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**Committee for the Development of Sport (CDDS)**

**Final Statement on Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play  
adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Table on  
Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play**

(Nicosia, 27 April 2001)

## **Final Statement on Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play**

We the participants at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round table on Sport, Tolerance and Fair-Play, meeting in Nicosia on 27 April 2001;

### **Bearing in mind**

Resolution 2/1995 on Tolerance and Sport, adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport in Lisbon (May, 1995), which was the stimulus for the first Round Table (Amsterdam, April 1996);

Resolution 4/2000 on preventing racism, xenophobia and intolerance in sport adopted at the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport in Bratislava, May 2000;<sup>1</sup>

**Remembering and re-affirming** the points made in the texts adopted at the two previous Round Tables, namely:

the Declaration adopted at the first Round Table, held in Amsterdam, on 11 April 1996;  
the Statement adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Table in Lisbon on 20 November 1998;

### **Taking note of the:**

Final Recommendations of the Conference “Harnessing the potential. A European Conference on the social dimensions of football”, organised by the British Council and the Council of Europe in November 1999;

Conclusions of the Workshop on "Showing and experiencing tolerance in sport. Does it differ from fair play?" at the meeting of the National Ambassadors for Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play in Athens in June 2000;

**Bearing in mind** the opinion expressed by the National Ambassadors for Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play at the above meeting that tolerance in sport does not exist in a vacuum, but that forms of intolerance in the wider society at large are increasingly mirrored in the world of sport;

**Recalling** Article 4 subsection 1 of the European Sports Charter which forbids discrimination on the access to sports activities “on the grounds of sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status”;

**Taking note of** Article 1 of the UNESCO Declaration of Principles of Tolerance, entitled “Meaning of tolerance” which states that

“Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world’s culture our forms of expression and ways of being human. It is fostered by knowledge openness communication and freedom of thought conscience and belief. Tolerance is harmony in difference.

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<sup>1</sup> In response to the Resolution 4/2000 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport, May 2000, Bratislava, an ad hoc group was set up to study the statutory, administrative, educative, legal and police measures to eliminate racist and xenophobic propaganda and behaviour of all kinds at sports events. It considered the respective and joint responsibilities which are incumbent upon both governments and non-governmental organisations (sport clubs, sport events organisers, stadium owners, etc.) to counter intolerant behaviour and framed a draft Recommendation which the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe will be invited to adopt in the near future.

It is not only a moral duty, it is also a political and legal requirement, tolerance the virtue that makes peace possible contributes to replacement of the culture of war by a culture of peace.”;

**Agreeing** that the above widespread definition carries a message for the world of sport where intolerance has led to hooliganism, discrimination based on such factors as ethnic origin and gender, sexual orientation, corruption and other ills;

**Aware** that education for fair play and tolerance in sport is continuous and for that reason must always be a vital and integral part of sports programmes;

**Conscious** that for the individual sportsman and woman tolerance and fair play may be expressed in different ways. A player can play fairly at all times, but often he or she has to demonstrate tolerance as a positive response to intolerant actions and unfair play on the part of others;

**Realising** that tolerance is not to be confused with permissiveness, and that certain practices in sport, such as hooliganism arising from racism and misplaced patriotism, unfair play, doping and discrimination on any of the grounds outlined in Article 4 Subsection 1 of the European Sports Charter are to be condemned and combated;

**Agree to:**

**Commend** the work of the three Round Tables to all the member States of the Committee for the Development of Sport, encouraging them to continue or to set up wide-ranging national programmes to advance tolerance and fair play in sport and to draw up blueprints to promote long-term plans for tolerance and fair play in their own countries, which include the ideas and suggestions for activities set out in the final texts of the three Round Tables;

**Recommend** that national authorities translate into their own language and circulate widely the final texts of the three Round Tables, which are:

the Declaration adopted at the first Round Table, held in Amsterdam, on 11 April 1996;  
the Statement adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Table in Lisbon on 20 November 1998;  
the Final Statement on Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round Table in Nicosia on 27 April 2001;

**Ask** their governments to support (for example, by political commitment, with financial aid etc.) those NGOs working in sport, tolerance, fair play, anti-racism and related fields;

**Invite** sports federations and associations to be associated with national programmes for tolerance by contributing expertise and possibly financial resources;

**Encourage** individual sports heroes with a reputation for tolerant and fair behaviour to lead an active part in such programmes;

**Continue** actively to reinforce efforts in the educational sphere, by training coaches and trainers as well as running programmes aimed particularly at children and young people that will:

- a) teach participants, in the context of human rights education, about their shared rights and freedoms, so that these may be respected and people actively encouraged to protect the rights of others;
- b) advocate a commitment to tolerance in all areas of life, but especially in sport;

- c) promote tolerance and the shaping of attitudes of openness, mutual listening and solidarity;
- d) uphold the rights of children to play and to enjoy sport and learn about the importance of tolerance and understanding in the context of non-formal education;
- e) respect the prerogative of others to be different (as detailed, for example, in Article 4 subsection 1 of the European Sports Charter) and their right not to suffer discrimination in sport or elsewhere because of such differences;
- f) aim to break the cycle of outbreaks of intolerant and racist behaviour in society as a whole, as well as in sport;
- g) arouse awareness that exercising tolerance in sport means **understanding** that everyone will **not** always play according to the rules, but that the individual, nevertheless, still has a responsibility to uphold the best ethical traditions of the world of sport;
- h) develop young people's innate sense of fairness and fair play in sport;

**Seek** cooperation from the media, which has a vital role to play, by:

- a) disseminating the values of tolerance;
- b) facilitating free and open dialogue and discussion;
- c) giving greater coverage to tolerance and fair play in sport by focusing on the positive aspects of sport, highlighting examples of fair play and demonstrations of tolerant behaviour;
- d) exploring the possibility of awarding national prizes to journalists for reporting on tolerance and fair play in sport;
- e) refraining from using highly emotive language and seeking to sensationalise or exaggerate examples of intolerant behaviour, such as incidences of hooliganism, demonstrations of discrimination related to the ethnic origins of players etc;
- f) contacting sports associations and federations for discussions on ways of presenting sports information, particularly in the case of hooliganism, in a factual and non-sensational fashion;
- g) highlighting the dangers of indifference towards the rise of intolerant groups and ideologies;

**Take note** of the draft recommendation (as set out in T-RV (2001) 2 rev. 2) on the prevention of racism and xenophobia and racial intolerance in sport and hope that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe will adopt a Recommendation to governments of member States, based on this text;

**Suggest** that when national authorities implement the above-mentioned recommendation that the National Ambassadors for Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play be given the necessary support and resources to play a dynamic role and be associated with the activities consequential to the text;

**Consider** that important efforts must be made in all European countries to move from theory to practice in this domain and to acknowledge that tolerance acts as the bedrock of a "culture of peace" in both sport and society RvE030204SPORTresolution.