



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

Informal meeting of EU ministers responsible for sport

Brdo pri Kranju, 16 -17 March 2008

The Presidency's conclusions

Following the Informal meeting of the European Union Ministers responsible for sport at Brdo pri Kranju/in Ljubljana, 16-17 March 2008, in the presence of the European Commission, the presidents of the National Olympic Committees of the EU member states and the Executive Committee of the European Olympic Committees the Slovenian Presidency affirms that the Ministers:

- Welcomed the Commission's presentation of the underlying political framework for implementing the White Paper on Sport, in view of the new provisions on sport enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty (Article 149 EC as amended by the Lisbon Treaty).
- Agreed that, for the coming years, the White Paper remains a crucial tool and provides a solid basis to pave the way for a future EU sport policy, and recognised that its timely and coordinated implementation was of great importance bearing in mind that sport would continue to remain a consensual policy area ("coordinating, supplementary, supporting actions") and that any future EU level cooperation on sport would continue to respect the subsidiarity principle.
- Re-confirmed Member States' priorities for implementing the "Pierre de Coubertin" Action Plan at both the national and European levels, as proposed by the so called "Ljubljana priorities" adopted by the EU Directors General responsible for sport meeting at Brdo pri Kranju from 4-5 February, 2008.
- Committed themselves to close cooperation and coordination with the Commission and to give their full political support when implementing the White Paper on Sport and when preparing the implementation of Article 149 to support the preparation of a future EU Sport Programme and expressed their political support for the agreed "Ljubljana Priorities" in the three thematic sections of the White Paper (societal role, economic dimension, organisation of sport).

- Expressed their satisfaction at the fact that the Slovenian Presidency of the European Council called the first Informal Meeting of EU Ministers, responsible for sport with the National Olympic Committees, European Olympic Committees and the International Olympic Committee in order to initiate a dialogue on the future development of sport in the EU and emphasised the need for a structured dialogue between the EU Ministers in charge of Sport and the umbrella organisations for sport at the national and European level as well as the dialogue among social partners and all other stakeholders in sport.
- Stressed the importance for future Sport Directors and Ministerial meetings to ensure efficiency and continuity of the debates on the future EU sport policy, in particular based on the White Paper and the implementation of Article 149, and considered that a coordinated approach by the new Team Presidency would be particularly useful.
- Applauded Slovenian Presidency for having called the informal meeting of the new World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) president Hon. John Fahey, A.C. with the European seats in the WADA Foundation Board leading towards the deepening of the cooperation within Europe by establishing a new EU Working Group working complementary with the Council of Europe CAHAMA with the aim of ensuring an adequate representation and position of Europe in the World Anti-Doping Agency.
- Underlined in the light of the year 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue the significant educational and social functions of sport and its importance not only in terms of physical development but also in terms of its capacity to promote social values, such as team spirit, fair competition, cooperation, tolerance and solidarity and recognised the capacity of sport to bring together people from different social, intellectual and cultural backgrounds.
- Expressed their concern at the political developments in Tibet and thought that since this is the time of the XXIX Olympiad and the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games the European Union could make further incentives to improve human rights landscape and stressed, taking into account the social role of sport, that sport and in particular major sport events as Olympic Games should be acknowledged as an extremely efficient tool for strengthening intercultural dialogue while developing a culture of respect of human rights.
- Welcomed the outline of the French Presidency's plans for sport and noted that there will be a meeting of EU Sport Directors General meeting on 30 - 31 October 2008 in Versailles and Informal Meeting of EU Ministers responsible for sport on 27 and 28 November preceded by the EU Sport Forum, co-organised with the European Commission on 26-27 November, all in Biarritz, south western France.