



**EU2009.CZ**

České předsednictví  
v Radě EU

Czech Presidency  
of the Council of the EU

Présidence tchèque  
du Conseil de l'UE

2009

<p><b>Informal meeting of EU Sport Directors</b> <b>Prague, 28-29 April 2009</b></p>
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**PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS**

**Sport and Health**

- Sport Directors welcomed the Commission's progress report with regard to the endorsement of the EU Physical Activity Guidelines by EU Sport Ministers in Biarritz in November 2008 and their decision that the Presidency should present the Guidelines to Health Ministers for further follow-up.
- Sport Directors greeted the initiative of the Minister of Health of France, also responsible for Sport, to present the Guidelines to the Health Council in Brussels in December 2008 as an information point. They called on the Commission to explore ways to take this process further, subject to planning and priorities of future Presidencies.
- Sport Directors took note of plans to set up an EU HEPA Network at the annual HEPA Europe conference in Bologna (2009) and to organise a first EU HEPA Network event as part of the HEPA Europe conference in Olomouc, Czech Republic (2010).

**Fight against Doping**

- Sport Directors welcomed the Commission's progress report on the work of the EU Working Group on Anti-Doping, in particular with regard to relevant Community law (*acquis communautaire*).
- Sport Directors noted with interest the adoption by the EU Article 29 Working Party of its Second Opinion (4/2009) on WADA's International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information and related issues. They thanked the Commission for its timely and efficient reaction to Member States' requests for a second opinion, underlining that the type of clarification it brought was much needed.
- Sport Directors noted that strong progress had been made in the discussion with WADA on the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information during the informal meeting in Madrid on 24 April 2009. This progress should be continued on other issues regarding the Second Opinion of the Article 29 Working Party. Sport Directors recommended close consultation and cooperation between the relevant actors, including WADA, the Council of Europe, the Commission, as well as NADOs and Data Protection Agencies in EU Member States.
- For this purpose, they welcomed the intended creation of an informal Expert Group to work on the follow-up on the Second Opinion of the Article 29 Working Party.

## **Economic dimension of sport**

- Sport Directors highlighted the importance of comprehensive and comparable information regarding the sustainable financing of sport at national level and took note of the report from the Commission on the state of play regarding the Commission's study in this area. It should be ensured that national input is provided to the study process.
- Regarding the Commission's report from the EU Working Group on Sport and Economics, Sport Directors noted with satisfaction the good progress made in the data collection process in several Member States and encouraged the Working Group to proceed with the announced publication of first results in 2010. Sport Directors took note of efforts undertaken by the Working Group to enter into cooperation with Eurostat and of the need to engage in a dialogue with national statistical authorities in order to ensure support for further work aimed at setting up satellite accounts for sport.

## **Non-profit sport organisations**

- Sport Directors took note of the report by the Commission from the third meeting of the Working Group and welcomed its work relating to the financing and organisation of non-profit sport structures, including follow-up to the German paper on competition law.
- Sport Directors agreed to further explore the existence of concrete problems at national level regarding the application of EU competition law to sport. This could be done through a questionnaire, the results of which could be presented under the Swedish Presidency.
- They called on the Working Group to remain closely involved in the work related to the White Paper studies on the financing of sport and on volunteering.

## **Education, training and qualifications**

- Sport Directors welcomed the initiative to set up an informal EU Working Group on Education and Training in Sport.
- Sport Directors endorsed the Terms of Reference of the new Working Group with a few amendments. Point 4.a).i will emphasise that the main focus of the group will be dual careers, while point 4.a).ii will be reformulated as follows: "The promotion of sport and physical activity in the education environment without interfering with the curriculum." In addition, a point will be added between points iii and iv, as follows: "Implementation of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) in the sport sector".
- Sport Directors took note of the outcomes of the EQF project presented by EOSE, including the development of guides for the implementation of EQF in the sport sector in the Member States. Special attention should be given within EQF to the non-formal education of sport volunteers organised by sport federations.

## **Autonomy of Sport**

- The Czech Presidency presented a number of proposals that could help find solutions to problems regarding different aspects of the autonomy of sport, of which Sport Directors took note.

## **Volunteering in Sport**

- Sport Directors took note of the results of the Presidency's Survey on Volunteering in Sport and supported the Prague Memorandum on Volunteering in Sport attached to these Presidency Conclusions.

## **Other business**

- The Commission called upon Member States to submit links to selected national sport websites for the sport website of the Commission, as a first step toward the availability of basic information on sport structures and organisations in the Member States in one or more widely spoken EU languages.
- Sport Directors took note of the Swedish Presidency programme for sport and the dates of the next Sport Directors meeting, on 1-2 October 2009 near Stockholm.

## **ANNEX**



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### *ANNEX TO THE PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS*

### ***“Prague Memorandum on Volunteering in Sport”***

Following the EU Sport Directors Meeting in Prague, on April 28-29, 2009 in the presence of the European Commission, the Czech EU Presidency affirms that the Sport Directors:

- Welcomed the reference to volunteering in the Treaty of Lisbon in article 165 and invited the European Commission to interpret the legal and political significance of this section in order to structure future discussions.
- Emphasised that the specific characteristics of sport mentioned in the Lisbon Treaty should be defined in more detail and also concentrate on the specificity of the voluntary non-profit sports movement.

- Expressed appreciation for the Finnish Presidency priorities in the area of voluntary non-profit sport organisations in 2006 and noted with satisfaction the Declaration of EU Sport Ministers under the French Presidency in 2008 which took into consideration the specific characteristics of sport and called for clearer legal guidelines on the application of EU law to sport organisations.
- Recognised that the largest amount of voluntary activity in the European Union takes place in the sport sector and that organised sport in the EU is built on specific non-profit making governing structures at grass-roots level, heavily reliant on the commitment of volunteers.
- Underlined the crucial importance of public funding for voluntary non-profit sport structures and expressed the wish that the Commission's study on the financing of grassroots sport will provide comparable data on this question.
- Emphasized the importance of the EU Working Group on Non-Profit Sport Organisations and welcomed the participation of representatives of non-profit sport organisations in this working group.
- Based on the Survey on Volunteering in Sport carried out by the Czech Presidency, acknowledged that the voluntary sector is differently organized in different EU Member States, but that there are common concerns as well as examples of mechanisms that are already applied in practice, such as :
  - specific legislation on voluntary activity;
  - the legal enactment of effective incentives of various types, including in the area of taxation;
  - systematic and active public support for education of sport volunteers;
  - measures to enhance societal recognition of the work of sport volunteers.
- Recognized that the results of the Presidency's Survey could inspire the policy of the Member States and the European Institutions in sport.
- Agreed on the necessity of permanent political support for non-profit organizations and voluntary work in sport and welcomed the Commission's study on volunteering in this context.
- Underlined the importance of including volunteering as one of the priority areas in possible preparatory actions for a future EU sport programme in 2010 and 2011, and of giving volunteering in sport a prominent place in European Year of Volunteering 2011.