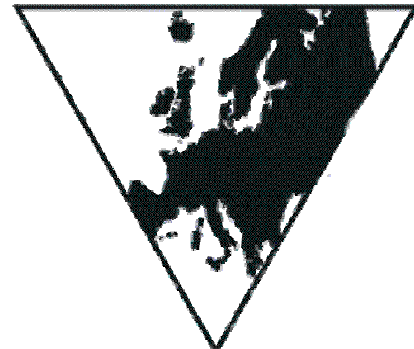


European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation



14 february 2005, The Hague - The Netherlands,

Ben Baks' Report to EGLSF-board
Subject: the Annual INGO-meeting at the Council of Europe,
25-26 January 2005, Strasbourg (France).

Purpose of EGLSF-participation at INGO-meeting:

- 1 Check status of Report on situation of Lesbians & Gays in Europe (what did committee of ministers do with PACE's recommendations?) and
- 2 Comment on the draft resolution on behalf of the INGO's to European government leaders (on the occasion of the next, 3rd summit of EU-leaders and the Council of Europe in March 2005, Poland).

Ad 1 Status Report on the Situation of Lesbians & Gays in Europe

The Committee of Ministers have replied officially on the PACE recommendations 1635 (2003) 'Lesbians and gays in sport', by 29 November 2004.

The Official Reply has been communicated by Internet and at the Plenary Meeting of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. It also has been communicated at the special Press Facility of PACE. A hard copy of the Official Reply is attached to this Report.

As the highest decision making body of the CoE, the committee of ministers 'shares the view that homophobia in sport should be combated in the same way as racism and other forms of discrimination'. Furthermore the committee considers that *the main platform for further action* in this area is at national level.'*(italics are mine)*.

The committee also reiterates that the 'fight against homophobia' should be included within the mission of the current network of National Ambassadors for Sport Tolerance and Fair Play. As a follow up, the EGLSF could consider addressing to members of this network (address list available at the Standing Committee of the Convention on Spectator Violence).

Also worth mentioning is the confirmation by the Standing Committee that principles of non-discrimination, including sexual orientation, also are applicable to players and therefore this issue is included in its programme on fighting discrimination. In other words EGLSF can/should contact and find out what the (concrete) implications are of this positive reply by the Committee of Ministers!

Ad 2 INGO's contribution to European government leaders meeting

The draft had to be agreed upon by the AGA of INGO's.

In the draft declaration there was a hierarchy amongst different groups and human rights. For example handicapped people and gays & lesbians were missing in the summing up of human rights and vulnerable groups in society. I prepared together with the Youth representative in the INGO-assembly an amendment to erase these differences in the protection of minority groups. But at lunch time a revised version of the Draft declaration was made public. Fortunately the draft was improved on the just mentioned point. So, in the very end there was no necessity or reason (anymore) for any further comment or amendment on behalf of EGLSF.

End of my report.

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