

In the area of practical steps there was a need to develop “easily accessible sport” to reduce sport related traffic and to control energy use in sports facilities, possibly by using solar energy.

Education from an early age in respect for the environment was vital. The media could play an important role in reaching the so-called “unattached” sports person (that is one who does not belong to a club or association).

16. Among the points made during the debate were the following:
- information was given on the activities of the Olympic Movement in the light of its adoption of Agenda 21. A working group had been set up and proposes to organise regional seminars around the world. It was noted that each Olympic Games progressively expresses more concern for the environment;
  - discussions have taken place with the international organs of the Red Cross and Red Crescent with a view to creating a synergy between health and education for sustainable development.
  - on the question of sports facilities there was for need for co-operation among architects, particularly in the area of energy conservation. The sharing of facilities between school and the community should also be encouraged.

## **Violence**

17. There was general disquiet about this area because of the way minority groups were spoiling the game (particularly) for the general public and the enormous public resources needed to control hooliganism. If sport was a mirror for society the reflection it gave in this area was false.

## **A clean and healthy sport for the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium**

18. A number of miscellaneous points were raised:
- the question was asked whether the basic values of sport were still valid;
  - the effects of globalisation were as apparent in sport as in any other area. This makes possible wide and large partnerships and the search for global solutions to problems that are world-wide;
  - concern was expressed about the continuing fall in the number of hours of physical education in schools and the effect this could have on the future of sport for all.



### **Adoption of resolutions**

19. The Delegates adopted Resolutions 1 to 6 that can be found in document MSL-9 (2000) 11.

### **Election of European representative to WADA**

20. The Conference elected Ms Suvi Linden to be the European member on the Executive Committee of WADA.

### **Invitations to future Conferences**

21. The Hungarian Minister issued an invitation to hold the Xth Conference in Budapest in 2004.
22. The Polish Vice Minister issued an invitation to hold the XVIth Informal Meeting of Sports Ministers in Warsaw in 2002.

### **Closing Session**

23. The Belgian delegate requested that the following statement be put in the report.

“The French and Flemish Communities of Belgium are, for the most part, able to agree with the resolutions of our Conference with regard to combating doping, as they are set out in the document PR.1.

Nevertheless the representatives of the two Belgian Communities want their reservations to be explicitly stated in the Conference report. These reservations refer to the limitations of their Ministers of Sport to commit their respective governments and the federal government on matters where the responsibility is shared between several ministries and several governments.

Reservations on the same subject were expressed at the ministerial meeting held in Reykjavik with the regard to the draft of the Anti-Doping Convention. These reservations have not been an obstacle to the signing of the Convention by Belgium in 1989 nor to the ratification process, which is now largely completed at the Communities level.”

24. Mr Pierro Ago, the Chair of the Ministers’ Deputies, thanked the Slovak authorities on behalf of the Council of Europe and congratulated them on the organisation of the Conference. It had been a politically significant Conference, which would be followed up in detail by the Committee of Ministers.
25. Mr Milan Ftacnik, the Chair commented on the important variety of new and significant topics that had been discussed and complimented the participants on the excellent atmosphere of the Conference.
26. On behalf of the national delegations and the CDDS Mr Khotochkin (Chair of the CDDS) complimented the Chair and Vice Chair on their fine leadership and thanked the organisers for all their preparatory work.
27. Ms Signe Kivi, the Vice Chair, thanked the delegations for their work and applauded the results of the Conference.

## **Appendix I**

### **Agenda**

1. Opening of the Conference by **Mr Walter SCHWIMMER**  
Secretary General of the Council of Europe
2. Address by **Mr Mikulas DZURINDA**, Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic
3. Address by **Mr Pietro Ercole AGO**  
Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies, Council of Europe
4. Election of the Chair
5. Election of a Vice-Chair
6. Adoption of the Agenda
7. General Presentation of the themes by **Mr Milan FTACNIK**, the Minister of Education of the Slovak Republic
8. Presentation of the individual themes  
  
*Sport and social cohesion,*  
by **Mr Jan KOZLOWSKI**,  
the Deputy Minister of Sport for Poland  
  
*Sexual harassment and abuse in sport,*  
*especially in the case of women, young people and children,*  
by **Ms Suvi LINDEN**,  
the Minister of Sport for Finland  
  
*Sport and its relationship to the environment,*  
by **Ms Cornelia SONNTAG-WOLGAST** ,  
Parliamentary Secretary of State in the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Germany  
  
*Combating doping,*  
by **Mrs Marie-George BUFFET**,  
the Minister of Youth and Sport of France
9. Contribution by delegations on the themes
10. Other business
11. Adoption of the draft Resolutions
12. Close of the Conference

## **Appendix II**

### **List of participants**

#### **ALBANIA / ALBANIE**

**Mr Artan SHYTI**, Director, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports

#### **ANDORRA / ANDORRE**

**M. Josep Maria CANALS JORDI**, Director de Joventut i Esports

#### **AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE**

**Dr Erich IRSCHIK**, Ministerialrat, Federal Ministry for Public Affairs and Sports; **Mag Karin GROSSMANN**, Ministerialrätin, Federal Ministry for Public Affairs and Sports; **Dr Walter PILLWEIN**, General Secretary, Austrian Sports Organisation

#### **AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAIDJAN**

**Dr Aboulfas Mursal oğlu GARAYEV**, Minister, NOC First Vice-President, Azerbaijan Republic Youth and Sport Ministry; **Mr Faik GURBATOV**, Assistant to Minister

#### **BELGIUM / BELGIQUE**

##### *Communauté francophone*

**M. René HAMAITE**, Directeur Général adjoint, Conseiller du Ministre des sports; **M Odon MARNEFFE**, Directeur Général Adjoint, ADEPS Ministère de la Communauté française,

#### **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE**

**Mr Emir MEDANHODŽIC**, Secretary General, Sports Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

#### **BULGARIA / BULGARIE**

**Mr Tsviatko BARCHOVSKI**, President, Committee for Youth, Physical Education and Sports of the Council of Ministers

#### **CROATIA / CROATIE**

**Mr Ivan VAVRA**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Sports; **Mr Andro KNEGO**, Vice Minister, Ministry of Education and Sports; **Mr Krešimir HORVAT**, Adviser to the Vice Minister (for Sports)

#### **CYPRUS / CHYPRE**

**Mr Ouranios IOANNIDES**, Minister of Education and Culture; **Mr Demos GEORGIADES**, President of the Cyprus Sport Organisation; **Mr Costas PAPACOSTAS**, Director General of the Cyprus Sport Organisation; **Mr George ANTONIADES**, Administrative Officer, Ministry of Education and Culture; **Mr Antonios THEOCHAROUS**, Secretary, Embassy of Cyprus in Vienna

#### **CZECH REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE**

**Mr Eduard ZEMAN**, Minister, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport; **Mr Ladislav MALY**, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport; **Mr Pavel CINK**, Director of Department of Foreign Relations, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; **Mr Vladimir DOSTAL**, International Activities Officer, Department of Sports, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, **Mrs Vladimira AL MALIKIOVA**, Public Relations, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, **Ms Nada VLASAKOVA**, Czech Olympic Committee,

**DENMARK / DANEMARK**

**Mrs Lene WITTE**, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Culture; **Mr Peter NAUNTOFT**, Head of Section, Danish Ministry of Culture; **Mr Henrik Kjaer HANSEN**, Danish Ministry of Culture; **Mr Gert NIELSEN**, Vice-Chairman of Danish Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation; **Mr Morten BANGSGAARD**, Consulant, Danish Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation,

**ESTONIA / ESTONIE**

**Ms Signe KIVI**, Minister, Ministry of Culture; **Mr Henn VALLIMÄE**, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Culture; **Mr Toomas TONISE**, Secretary General, Estonian Central Sports Union

**FINLAND / FINLANDE**

**Ms Suvi LINDÉN**, Minister of Sports, **Ms Raija MATTILA**, Counsellor for Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Education; **Mr Timo HAUKILAHTI**, Director of Sports Division; **Ms Terhi HEINILÄ**, Project Manager

**FRANCE**

**Mme Marie-George BUFFET**, Ministre de la Jeunesse et des Sports; **M. Olivier MEÏER**, Conseiller technique chargé des relations internationales et de la coopération, Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports; **M. Jacques DONZEL**, Conseiller technique sports, Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports; **M. Joël DELPLANQUE**, Directeur des Sports, Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports; **M. Jacques BOULOC**, Chargé de mission des Relations Internationales et des grands événements sportifs; **M. Eric PLAYOUT**, Attaché de coopération à l'Ambassade de France à Bratislava

**GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE**

**Dr Cornelie SONNTAG-WOLGAST**, Parliamentary Secretary of State in the Federal Ministry of the Interior; **Mr Peter GLASS**, Ministerialrat, Bundesministerium des Innern; **Mr Steffen REICHE**, Minister, Conference of the Sport Ministers of the German Bundesländer; **Mr Ralf-Peter HASSELBARTH**, Head of Office of the Conference of the Sport Ministers of the German Bundesländer; **Ms Erika DIENSTL**, Vice-Chairman, German Sports Confederation, Deutscher Sportbund; **Ms Marlis RYDZY-GÖTZ**, Head of International Relations Division, Deutscher Sportbund

**GREECE / GRECE**

**Mr Yiannis SGOUROS**, Secretary General of Sport, General Secretariat for Sports; **Mrs Ekaterini TZIKI**, Council of Europe and International Relations Bureau, General Secretariat for Sports

**HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIEGE**

**Monseigneur Luigi DOSSENA**, Chef de la Délégation, Nonce Apostolique en Slovaquie; **M. Jacques GAUTHERON**, Président d'Honneur de la FSCF; **Dr Miroslav KAPINAJ**, Collaborateur à l'Annonciature apostolique en Slovaquie

**HUNGARY / HONGRIE**

**Mr Tamás DEUTSCH**, Minister of Youth and Sports; **Mr Ferenc DENES**, Deputy State Secretary in Charge of Sport; **Mr Pal SZEKERES**, Deputy State Secretary in Disabled Sport, Ministry of Youth and Sports; **Mr Viktor MEHLHOFFER**, Accompanying Mr Szekeres; **Mr Jozsef SZABO**, 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary at the Embassy of Hungary in Bratislava, **Mr Laszlo KARGER KOCSIS**, Director of the Department of International Relations, Ministry of Youth and Sports; **Ms Krisztina GÖNTER**, Advisor of International Sport Affairs, Ministry of Youth and Sports; **Dr Jeno KAMUTI**, President of European Fencing Federation

**ICELAND / ISLANDE**

**Mr Reynir G. KARLSSON**, Head of Division for Sport and Youth Affairs; **Mr Guojon GUDMUNSSON**, Member of the Icelandic Parliament,

**IRELAND / IRLANDE**

**Mr Paddy HEFFERNAN**, Principal Officer, Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation; **Mr John TREACY**, Executive Chairman, The Irish Sports Council

**ITALY / ITALIE**

**Prof. Giampaolo D'ANDREA**, Undersecretary of State for Cultural Heritage and Activities; **Mr Alberto CUTILLO**, Diplomatic Advisor, Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities; **Mr Lucio SELLI**, Advisor for Sport, Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities; **Mr Vito D'ADAMO**, Assistant to Prof. D'Andrea; **Mr Mariano RAVAZZOLO**, Chef du Cabinet du Président, Comitato Olimpico Nazionale Italiano (CONI); **Mrs Domenica TURI**, Fonctionnaire au Cabinet du Président, Comitato Olimpico Nazionale Italiano (CONI)

**LATVIA / LETTONIE**

**Mr Karlis GREISKALNS**, Minister of Education and Science; **Mr Einars FOGELIS**, Director, Latvian Sports Department, Ministry of Education and Science

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

**Ms Andrea WILLI**, Ministre de la Culture et des Sports; **Mr Roman HERMAN**, Head of Advisory Board on Sport, Präsident; **Mr Johann PINGITZER**, Advisor for the IXth Conference of European Ministers responsible for sport

**LITHUANIA / LITUANIE**

**Mr Rimas KURTINAITIS**, Director General, Lithuanian State Department of Physical Education and Sports; **Mr Algirdas RASLANAS**, Deputy Director, Lithuanian State Department of Physical Education and Sports; **Ms Rima BERLOVIENE**, Chief Officer on Anti-Doping, Lithuanian State Department of Physical Education and Sports

**LUXEMBOURG**

**Ms Anne BRASSEUR**, Minister of Education, Professional Training and Sports; **M. Georges LANNERS**, Commissaire du Gouvernement à l'Education Physique et aux Sports; **M. Marc THEISEN**, Président du Comité Olympique; **M. Robert SCHULER**, Conseiller du Gouvernement 1ère classe

**MALTA / MALTE**

**Hon. Jesmond MUGLIETT**, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport, Culture & the Arts, Minister responsible for sport; **Mr Antony GHIO**, Head of Sport Section; **Mr Victor BATTISTINO**, Personal Assistant to the Minister

**MOLDOVA**

**Ms Nelly BEREZOVSCHI**, Minister responsible for sport,

**NETHERLANDS / PAYS-BAS**

**Mr Jan Willem MEERWALDT**, Director, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, Sports Division; **Mrs Dorien HOEPPENER**, European Sports Affairs Officer, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, **Mr Jos GEUKERS**, Olympic Committee

**NORWAY / NORVEGE**

**Mr Roger INGEBRIGTSEN**, State Secretary, Royal Ministry of Cultural Affairs; **Mr Paul GLOMSAKER**, Deputy Director General, Royal Ministry of Cultural Affairs; **Mr Ivar EGEBERG**, Secretary General, Norwegian Olympic Committee and Confederation of Sports; **Mr Rune ANDERSEN**, Head of the Ethics, Sports, Medicine, Anti-Doping Department, Norwegian Olympic Committee and Confederation of Sports; **Mr Inge AARHUS**, Director of Environment during the Lillehammer Olympic Winter Games

**POLAND / POLOGNE**

**Mr Mieczyslaw NOWICKI**, President of State Sports Administration; **Mr Jan KOZLOWSKI**, Vice-President – Secretary of State; **Dr Ewa SUSKA**, Director of the Department of European Integration and International Relations; **Mr Artur PILKA**, Deputy Director, State Sports Administration; **Prof. Jerzy SMORAWINSKI**, Rector in the Academy of Physical Education, Chairman of the Anti-Doping Commission

**PORTUGAL**

**Mr Vasco LYNCE DE FARIA**, Secrétaire d'Etat aux Sports; **Mr Manuel BRITO**, President of the National Sports Institute; **Mr Luis SANTOS**, Confederação do Desporto de Portugal; **Mr Vicente MOURA**, Comité Olímpico de Portugal

**ROMANIA / ROUMANIE**

**Mr George CRIN ANTONESCU**, Minister of Youth and Sport; **Prof. Dr Ioan DRAGAN**, President of the National Anti-Doping Commission; **Mr Eduard IORDACHESCU**, Minister's Adviser, Ministry of Youth and Sport; **Mr Mihai CAPATINA**, Sports Director, Ministry of Youth and Sport; **Mr Alexandru CALCIU**, Expert, Ministry of Youth and Sport

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION / FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

**Mr Boris IVANYUZHENKOV**, Minister, Ministry of the Russian Federation for Physical Culture, Sport and Tourism; **Mr Victor KHOTOCHKIN**, Vice-Minister; **Mr Nikolai GROUSHINE**, Deputy Chief of the Department of International Cooperation

**SLOVAKIA / SLOVAQUIE**

**Mr Mikulas DZURINDA**, Prime Minister; **Mr Milan FTÁČNIK**, Minister of Education; **Mr Laszlo SZIGETTI**, State Secretary, Ministry of Education; **Ms Maria DURISINOVA**, Director General of Sports and Youth Section, Ministry of Education; **Mr Kazimír FERIENCIK, MD, PhD**, President of the Slovak Anti-Doping Committee; **Mr Jan HOLKO**, President of Slovak Union of Physical Culture; **Mrs Daniela BUJNOVSKA**, Director General of the Section for Foreign Relations, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; **Mr Peter CHUDY**, Ministry of the Environment

**SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE**

**Dr Pavel ZGAGA**, Minister, Ministry of Education and Sport; **Dr Janko STREL**, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sport, **Mr Zoran VEROVNIK**, International Affairs, Ministry of Education and Sport

**SPAIN / ESPAGNE**

**M. Estanislao de GRANDES**, Ambassadeur de l'Espagne à Bratislava; **Mr Antonio GUERRERO OLEA**, Head of International Cooperation, Consejo Superior de Deportes; **Mr Miguel UTRAY DELGADO**, Head of International Relations, Consejo Superior de Deportes

**SWEDEN / SUEDE**

**Mrs Ulrica MESSING**, Minister responsible for Sport; **Mr Johan DANIELSON**, Press Secretary in the Ministry of Culture; **Mr Tomas JOHANSSON**, Deputy Director, Ministry of Culture; **Mr Keneth WISING**, Senior Administrative Officer, Ministry of Culture; **Mr Bengt WESTERBERG**, Board Member, Swedish Sports Confederation

**SWITZERLAND / SUISSE**

**M. Hans HOEHENER**, Président de la Commission fédérale du sport; M. Heinz KELLER, Directeur de l'Office fédéral du sport de Mâcolin, Département fédéral de la défense, protection de la population et des sports; M. Marco BLATTER, Directeur de l'Association Olympique Suisse; Mr Thomas HELBING, Adviser to the Minister of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports; Mme Nadia MAYOR MASSE, 3ème Secrétaire à l'Ambassade de Suisse à Bratislava

**“THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA” /****« L'EX-REPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACEDOINE »**

**Mr Georgy BOEV**, Minister of Youth and Sport; Mr Sašo POPOVSKI, Advisor to the Minister; Ms Vesna Krstic ANDREEVSKA, Ministry of Youth and Sport; Mr Dimitar GEDRGIEVSKI, Ministry of Youth and Sport; Mr Milosh VUCHIDOLOV, National Olympic Committee

**TURKEY / TURQUIE**

**Mr Fikret ÜNLÜ**, Minister of State responsible for Sport and Youth Affairs; Mr Haluk ÖZBEK, GSGM, General Directorate of Youth and Sport, Head of International Relations Department; Prof. Dr Aytekin TEMIZER, Director of Turkish Doping Control Centre; Mr Oguz OZCAN

**UKRAINE**

**Mr Ivan FEDORENKO**, Chairman of State Committee of Physical Culture and Sports; Mr Valeri Mykolaiovych ZHULJAIEV, Head of International Department State Committee of Youth Policy, Sports and Tourism,

**UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI**

**Ms Kate HOEY**, Minister for Sport; Mr David LYSCOM, British Ambassador to the Slovak Republic; Mr Simon COOPER, Private Secretary to Ms Hoey; Mr John SCOTT, Director of International Relations, United Kingdom Sports Council

**COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS / COMITE DES MINISTRES**

**Ambassador Sr. Pietro Ercole AGO**, Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies / Président des Délégués des Ministres

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY / ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE**

**Mr Mikko ELO**, Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee and Leader of the delegation; Mr Valentino MARTELLI; Mr Juraj SVEC; Mr Georgiy MANCHULENKO; Mr Aleg RADCHENDKO

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION / COMMISSION EUROPEENNE**

Mr Jaime ANDREU, Head of Sport Unit, Directorate General EAC,

**MONITORING GROUP OF THE ANTI-DOPING CONVENTION /****GROUPE DE SUIVI DE LA CONVENTION CONTRE LE DOPAGE**

Dr Alain GARNIER (Chair/ Président), Conseiller Médical auprès du Directeur des Sports, Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports,

**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL COHESION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

Mr Claude EWEN, Inspecteur de la Sécurité Sociale 1<sup>ère</sup> Classe, Inspection Générale de la Sécurité Sociale

**OBSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS****AUSTRALIA / AUSTRALIE**

Ms Helen STYLIANOU, Australian Embassy and Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**CANADA**

Mr Norman MOYER, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Canadian Heritage; Mr Ron HALPIN, Canadian Ambassador to the Czech Republic and to the Slovak Republic; M. Alain LATULIPPE, First Secretary at the Canadian Embassy,

**ISRAEL**

M. Yehoshua DEKEL, Director General Sport Authority, Israel Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport,

**INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE /  
COMITE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIQUE (IOC / CIO)**

Me François CARRARD, Directeur Général; Mr Pal SCHMITT, Member ; Mr Shahbaz BEHNAM, Coordinator, Sport and Environment Commission,

**WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY / AGENCE MONDIALE ANTIDOPAGE**

Mr Richard W. POUND, President of the Foundation Board of the World Anti-Doping Agency; Mr Harri SYVÄSALMI, Secretary General to the World Anti-Doping Agency

**EUROPEAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEES /  
COMITES OLYMPIQUES EUROPEENS**

Mr Frantisek CHMELAR, President Slovak Olympic Committee

**EUROPEAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL SPORTS ORGANISATION (ENGSO)**

Mr Bengt SEVELIUS, President of ENGSO

**ASSOCIATION GENERALE DES FEDERATIONS INTERNATIONALES DE SPORTS /  
GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS (AGFIS /  
GAISF)**

M. Jean-Claude SCHUPP, General Association of International Sports Federations

**EUROPEAN SPORTS CONFERENCE / CONFERENCE SPORTIVE EUROPEENNE (ESC  
/ CSE)**

Mr Toomas TONISE, Secretary General, Estonian Central Sports Union,

**CLEARING HOUSE**

M. René HAMAITE, Directeur Général adjoint,

**APOLOGISED / EXCUSES**

BELARUS; GEORGIA / GEORGIE; CPLRE / CLRAE



SLOVAK ORGANISERS

Mr Samuel ROSKO, Head of Division of Elite Sports, Section of Sports, Children and Youth, Ministry of Education; Mr Peter SKOVAJSA, Section of Sports, Children and Youth, Ministry of Education; Mr Zdenko KMETEK, Section of Sports, Children and Youth, Ministry of Education;

COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Mr Walter SCHWIMMER**, Secretary General; Mrs Verena TAYLOR, Administrator, Private Office; Mr Lasse SIURALA, Director of Youth and Sport; Mr George WALKER, Head of the Sport Department; Mrs Diane MURRAY, Administrator, Sport Department; Mr Mesut ÖZYAVUZ, Administrator, Sport Department; Mme Odile LAUGEL, Principal Administrative Assistant, Sport Department; Miss Suzanne LITTLE, Private Secretary, Sport Department; Mlle Diane PENEAU, Secretary Sport Department; Mr Joao ARY, Secrétaire à la Commission de la Culture et de l'Éducation de l'Assemblée parlementaire / Secretary to the Committee on Culture and Education of the Parliamentary Assembly; Mr Roland HERMANN, Chef de l'équipe des interprètes / Head of the Interpreters team; Mme Denise SLAVIK, Attachée de Presse; Mme Catherine TAILLEZ, Secrétaire, Presse; Ms Isabelle FLECKSTEINER, Secrétaire, Protocole.

### **Appendix III Speaking List**

#### **Tuesday 30 May      11.15 - 13.00**

Mr Elo	Parliamentary Assembly
Mr Pound	World Anti-Doping Agency
Mrs Messing	Sweden
Mr Ioannides	Cyprus
Ms Hoey	United Kingdom
M. de Grandes	Spain
Mr Sgouros	Greece
Maître Carrard	International Olympic Committee

#### **15.00 - 16.30**

Mrs Witte	Denmark
Mme Brasseur	Luxembourg
Mr D'Andrea	Italy
Mr Schmitt	International Olympic Committee - Environment
Mr Maly	Czech Republic
Mrs Linden	Finland
Mr Deutsch	Hungary
Mrs Kivi	Estonia
Ms Sonntag-Wolgast	Germany
Mr Reiche	Germany
Mrs Dienstl	Germany
Mr Unlü	Turkey

#### **16.45 - 18.00**

Mr Zgaga	Slovenia
Mr Ingebritsen	Norway
Mr Mugliett	Malta
Mr Boev	“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”
Mrs Willi	Liechtenstein
Mr Barchovski	Bulgaria
Mr Hoehener	Switzerland
Mr Dekel	Israel

**Wednesday 31 May**

Mr Antonescu	Romania
Mr Varra	Croatia
Mr Karlsson	Iceland
Mr Garayev	Azerbaijan
Mr Fedorenko	Ukraine
Mgr Dossan	Holy See
Mr Irschik	Austria
Mr Khotochkin	Russian Federation
Mr Treacy	Ireland
Mr Fogelis	Latvia
Mr Raslanas	Lithuania
Mr Sevelius	ENGSO
Mr Andreu	European Commission
Mr Canals Jordi	Andorra
Mr Smorawinski	Poland
Mr Feriencik	Slovakia
Mr Ewen	European Committee on Social Cohesion
Mr Schupp	AGFIS / GAISF

## **Press Release**

### **"A clean and healthy sport for the 3rd millennium"**

#### **Sport is a key factor in social integration and training, says Walter Schwimmer**

BRATISLAVA, 30.5.2000 - "For hundreds of millions of Europeans, sport primarily means health and entertainment, even though, in the media, its image is dominated by scandals, hooliganism and doping," said today, COUNCIL OF EUROPE Secretary General Walter SCHWIMMER.

At the opening of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport, Mr Schwimmer stressed the social and educational role of sport. Many people on the fringes of society - disabled people, unemployed people, elderly people, juvenile delinquents and migrants - have become better integrated in society, thanks to sport. Together we must devise a policy to promote integration schemes and identify ways and means of supporting promising initiatives, he said.

Sporting activities, Mr Schwimmer went on to say, teach young people to observe the rules, work as a team, accept decisions and, in particular, consider the opponent not as an enemy but as a partner. All these concepts, he stressed, will then serve them in everyday life.

The Secretary General welcomed the establishment of the World Anti-doping Agency, in which the Council of Europe will be represented, and co-operation on the issue of doping with the European Union. The next step, he said, will be to consolidate the Council of Europe's Anti-Doping Convention, the only international instrument in this field.

In connection with sexual harassment, one of the topics to be discussed at the conference, the Secretary General said that this issue, which had long been ignored, could at last be tackled in broad daylight and that research should be undertaken to find out more about relations between athletes and their entourage.

He drew attention to the damage caused to the environment by sport and, in particular, the impact of mass sport such as skiing and off-road cycling, but also the adverse effects on fauna and flora of building golf courses.

## **Part II: Opening Speeches and the Presentation of themes**

### **Opening speech by the Mr Walter Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe**

I welcome Prime Minister Dzurinda and the Slovak Minister for Education, Ministers from a great number of countries, representatives of member States and countries which are party to the anti-doping convention.

I should like to thank the Slovak authorities for their hospitality and for the great interest they show in our work in this domain – proven by the presence of the Mr Dzurinda, which is a great honour.

The theme chosen for this conference, “A Clean and Healthy Sport for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium” is a challenging one. The image of sport in the media is often dominated by scandals, hooliganism, suspicion of doping or other health abuse, dubious practices. The media tend to concentrate on professional sport. However, for millions, sport is a means to stay healthy and to enjoy oneself. Sport can be looked upon as a tool in favour of social cohesion and as a medium creating an environment which allows young people to learn fair play, team spirit and other social skills.

In this context, the key question we have to ask ourselves is: How can sport contribute to helping marginalized persons, for example, people with disabilities, the unemployed, the elderly, young delinquents, migrants, and others, to become fully integrated, active and responsible citizens?

The Council of Europe has worked on this aspect of sport, which is of primary importance to us, in many different ways in the past. They have shown that sport can make a difference to people’s quality of life, and to their interest and involvement in society. Because of the renewed emphasis of our work on social cohesion, it is imperative to formulate a comprehensive policy for programmes promoting integration, and to identify and to promote the structures and methods, which support successful initiatives.

I should like to mention in this context the recent conference ”Harnessing the Potential – The Social Dimension of Football”, organised jointly by the British Council and the Council of Europe. Indeed, we hear more about hooliganism, transfer scandals and other negative aspects of professional football, than about the important role the game has for bringing people together, teaching them team spirit and respect for other players, often of different ethnic origin.

This Conference underlined the importance of football for the integration of young people of different and often even difficult backgrounds into society.

Equally very interesting positive results were reached when using sports&games to work with refugees and children/young people who are traumatised from violence or armed conflict. This is certainly an area which merits further research. Activities in this context have been carried out with Kosovar refugees during the crisis last year, amongst others.

One of the most important aspects of sport is fair play. Sports activities allow young people to learn to respect and apply rules, to work together, to accept decisions, and, above all, to see the other competitors not as enemies but as partners. Many of these aspects are equally important in civil and social life.

To pretend all is well in the world of sport would also be wrong. Therefore the Conference deals with the most burning challenges and problems:

1. Violence, in particular spectator violence and hooliganism, the role of authorities in this context, the role of Clubs; in the recent past we have again seen the very sad results of so-called fans using the excuse of a football match to vent their pent-up frustrations;
2. Doping and the Council of Europe's role, in particular the Anti-Doping Convention and the World Anti-Doping agency; in this context also co-operation between the European Union and the Council of Europe, and between international organisations and the big sports associations;
3. Sexual harassment and exploitation in sport, a topic which has long been hidden "under the table" but which can finally be discussed openly; this need not happen through direct physical attacks, but the role of the media has to be investigated just as much as the relationships between athletes and others;
4. Unemployment and the role of sport in favour of job creation, social integration and leisure time activity;
5. Environmental damage caused by sport; reference is made not only to car racing and the resulting noise and air pollution, but also mass sport activities such as skiing or mountain biking, or even the negative consequences of golf courses for the local fauna and flora.

You may ask why should the Council of Europe be interested in these issues. They are not easily identifiable as "Council of Europe" subjects.

We promote sports for all as a means of improving quality of life, facilitating social integration and contributing to social cohesion. These aspects are closely linked to human rights and equality. Secondly, we support actions which foster tolerance through sport, with a view to contributing to education for democratic citizenship and a democratic and diverse Europe. Others will talk about our work on doping. Let me just say that I am very pleased with the progress that has been achieved in setting up the World Anti-Doping Agency. You will appoint a European representative to its Executive Board later on in this Conference.

While I fully recognise the important work done in the sports sector, as in all other areas of activity, one has to face the need for priority setting and to be open to new working methods and new structures. Thus the Sport Department is now integrated in the Directorate of Youth and Sports. In turn, the Directorate is part of the new Directorate General for Education, Culture, Heritage, Youth, Sport and Sustainable Environment, or, as we call it internally, DGIV.

Once the Ministers' Deputies have formally agreed to the priorities proposed by the Directors General, the necessary administrative changes will be undertaken to give the identified priority full support and the necessary back-up. Voluntary contributions, which often come from the specialised Ministries rather than Ministries for Foreign Affairs, could help to reinforce activities, which can no longer be financed through the general budget.

Prime Minister, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, your agenda is an extensive one, and you have a couple of days of hard work ahead of you. I wish you very much success and look forward to the results of your Conference.

## **Address by the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic Government Mikuláš Dzurinda**

I would like to welcome you in the today's 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Ministers of Sport of the European countries. It is an extreme honour for us that such an important event at such a high representative level is being held in Slovakia. I strongly believe that you will feel well and that you will take home the best impressions of Slovakia.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, the forthcoming moments of this Conference will be devoted to the topics and discussions on "Clean and healthy sport in the third millennium". I am looking forward to it due to various reasons.

1. I consider sport an extremely cultural and civilisation phenomenon, a significant sign of our era. A good example for the internationally growing importance of the sport is the annually increasing interest of sportsmen, public, media and companies in important sport events, as for example Olympic games. The phenomenon of sport at the turn of the third millennium, similarly as other social, cultural and economic phenomena of the current era, is closely tied to the current globalisation process in the world. This is undoubtedly connected with some risks, which need to be thoroughly considered.
2. We live in an extremely fast era. The integral part of our everyday lives became stress, motivation to high performance at work and unbelievably fast inflow of new information. To manage the high demands in a good health, without carrying out active sport, is almost impossible. Now, with your permission, I would like to recall some of my personal experience. I simply cannot imagine that I could physically bear the work in my position without running regularly. Therefore one of the important roles of the governments is to prepare pre-conditions for the development of mass sports, for its promotion. The active sport is a positive response to the challenges of the modern lifestyle. It is a positive alternative against resignation to active life and the best prevention against diseases and drug abuse.
3. I perceive sport as a phenomenon, which already exceeded the framework of the physical activity or achievement of good results. With the development of media and information society, the sport became, from the point of view of its internal social importance, an inspiring and motivating example. In this respect I have to mention the example of the outstanding success of our hockey players in the World Championship this year. It was even interesting to observe what a positive impact the success of our ice hockey players had towards the inside of our society. Friedrich Nietzsche once upon a time said that "small ideas are as mildew, they spread fast". This undoubtedly does not apply to the area of sports. Positive examples, ideas and success motivate and in a good sense of word infect the whole society.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, these are also the reasons behind why I am pleased that the today's Conference has been organised. I am deeply convinced that alike to the situations when in the sport matches we keep our fingers crossed to those who are "ours", on the other hand, the sport is bringing us closer to each other. This paradox of the sport can only exist under the condition, which is also embodied in the title of this Conference, i.e. under the prerequisite of clean and healthy sport. I strongly believe that also thanks to your discussions such sport will have better grounds. Let me welcome you again and thank you for your attention.

**Address by Mr Pietro Ercole Ago, Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies, Council of Europe**

As the current Chair of the Ministers' Deputies it gives me pleasure to be here at the opening of this Conference. Allow me a personal note. Having worked in Prague in 1969-72 as a young diplomat, I had many occasions to visit Bratislava. But it was a very difficult period and it is beautiful to be back here now in a completely different atmosphere. The Committee of Ministers has noted the varied and interesting choice of themes for this Conference and the way in which they all, in their different ways, are designed to ensure that the sport of tomorrow does not reflect the mistakes and unhappy situation of some sport today.

When, in the last few years, the Committee of Ministers has considered sport, the problems of hooliganism and the question of tackling doping in sport have been to the forefront of their deliberations.

In high level sport the use of performance enhancing substances remains a major concern. The questions are asked on what is going to happen at Sydney? How will the new World Anti Doping Agency, whose President Mr Dick Pound we welcome here today, fulfil its mandate?

The Committee of Ministers has given full support to the active involvement of the Council of Europe in the World Anti-Doping Agency and sincerely hopes that its work will bring the positive results we all expect.

The damage inflicted on sport by the unethical behaviour of athletes, managers or medical staff can cause problems. It undermines the faith we all place in the virtues of sport as a way of teaching fair play, competing on an equal footing, accepting defeat and congratulating the champion because he or she is the best.

*We must strive for the rules to be clearly identified, fairly applied and inflexibly complied with.*

Sports, especially high-level sports events, are often a source of anxiety to the organisers and those responsible for law and order.

In popular spectator sport the activities of spectators are causing anxiety – we have had a Spring where accounts of the actions of football hooligans in various parts of Europe have filled the newspapers.

Our anxiety for the near future is shared by the organisers of Euro 2000, the police forces and those who just want to enjoy seeing their team play – and hopefully win – in an atmosphere of excitement and tension – but one that is fundamentally peaceful.

Yet something within us all rebels at this gloomy picture.

Of course, there are no magic solutions. The only enforceable way forward is the one that the Council of Europe has adopted with the active support of responsible political leaders like you, Ministers, gathered today in Bratislava. That is:

Conventions – several of which have been adopted within the framework of the Council of Europe – in particular the Convention on spectator violence and misbehaviour and the Convention against doping – and whose implementation should be monitored closely;

active co-operation – throughout Europe, notably with the European Union, and with other international organisations sharing our concerns;



education – so that young people especially are taught about the importance of tolerance and the need to respect others' opinions, even when they do not share them.

In a word – fair-play.

We must believe that these ways can work: what are the alternatives?

More rigid testing for doping may eliminate some from the competition, but it will not stop the search for other artificial ways to enhance performance.

Playing important games behind locked doors in empty stadia will not ensure or teach tolerance.

You, Ministers, are fully aware of the social dimension of sport. The unhealthy behaviour of sportsmen, the unacceptable violence from spectators or even organised jobs only arise when the intrinsic values of sport are forgotten or humiliated.

We must pursue the aim of restoring acceptance and dissemination of sport values among the population, starting with those who may seek in sport the means or the pretext to express their unease with society, dissatisfaction or rebellion.

Here is where the social relevance of sport comes in.

It is an highly political topic, as witnessed by the presence here of senior ministers in their national governments.

The theme chosen for this Conference “A clean and healthy sport for the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium” is one that relates to sport right across the spectrum. We need a clean and healthy sport for the athletes and by the athletes themselves, for the benefit of society as a whole on whose members, especially the youngest – sportsmen and sportswomen have a tremendous impact as positive heroes.

We need heroes whose qualities are humility and perseverance in effort, modesty in triumph, resilience in defeat, generosity everywhere.

I wish you well for your debates and discussions. I am confident that this will prove a fruitful conference. I congratulate the Slovak authorities on their organisation and thank them for their warm hospitality.

I will conclude by congratulating Slovakia for organising with and without incidents yesterday the match between the national teams under 21 of Slovakia and Italy, which ended with their leaving everybody happy.

## **General Presentation of the themes by Mr Milan Ftacnik, the Minister of Education of the Slovak Republic**

I am very pleased that I have the opportunity to welcome you in Slovakia personally and also on behalf of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic which through its Section of Sport, Children and Youth carries out the function of the central body for the area of physical education and sports.

Especially I would like to welcome the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Walter Schwimmer with the members of his delegation and to extend my gratitude to him for the good cooperation in preparing the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Ministers Responsible for Sport.

Further I would like to welcome Pietro Ergole AGO – the Chairman of the Committee of the Delegates of the Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Ambassador of Italy at the Council of Europe, Mr Valentino Martelli and Joao ARY, the members of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe, Mr Pound, the Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee and Mr Bengt Sevelius, the President of the European non-government sport organisations.

I would like to welcome all the Ambassadors and the staff of the Embassies of the participating countries.

The Conference is also honoured with the presence of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic Mr. Mikuláš Dzurinda.

We consider the opportunity to organise the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Ministers Responsible for Sport as an expression of support and trust in our abilities and readiness of the Slovak Republic in its integration effort into the European structures.

The Conference, which is being organised at the turn of the millennium, will be devoted to an extremely topical and important idea of clean and healthy sports for the third millennium.

Despite trends towards integration we are currently witnessing growing social differences between various geographical parts of the world, countries, social groups and individuals.

Sport is a social phenomenon and an important tool to experience and engender the feelings of mutual fellowship among people, human closeness and equality awareness. By improving cohesion in society, tension and hostility is gradually diminished and the peaceful coexistence between individuals, groups and nations as a whole is increased.

Nowadays we cannot imagine a peaceful life without envisaging too a healthy, beautiful, and aesthetic environment. And as sports and physical exercise support a healthy lifestyle, we can hardly imagine that these can be separated from the nature around us and the consciously and constantly preserved and protected environment.

I am also convinced of the fact that we need to give a clear and decisive response to the negative practices that we are experiencing with doping. We need to be inspired by the ideals of sports competition where the winners in different sports categories always used to be those who were the best, but not those smartest in cheating.

The Slovak Republic participates in the program aimed at the struggle against doping in sports, which it declared by signing the Council of Europe Agreement against Doping.

We have established close cooperation with the countries which adopted the Agreement. This has provided us with a lot of experience which we can apply in the process of shaping the consciousness and attitudes of sportsmen with the objective of maintaining the real values in sport, in other words, those without doping.

In the recent years there has been a rapid decrease in the number of doping cases proved among Slovak sportsmen. We expect that the establishment of the World Antidoping Agency will substantially improve the effectiveness of the struggle against doping. State institutions, the Olympic movement and sport organisations play a very important role in targeting and implementing the antidoping policy.

The complex development of the human being is impossible without observation and implementation of human rights. And the same similarly applies to sport activities.

Despite the fact that many things in the area of sports have improved, we would also like to contribute to the removal of such negative facts as sexual harassment and abuse, with the objective of protecting the psychological and physical integrity of those who are weaker in sports, especially women and children.

The Slovak Republic, due to its very short history of independence, is still in the process of political, social, cultural and economic transformation of its life.

The same fully applies to the area of physical culture. The transformation process in the area of physical culture, despite very positive tendencies, is sometimes connected with problems. On the one hand it provides democracy, plurality, decentralisation of the competencies, increased awareness of the independence and responsibilities of each entity, including each individual for his own complex development.

On the other hand, it is obvious that the transformation process cannot successfully progress without a vision, a complex and concrete program, a suitable legislative environment and the support of the State.

Without these crucial conditions disharmony, in some areas stagnation or even negative trends can appear, which are then very difficult to overcome. For example, one problem is the disintegration of the physical education and sports movement, the inability of the majority of the civic associations to find ways towards mutual cooperation and common resolutions of the most critical problems in cooperation with the government and self-administration bodies.

We are generally lagging behind in establishing conditions for the area of the so called sports for everybody, sports for children and youth, and in dealing with such issues as the education and further training of professionals and expert-volunteers, research and development, and health insurance for participants in physical culture.

As for the area of organisation, management and financing, there is an unbalanced situation between central, regional and representative bodies.

In Slovakia there still remain the complex issues of property ownership, administration, operations and maintenance of the training and sport facilities, which are under state, club or municipal ownership.

However, I have to say that we are actively approaching these problems and I believe that gradually we will remove all the transformation problems in the area of sports.

The government of the SR has set in its programme manifest the objectives to gradually expand the obligatory and voluntary physical education at schools, to make more efficient use of the sport facilities, prioritise the financing of the administrators of the sport facilities and entities which work with the youth. Recently we have amended the act on lotteries and betting games which will significantly contribute to the financing of sports.

The ministries and the government are currently discussing the new financing system for sports, in view of the transformation changes under preparation and decentralisation of the public administration, under which significant competencies and finance shall be transferred to self-administration bodies.

We are all very pleased that these gradual steps have already been reflected in the results of the Slovak sport representation which we have experienced, with feelings of enthusiasm and pride, in recent weeks. I have in mind the silver medal of the Slovak representation in the World Championship in ice hockey, latest tennis success winning and the European Championship of Under 21 Football Players which is currently underway and being held in cities around Slovakia.

I believe that the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Ministers Responsible for Sport will not only discuss and contribute to the resolution of problems of the outlined topics – the struggle against doping, sport as a phenomenon of social cohesion, sexual abuse in sports, mainly of women and children, sport and its relation to the environment, but also significantly contribute to the development of sports in Slovakia through the exchange of knowledge and experience with other countries of Europe.

I hope that through our bilateral negotiations and personal meetings we will have the opportunity to get to know each other better. I am looking forward to our personal meetings, I wish you again a pleasant stay in Slovakia and believe that the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Ministers Responsible for Sport will be a successful one.

## Presentation of the themes:

### “Sport and social cohesion” by Mr. Jan Kozłowski, Vice-president of the State Sports Administration of Poland

#### *Definition of “social cohesion”*

**Social integration activity, where sports activity may play a special integrating role.**

#### Areas of **social cohesion**:

1. *the unemployed,*
2. *refugees, national minorities (Polish communities abroad),*
3. *the disabled,*
4. *international integration.*

Social ties are the **precondition for the existence** of a society, its common life and collective image.

Interactions, relationships, and interdependencies can appear only under specific circumstances. These circumstances should be understood as the existence of **something** that connects people, makes them need each other, and gives them the sense of community.

Cohesion is a social process: various elements start to interact and build structures, which then unite into a social system, creating a **new quality**.

Such new system, new organism of the united Europe is our objective. We look at this new organism from a special point. We do not want to remove the borders of European countries. We are not gathered here to discuss common economic, monetary, or foreign policies, or a common defence strategy. We are talking of a much more difficult issue – of removing and overcoming psychological and cultural barriers. We are talking of counteracting common stereotypes of superior and inferior people: those who have a job and those who are unemployed; those who live on their ancestors’ land, and those who are immigrants in a new land; those healthy and those disabled.

I would like to remind you that according to World Health Organisation (WHO) health is "***physical, mental, and social well-being of man, rather than only lack of disease or disability***". This deeply humanistic<sup>1</sup> definition relates to the problem that we are trying to solve.

Indeed, our concern is the health of Europeans; health thanks to which an individual or a group may fulfil needs or aspirations; health which is the guarantee of social, economic, and cultural development; which allows us to improve the quality of life; health which means optimum ability to effectively perform our roles in the society.

We take steps relating to social cohesion of three groups: the unemployed, refugees, and the disabled. Through those steps we are creating an opportunity for them to attain, at least in part, the state of well-being. Our concern is also the well-being – particularly psychosocial well-being – of the other members of the European family. Some of them have the sense of social supremacy, and this should be limited.

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<sup>1</sup> Please, do not confound with the humane definition.

The process of social cohesion, i.e. the creation, reinforcement, and maintenance of social ties, can occur only under specific social conditions. It requires specific, precise tools. It requires mechanisms of integration beyond boundaries.

At the beginning I said that **there is something** that unites people, makes them need each other, and gives them the sense of community.

What is this “**something**”?, this “**special area**” within the society?

I believe that **sport can be** such a special field of human activity. This is an area in which **each and every human being can find his or her place**.

Sport and recreation contribute to health protection and the quality of life. They influence employment, and the way people spend their free time. They contribute to people's well being by giving them possibilities to select one of the many sports and roles in them, and to identify with a larger community.

In order to define the subject of our debate in detail, let us adopt the following definitions:

**The unemployed**<sup>2</sup> are people who do not have a regular, paid job. In particular, those are:

1. people who never had a job. For young people this means that their entry into adult life, and attainment of social maturity is restrained;
2. people who have lost their job. This is associated with a loss of social status and occupational identity, and leads to isolation, low self-esteem, apathy, etc.;
3. those who retired early, where the majority of colleagues of the same-age still work.

**Refugees and displaced persons are:**

- refugees in refugee camps, the majority of whom await the return to their homes;
- refugees and displaced persons in camps, with respect to whom it is still unclear when and whether at all they will be able to return to their homes. This group covers people who for political reasons left the country where they lived earlier.
- refugees who voluntarily moved to another country.

**The disabled** are people **whose** bodies do not function in quite the same way when compared with those of the average man or woman, which causes limitations on and impairment of their fulfilment of social roles.

As seen from the very definitions of these groups, it is not easy to say how social cohesion through sport can be achieved.

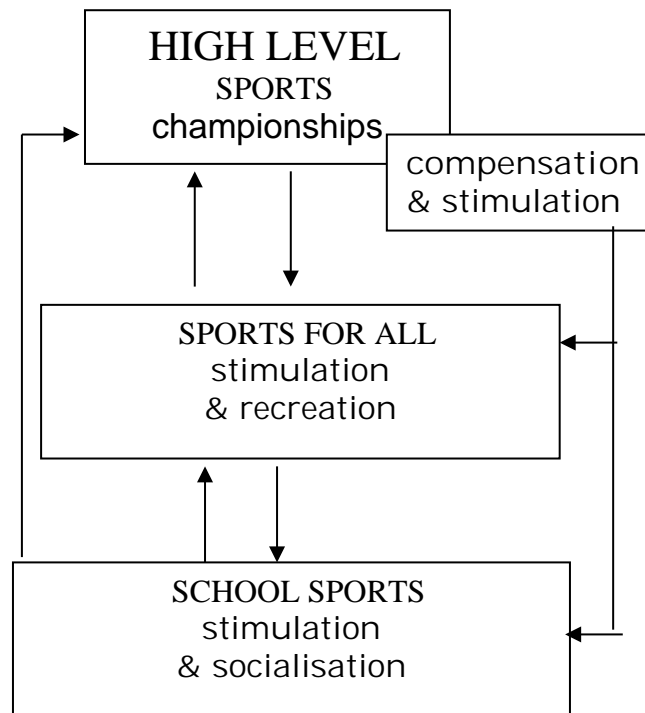
Therefore, I suggest that sports in our debate should be treated as an instrument, as one of the ways of creating, reinforcing, and maintaining ties between the nations of Europe. In this area sport has four major functions: **psychological, health, educational, and economical**.

In order to specify the activities reinforcing, the levels of such integration should be identified:

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<sup>2</sup> CDDS, Strasbourg, 9 February 2000

Fig. 1.



The highest level is the integration of Europeans is by means of **high level sports**. Within this process two main routes of integration can be distinguished. One is championships, where people of one continent get closer to each other through rivalry, confrontation of sport achievements, and direct contact. The other one is the identification of a common European inhabitant with sports champions: the success of another European is perceived as his own success.

The intermediate level is **sports for all**, the activity aimed first of all at ensuring fitness. Sport for all has recreational, creative, and compensatory functions. It is characterised by voluntary participation, disinterestedness, and pleasure. When it comes to health, it has preventive, therapeutic, and rehabilitation functions. It is also a catalyst for forming social ties, and an integrating factor, counteracting the isolation of man.

The third level, **school sports**, is by definition related to the Department of Education and **falls** within its area of responsibility. It is the sports for pupils and students. It is an addition, extension, and development of compulsory physical education at school. The issues of special importance in this area are to teach young people healthy lifestyles and to show them the good side of recreational sports.

**At all the three levels**, new jobs can be created.

All levels support the process of physical rehabilitation and psychosocial re-integration. This applies to the Olympic Games for the Disabled, to paralympic Games, as well as to integration classes in public schools. Sport achievements are an expression of overcoming disease, of activities showing mastery of self, and of full integration into the society of healthy people.

With the help of sports at any of these three levels, it is easier for immigrants to go through assimilation stages: settlement, identification with the ethnic group and the global society, and acculturation.

The awareness of belonging to Europe is an extremely positive value. It gives people the sense of significance, strength, and solidarity in a dimension wider than just geographical. And sport, owing to its universal symbolism, alleviates conflicts inside the European Family. It reduces geographic, social, economic, class, generation, civilisation, and cultural differences.

And the best supporters **of the idea of integration through sports** are people bound by the strongest ties:

**Children**, with their natural need of physical exercise;  
**Parents**, through voluntary sports activities for their children;  
 and **sports champions**, as icons of success for the others.

We have been talking about the society's obligations towards weaker individuals. I am talking about sports in the context of creating social cohesion – ties between people, about the integrative mission of sport.

But now, let me ask you some **questions that are fundamental for us:**

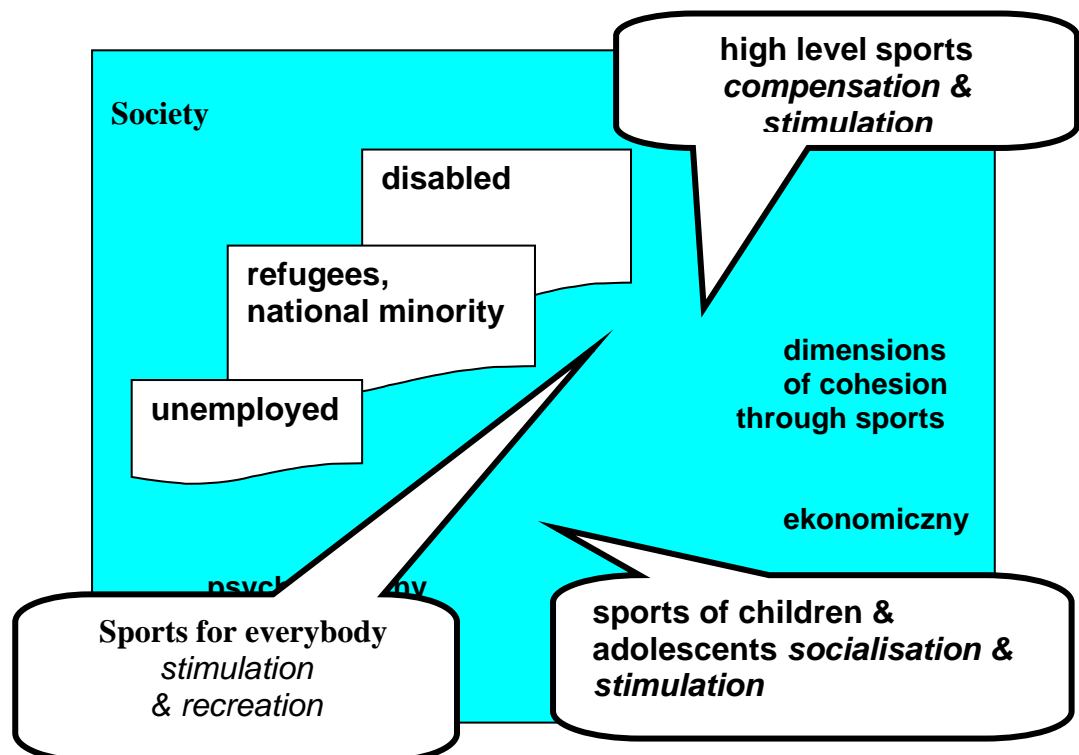
Where is our **place**, as the ministers of sports, in this multinational society of Europeans?

What do we **have to do** in order to make the idea of integration through sports a common practice?

How can we **act** to avoid sports' popularity suppressing valuable cultural variations existing throughout our continent?

When, in the name of our countries and citizens, **do we have the right**, and even obligation, to manage, and when should we limit **ourselves** just to supporting social movements through high level and small sports?

Thank you.





**"Sexual harassment and abuse in sport, especially in the case of women and children"**  
**by Suvi Lindén, Minister of Culture of Finland**

To start with, I would like to thank the Council of Europe and the Slovak Republic for arranging this important conference. I particularly appreciate the organisers having included the difficult and sensitive issue of sexual harassment on the agenda. I value this opportunity to present the theme. The organisers show great courage and open-mindedness in tackling controversial issues which violate against the fundamental values of sport and human rights. Let us therefore set it as our goal to put a stop to sexual harassment in sport, just as we have intervened in many other ethically condemnable issues, such as doping, violence and intolerance. The credibility of sport rests on its being a clean and healthy activity which promotes the well-being of the individual and society.

As far as I know, this is the first time this matter is being discussed at an intergovernmental conference. It is natural that the Council of Europe should tackle this issue. It is, after all, a European organisation of values, for which one key task is to strengthen human rights, pluralistic democracy and the rule of law and seek European solutions to problems which threaten these values. We as ministers responsible for sport must see to it that sport is developed in keeping with these values.

For me, presenting the topic of sexual harassment in sport is a challenge. In my country, Finland, the matter has not been up for general discussion until very recently, and Finnish research has mainly focused on sexual harassment in the workplace, not in sports. So, the primary source for my presentation has been the material produced by the CDDS for this conference. I take this opportunity to thank the CDDS and the experts they have used for excellent background material.

As a point of departure, we must first define what sexual harassment means. Although there is no universal definition, we can start with the fact that it is a question of unwanted sexual attention. The recipient may experience this as threatening, offensive, or aggressive conduct, which can be either verbal or non-verbal. It is not essential whether it is intentional or not, the essential thing is that for the object it is unwelcome. It is thus not normal flirtation acceptable and agreeable to both parties, but a form of violence and/or expression of power, in which the stronger party exerts power over the weaker one. In the sport context, an example of this would be a coach and an athlete in his (or her) charge. The person harassed may be a boy (man) just as well as a girl (woman), but most often it is a girl or a woman. Similarly, in most cases the harasser is a man, but may also be a woman.

Since the problem has not been addressed until recently, there is very little researched data or practical examples of prevention. In Europe, countries like Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and the UK have tackled the problem, but most of us are still at a stage where we need to raise awareness about the problem and promote a matter-of-fact and sober approach to solving it.

On the basis of what we do know, we can examine different manifestations of sexual harassment and the effect it may have on the object. Sexual harassment can be anything from nasty gibes to sexual abuse. As examples of these, I could mention suggestive looks or comments about somebody's body, clothing or private life; phone calls and letters; unwanted sexual pictures; sexual touching; recurring, unwanted sexual suggestions; non-consensual sexual intercourse, even rape. It can thus be harassment in which an athlete or his or her performance is demeaned with reference to sex or sexuality, or it can be a serious deed, such as sexual abuse.

Sexual harassment may have serious consequences for an athlete. It may undermine her or his power of concentration, self-esteem and performance capacity; cause sleeplessness, a sense of shame and guilt, depression and eating disorders; discourage the person from forming lasting

relationships or starting a family; and cause her or him to totally withdraw from sports and other communal activities.

We have no proof that sexual harassment would be more common in sports than in other walks of life. Nor do the manifestations of sexual harassment seem to differ essentially from those occurring in other sectors of society. Yet, according to a Norwegian study, sexual harassment in sports differs from harassment in the workplace and in educational institutions in that it is more common for authority figures in sports, such as coaches, instructors and managers, to harass than authority figures - managers, supervisors and teachers - in the workplace or in educational institutions. In other words, behaviour towards an athlete which is accepted in sports would be not tolerated in the workplace or in an educational institution. According to Dutch studies, especially risky situations in this sense are competitions and tournaments, massage, and situations where the coach and athlete are alone, such as car drives and home visits.

Sexual harassment probably exists in all forms of sport. It is generally assumed that sexual harassment is more common where men are in a majority. Although the world of sport has fairly masculine values, there is no evidence that sexual harassment would be more common in sports than elsewhere. Yet, some studies indicate that in so-called masculine sports athletes encounter sexual harassment more often than in what we could call feminine or gender-neutral sports.

From all this we can draw only one conclusion: there is sexual harassment in sport and it can have serious consequences. What makes this especially serious is that sport is the most popular hobby among children and young people, and it is marketed as an ethical activity which promotes children's and young people's growth, development and health. It is our moral responsibility as policy-makers to make sure that the sport environment is developed on a sound ethical basis and that those involved in it appreciate their responsibility as educators, and act accordingly. We must take a stand on this issue and decide on measures for preventing sexual harassment to which we commit ourselves.

Europe is a community of shared values. Yet, the different historical and cultural backgrounds of European countries influence their norms and practices. This is why it is difficult to draw up one set of rules for preventing sexual harassment which would be acceptable to all and applicable to all environments. I think we do better to approach the matter by agreeing on common principles, which would then be applied in national sport contexts and in international cooperation.

The first concrete step we could take is to adopt the draft recommendation prepared for this conference and to commit ourselves to implementing it. I see it as a very important expression of political will to include a specific reference to sexual harassment in both the European Sports Charter and the European Code of Ethics. It is also important that we encourage the collection of data and further research about sexual harassment in the field of sport in order to find out the scale and manifestations of the problem.

We all must be committed to preparing and adopting national policies which make a clear statement about the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and women and other groups in risk of becoming sexually exploited. The implementation of this policy must be realised through a wide range of concrete actions, such as codes of conducts and dissemination of information and educational material to all parties involved. Cooperation with sports bodies and all those responsible for the education and training of sport professionals and volunteers is of the primary importance. We must call upon the Council of Europe to monitor and evaluate the impact of measures and to this end promote relevant research and surveys.

Sport is a fascinating sector of life, which offers unique experiences of joy and delight and promotes well-being. Unfortunately sport also contains potential for risking positive development of people, especially at a tender age. Sexual harassment is one such risk which must be tackled by all parties involved.

The parents, sports organisations and educational institutions have the right to count on their 'governments' unwavering support in creating a safe environment for children and other vulnerable people. The Council of Europe as a powerful community of values is the right organisation to take the initiative in this matter and support the governments in their efforts to prevent sexual harassment. Let us show our courage and commit ourselves to working both at national and international level toward solving this difficult ethical problem. As a first step towards this end I warmly recommend that we as ministers responsible for sport adopt the resolution on the prevention of sexual harassment and abuse of women and children in sport.

**“Sport and its relationship to the Environment” by Dr Cornelia Sonntag-Wolgast,  
Parliamentary State Secretary, Germany**

Ever since the environment summit of Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the Agenda 21 adopted there, it has been unmistakably clear that the questions concerning our future formulated there are addressed to everybody. Government institutions, as well as all the organisations and bodies of our societies, are called upon to draft, make operational and implement the guiding principles for a sustainable, i.e. future-oriented development for their areas of responsibility.

The term “sustainable development” refers to three dimensions, the ecological, the economic and the social cultural dimensions in which action is to be taken and from which angles the future development of sport will have to be seen. In 1992, at the 7<sup>th</sup> European Sport Minister Conference in Rhodes these goals were already formulated for sport and included into the “European Sports Charter”.

I wish to thank the Council of Europe and the Slovak Government that have both prepared and structured this conference for having taken up the subject of the environment as one of their main topics. I believe that the beginning of the new millennium is a very appropriate point of time to do so.

In most European countries issues regarding the environment have already become part and parcel of sport policy and sport development. Experience has shown that it makes sense not to wait and react, only when problems have become inevitable, but instead to plan and act in a forward-looking way. Co-operation within Europe seems natural because environment pollution does not stop at national borders. Climate protection, careful use of natural resources and environmentally sound construction of buildings are of international concern and the pressure brought to bear by sports on nature and our landscapes also has to be carefully analysed everywhere. In doing so we do not have to reinvent the wheel rather we can draw on the success, but also on the misfortune, of others in order to achieve what in the title of the present draft code is described as a “partnership between sport and the environment”.

I should also like to thank the Working Group of the Council of Europe for preparing the subject with its multi-faceted aspects in the draft resolution and the discussion paper. I should like to present the structure of the code and make you acquainted with some focal areas of the future work, where the need for action is the most urgent in my view.

The code gives a definition of the term “sustainable development” and declares it to be the objective of future sport development and underlines the responsibility of sport and the various actors in sport for a future-oriented policy. The political sector, a sector of sport practice and the scientific sector are expressly addressed. Proposals are developed for action oriented to the principle of sustainability (on all these levels of action). Certainly the situation and the need for action varies from country to country, from region to region. However, I am sure that the major issues are, or soon will be, of equal importance everywhere. I consider all these four fields of action to be urgent:

1. The model of sustainable development requires rapid and determined measures for climate protection, i.e. for a drastic reduction in the emission of pollutants harming the climate. Through the rational use of energy sport can make an effective contribution. For instance with regard to sports facilities, there is a large potential for energy-saving through the use of modern heating techniques and energy-saving modern management of buildings. Such sports facilities also lend themselves to the use of solar energy, and as they are frequented by many

people every day, they can be a good example of the smooth functioning of such technologies and encourage people using the facilities to use them at home.

2. Another problem area is motor vehicle traffic connected with sports activities. Sports-related traffic during leisure time has become a problem in many countries. On the one hand it is due to unfavourably situated sports facilities, on the other hand to the laziness of a society relying on motor vehicles. Environmentally compatible planning of sites, promotion of the use of bicycles and raising environmental awareness are the most important concerns for joint action. In Germany, the German Sports Federation has developed the model of "sport of short distances" which also greatly increases the opportunities for children, older people, people with disabilities and others who do not have a car, to participate in sport.
3. The use of valuable natural space for building settlements, roads and the exploitation of mineral resources, for the purposes of agriculture and forestry, but also for sport and leisure time facilities, has often reached a dangerous scale. In order to reconcile the various demands on nature with the maintenance of its function and beauty, we need new approaches that live up to requirements of the future. New legislation is not the only means to achieve this, rather we have to find solutions for an environmentally compatible development of sport through a dialogue between the sports organisations and conservationists.
4. I think that action in the areas I have just referred to only has a prospect of success if concerted environmental education is provided through information and campaigns. Environmental education should already start in kindergarten, be continued in physical education at school and in sports clubs and be promoted even more actively by commercial providers of sport. To get the message across to the many unorganised sportsmen and sportswomen is a particular problem. Here I may turn to the media, above all television, to meet their responsibility in disseminating information. The role models and the multiplier function of prominent athletes, trainers and coaches, too, are an indispensable element. By adopting the Agenda 21, the IOC has made a valuable contribution to making environmentally compatible conduct in sport popular.

In conclusion:

1. I consider it necessary that we strongly appeal to the responsibility of the individual in all our efforts to bring about a constructive partnership between sport and the environment. Not all deficits can be eliminated by creating problem awareness at the sports federations alone. It is important to familiarise all those who practise sport, be it on an organised or unorganised basis, with the significance of an environmentally compatible conduct in order to convince them to change their attitude.
2. I suggest making better use of the means available to us nationally, also in negotiations with colleagues from other departments, in order to improve the environmental compatibility of sport in our countries. Thus we shall not only live up to our responsibility towards the environment and future generations, but also create the general framework for attractive, clean, healthy and thus more humane sport. In the interests of the partnership between sport and environment, which is not only desirable, but also urgently needed as a precondition of a positive development in sport, I kindly ask you to agree to the present code. Furthermore I would suggest that we set up a group of experts in the Council of Europe to ensure the effective implementation of the code and the proposals contained in the background paper. This group of experts should report on the implementation of other objectives before the next Conference of European Sport Ministers.

## "Combating doping" by Ms Marie-George Buffet, Minister for Youth and Sport, France

First of all, I should like to thank you for the honour of being asked to open your work on combating doping.

I have not forgotten that the Council of Europe was the first international political organisation to show concern about doping and set up bodies on how to combat the evil.

**Recent progress**, although still too modest, is **nonetheless significant** and it seems to me that it is only right and proper to acknowledge the part you have played.

As your previous work has shown, any discussion of the future of sport must take in action on doping.

In this year 2000, the subject of sport in the 21st century is frequently raised.

- How can we ensure that all sporting activities, in all their diversity, are available to everyone everywhere in the world? How can we make this availability a factor for co-operation, exchange and peace among peoples?
- How can we preserve the unity and cohesion of the sports movement, whether amateur or professional? How can we preserve the very meaning of sport: individual fulfilment and pleasure; sporting values; raising individual and team performance; contact with others; obeying the rules in the face of commercial attempts to bend them for the sake of profit?

But above all, how in the future can we safeguard sport from everything that **physically and morally damages** the men and women who become champions? How can we preserve the exemplariness of sport, its role in promoting social integration and citizenship?

This is what the war on doping is mainly about - refusing to allow individuals to **become dependent** on products or procedures; refusing to allow cheating to tarnish sporting achievement or suspicion to sully sporting events.

As we are naturally aware, doping is linked with a series of factors on which action must be taken:

- increasingly heavy calendars of sporting events which do not leave sufficient time for competitors to recuperate;
- the financial insecurity of sportsmen and sportswomen;
- the increasing burden of economic considerations in sport, which demand results at all costs;
- and - for doping also affects young amateurs -
- widespread use of performance-enhancing products, plus
- the tendency of disadvantaged people to place too much importance on sporting results as the route to a brighter future.

All these areas need tackling:

- the calendar should be discussed with sports federations;

- the rights (and obligations) of high-level and professional sportsmen and sportswomen need thinking about;
- we need control over the money flow into sport so that money does not start making the rules;
- we need to look at social-integration and youth-employment policies, and so on.

But, for the sake of public health and sporting ethics, direct action also has to be taken against doping itself.

It is with this in mind that I would like to inform you of the thinking and proposals of the French government.

I think that action has to take the following forms:

- prevention - that is to say, information and medical supervision;
- sporting penalties based on tests on athletes, whom I consider above all to be victims of a system;
- punishment of suppliers based on action by the police and the courts.

A great deal is at stake and all those involved in sport must join forces.

In the first place, it seems to me that any real and active attempt to combat doping must involve close and trusting co-operation between the public authorities and the sports movement, each in its own province. They complement each other, if you like, but the main thing is a clear determination on both sides to take action.

This shared commitment must naturally begin at national level, and this is precisely the aim of the legislation France has recently brought in.

This gives the state responsibility for the prevention system and medical supervision, organising tests, research on the detection of new substances and deploying police and customs resources to tackle the networks of traffickers and suppliers.

Sports federations, with the financial help of the authorities, will monitor the health of sportsmen and sportswomen, provide their members with information and education, train their staff and introduce disciplinary procedures to punish athletes who test positive.

To take overall charge of the task-sharing arrangements, we have decided to set up an independent authority which will step in if sports associations or the state fall down on the job. It will act as an appeal body which will give authoritative opinions in the event of disputes, proceedings or scientific debate.

This complementarity between action by the sports movement and by the state holds good at international level too.

I also welcome the progress that has been made in this area between states and the IOC and between states and international federations.

We have had positive proof of this progress recently with regard to the detection of exogenous EPO.

But in order to be fully effective, this joint action on doping must be truly worldwide. That requires a harmonisation of national law and continuing aid to countries which do not at present have the human and financial resources necessary for action of this kind.

The universality of sport means that a ragbag of dissimilar and unconnected strategies will not do. Rigorous and effective international co-operation is essential.

In this context, I can see nothing but advantages to the generalising of bilateral agreements concerning unannounced tests and research programmes. Initial experience here has been positive and France has warmly welcomed the proposal by the Portuguese presidency of the European Union **for a multilateral approach to the necessary protocols**. The work done by the Council of Europe can help us to harmonise procedures for implementation of protocols in these areas.

That said, the objective we have set ourselves cannot be achieved without the help of a strong, recognised, respected and effective international body.

Considerable progress has been made over the past year with setting up the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), in which government and sport have joint representation. This undeniable achievement is the fruit of real collaborative action.

Naturally, a number of details regarding the organisation and functioning of the agency still have to be ironed out.

For a start, it seems to me that the whole of geographical Europe must be represented, not just the European Union. Countries of central and eastern Europe, whose sporting tradition and culture are unquestionable, cannot possibly be excluded from WADA.

As for the agency's tasks, its first concrete assignment will be to carry out 2500 unannounced tests ahead of the Sydney Olympic Games. What remains to be agreed is who decides which sportsmen and sportswomen are tested and what immediate decisions will be taken regarding those who test positive.

In the longer term, I think that WADA's role needs clarifying as regards licensing of laboratories, helping states to set up new laboratories and harmonising the institutional foundations of the war on doping.

Lastly, it seems to me that WADA's status as a private foundation is far from adequate to the work required of it. I therefore suggest that it be made an international public institution, recognised as such and granted real powers as soon as possible.

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Several recent cases in France and other countries show that we still have our work cut out to achieve clean and healthy sport in the third millennium.

Nevertheless, I reject the fatalistic position that we never will, just as I reject as a fallacy the opinion that all sportsmen and sportswomen are doped.



We knew that the fight would be long and hard, but it has the widespread support of the sporting community and public opinion. They have high expectations of the authorities.

To all those who practise sports, and particularly all the young people who love sport and believe in its humanist values, we must signal our common determination to tackle, and perhaps even stamp out, the scourge of doping.

I know that all of you here share not only the belief, but also the determination to make progress together.