



# **Building Bridges**

*between regular sport and gay/lesbian sport*



## **Report**

Round table conference

5 -6 March 1999

Madurodam Conference Centre  
The Hague, the Netherlands



EGLSF



## Introduction

This Report is the first report ever written on the subject: integration process in Europe and about Tolerance and Fair Play in Sport in general, and on gays & lesbians in sport in particular. It was made on the occasion of the Round table conference in Den Haag, the Netherlands. The conference was held on 5 March 1999. The conference theme was: Building bridges between regular sport and gay/lesbian sport. Mr. John Blankenstein, former FIFA top football referee chaired the conference.

Because of this special Round Table conference and the 10th anniversary of the EGLSF, the Swiss Ambassador to the Netherlands, Mr. Reimann, officially welcomed all participants to the conference at the Swiss Residence in The Hague. Zurich is the official host of EuroGames 2000. For a photographic impression of this occasion: see page 60.



Mr. Blankenstein



# Content

1	Building bridges between the regular sport and gays/lesbians in sport in Europe.....	5
2	The State of the Play in Europe .....	9
3	Politics and challenges for the regular sport in Europe .....	13
4	The power of sports brings people together.....	17
5	How normal is different? .....	21
6	The situation in the Czech Republic .....	25
7	The situation in France .....	27
8	The situation in Germany .....	33
9	The situation in Italy .....	37
10	Homosexuality and sports in The Netherlands.....	41
11	Pilot project on sport associations and the emancipation of gays & lesbians in The Netherlands.....	45
12	Gay/Lesbian sport and the 'sexual debate' of the 1928 Olympic Games. An anachronism?.....	59
13	Why must there be special attention for gay sport?.....	55

# Addenda

A	Photo impression of the Round Table Conference.....	59
B	Results of the Round Table Opinion poll.....	63
C	Draft declaration on Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play.....	65
D	Press release on the occasion of the Round Table on Sport Tolerance, and Fair Play .....	75
E	Press release about the declaration: regrettable: no recognition of gays and lesbians sport.....	77
F	Motion for a resolution to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.....	79
G	Addresses of relevant European institutions .....	81
H	Short introductions on EGLSF and GISAH .....	83





## **Building bridges between the regular sport and gays/lesbians in sport in Europe**

*Introduction speech by Mr. Bernard Baks  
president of GISAFH and co-president of EGLSF*

Ladies and gentlemen, preparing this introduction speech was not easy. Wandering what to say to you all and there is so much to report to you about sport, fair play, and about respect to sportsmen and women with different backgrounds.

### **For some organisations: a bridge too far**

Ladies and gentlemen, building bridges is easy said but not easy done at a one-day conference. You don't have to be an architect to say this. It is sad that the subject of this conference seems to be a bridge too far for many governmental and non-governmental sport organisations throughout Europe. This no show makes clear that many regular national and European sport organisations and institutions are not ready to cross the bridge to gays & lesbians in society in general and in sport in particular.

But I am very glad that *you* find your way to these Building bridges conference. Among these organisations that accepted our invitation are the Netherlands Olympic Committee and the Netherlands Cultural Sport federation. For all of you, I am convinced that by the end of this Round Table conference your tool kit for finding and crossing this bridge will be improved. And I hope many good things will come out of this conference!

Building bridges in Sport between people with different background, between the regular sport and the lesbian & gay sportsmen/women in Europe. That is this conference theme and also that is the challenge of this conference. But how long is that bridge? Many people say that Sport has a good tradition of bringing different people together. So do we really need to build a bridge to find each other? And will it be easy to cross that bridge from both sides? Is it easy to find that bridge anyway? As an introduction to this conference, I will try to answer some of these questions in fifteen minutes.

### **One out of twenty is gay/lesbian**

The chair of this Conference, Mr Blankenstein, asked you to vote on the question of how many people in society are gay or lesbian. The right figure is 5%, one out of twenty is gay or lesbian. This fact is based on the American Kinsey report from 1953 and more recently from a Dutch report by the University of Urecht from 1969 (Mr. Tielman).

### **Discrimination in sport is immanent**

Ladies and gentlemen since you all are involved in sport, you must have noticed that society is reflected in sport. It is a pity to say but this includes discrimination of gays & lesbians. Discrimination of gays & lesbians in sport is immanent. This serious conclusion was drawn from a research study by the University of Amsterdam, in the Netherlands

(Mr.Hekma, 1994). In the recent November Euro Barometer an inquiry by the European Commission amongst young Europeans in all European countries revealed that discrimination of gays and lesbians is still immanent, although this does not apply to all countries in Europe.

Many gays & lesbians are not attracted to participate in regular sport

A second conclusion of this research study of the University of Amsterdam was the effect of this widespread discrimination: many gays & lesbians do not feel attracted to the regular sport. I consider this as a challenge for change for both parties. For the regular sport and for the lesbian/gay sport.

With these facts and figures I like to share some interesting developments with you. And I know that the keynote speakers and workshop presenters will certainly go into these facts, figures and developments. Let me present you, briefly, four developments.

## **Sport higher on the social political agenda**

First of all the Amsterdam Treaty of the European Community and the Council of Europe's declaration on Fair Play & Tolerance have brought Sport higher on the political agenda. At last Sport is now acknowledged for its importance for our society. Sport can attribute to more social cohesion and participation in society. Sport is no longer exclusively our private domain, it is part of the social political debate now. This development should be a challenge to gays; lesbians but also to policymakers to include fair play to gay sport.

## **Separate gay/lesbian sport clubs are booming**

Another interesting development is the enormous growth & popularity of gay and lesbian sport clubs in many countries in Europe. Also thanks to the Gay Games Amsterdam gay and lesbian sport has grown in many, mostly West European countries. But in many European countries gays and lesbians still have to hide themselves. Related to this development of separate sport clubs I like to inform you about a striking outcome of a recent survey of the University of Rotterdam (Mr. Duyvendak, 1998) among 1600 representatives of the regular sport organisations. An overwhelming majority answered that Sport should be practised together but not apart, not separate. There seems to be a strong opposition, strong sentiment against separation in sport. The Rotterdam survey included not only gays & lesbians but also ethnic minorities. Given this fact there seems to be a contradiction between the dominant ideology of integration and the trend of separation in reality.

## **Recognition by authorities**

Another development is that in some regions of Europe there seems to be a slow process of recognition by local and national authorities of gay/lesbian sport. Examples from the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland are known. We will hear later about these and other examples later today.

## **Coming out of top sportsmen/women**

Although there are more developments I could mention, I like to end up with one final development. There are reports from some European countries that the number of gay & lesbian athletes that make public that they are gay or lesbian is growing. But I have to admit that most of the time this is done after they have finished their sport career.

Mister Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen, I gave you some facts and highlighted some developments.

It would not be fair to you to stop my introduction on this point. Without telling you about some pitfalls. Because like I said before, building bridges is not easy, sometimes you can make mistakes. So to finish my introduction, I like to share with you some pitfalls, things that have been learned from practice, in the Netherlands and abroad. I know that some Key note speakers and workshop presenters will show up with some pitfalls and problems that they have encountered.

This is my shortlist of pitfalls:

## **Deadlock in regular sport organisations**

First of all the deadlock situation in regular sport organisations. Because gays and lesbians are not visible in regular sport organisations, these regular sport organisations won't think of or do not feel the need to change their policy towards gays & lesbians. Simply because they are not visible, sport organisations just say: there is no problem since they're not in our organisation. They easily can ignore the issue.

## **Absence of top gay football role models**

Related to this pitfall is the lack of role models. Especially in popular sports in Europe like football there are no gay role models. For example in the Netherlands we are still waiting for the first top football player to come out. Since our chair of the conference is a gay top football referee, I am sure that he will tackle this issue in the talk show this afternoon. I am convinced that positive gay role models in top football can contribute to a better understanding of gays & lesbians in sport and certainly help to break down stigmatisation.

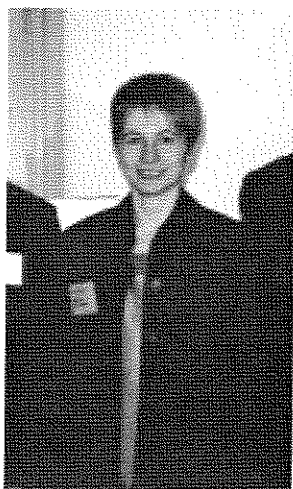
## **Gay sport should not forget to link up with regular sport when time is ready**

I like to end up with a pitfall that applies to countries in Europe where the process of building bridges is beginning to start. So I am not speaking about all European countries. The pitfall in countries where the building of bridges has started is the following. Separate gay or lesbian sport clubs might forget to link one way or the other way with the regular sport in their country. Without making use of the advantages of regular sport organisations gay and lesbian sport clubs might miss the opportunities that regular sport organisations could offer to them. They also give room for these organisations to lean back and not change their policy towards gays & lesbians in sport.

**Mister Chair, ladies and gentlemen, now I completed my introduction with these three major pitfalls I would like to thank to end and say Let us cross the bridge!**







## The State of the Play in Europe

*Speech by Ms Conny Schälicke,  
co-president of the European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation*

The EGLSF represents about 50.000 European sportsmen and women, 10.000 directly through its membership and 40.000 either from non-member groups or within regular sport clubs.

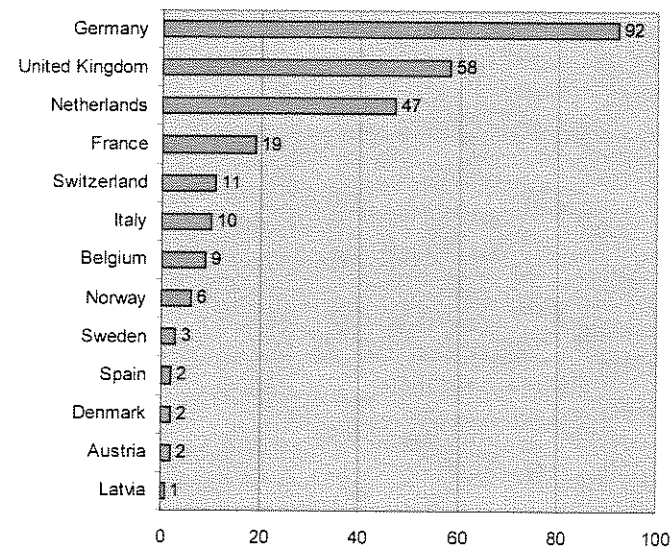
EGLSF did some **statistic** research in 1995 and the following years among its members and all other known gay/lesbian sport groups.

As a service to our membership we maintain an **address list** of gay and lesbian sports groups in Europe.

EGLSF has got 260 entries in its address list - there are an estimated 80 to 100 more gay and lesbian sport groups in Europe

### Countries

**Known Addresses of Gay and Lesbian  
Sport Groups in Europe (Tot # 260)**



EGLSF has gathered addresses in 13 countries. In all of them sports groups are mainly located in the big cities.

The highest organizational degree and the most athletes can be found in Germany and the Netherlands.  
(I'll come back to the UK later!)

The **first** gay and lesbian sports groups have been founded in the beginning of the eighties in Cologne, Germany.

Most of the Dutch and German clubs started as single sport groups with 10-20 members but after 1-3 years became multi sports clubs groups with today some hundred members.

The **largest sports clubs** as of today are the mixed club Janus from Cologne, the mostly gay club Vorspiel from Berlin, both having about 800 members and the woman only club Seitenwechsel also from Berlin with about 500 members.

The major gay and lesbian sport events **EuroGames** and **Gay Games** induced a significant growth of the sports clubs and the founding of many new groups in the past years.

Although we have a lot of addresses from the **UK** it is mostly single sport groups with in total less athletes than in the Netherlands, the majority being located in London.

In **France** most clubs are located in Paris with a total of 1.000 athletes. Samuel Gouyet, president of the Parisian volleyball club Contrepied will tell you more about it in the afternoon

We can only make assumptions on the low to practically non-existing number of sports groups in the south and in the east of Europe.

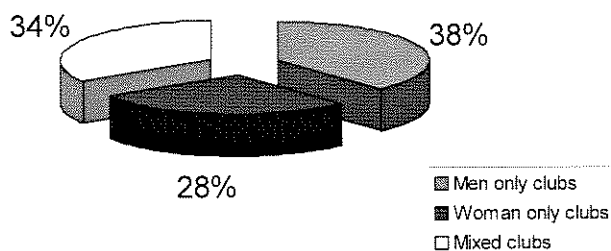
Religion, economy, culture and the social and political situation in those countries have a significant influence on the development of liberation and emancipation movements.

Although this provides no obvious explanation for the low number of Scandinavian gay and lesbian sport groups.

Meanwhile – since Gay Games 1998 Amsterdam – also some Eastern European sports groups exist and I am happy that Ms. Jessica Maertin will report this afternoon about the situation in the Czech Republic.

## Gender

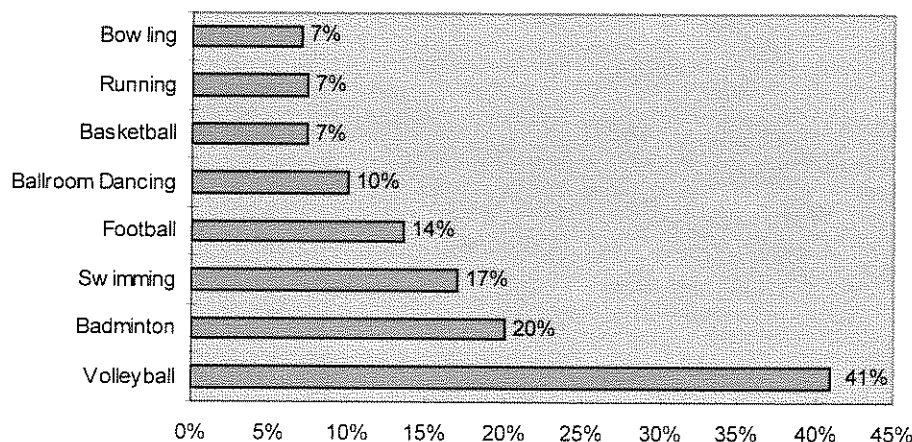
**Gay and Lesbian Sport Groups in Europe - Seperated or Mixed?**



Most sports groups started separated, whereas in the nineties there is a growing tendency to become a mixed club or to even start as a mixed group. As you can see from the pie chart the present division is small or less even between the different types of groups.

## Sports

**Most Popular Gay and Lesbian Sports in Europe**



This bar chart shows the percentage of how many clubs offer which sports.

It shows however NOT how many athletes are doing which sport.

If a club has seven volleyball teams it is counted as one as well as the volleyball club with only one team.

Divided by gender the chart would be slightly different.

For sure football is a much more lesbian than gay sport.

As swimming is a much more gay than lesbian sport.

## Conclusions

The fast growing number of clubs as well as of participants at major sport events speak their own language. We still need a g/l environment like sport clubs, the European Federation, Euro Games and Gay Games!

Although some national sport bodies (e.g. Deutscher Sportbund as stated by Ms. Rydzy-Gotz, Dep. for International Relations) do have a different view on that.

More than half of the EGLSF membership is affiliated to different regular sports governing bodies and we are looking forward to co-operating with them to overcome discrimination where it still can be found - on sports grounds, in changing rooms, at tournaments or competitions, within regular sport federations and elsewhere!

The EGLSF has already achieved a lot – but in many countries there is still a long, long way to go towards visibility and emancipation of gays and lesbians in sport!

Thank you!





## Politics and challenges for the regular sport in Europe

*Speech by Mr. Peter Pex,  
chair of the Parliamentary committee on Youth, Sport & Culture  
of the European Parliament*

Sports and its related issues develop and grow rapidly nowadays. In economic terms it accounts for 3% of world trade.

The social impact of sport is clearly illustrated by the fact that one European out of three is actively involved in a sport and that there are more than 500,000 sports clubs in the European Union.

### Treaty of Amsterdam

This development of sport demands the increasing involvement of the European Union in sport issues. Like Mr. Baks already said, the importance of sport for society is made explicit in the *Treaty of Amsterdam*.

An example of the influence of Europe on sport is the Court's Bosman ruling (1995, based on Art. 48: free movement of persons). Bosman was a Belgian professional Football player who's case has made it possible for professional Football players around Europe to move freely (like other Union works) between clubs in different Member States.

Although the Bosman ruling only influences professional Football, it illustrates the European vision and impact on sports. This ruling shows that the world of sports cannot only act according to its own rules.

Sport organizations have to obey all legislation, both national as European as international treaties.

### Professional sports are an economic activity

However, sport is not only an economic activity, its specific nature should make it acknowledge its special role in society accompanied by special responsibilities.

Three major areas of EU regulation and decision making affect sport directly:

1. Free movement of persons: apart from the Bosman ruling, the European Commission has frequently been contacted by people whose possibilities of active participation in a sport in a host country have been restricted.

They were refused to compete based on their nationality. This is a clear violation of the Treaty which forbids discrimination by nationality.

2. Competition and Audiovisual policy: together with commercial communications:

Television rights have become the principal source of finance for professional sport. Therefore, given the rules regarding competition and audiovisual policy, questions concerning the sale of exclusive broadcasting rights have

become an on-going cause for debate. (particularly the Television Without Frontiers Directive and the principles of the Treaty relating to free movement of services)

New regulations facilitate citizens to issue their right to get information by giving them the guarantee to be able to watch freely important sport events listed by the governments of the member states.

### 3. EU policies and actions:

As an activity engaged in by the general public, sport is affected by certain general policies, particularly in connection with public health, education and vocational training for young people. Furthermore, sport is an important tool in the combat against social exclusion in Europe. Sport can perform an educational function, in that it is a means of giving a true view of some values in life, such as competitiveness, Fair Play, tolerance, accepting other people etc.

Additionally, sport has a social function. It helps promoting a more inclusive society and can and should combat intolerance, racism, violence, drug abuse and it can stimulate integration of people excluded from the labour market. Sport gives people the opportunity to feel that they belong to a certain group, that they can trust their fellow sportsmen and that they can push themselves to a specific limit.

While sport promotes a number of positive deals, it also has negative aspects in relation both to individuals (injuries, doping, discrimination) and collectively (intolerance, violence). Some European initiatives have been launched to combat racism, discrimination and violence. These initiatives can be distinguished by their target groups (such as immigrants, national minorities, women, homosexuals, disabled and socially less privileged people) and countries.

The importance attached to sport as a way to promote integration, understanding and acceptance of homosexuals is enormous, as explained earlier by Mr. Baks and Mrs. Garrelfs this morning.

It is essential to advocate that sexual orientation is not be an issue in sport. That is to say, it should not give a problem to those concerned. To establish an atmosphere of acceptance of gays and lesbians in the world of sports should be a normal duty for sport organizations and their leaders.

## **European Parliament against discrimination of gays and lesbians**

The European Parliament is against all kinds of discrimination by sexual orientation.

The parliament successfully pledged for a non-discrimination clause in the Treaty of Amsterdam, in which the word sexual orientation are specifically mentioned.

A movement within the EP promoting these issues is the Intergroup for Equal Rights for Gays and Lesbians. It consists of Members of the European Parliament and makes recommendations for action.

Examples of subjects dealt with in this Intergroup are:

- \* the legal requirements in Austria where the minimum age for sexual contacts is higher for homosexuals than for heterosexuals, and
- \* the support of ACCEPT in their mission to change the penal code in Rumania, where gay sex is still a criminal offence.

## **Acceptance of gays and lesbians in sport is a two way street.**

It demands from gay sports men and women, especially those on top positions, being open about their sexual orientation.

Show the youngsters that they are not alone. Give them the courage to do the same.

It is like politics.

Sport organizations have to obey the law.  
Discrimination is against the law.

**I demand from responsible leaders of sport clubs to stimulate full acceptance of gay sportsmen and women.**

**I demand from them measures against all acts of discrimination no matter what kind.**

If sexual orientation is not an issue anymore in sport, special sport activities like the gay games can stop their existence.

Until then, however, as far as I am concerned, gay sport activities deserve support from political bodies.  
I am proud having been able to contribute to subvention from the EU of the Amsterdam gay games

### **Building bridges is the item of today**

Let us build bridges based on acceptance of legislation, on normal standards and values of civilisation, that is acceptance of any fellow human being as being equal.  
Let all people in sport being good sports.







## The power of sports brings people together

*Speech by Mrs. Roz Quarto,  
Representative of the Federation of Gay Games*

First, let me say how wonderful it is to be here at a conference that is essentially about the power of sports to bring people together. It is hard for me to imagine this type of conference being held in the United States. There still seems to be little interest in discussing the topic of gays and lesbians in sports in the USA. Quite frankly, sports remains one of the last places of acceptable homophobia. Just recently, the leading professional sports agent in the United States was interviewed on national television and admitted that he could negotiate a better contract for a client convicted of murder than for a client who was an out homosexual! So you can see, we still have a lot of bridges to build in sports in the United States if we are going to increase tolerance and decrease discrimination in that area.

Regardless of where we each come from, we are all witnesses, in one way or another to the importance of sports to individuals, and to society in general. Whether we are talking about professional sports, international amateur competition, or even the "weekend athlete".

### To change the world

For those of you that are not familiar with the Gay Games, they are a multi-sports event held every four years, and they are based on the principals of participation, inclusion and the pursuit of one's personal best. At their most basic level, the Gay Games are open to everyone, regardless of gender, age, race, sexual orientation or ability. At the last Gay Games, held in Amsterdam in 1998, we had more than 15,000 participants, from 78 countries. 42% of our participants were women, and 50% of all Europeans participating were women. The Federation of Gay Games is the international governing body of the Gay Games movement. We have almost 50 members, made up of individuals and organizations from four continents.

Those of us involved in the organization of the Gay Games talk a lot about the power of the Gay Games "to change the world". As you might imagine, we have had numerous internal debates about this concept, but in essence, we are saying that the Gay Games gives us a chance to effect change in the world through sports.

We all know we are living in a time when international mainstream sports are in serious crisis....whether it is doping and bribery scandals, hooliganism and violence, or dealing with the growing commercialism in professional and amateur sports....the world of sports is in trouble.

But those of us involved in sports, also know the power and possibility of sports both on the individual level, when we watch a dedicated athlete reach deep down inside to find that something extra, and on the team level, witnessing a group of people working together for the greater good. By extension, sports can, and often does have, an intense community building effect.

The Gay Games is the largest gay and lesbian international event in the world. They have occurred in 3 different countries, are on their way to their third continent, and have reached out to thousands of people across the globe. The Games have often become an organizational catalyst in communities and cities where it has historically been too dangerous or difficult for the gay and lesbian community to organize in order to fight for gay and lesbian emancipation. The Games have often been the first time that these people have organized as gays and lesbians....and it is sports that gives them the organizing motivation.

## **Inclusion and diversity in sports**

So, how do we build bridges and effect change differently than any other event....by staying committed to our founding principals of inclusion, participation and the pursuit of one's personal best, and by doing so in a way as visible as possible.

The idea of inclusion and diversity, regardless of our individual differences and abilities, is a well-developed concept in the Gay Games world that has engendered respect from the straight world. By challenging ourselves in our pursuit of our own personal bests, we challenge the world's view of us as a community. When so much of discrimination and intolerance is based on ignorance, the Gay Games educates by showing that gays and lesbians are more alike than we are different from heterosexuals. We operate under the true Olympic ideal of education through sport. We break down stereotypes and we do it across all barriers. But the change I am talking about is not only about making sports more tolerant and accepting of homosexuals, but also working toward the emancipation of gays and lesbians in society at large by using sports as a bridge to effect change.

From a visibility standpoint, we can point to incredible strides over the last few years, especially in Europe. Although Gay Games IV in New York in 1994 did get a lot of local mainstream news coverage, Gay Games V in Amsterdam had both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies televised on Dutch national television. Over 1,000 journalists from around the world were accredited, helping to spread the word about the Gay Games. Thanks to the growing visibility of the Gay Games, both the straight world and the gay and lesbian community can witness and celebrate the richness and diversity of our community.

Another practical example of the type of change possible through the Gay Games, and one of the things the Federation of Gay Games is most proud of, was the work we did in convincing the United States government to waive its discriminatory immigration policy banning entry to the United States to anyone with HIV. Not only did Gay Games participants and spectators receive a waiver against this ban, the Federation was given the opportunity to provide gay and lesbian sensitivity training to customs and immigration officials at major ports of entry into the country.

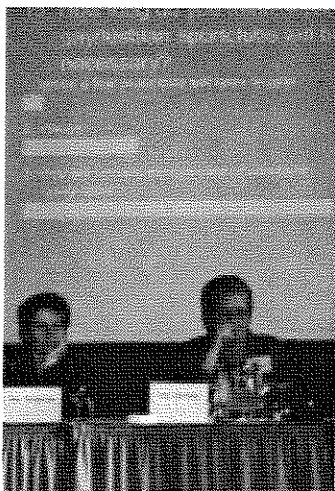
And from a sports standpoint, we realized early on that in order to run world class sporting events in over 30 sports and to give our participants the types of tournaments they have come to expect, both in mainstream sports and in their regular leagues at home, Gay Games organizers must seek guidance from mainstream sports and governing bodies. There is no need to reinvent the wheel! By learning to work with local mainstream sporting bodies in the organization and officiating of the Gay Games, we have had opportunities in many instances to work together for the first time toward a common goal. Mainstream sporting bodies stop seeing us as gay and lesbian runners, wrestlers or swimmers, and start seeing us as JUST runners, wrestlers and swimmers. They see people volunteering for four years to prepare for an influx of 15,000 people from around the world for one week of competition...they see visitors committed to their sports, dedicated to doing their personal bests and grateful for the help and input of everyone organizing the event.

## **Regular sport and gay/lesbian sport can learn from each other**

And sometimes something else happens. Not only do we learn from these experienced mainstream sporting organizations, they also learn from us. They learn about community, about celebration, about inclusion, and they even learn that a same sex ballroom dancing competition in Amsterdam can be as mesmerizing and as high quality as any other ballroom dance competition.

As the Gay Games movement continues to grow and is introduced to even more people around the world, we will remain committed to organizing our sports event based on our founding principles of inclusion, participation for all and the pursuit of one's personal best. Because in the end, we continue to witness the power of the Games, through sports, to contribute to the fight for gay and lesbian emancipation and integration.





## How normal is different?

*Speech by Mrs. Net Garrelfs,  
member executive board of the Netherlands Cultural Sport federation NCS*

Officially there is no discrimination of gays and lesbians in the Netherlands. In this country unknown or strange is often initially condemned.

Before I go any further with my speech I would like to tell something about the organisation that I represent.

The NCS is a 'two in one' sports association. In other words, an umbrella organisation and a multiple sports association. The umbrella function covers determining the national sports policies in co-operation with the Ministry, Netherlands Olympic Committee (NOC•NSF) and others. Within the umbrella organisation we attempt to draw the social aspect of sport to the attention of the policy makers.

The NCS multiple-sports association represents about 36 different sports and 225.000 recreational sportsmen and sportswomen. Our aim is to improve the quality of sports by supporting the various clubs and associations so that sport is accessible to everyone.

### Sport for everyone

Everyone is unique, as you are here, as a private person, but also as sports association. So also the philosophical umbrella organisations and the technical sports associations are unique. We at the NCS find it important to be ourselves and in doing so recognise 'the human aspect'.

The philosophy of the NCS is and always will be that everyone wishing to take part in a sport must be afforded the opportunity to do so. Therefore: low thresholds, keep financial thresholds low and eradicate participation thresholds. It is our job to activate clubs and associations to open their doors to ethnic and cultural minorities and to people with chronic disorders.

Diversity in culture and background can contribute to quality in sport.

We are a recreation-sports association within which competitions are also played. We are not averse to sporting achievements, however we are of the opinion that competition and top-sport do not form the decisive domain.

Within the vision of the NCS, youth, elderly and recreational sport all have their own right to exist. Not everyone is equally talented or has the need to attain the highest sporting achievements. It is not the rules and regulations that are the most important in the NCS, people and the pleasure they have while practising sport are of prime importance.

Rules and regulations should not stand in the way of the pleasure and the game.

The NCS exists now for almost 75 years. In 2001 we will celebrate this jubilee and if we have it our way: in a big way, for and with all of our members. After this introduction it should be easier to follow the rest of my speech.

## Sport-vision NCS

Sport can contribute to the realisation of social aims such as: social integration, emancipation, public health etc. In the Netherlands we can see a political (re)- appreciation of the importance of sport in the doubling, in instalments, of the sport budget up to the year 2000. Sport is not a lubricator and should not be exclusively judged on this social function.

## Fairy tale? or not?

It is a fairy tale to think that emancipation and integration, whether it be of, handicapped people, ethnic minorities or homosexuals and lesbians will take place without problems or denial.

Emancipation and integration processes go together with the banishing of the abnormal, leaving them to fend for themselves, of submitting by following the prejudices of others, the bad company which has to be survived.

'Sport for everyone' is the creed of the NCS and it is not just an empty shell or a paper tiger. The aspect of social contact in sport should not be underestimated, it is an integral part of sport.

You choose the sport that best suits you and that you hope will bring you into contact with other like-minded people. Everybody has their own version of what is normal when it comes to their personal contacts.

The NCS has a number of years of experience with the emancipation and integration of gays and lesbians in sport. The train is on the move in the Netherlands but....there is still a lot to be done to merge emancipation with integration.

## What can a national regular sport association do for, through and with gay sport?

The NCS and the GISAH foundation organised the conference "1 in 20" in 1995.

The aims were to stimulate sport, bundle energies, the participation of gay/lesbian sport in regular sports clubs, raise consciousness at sports clubs, give information, encourage positive attitudes and especially to "break the silence".

We have developed information folders that have been translated from Dutch into English and German. In the Netherlands these folders were distributed by several sports associations to their member clubs and associations, and 10 district councils used them in the development of their policies.

In 1997 we, together with GISAH and NOC•NSF, organised the "Together and Separate" symposium. The research report, "Sexuality Unknown" was presented. The symposium was attended by an unexpectedly large number of participants.

The Fair Play and Tolerance Charter, organised by the NCS, NOC•NSF and the Fair Play and Tolerance Foundation, was signed in November 1997 by us and 56 other sports associations.

The charter, against discrimination and for tolerance, is not just so many beautiful words to the NCS, it is a conscious choice that has consequences. In other words: the creation of a change in mentality resulting in bringing an actual end to obstructions.

The Fair Play and Tolerance idea is integrated into the organisation of events and activities, for example, as a part of the training of officers, referees, coaches, directors etc. This means that another conscious-raising and information opportunity occurs within training.

As a result of signals received from the organisation of the Gay Games, the NCS has addressed the licensing policies of sports associations. Although this has not led to direct results for the Gay Games it has initiated the realisation (internationally) of the question: "Just what exactly is it we are doing?"

## Together and Separately

For the national sport organisation NCS, gay sport is a serious policy issue which receives the necessary attention. The board of the NCS and the staff of the Association office have, over the years confronted its departments and member associations with this discussion. The discussion is generally centred around 'playing sports separately'. An often heard remark is: "They can play their sports at our club, it is not necessary to found a separate club."

The discussions leading from this have led to a better understanding and co-operation between the 'separate' clubs. An example: A so called straight or regular sport club co-operating with a gay swimming-club, now swims together during joint club hours.

## **The future**

The future in the Netherlands is looking good. The NCS, as umbrella organisation, is involved in a national integration project in co-operation with NOC•NSF and GISAH, whereby national sports associations are screened regarding their gay/lesbian friendliness and actual integration activities.

As multiple-sports association the NCS has a project that is directed at its member gay/lesbian sport clubs, where specific support is central and in a way that accommodates playing sports separately within own gay sport clubs but also together with regular sport clubs.

In this way we attempt to encourage eventual acceptance and integration from both sides.

The NCS, as umbrella organisation, offers its complete facilities and in addition looks at the specific support requirements and the best ways of providing information.

## **Conclusions**

I would like to close now with a short summary of the points that I have made.

- The NCS as a national umbrella organisation and multiple-sports association in the Netherlands is no longer unknown to you.
- I have presented to you a sketch of the tolerance process within regular sport organisations. The most important elements of it are: consciousness raising, information, confronting the issue and the integration into organisation's policy. The way how it is being done. I ended with what we as a regular national sport association are doing now and will do in the future on the gay sport issue.
- We are on the right road, but we have to be realistic and conclude that: "Different (still) is not seen as normal".







## The situation in the Czech Republic

*Speech by Mrs. Jessica Maertin, sports woman  
Parallel workshop I: Europe and its regions*

### What is the present situation about gay & lesbian sport in the Czech Republic?

As in every other country, gay and lesbian sportspeople participate in "normal" sport activities, usually keeping their sexual orientation to themselves. However, since the Velvet Revolution, gay and lesbian people have been increasingly active and organized and as a result, their sports activities within the gay community are also on the rise, often on the local level, unofficially, between people who happen to know one another.

### How many gay/lesbian sport groups are there?

One officially registered gay organization devoted exclusively to sport is Pesky, in Brno, Moravia (the name means By Foot, etc.), the sole purpose of which is to go hiking in the countryside. For those who are interested, I have a current schedule of their activities. They are closely associated with, but separate from the STUD gay student organization, also of Brno. I have seen advertisements for a new organization called Gulliver, also dedicated to wandering, camping and other adventurous activities, and a group called Byly Psi (Former dogs) also has hiking as its primary activity, although its actual purpose is as a club for gay males younger than 30 years of age.

### What sports are practised?

Gay organizations which are not primarily for the purpose of sport also sponsor nature outings (most student organizations (GALES in Prague, HABIO in Bratislava, the Logos organization for "believers" in Prague, Brno and Havirov and Lambda Ostrava, the latter of which also sponsors frequent bowling tournaments and an annual disco dance marathon). Logos in Prague works together with an organization for handicapped gay people, who originally wanted to organize their own outings (they advertised for able bodied volunteers) but this cooperation is easier and more convenient for them. Logos Havirov also does work with local handicapped, but without regard to sexual orientation.

### Is gay/lesbian sport growing or stabilizing?

There is an increase in organized unofficial sport activity, as witnessed by weekly volleyball games in Olomouc and basketball every Saturday in Nitra, Slovakia.

### Are there any interesting trends in Czech Republic?

A special inspiration for gay sportspeople are invitations from abroad (as the one recently received for the volleyball competition in Halle). Usually for financial reasons it is only possible to participate if scholarships or sponsorship are available. Participation in such events is a big inspiration to people from here, not only to continue with gay sport, but to feel prouder and be opener about who they are in general. In a recent issue of the Czech lesbian magazine Promluv there is an article by the Prague Hams, a women's soccer team who played at the Gay Games, about their experiences there. (a copy is available for those interested).

**Do gay & lesbian sport clubs participate in the Czech regular sport?**

**And are they member of regular (straight) sport federations?**

These two questions do not really apply to the current Czech and Slovak situation.

**Are regular sport federations in Czech Republic interested in the lesbian/gay sport clubs?**

**And does the regular sport support gays & lesbians in sport in Czechia?**

I think such a question has never occurred to most people, in spite of limited televising of the Czech Republic's participation in Gay Games Amsterdam.

**How does society react to gays & lesbians in sport?**

Stickers advertising our participation in Amsterdam were not removed from railway cars and university walls in most locations. Czech society is relatively tolerant or at least not actively hostile to gays in general.

**Do authorities support gay sport?**

There is apparently a grant available to support sports events for various "good causes" and at least one sport event against AIDS was supported by this source.

**Does Czech sport adopted an anti-discrimination or/and gay-emancipation policy?**

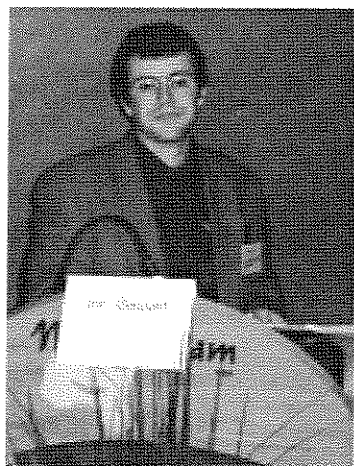
The EGLSF informed me that Czech officials apparently signed such an agreement in the Netherlands at the Round Table conference on Tolerance & Fair Play in Sport. However there is zero awareness of this among gay activists here and a head of the sports department of the local university also knew nothing about it, apparently it hasn't had much impact at the grass roots level.

**The challenge for gay/lesbian sport in Czechia, for the next millennium?**

As gays come out of the closet more and more in general, their visibility in the sports world will increase as well.

**And what should be the challenge for regular sport in Czechia?**

So far its really hard to predict, as the issue has not yet been faced. Some gay sportspeople come out on an individual basis to fellow players and find acceptance. I think people view it primarily as a private matter.



## The situation in France

*Speech by Mr. Samuel Gouyet, volleyball player  
Parallel workshop I: Europe and its regions*

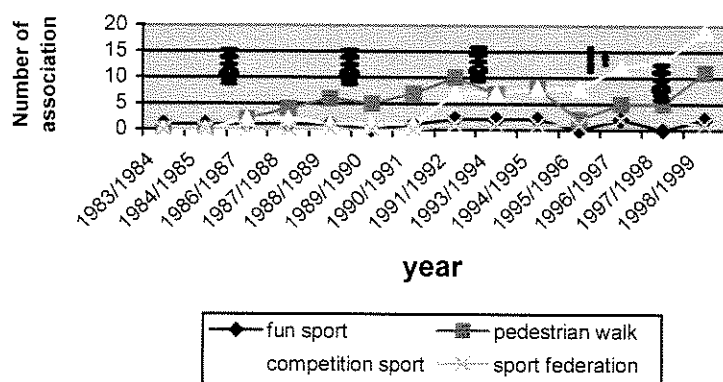
### The current situation of gay and lesbian sport in France

To start with, it has not been easy to track back the creation and the activity of French gay sport organisations in the last years. In reality, to my knowledge, none or little study has been done about gay and lesbian sport activity in France. The only reference I found is the "Gaypied Guide", that has collected for fifteen years the addresses and contacts of most gay and lesbian activities, including sport associations, but even this source is not totally reliable since some sport organisations have certainly been forgotten by the authors.

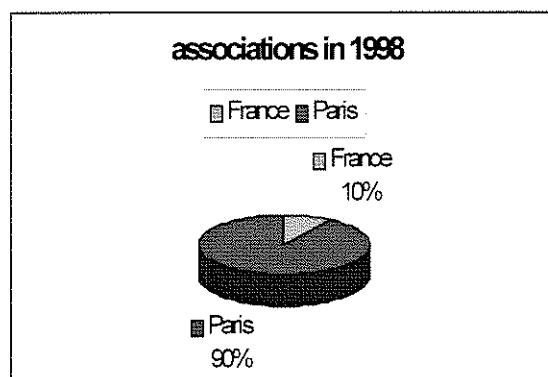
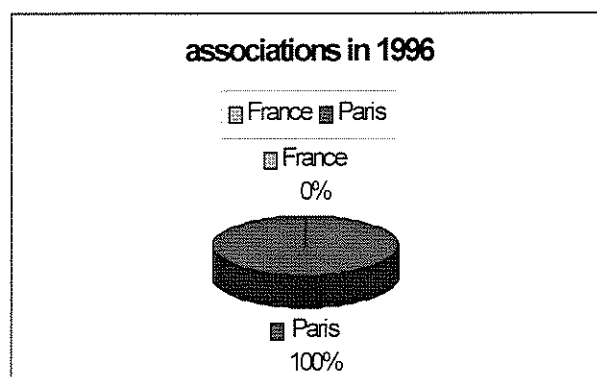
#### study of fifteen years of gay and lesbian sport.

Year	1983 /1984	1984 /1985	1986 /1987	1987 /1988	1988 /1989	1989 /1990	1990/ 1991	1991/ 1992	1993/ 1994	1994/ 1995	1995/ 1996	1996/ 1997	1997 /1998	1998 /1999
Fun sport	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	2	2	0	2	0	2
Pedestrian walking	0	0	2	4	6	5	7	10	7	8	2	5	5	11
Competition sport	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	7	7	8	8	12	13	19
Sport federation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	1

#### 15 years of homosexual sport



## Evolution of the gay and lesbian sport in France



As it is possible to read from this table, gay sport at large has developed following three different ways.

First, it appeared the sport just for fun. Those associations did not participate in competitions, either predominantly gay or not. It is interesting to notice that none of these associations survived for more than two or three years. Since 1985, we have had in France one or two of them, and they kept appearing and disappearing.

The second way was the development of hiking associations. Their spirit, by the same nature of their sport, was not to have a competition activity but just to offer an opportunity to get together and have nice walks in the lovely French country side. They succeeded in creating many local gay hiking associations in France at the beginning of the 90's. Since then, the growth in the number of such associations has slowed down or stopped, although the existing associations seem to increase the number of their members.

Later, an European movement was born that brought together these associations throughout Europe and some international meetings were organized. I would not, however, call them "sport" associations strictly speaking, because of their lack of competitive activity which is, in my opinion, inseparable from any sport activity. They are, nevertheless, an evidence of gay associations that succeed in their goal of bringing together individuals wishing to have some sort of physical activity in groups formed by gay people.

The third way is ours, that is, creating sport associations having competition among their main goals.

In France, this principle arose after the Gay Games II of 1986. A group of gay athletes from Paris who took part in those games decided to create such a movement in France and in Europe. They created the CGPIF (Comité Gay Paris et Ile de France) as a multisport association which kept growing until 1991.

At that time, the CGPIF had grown too big and had become unmanageable. The several sport groups of the CGPIF chose then to become independent sport associations and the CGPIF was turned into a Federation of such associations. At that time, no gay sport activity was known in French "province", a term that defines everything that is outside Paris and its region.

The blossoming of gay sport in province began during the organisation of EuroGames 5 in Paris in 1997. The EuroGames attracted many competitors from the whole France and these competitors went back home with the idea of creating gay and lesbian sport associations in their own cities, similarly, (but more than 10 years later !) to what happened to the Parisians who came back from Gay Games II in 1986.

That is why we witnessed an increase in the number of sport associations after the EuroGames. This phenomenon continued with the Gay Games of Amsterdam, in which 420 athletes from France participated. The positive experience of the Games also influenced some of them in creating gay and lesbian sport associations in their own cities.

This increase of gay sport associations is inserted in a general trend of increase of gay association and establishments (student associations, bars, cinemas) in all France.

## The situation of gay and lesbian sport in France.

Most of the gay sport activity (about 75%) is still based in Paris. Indeed Paris still seems to be the best (not to say : the only) place where this sort of associations can survive. To my knowledge, associations from the province have to strive for their survival and to get appropriate facilities for their workouts. They all also seem to struggle for the same reason : they do not participate in many competitions and therefore they lack of a goal that would give sense to their association and keep it alive. We hope that with the creation of a French gay sport league for each sport, associations from all France will have more occasion to meet and participate in competitions and hence will survive longer.

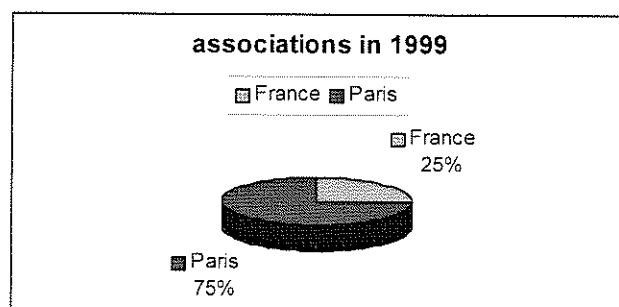
The situation is much different for the Parisian sport clubs who are in contact with an international network of gay and lesbian teams. Participating in competitions out of our country as well as organizing international competitions at home give us motivations for continuing our fight.

On a different scale, but with similar motivations we feel that we should offer to the teams in province the possibility to participate in national tournaments and meets. Without this possibility, I do not believe that gay sport might develop outside Paris.

Sport	Paris	France
<i>Pedestrian walk</i>	2	9
Hand-ball	1	0
<i>Sealing</i>	1	0
Multi sport	0	3
Swimming	2	(1)
Bowling	1	0
Volley-ball	1	0
Bicycle	2	(2)
Basket	1	(1)
Football	1	(1)
Jogging	1	(1)
<i>Skiing and climbing</i>	1	0
Karate	1	(1)
Badminton	1	0
Wrestling	1	0
Ping pong	1	0
Softball	1	0
Federation	1	(1)
Total	15	3

( ) : sport practice in multi sports association or sport that could disappear.

*Italic* : fun association, no competition.



## **GAY AND LESBIAN SPORTS IN 1999**

### **Participation of gay/lesbian sport in the regular French sport.**

For the gay/lesbian sport association in Paris, there will be no interest to create homosexual sport without competition and without participating into the regular sport. It seems to be necessary for the life of the sport club, it is like a target that give sense to the association.

All gay/lesbian sport associations participate in tournaments abroad. It always is a pleasure to meet and play against our foreign friends. Whether it be a little tournament or large scale event like the EuroGames or the Gay Games. In France as you could read before in this presentation, there are only a few gay/lesbian sport associations (less than twenty) and all plays different sports (except for two sports: swimming and running). Because of this small numbers it is not possible to create -like in Germany- frequent tournaments between homosexual teams.

The way to participate to straight regular events is not always the same.

There is what we could call the hidden way, the homosexuality side is not mentioned when the association participate to competition but after the play during speeches, dinner they talk about the situation of the association. The association who act like that, say that it the safer way because sometimes they have to play against violent people in the city ring of Paris( big trouble now) specially for the sport where contact on field is possible.

Some associations send their statutes where it is written that they are homosexuals. For example: in my volleyball association 'CONTREPIED', we participate in a little regular -straight- tournament where we have two teams (one man, one woman). Each year we present ourselves in the tournament program booklet. We write what we are and what for. But our abilities and our results are 'not that good enough' to afford us more exposure.

There is also a « royal » way to expose like a gay/lesbian sport club. Like the swimming club Paris Aquatique does. They never hide themselves and their results are of high professional standard, that they are the first swimming association (amongst gay/lesbians and regular swim clubs, in and around Paris. They participate in events of the French Swimming Federation and they have records. At each events they bring and show the rainbow flag. They make beautiful job.

A lot of French gay/lesbian sport clubs are members of a regular sport federation. For example : the large gay/lesbian club, Paris Aquatique, is a member of the French National Swimming Federation so they have their results and records officially registered. However this creates difficulties like in EuroGames, because swimmers that are associated with the National Swimming Federation can not participate into non- official swimming competitions. We have to make a choice between fun sport and competition sport. But if participating in the French Swimming Federation is hard and with few interest, there is some little fun to sport in a regular -straight- federation.

### **Are French sport federations interested in the lesbian/gay sports clubs?**

Does French federations know there is gay/lesbian sport?

Except for Paris Aquatique, almost all French gay/lesbian sport clubs are not involved with the regular federations. So these regular federations have no contact with gay/lesbian sport clubs. They never help us, at my knowledge, but never create a problem either, it's like gay/lesbian sport clubs don't exist. May be some change will appear next year. First because Paris Aquatique will organise the next International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics-tournament in 2000 in Paris. A large scale event is expected, the French Swimming Federation will help Paris Aquatique.

Second, some high level sportsmen and sportswomen begin 'to come out of the closet'. It should have begun by a professional soccer player, but the pressure of his sponsor was too strong. The recent and the first 'coming out' is the woman tennis player ms. Morespo. She was very well introduced by the media during fight for the PACS (law that legalises homosexual social wedding) in a homophobic France.

### **The challenge for the next millennium in France**

The next challenge for the Paris gay/lesbian sport federation CGPIF will be to impulse the creation of the lot of homosexual sport association as possible. For that, we'll try to contact the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Sport and Youth for helping us. We 'll send flyers to all of the bars and all the gay and lesbian associations to give help to people who want to create gay/lesbian sport clubs. If there is enough gay/lesbian sport clubs, we could create a French gay/lesbian sport league.

Honestly, I can't tell you what will be the challenge for the next millennium for the Regular –straight- sport in France. May be a regular sport with no drugs and less commercialism. We could dream.

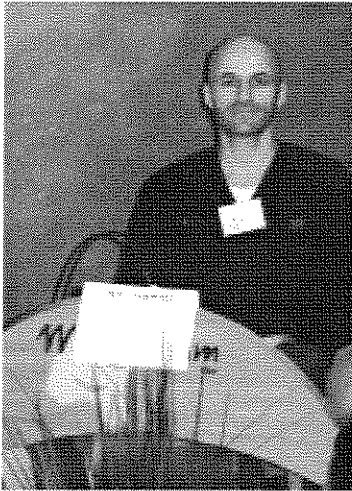
I would like to thank for their help :

- Roberto MANTACI for teaching me English so quickly
- Laurence FALCETTA for her wonderful work on EuroGames Paris
- The Gaypied Guide for collecting for 15 years some important data about our culture and activity.
- All the presidents of the French gay sport associations who have answered to my questions.
- All the people, dead or alive, who contributed to the creation and growing of gay sport in our country.

I would like to apologize to those people who have been involved in this movement but whom I was unable to contact. I hope that, even without their precious input, I have succeeded in keeping the number of unavoidable inaccuracies as small as possible.







## **The situation in Germany Family life and gay/lesbian sport in Germany**

*Speech by Mr. Patrick Hammi, journalist  
Parallel workshop I: Europe and its regions*

### **What is the present situation about gay & lesbian sport in Germany?**

In Germany we are now discussing the term "family" in a gay and lesbian context. Lot of gays and lesbians don't have positive thoughts about this old, conservatively used, term. But however you name it, it exists! The so-called gay and lesbian family had grown especially since people have had to manage the AIDS-crisis. The most unexpected but successful change was the founding of special clubs for homosexuals and their friends with the goal to play sports together. These single sport clubs grew more and more, and parallel to the international development, the idea to play sports together became a gay and lesbian social movement in the nineties. In Germany the local gay and lesbian organizations with the highest number of members are sport clubs. There is no activity of gays and lesbians as widely spread as sports organizations. And looking at the net of social contact and activities, there is no better example of the picture of a gay and lesbian family than a gay and lesbian sport club. In gay and lesbian sport clubs the old term "family" gets a new, modern face.

Maybe the biggest success: in this family brothers and sisters are working together more and more. Some gay sport clubs were equally male and female from the beginning, most clubs work hard to get the same presence of men and women in their club. In this process both sides have to get the same power and influence inside the club structures, such as board members. Even if clubs keep mostly gay, the cooperation with a lesbian club can be excellent.

### **How does regular sport organizations in Germany react to gay/lesbian sport clubs?**

Most (gay/lesbian) sport groups are members of their, regular, parent sport associations. Usually there are no problems and often the contact and cooperation with the, regular, parent sport organization is really good (for example: they give support in organising gay/lesbian sport tournaments by sending skilled referees). But with a few regular organizations gays and lesbians have to fight. These Sport organizations discriminate against homosexual sportsmen and sportswomen and produce severe problems. Namely, the ballroom dancing association, the figure skating association, the American football association and the local track and field parent associations in Germany. Besides these problems, in the bigger German cities the integration in regular sport seems to be perfect. The official political support is becoming better and better. Lord Mayors express their support for applications to organise international championships in their city. At the other side, political support is often not requested by sport clubs because of the lack of calculated success. Certainly, extreme difficulties occur, depending on the region in Germany and especially if the club is part of a strong local gay and lesbian community.

There is one subject every gay and lesbian sport club has to deal with: how to find financial support by sponsors. It seems to become more and more difficult to raise money. It is necessary to find sponsoring partners outside the traditional gay and lesbian scene. When looking for financial support the most important tool is a clear corporate identity, a regular media presence and, usually, a partnership with newspapers and journalists.

## **Professionalization of gay/lesbian sport**

Although the biggest gay and lesbian sport clubs, in Germany, don't grow as fast anymore, the question of burning out of board members became important some years ago. No sport club with more than 500 members, with more than, let us say 15 different sports and more than 30 different trainings per week can manage the organization without professional (paid) employees. Some will have soon full time employees. Lot of gay and lesbian sport clubs, even smaller ones, have their own offices. The booming of sport for gays and lesbians concerning the number of members in the big clubs (more than 700 members) is slowing down.

## **The number of sport groups is still growing in Germany**

The diversification of sports is going on. Groups for seniors is one of the popular new ones. In the future some clubs will start groups for young participants. The new generation gays and lesbians is asking for new ways to practise and to have fun.

Asking board members what would be necessary in the future, everybody answers the training facilities and training times are not sufficient. But this isn't a gay or lesbian issue.

More and more clubs participate in regular leagues. The growing number of clubs and sport groups cause new problems. The coordination of events in Germany (and in Europe) seems to be insufficient. Sometimes an event has to be cancelled due to a ignorance of the official agenda and a following low registration. That means, the communication isn't working well enough.

## **Internet Europe-wide & national platforms**

Some progress could be done by the better use of Internet and email. Till now Internet isn't popular for German clubs. (Compare the list of countries where the number of visitors of the [www.gaysport.org](http://www.gaysport.org) website is listed; per end of 1998: Dutch visitors: 453.705, German visitors: 145.285 only; source: EGLSF-newsletter).

In general the identification with the European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF) isn't very strong in Germany (although about one third of the members are German groups). The EGLSF should be more present also on the local level. Some local board members say, the EGLSF is centred too much in The Netherlands. A network in Germany like the Dutch organization GISAH (Gay Integration through Sports & Activities Holland), which forms a platform of gay and lesbian sport groups in the Netherlands, could solve this problem.

## **Support of structures in Eastern Europe**

A challenge for the next years is supporting the few structures of gay and lesbian groups in Eastern Europe. (Back to the picture of a gay and lesbian family: our cousins, aunts and uncles from far away.) And Eastern Europe begins here in East Germany. The oldest eastern club was founded five years ago in Leipzig. Older clubs should help to establish new contacts and build a network.

Still some athletes and eastern gay/lesbian teams don't participate in regular leagues because of players, who are afraid to come out. In smaller cities or towns everywhere in Germany this phenomenon is known. The coming out of gays and lesbians in sports would be helpful for the visibility of homosexuals in sports. But in this case still other athletes consider gays and lesbians as a provocation to their dominant culture.

Finally we should also think about gays and lesbians at other continents. Let's invite athletes and teams to our championships and meetings. I know, it is easily said but not easily done – but don't forget about the global challenge.

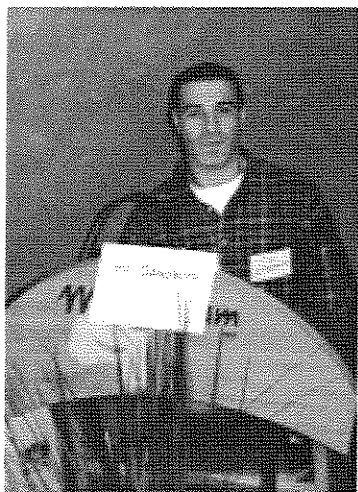
## **Family life and gay/lesbian sport in Germany**

We can compare the present situation about gay and lesbian sport in Germany with family life. Every family has poorer or weaker members and specific problems. By doing the research for this conference I noticed the difficulties in getting information about the German gay and lesbian sport clubs. There is no German organization which informs about the German gay and lesbian sport clubs and the upcoming events. And there are no facts – and no studies on which facts could be based. In Germany we have no “HomoStudies” at universities like in The Netherlands.

## **Nobody takes political responsibility for gays/lesbians in German sport Any challenge for gay/lesbian sport in Germany, for the next millennium?**

As a consequence of this lack of –nation wide- information, nobody takes responsibility in nation wide politics for gays and lesbians in sports. And nobody asks for a national action plan on tolerance and Fair Play in sport, with the characteristics: respect, integration and non-discrimination to gay sportsmen and lesbian sportswomen.





## The situation in Italy

*Speech by Mr. Germano Gasparini, swimmer  
Parallel workshop I: Europe and its regions*

The history of Italian gay and lesbian sport groups began in 1989, when some friends in Milan founded the first swimming group, "Gruppo Pesce Milano". The idea became immediately successful, so that in the next two years two more new sport groups, A.T.Omo. Tennis and KAOS Soccer, were available to gay people of Milan area. At their early beginning, all of those groups were mostly "just for fun" but quite soon it was clear that a different approach, more oriented to a real sporting attitude although saving the original friendly mood, was necessary to keep growing up and maintaining success. With the years, more and more groups joined, grew up, and unfortunately sometimes disappeared, in Milan and in other Italian cities.

### Gay Games boosts Italian gay/lesbian sport

Ten years after the foundation of the first Italian gay/lesbian sport club, Gruppo Pesce, more than twelve gay and lesbian sport groups are active throughout Italy. During this decade, the activity and the level of the sport groups increased continuously. Gruppo Pesce Milan reached over 100 members at its top - as well as the participation to gay/lesbian and regular tournaments in and outside Italy and the affiliation to the major national and international sport federations, both gay/lesbian such as EGLSF, IGLA and GLTA and "regular" such as UISP. UISP is the Italian "Sport for All" organization, like the Dutch NCS (see also the plenary presentation of Mrs Garrelfs from the Netherlands Cultural Sport federation). The participation to major events such as EuroGames (all editions but the first one) and especially to Gay Games gave and gives an encouragement to the gay and lesbian sport groups in Italy. The participation of over 100 Italian athletes at Gay Games'98 in Amsterdam is for sure a major achievement.

### double face relationship with Italian regular sport

The relationships with "regular" sports organizations and governing body have a double face aspect. The major Italian gay and lesbian groups are affiliated since long and with full visibility to UISP, which by tradition and by cultural attitude is quite open minded and conceives the sport as a way to promote tolerance and respect of the individuals. This approach is totally aligned with the ideas of the Italian gay and lesbian sport groups and actually neither intolerant or homophobic behaviour were never experienced. As a consequence, the Italian gay and lesbian sport groups affiliated to UISP not only participate to the "regular" tournaments, often with good results, but also they are active in the local UISP technical and directive boards.

The situation is quite different with the official national sport governing bodies.

It is clear that the natural evolution of homosexual sport groups is to affiliate to the official "regular" sport Federations, as it is the trend for gay/lesbian swimming groups throughout Europe. Unfortunately, the Italian sport Federations act and behave simply as if homosexuality does not exist and their possible reaction in case a openly gay or lesbian sport group asks for affiliation is unpredictable. It is not by hazard that so far no top Italian sportsmen/women did ever come out declaring their homosexuality, even after the end of their career. Moreover, the national sport governing bodies are more prone to look for top athletes rather than to extend the numbers of practicers and they put strict technical and economical requirements for affiliation. The consequence is that for the moment the Italian gay and lesbian sport groups do not meet the conditions for affiliation to a national sport

governing body. This situation risks to create a gap between Italy and the rest of Europe, where gay and lesbian sport groups appear to have normally less problems with affiliation to the institutional bodies.

## **C.I.A.O the Italian platform for gay/lesbian sport clubs**

Gay Games Amsterdam '98 have been a turning point. For the first time, the main sport groups moved jointly before the event and managed to find a major sponsor for the overall Italian team, including individuals. Coming back from the Games, there was the common feeling that times were mature to make that joint experience becoming the common practice. As a result, in September 1998 was founded C.I.A.O., that stands for "Italian Co-ordination of Homosexual Athletes". C.I.A.O. is not an additional organization, rather it is made up by representative of the several gay and lesbian sport groups. C.I.A.O. has a double target. Toward the gay and lesbian community itself, it's aimed at providing a reference point for individuals and for new or existing sport groups, in terms of information, technical support, cooperation, sharing of experience. Outside the gay and lesbian community, C.I.A.O. is willing to provide a single voice to Italian gay sport facing sponsors, sport federations, media and other institutions and to promote a different "look" of homosexual people.

## **What about the future?**

To understand what could be the possible evolution and the outstanding challenges, it is necessary to take a snapshot of the current situation.

Simply looking at the distribution and at the composition of the existing gay and lesbian sport groups, there are some considerations coming immediately up to the eye. The total amount of groups themselves is definitely low, considering that the Italian population is around 60 millions people and that the country is relatively rich. Most of the groups are concentrated in Milan area and in the Lombardy, only one group is active in Rome, south of Rome nothing exists. There is only one lesbian group and more in general the participation of women is quite limited. There is a lack of information about gay and lesbian sport: many people discovered that there were Gay Games only "after" the event, many others are not even aware of the existence of gay and lesbian sport groups.

## **The cultural influence of religion**

The limited spread of the idea of homosexual sport has cultural roots. In general, Italian people do not practice sport at the same extent as in other parts of Europe, also due to a limited availability of sport venues. In addition, the roman catholic background, although the majority of the society basically don't care about what the Pope and the bishops say, is still strong enough so that gays and lesbian are accepted as long as they "do it and don't tell it". This is the case especially in Southern Italy and for lesbians in general. Rome is the capital city in Italy (over 3 millions inhabitants only in the urban area) but the physical presence of the Holy Seat puts serious limitations to the local development of gay activity. Last but not least, there is a certain laziness of gay people themselves when it is up to work to set-up a new sport group.

## **Challenges for gay/lesbian sport in Italy**

To try changing this situation, C.I.A.O. has then to face several long term challenges:

- to increase its visibility so to spread the idea of homosexual sport and to cover as much as possible the lack of information on the subject,
- to encourage the creation of sport groups all around Italy, especially in the South, providing support, suggestions and promotion,
- to increase the participation of women,
- to achieve weight facing the "regular" sport Federations so to break the existing "well of silence",
- to achieve strategic partnership with important sponsors so to favour the participation of groups and individuals to the major international events such as Gay Games and EuroGames,
- to keep Italy linked with the international gay and lesbian sport activity, by increasing the participation to international tournaments and the activity in federations such as EGLSF and Federation of Gay Games.

To achieve the above mentioned goals the way is still long and it is necessary to identify short and mid term milestones to assess the progress in that direction. The first step is to set-up in 1999 an international gay and lesbian

sport event in Milan (so far, this happened only once in 1996, with SwimMilan Cup organized by Gruppo Pesce) and to make it becoming a fixed yearly event. The second step is to constitute an official Italian team at EuroGames 2000. The third step is to bring to Sydney 2002, 200 Italian athletes, twice as much than in Amsterdam '98, as official national team.

The outstanding work is hard and is of considerable amount, but the strong motivations of the Italian gay and lesbian sport groups and the support of federations such as EGLSF allow us hope "we can do it!"







## Homosexuality and sports in The Netherlands

*Speech by Mrs. Gea Schaap,  
National Olympic Committee \* Netherlands Sports Confederation (NOC\*NSF)  
Parallel workshop II: Gay/lesbian sport in Europe: practice & theory and its*

*regions*

I have played football for many years. In the Netherlands football for women is known as a sport where many lesbians participate. The student club where I used to play had three women teams in competition. Because we were a student club, a lot of fresh students joined the club every year. When the new players were introduced, first thing we (the old members) discussed, was the football level of a new player, is she a good player, can she perform in the first team, or is she a total ... disaster. In addition, she will be joining the third team of course.

After defining the level of the player, we (the old members) usually tried to define her sexual orientation. We used three categories: 1. She is obviously a lesbian. 2. She obviously not a lesbian and the third category: she a lesbian, but she does not know it yet.... It was like a bet. If the bets were placed, we asked the player if she had a girlfriend or a boyfriend. We were only shocked if our guess was wrong.

I am here as a representative of the Sports Confederation, and like in my old football team, I talk about sports in the first place.

Article 3 of the regulations of the Netherlands Sport Confederation NOC\*NSF reads: the main goal of the confederation is to stimulate the participation or involvement of as many people as possible in the sport of their choice and also to ensure that everyone can take fully part in an equal footing.

Many gay people do not feel comfortable with participating in their sport, or they do not participate at all.

I will start with telling you something about research, then I will tell something about the means to achieve gay and lesbian emancipation over the last years, projects in the Netherlands.

Mr Peter-Jan Mol will continue with the current projects in gay sport in the Netherlands.

### Organised sports in the Netherlands

First for a better understanding: Let me briefly explain the context of sports, how sport is organised in the Netherlands.

If you want to play football you join a football club, if you want to play volleyball, you join a volleyball club, if you want to swim you join a swimming club. A club is organised by volunteers. The members pay contribution every year. Most clubs have (some) professional coaches and most clubs participate in some sort of competition. In addition, whether you are 6 years old or 70 years young, everyone can join a club. There are also sports clubs especially for gays and lesbians.

Most clubs are joined to their national sports association. For example the National Football Association, or the National Swimming Association. A lot of gays and lesbians sports clubs are not joined to a national sport association, but they are often joined to GISAH (Gay Integration through Sport & Activities Holland). All National Sport

Associations are members of the National Olympic Committee \* National Sports Confederation (NOC\*NSF), where I work for. I will refer to it as the Sports Confederation. The governmental department responsible for Sport is the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports in the Netherlands.

Now let us go back to the regulations of the Sports Confederation NOC\*NSF. Everyone should be able to participate in sports the way they choose....

Over the years we had and still have many groups in our society that cannot practice sports the way they want to. Marjet Derks mentioned –in her workshop presentation- women in the past but also in the present, you can also mention immigrant groups or gays and lesbians

If people do not feel comfortable participating in their sport - because they are discriminated or because they cannot behave in their own natural way, or if barriers for participation exist - we, the Sports Confederation NOC\*NSF and all sports associations have a responsibility.

### **As long as they don't provoke (Research University of Amsterdam; Hekma)**

The history of what we now call gay and lesbian emancipation in organised sports started in 1991. At the request of the Dutch government, a group of researchers of the University of Amsterdam, looked into the experiences of gay men and lesbians in organised, non-professional sports. The main findings were that gay men and lesbians do not experience much discrimination. This circumstance results from the invisibility and silencing of homosexuality in athletics, both by sports organisations and by gay men and lesbians themselves.

Being gay or lesbian in regular sports is very difficult. Therefore, only few gay men, and somewhat more lesbians, are out of the closet in their regular sports club. But even those who dare to go public with their sexual orientation sometimes have to face discrimination, because the sports world does not hold homosexuality in very high regard, to put it mildly. Most gay men and many lesbians keep silent about their sexual identity, or as Hekma calls this "Hide behind a wall of silence". Discrimination against them mirror attitudes in society as a whole, with the difference that sports brings different people together in a physical situation. On the other hand, the standard prejudice against gay men and lesbians is that they invert gender roles.

This poses fewer problems for lesbians, whose masculinity harmonises with the macho character of sports, than for gay men, who has supposed effeminacy clashes with the maleness of sports.

### **Sexuality Unknown (Research by University of Utrecht; Schuyf & Stöpler)** **Reasons for participating in lesbian/gay sports clubs**

People become members of gay and lesbian sports clubs primarily for social reasons: gay and lesbians want to be among their own kind, and have an exhaust valve to be themselves in their spare time. Many individual gay and lesbian sports people have had bad experiences in the past when practising their sport among heterosexuals. These experiences were often the result of the tension that came out of preconceived notions about masculinity and femininity, that one can find within society, within sport as a social system and among homosexuals themselves. This is in itself an interesting conclusion that concurs with the few academic investigations into the relationship between sports and homosexuality (Palzkill 1990; Cahn 1994). They all have stated that in the relationship between homosexuality and sports there is a basic conflict between existing notions of masculinity and femininity and popular conceptions of gender roles. Again I refer to the workshop presentation of Marjet Derks and the female participants in the Olympics.

Especially among lesbians sport has played an important role in creating independent role models that are about as far apart from traditional female roles as possible and are therefore threatening to heterosexual order; as is the idea of the masculine body as an exiting healthy sport body. Furthermore, there is always the danger and fear of sexuality in the locker rooms.

## Integration or not?

Because of the hidden discrimination and because of the social aspect a lot of gay men and lesbians founded their own sports clubs.

The clubs experienced a spectacular rise in membership. In some cases, this resulted in the wish to practice sport both more professionally and more competitive. One of the means by which to attain this is integration with or within regular sports clubs. In practice, one sees several modes of integration. On a basic level, gay and lesbian teams can invite regular clubs for tournaments. On a more advanced level, clubs keep their gay/lesbian identity but start playing in a regular competition. This usually entails becoming members of their own national association. In the Netherlands about half of the gay/lesbian sports clubs either are integrated in regular sport or want to be integrated. They either play in regular competition or admit heterosexual players into their ranks.

In general, gay/lesbian sport is less competitive than sports in general: there is a predominant social aspect.

Some clubs have experienced difficulties with integration. In the case of Ballroom dancing, this has led to a court case before the Equal Rights Commission, because the National Dancing Federation did not want to accept same-sex couples. Eventually, the gay/lesbian dancers won this case.

Integration is easier if you are not found to be 'provocative' (i.e. ostensibly showing that you are gay/lesbian). This means that many heterosexuals in fact want gay people to adapt themselves to the heterosexual standards. It is therefore not surprising that many gay/lesbian sports people complain about the stereotype heterosexuals have about homosexuality. Less than half of the gay/lesbian clubs, do not want to integrate at all. They think it is not practical, they find being among themselves more convenient and enjoyable or they are frightened of integration.

## National federations and homosexuality

Within many of the national associations, the idea slowly catches on that they should do something about integration of homosexuals. They have however a severe lack of knowledge about problems of integration and discrimination of homosexuals.

Some associations have the opinion that homosexuality is a social problem and that it is not the duty of the sports association to solve social problems, especially if there is no political and social demand for this.

Other associations believe that all attention to homosexuality is stigmatising. Many have stock opinions about homosexuality, especially about masculinity, the lack thereof with gay males and the surplus with lesbians. This is in particular the case with many combat sports and some contact sports such as football, which as the national sport has a particularly male image in the Netherlands.

Indeed, again prejudices about gender, masculinity and femininity play a much larger role in the refusal to accept homosexuality than mere sexuality.

In the beginning of 1997, the results of this investigation were discussed at a one-day conference "Together & Apart" organized by the National Sports Confederation NOC\*NSF, Gay Integration through Sports & Activities Holland, GISAH and the Netherlands Cultural Sports federation NCS. There was an open discussion involving questions regarding the emancipator function of sports and identity/adaptation issues around homosexuality.

One of the main conclusions was that there should be two tracks in emancipation of gays and lesbians in sports. 1: Gay and lesbian sports clubs and 2: Integration in regular sports clubs. Both are needed to give opportunity for homosexual participants to choose the way they want to experience their sport.

## Means

Based upon the Hekma research and research about immigrants in sports, an anti-discrimination code in sport was drawn up by the Sports Confederation. The meaning of this code of conduct is to prevent and fight discrimination in sports.

A special, widely distributed brochure was published on discrimination against ethnic minorities and gay men and lesbians in sports. It was entitled "Discriminatie Buitenspel" (Discrimination off side). The brochure includes interviews with male and female athletes of all colours and sexual identities, and, most importantly, the anti-discrimination code. Beginning in the summer of 1994, this code has become an official regulation for all sports organisations in the Netherlands. This is a significant symbolic step, but it can only be effective if it is enforced and the anti-discrimination policy of sports organisations becomes an integral part of all their guidelines. This process will occupy us for some time to come.

We will hand out this brochure at the end of this workshop.

Another very important way to achieve gay and lesbian emancipation in sports is the co-operation between sports organisations and gay and lesbian pressure groups. The National Sports Confederation NOC\*NSF, Gay Integration through Sports & Activities Holland GISAH and the Netherlands Cultural Sport federation NCS are close in touch.

It is important to get attention for the discrimination of gays & lesbians in sports. It was on the agenda at the "European congers against discrimination in Sports" in 1994, at the congress "Tolerance and Fair Play" in 1996, and at the congers "European year against racism in sports" in 1997.

## General conclusions

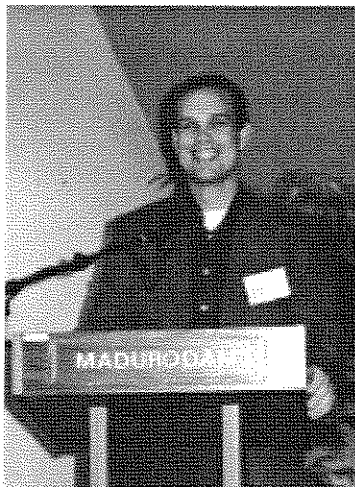
Still the issue of the emancipation of gay/lesbian people is not recognized as such to national sport associations. The NOC\*NSF, GISAH and NCS wish to increase the integration of gays and lesbians in sports and fight discrimination of homosexuals.

The goal now is to increase the awareness of this issue, and to support the national sport associations in developing policy on this subject and to equip the organisations to create an environment which everyone feels comfortable with.

I am aware that forcing integration in leisure and recreation is far more difficult than for example integration at work. I am also aware that it is more difficult to get attention for the integration of homosexuals than it is to get attention for integration immigrants. That is mainly because a homosexual can hide him or herself behind a wall of silence. If people are not familiar with the problem, the national association can continue to stress that there is no problem at all.

Peter Jan Mol, from sports research and consultancy Diopter will tell you more about the current project of gay and lesbian emancipation in sports in his workshop presentation: Pilot project on sport associations and the emancipation of gays/lesbians in sport.

Thank you very much for your attention!!



## Pilot project on sports associations and the emancipation of gays & lesbians in The Netherlands

*Speech by Mr. Peter-Jan Mol,  
DIOPTER Sport Research Consultant, The Netherlands  
Parallel workshop II: Gay/lesbian sport in Europe: practice & theory and its  
regions*

### The background

The results of a variety of studies into the emancipation and discrimination of gays and lesbians in sport, as expounded by Gea Schaap of NOC\*NSF, were also presented to the various sports associations. This effort has not met with a great deal of response yet, however. Only two associations accepted the invitation to be present at the official presentation of the report: 'Seksueel onbekend' (Sexuality unknown).

Most associations, therefore, appear to have paid little attention to the outcome of the studies. It is also not very easy for them to do anything with the outcome. Numerous issues still remain unclear when it comes to the emancipation of homosexuals. A lot of associations, for example, do not have any idea of how many homosexual sportsmen and women in fact practice their sport. There is no such thing as a membership record according to sexual preference.

In principle, the associations do have an obligation to tackle any problems related to the emancipation and discrimination of homosexuals. All of the officially recognised Dutch sports associations did, after all, sign the anti-discrimination code in 1994. Most associations do not, however, give a great deal of priority to the active observance of this code. This is sometimes the result of unwillingness but sometimes also the result of ignorance. A 'step-by-step plan for sports associations and a policy aimed at homosexual emancipation' drawn up by GISAH also did not have a great deal of effect on the situation. It is clear, therefore, that many sports associations could use extra stimuli and support to promote homosexual emancipation within their organisation and branch of sport.

### The brief

GISAH, which was on the support committee of several of the above-mentioned studies, wanted to see a situation in which sports associations were given more support in everyday practice. With the aid of some financial support from the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) and under the supervision of NOC\*NSF, GISAH and NCS, the research and consultancy firm Diopter-Janssens & Van Bottenburg bv was able to start with a pilot project on sports associations and the emancipation of homosexuals at the end of 1998. The aim of this project is to see it, that by the end of the project period (in 2 years time), it will be possible to observe some positive developments in the field of the emancipation of homosexuals at the associations concerned. This may be expressed in a sports climate that is friendlier towards homosexuals or in envisaged policies and activities by participating sports associations.

### The preparation

After, first of all, having a look at what kind of activities had taken place in recent years in the field of the emancipation of homosexuals, 4 pilot associations were selected: The Royal Dutch Football Association (KNVB), the Dutch Volleyball Federation (NeVoBo), the Royal Dutch Swimming Association (KNZB) and the Netherlands Cultural Sports Association (NCS). This choice was based on the principals' desire to create a mixture of team and individual sports and to include associations that were at different stages of homosexual emancipation. As far as the

latter is concerned it could be said that the NCS acts as a pioneer in this field, that the KNZB and the NeVoBo are both associations for sports that enjoy great popularity among homosexuals, and that the KNVB is reputed to be a very masculine, if not to say macho, bastion. Now it still was not a matter of course that the associations selected would actually want to take part in the project. They would after all also have to put time into it. This is why the initial contacts with the associations were very important and why members of the project group (support group) with connections at a particular sports association made the initial contacts. Next, Diopter went to see the sports associations concerned with the aim of explaining the project's objectives and the possible advantages that participation in the project could have for the associations. During these meetings the associations were explicitly asked to talk about their experiences in the field of homosexual sports. We could not, after all, force them to do anything.

## **The initial findings**

What kind of experiences do the associations selected have with homosexual sports? The KNZB is reasonably well informed about the fact that a number of swimming clubs for homosexuals are active under their flag. The swimming association furthermore made a number of officials available to the organisation of the Gay Games. Remarkable were the observations of several officials that they were pleasantly surprised with the positive atmosphere during the Games and with the fact that the Gay Games participants thanked them during the tournament for doing their job. Obviously the officials were not used to hear compliments during regular tournaments. The KNVB has little experience with sport for homosexuals. The NeVoBo also does not have any information about volleyball clubs for homosexuals that might be affiliated with them. They have not come across any problems yet. The NCS has a great deal of experience in the field of sport for homosexuals. They have been pursuing an active emancipation policy for years towards homosexual sportsmen and women and their associations. From the talks with the four associations it appeared that they were all in principle prepared to take part in the project. The KNVB and the NeVoBo did however state that we had to present some further arguments with respect to the need for and the possibilities of the project. We are currently working on this.

## **The methods**

We are using various methods to look at the gay/lesbian sports climate within the four pilot associations. We started by scanning the associations' journals, policy plans and training manuals for anything related to gay sport and for a possible implicit heterosexual norm. In addition, we started interviewing a number of homosexual sportsmen and women per association about their personal experiences and those of their club in the sports world. Do they practice their sport in mixed or separate groups and what are the reasons for them doing so, are just some of the questions we asked them. We, for that matter, do not just interview homosexual sportsmen and women active within gay/lesbian sport clubs (active both within and outside an association), but also homosexual sportsmen and women active at regular clubs. We also spoke to someone per branch of sport with a broad view of the developments taking place within the field of gay/lesbian sport. You could say that we are taking a kind of 'picture' of the existing homosexual climate within the four pilot associations.

## **The initial conclusions**

In view of the fact that not all of the interviews with the individual sportsmen and women have taken place yet, it is still too early to draw any clear conclusions. It is however possible to say a few things. It is clear that, with the exception of the NCS, the associations are still not very familiar with the participation of homosexuals in their sport. They are also hardly aware of the kind of problems gays/lesbians might experience. As a result of this the emancipation of homosexuals is not in fact a policy issue for the sports associations concerned. From the statement of affairs we are drawing up it appears that, following one of the conclusions from the study 'Sexuality Unknown', sports associations could play a significant role in the integration of gay/lesbian sports clubs as they are important providers of courses, facilities and competitions. Through these, but most certainly also through their associations' journals and the attitude they display to the outside world, they can have a great deal of influence on the image of homosexuality in their particular branch of sport and they can in this way create explicit possibilities for integration. In three of the four pilot associations there also appear to be several formal obstacles for gay/lesbian sports clubs. Multi sports clubs, of which there are a great many within gay sport clubs, are not able to join. Only specific swimming, volleyball and football clubs are able to join their respective associations. Practising sports within an NCS-context can give rise to problems of a different nature. The generally somewhat older homosexual sportsmen and women within the NCS occasionally, for example, have to swim their competitions against teenagers and the records

they achieve are not recognised by the KNZB because the NCS does not meet all of the competition rules. The same applies for heterosexual sportsmen and women active within an NCS-context, but for them the transition to a club that is affiliated to a regular association is generally somewhat easier than for homosexual sportsmen and women. One conclusion, which we can already draw, is that in all of the branches of sport investigated there appears to be a need for top sportsmen and women who are not afraid to admit to their homosexuality. This desire is not just expressed at the 4 pilot associations. During the 'Samen en Apart' (Together & Apart) congress held in 1997, former State Secretary of Sports in the Netherlands Erica Terpstra and the Director Sports of the Gay Games Jip van Leeuwen argued in favour of all famous sportsmen and women standing up. They are all convinced of the fact that they exist and they all agree that this will have a tremendously stimulating effect on the many gay sportsmen and lesbian women in the Netherlands.

## **The follow-up**

Where will our project go from here? After completing the initial exploratory and investigative phase, a plan of approach will be drawn up for each pilot association. After consultation with, and getting approval from the associations concerned, work can be started on these. We will be interviewing a lot of association administrators and policy staff about the possibilities for gay/lesbian emancipation within their association. We are going to try to put the theme on the agenda of the various associations. We will also try to turn the issue into a more general topic of conversation than it has been up until now via the associations' publications and other media. And perhaps we might even be able to get the associations to the point where they start paying attention to the theme in their next policy plan and in the various training courses. The most important thing however is that one is going to think and talk about homosexual emancipation within the associations. The time when the issue was simply ignored, is a thing of the past. We think that the NCS will largely have a pioneering role to play. By means of various forms of co-operation, the NCS can set an example for the other sports associations.

After two years of support we will be taking a new 'picture'. We will then once again scan the policy plans, associations' journals and training manuals. And will once again interview various gay sportsmen and women. The results of these studies will have to show whether or not the support we offered to the KNZB, KNVB, NeVoBo and NCS paid off.







## Gay/Lesbian sport and the sexual debate of the 1928 Olympic Games. An anachronism?

*Speech by Mrs. Marjet Derks, free-lance sport historian  
Parallel workshop II: Gay/lesbian sport in Europe: practice & theory and its regions*

### Introduction

Building bridges can be quite a task, especially if these are bridges over troubled water. It takes a lot of bricks, tools and sweat to build a Europe of Sport without any discrimination and intolerance, because sport represents an ambivalent cultural arena. It tends to reproduce and confirm social divisions, among which the one between heterosexuality and homosexuality is the most poignant one (Griffin 1998; Cayleff 1996; Cahn 1994; Hargreaves 1994, 33; Hekma 1994; Pronger 1990; Palzkill 1990).

By taking a closer look at the history of sport, I want to argue, we can come across interesting parallels and differences, which can help us in this building process. History confronts us with meanings, conceptualisations and presuppositions that influence our understanding of the world of sports at the end of the twentieth century. Especially, it can attribute to the deconstruction of a dominant and misleading conception of 'regular sport'. Within this conception, regular sport is perceived as an ongoing process of development and increased participation, a clear cut and well-defined domain where gay/lesbian sport is the trespasser. But this so called regular sport is very differentiated, and it was formed through processes of discrimination and intolerance itself. Throughout the century, various social groups had to fight, argue and negotiate before they were able to participate in sports. People from the working class, women and blacks, now in various degrees part of the 'regular sport', were then seen as trespassers. The history of sport presents ongoing and complex processes of building ridges and rebuilding them.

Therefore, from the perspective of gay and lesbian sport, it is both an anachronism and of relevance to take a closer look at the struggle of female athletes to participate in the track and field program of the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games. An anachronism, because of the historical differences and incompatibilities between social and cultural structures in the twenties and the late nineties. A relevance, because there are some intriguing parallels between the 1928 Games and the Games that were to take place some seventy years later, the 1998 Gay Games.

Some parallels are superficial. On both occasions, the city was crowded with athletes, journalists and foreign visitors. The events caused lively discussions between opponents and advocates. Paper were filled with articles, commentators wrote spicy columns, and evangelic groups came to town, hoping they could convert some of the participants who had been lead astray. And on both occasions, there were financial problems, while the biggest winners were the city bar owners and shopkeepers, who doubled their year income.

But on a deeper level, both events represent important landmarks in the history of integration and separation in sports. They refer to the question of sport, society and gender, or as Susan Cahn has labelled it: 'the sexual debate in sport' (Cahn 1994). Gender, the way men and women assert what they believe to be their manhood or womanhood, is basic to the self-definition of modern society. Historically, especially modern masculinity helped to determine, and was in turn influenced, by what were considered normative patterns of sexuality and morality. George Mosse claims that all those who want to change society, as well as those who want to escape their marginalization, have to take the stereotype of modern masculinity into account' (Mosse 1996, 194). The realm of sports provides an interesting and important mirror of modern society and its predominant masculinity. Here, definitions of gender are both confirmed and challenged through complex and often ambiguous historical processes. Sports produce a visual language of the

gendered body. These images are based on conventional sexual assumptions (Hargreaves 1996; Knoppers 1996; Cahn 1994; Pronger 1990; Messner/Sabo 1990; Lenskyj 1986).

Both the Gay Games and the Olympic Games of 1928 have produced discussions in which the main theme is not sport, but gender and sexuality. By organising a sportive event that was mainly meant for gays, the gay movement has appropriated a realm that historically was a white male heterosexual privilege, an area where masculinity and femininity were clearly defined. In 1928, the first appearance of women in the track and field programme likewise challenged dominant definitions of gender. The women were seen as trespassers, signalling both gender and sexual deviance. Both events confront us with questions of integration and separation.

## Roaring Twenties in a cosy society

First, let's take a closer look at the Olympic Games of 1928. Amsterdam was by no means the 'gay way to Europe' then. In fact, the 1920s were not so roaring in the Netherlands as elsewhere. Dutch society was a cosy society, dominated by anti-modernistic small town life. Every part of daily life was structured by segregational organisations on a confessional principle, a system that has been described as 'pillarization'. Hierarchical gender relations lay at the core of this system. However, this pillarized society had to deal with modernity like other countries had to. Emancipating social groups were emerging, cities were expanding and modern life developed. Even in this very confessional country, the 1920s were a decade of sexual and gender ambiguity. This ambiguity was most explicitly symbolized by the emergence of the so called 'flapper' and the 'New Woman'. Young women experimented with new lifestyles in the public realm. Although not large in numbers, not politically inspired nor critical towards power relations, these women seemed the tokens of a new movement. A movement that claimed female autonomy and independence. Especially, they seemed to challenge dominant concepts of femininity and masculinity, expressing so called boyish or mannish behaviour. For that reason, they attracted fearful attention. And although most 'New Women' were not athletes and athletes not 'New Women', they were easily mixed up.

## Struggle for the 'mother of sports'

Within this context, the 8th Olympic Games were allotted to Amsterdam, capital city of the low and slow country of the Netherlands. On its programme was a new item: track and field for women. This was not a result of Dutch lobbies, quite the contrary. The Dutch athletic federation did not favour women's athletic competition. The integration of women's athletics in the Olympic programme resulted from years of women's struggle. Historically, dominant images of heterosexual masculinity and femininity played an important role in athletics. For a long time, the 'mother of sports' was seen as unfit for women, although they had a long history of participating in footraces in the pre-industrial era. Athletics were the province of men, the necessary skills were labelled 'masculine'. The modern sportsman had ASICS: an anima sana in corpore sano, a sound mind in a sound body. 'Sound' meant being male, white, middle class and heterosexual. Both women and homosexual males were excluded. Running women were threatening the ideal of both masculinity and femininity. Whereas the acquisition of strength, muscularity and athletic skills was empowering for men, it caused anxiety in discourses on gender and sexuality when women were concerned (Mangan/Park 1997; Cahn 1994; Stokvis 1986).

However, this proclaimed antagonism between femininity and athleticism did not prevent women from trying to enter this 'realm of masculinity'. In fact, they did so, not for the sake of feminism or gender bending, but for the love of running. Nevertheless, by doing so, they questioned the dominant images of masculinity and femininity in modernity. From the turn of the century onwards, female athletes appeared in local runs. Within years, they had their own athletic clubs, and were aiming at the highest: participation at the Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee did not favour this application. Its founder, Pierre de Coubertin, had developed the *citius, altius et fortius* as a means for 'rebronzing' the young men. Women should watch the games and put the laurel wreath on the winner's neck. National athletic federations did not favour female competitors either.

The women had to run a long way before they were granted participation in the Olympic track and field arena. In 1919, the French Alice Milliat pleaded Olympic admittance of track and field for women, but was turned down. She then established an international organisation for women's sports, the FSFI. This became the organiser of Olympic Games for women only. The International Olympic Committee successfully protested against the adjective 'Olympic', as they did when the Gay Games tried to appropriate this label. So the women's games were labelled Women's World Games, and were successful nonetheless. Athletes from more than ten countries participated in 1926.

After long negotiations, the IOC and the International Amateur Athletic Foundation agreed to a limited track and field programme for women at the Olympic Games. The experiment was to be taken place at the 1928 Games in Amsterdam. 101 women from 18 countries participated in five athletic numbers: the 100m, 100m relay, 800m, high jump and shot putting. They performed well: competition was hard and thrilling, three world records were broken.

## The paradox of integration and isolation

With the admittance of track and field on the Olympic calendar, women's athletics was integrated within the highest level of organisational sport. As long as the female athletes had been separated, with their own games and international meetings, participation had been limited, and so were media coverage and public attention. Integration into the official Olympic program meant a quantitative improvement on those levels. But what about quality? Were they really integrated, or merely tolerated? A closer analysis shows that this integration was of a very paradox nature, one that I would want to describe as 'the paradox of integration and isolation'. Along with the integration of women's athletics went further isolation and marginalization of women as sportswomen - a process that should be of concern to the gay/lesbian sport movement of today as well. I will look at this paradox on three levels: a symbolic level, an individual one and an structural level.

On a symbolic level, the image of sport was transmitted by the sport press. The culture of sport journalists and -photographers in the 1920s was one of male sociability, where overt manliness and ride humour were highly valued. The ridiculisation, stereotyping and sexualisation of women's sport added to one's status. The Olympic Games provided welcome material. Dutch press watched the Games closely, and published previews as well as accounts of the day. The articles hardly focussed on the sportive accomplishments, however, but on gender and sexuality. This was hardly a new fact. Ever since women appeared on the sporting stage, debates were dominated by sexual connotations. Up until then, sporting females had been admired for their beauty, had been the suspect of sexual promiscuity because of their physical activeness, or had been accused of jeopardizing the happiness of future motherhood because of harmful effects of sports on women's reproductive organs. The athletic programme of 1928, however, marked a shift in this sexual debate.

This time, the femininity of the athletes, their gender-identity was doubted and the discourse included fear of sexual deviance among the 'muscular Amazons'. There was anxiety about masculinization among sporting females. Critics believed that the woman athlete overstepped the line between boyish femininity and masculine power (Cahn 1994, 323). Athletics could only be done properly by men; women running or shot putting could not be real women. They wanted to be like men, mannish or boyish, just like the 'New Woman'. They were not 'nice girls' but were labelled as 'Amazons' and ridiculed for their short cut hair and their frail figures. It was predicted that within a few years, these women would have lost their breasts and hips. 'Is this how you want your mother, your sister, your bride to be?' one journalist wrote. Never before had the sexual debate in sport in the Netherlands been so explicit. And in order to re-establish gender frontiers, the press organised a competition for the 'most beautiful female athlete of the Games'.

On an individual level, the question arises how the athletes did handle these stereotypes of 'femininity or masculinity'. I distinguish three types of reactions. First, most female athletes remained low profile and were hardly invisible outside the track and field. They only went out as a national team and hardly spoke about their athletic performances of their identity as a sportswoman. It seemed as if they were in Amsterdam by accident, and while being there, they did some athletics on the side. The German Lina Radtke, winner of the much criticized 800m., said she enjoyed cooking for her husband, and the outstanding Japanese athlete Kinuye Hitomi, winner of two medals, both on the 100m and the 800m, just smiled and remained silent although she spoke her languages.

A second group of athletes accommodated themselves to dominant ideals of femininity. They displayed themselves as attractive females by wearing make-up, colourful dresses and shawls and by appearing along side male companions. The Canadian winner of the high jump, Ethel Catherwood, most beautiful female athlete of the Games, performed like a beauty queen and let herself be photographed extensively with every willing man. It got her a career as a model afterwards.

A third reaction that can be distinguished was that of some individual athletes who appropriated male language and humour. By enlarging the gender stereotyping, they ridiculed the ridiculizers. Talented Canadian runner Fanny Rosenfeld, known as Bobby, was a master in it. She told the journalists she hardly trained because of her frail figure, although in reality she was a dedicated athlete who often trained twice a day. And in addition, she swore she needed at least two pints of beer a day - how else could she endure such long distances?

On a structural level, it is important to answer the question what the effects were of the 1928 Olympic performances on female athletic participation in the following years. In other words, did the sexual debate have any influence? On an organisational level, the integration of women's track and field was a fact. However, for further events the

International Olympic Committee skipped the 800 m., because such a distance was seen as unfit for women. The 800m and other longer distances didn't reappear on the Olympic Agenda until the 1960s. It can be concluded that marginalisation as sportswomen remained in tact for a number of years to follow.

Nevertheless, the participation of women in athletics was stimulated by the 1928 performances. In the 30s, in the Netherlands dozens of athletic clubs for women were established; already existing clubs welcomed female members. Competitions expanded. So in the long run, the 1928 Games were a take-off for female participation and integration in athletics. Their memory surely stimulated a young girl from Amsterdam to join a track and field club. In 1948 this girl won four golden medals at the Olympic Games in London. Again the journalists were excited and the streets were crowded. But no one criticized her for running or questioned her femininity. Quite the opposite, Fanny Blankers-Koen was safe: she was married to her trainer and the mother of two children. She was nicknamed 'the flying housewife' and embodied national hope for post-war recovery.

## Conclusions

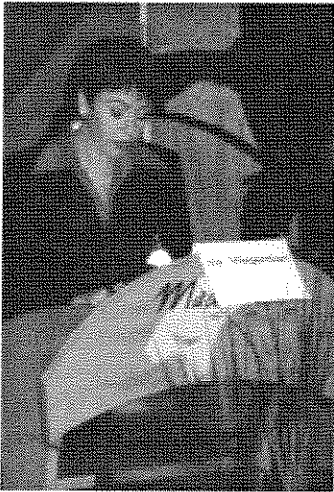
In the beginning of my article, I quoted George Mosse's statement that those who want to change society, as well as those who want to escape their marginalization, have to take the stereotype of modern masculinity into account'. This stereotype, and its counterpart femininity, is partly constructed within sport. Sport is a cultural arena where battles for definitions of gender, sexuality and body control are fought. To make this more explicit and visible, it is important to organise separate events for specific social groups, if only because they trigger discussion in this area and stimulate participation as well. But it is of likewise importance to build bridges and strive for integration. And in addition, more research needs to be done into the complex and often ambiguous historical processes in which dominant definitions are being constructed, confirmed and challenged.

In these processes, no two sports are alike. Different sports construct different femininities and masculinities, and present different histories of exclusion and inclusion. Differences in origin, the impact of class, and various patterns of diffusion and popularization of sports are important variables on this scale of forms. I want to argue that sports should not be homogenized. More sport specific historical research needs to be done, in order to trace the complex and varied ways in which sports influenced gender, and vice versa, and how changes can be established (Derks/-Stokvis 1997; Hargreaves 1996).

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## Why must there be special attention for gay sport?

*Speech by Mrs. Margo Vliegenhart,  
State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sports in The Netherlands*

It is my very great pleasure to welcome you to The Hague today, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation.

I would like to begin by expressing my respect for the compilers of the *First European Document on Fair Play and (In)tolerance towards Gay Sportsmen and Lesbian Sportswomen*, a copy of which has just been presented to me. This document presents an overview of the existing obstacles to the practice of sport by gay men and women throughout Europe. **It provides a clear answer to the question of whether there must be special attention for so-called homosport.**

You are certainly not alone in reaching the conclusions of the document.

I am thinking for example of the findings of the 'Queer Games' conference organized by the University of Amsterdam prior to last year's Gay Games. Researchers from Western and Eastern Europe, and indeed from the rest of the world, presented their analyses and reports concerning homosexuality and sport.

The general conclusion of the 'Queer Games' conference was that the gay movement is gradually beginning to establish a foothold in all parts of the world. However, in most countries, we still see a distinct *subculture*: a frequently *bidden* world within society as a whole. Such a subculture can clearly be discerned within sport.

Another conclusion, sadly, is that it is still too easy to find examples of discrimination, violence and abuse of human against gay men and women.

Special attention for homosexuality in sport can be justified on a number of grounds.

*Firstly*, there is the physical character of sport. Many sports involve actual physical contact. If there is any question of 'homophobia' or even an 'Aids-phobia', then it is more than likely that this will be that much greater within the sports world.

*Secondly*, sport is very much a gender-related activity. There are exceptions, but most sport is all-male or all-female. In sport you are either a man, or you are a woman: there is nothing in between. It is a division which tends to reinforce the 'macho culture' in all-male sport. The result is that gay men are underrepresented in the mainstream sports world.

*Thirdly*, we must consider the social context, which is a major influence on people's involvement in sport. Sport is a form of leisure activity and in their free time people tend to seek their own networks. After all, sport is something you do in an environment in which you feel at home. Here in the Netherlands, and in other countries as well, a large number of the sports facilities exist within the context of sports clubs. These clubs are close-knit, often rather traditional network organizations within which it can be difficult for newcomers or outsiders to feel at home.

**As result, gay sportsmen and women tend to avoid the subject of their sexuality, or they simply avoid the clubs.**

Some groups seek their own opportunities to meet, they form their own clubs outside the context of the mainstream sports associations. In fact, in the Netherlands this is something we see not only among gay sportsmen and women, but also among certain immigrant groups. This is not in itself a problem. History has shown us that emancipation often precedes participation and integration.

**However, the participation and integration into society of all minority groups is a constant aspiration of at least the Dutch government.**



In any event, we wish to remove the obstacles to participation and integration that may exist. And it certainly appears that such obstacles still exist for gay sportsmen and women in the Netherlands.

A study conducted in 1997 concluded that the members of gay sports clubs were not at all familiar with the opportunities which existed in the regular sports federations. They offer, for example, the chance to take part in competitions, training and support.

Similarly, the sports federations are not generally aware of the existence of gay sports clubs nor of the reasons for their existence. Gay emancipation is not an area of attention for the established sports organizations.

Current policy is therefore directed towards bringing together gay sports and mainstream organised sports: 'building bridges'. In 1998, we in the Netherlands began a scheme aimed at mutual introduction and possible integration. Our hosts today, Gay Integration through Sports and Activities Holland, together with the Dutch Cultural Sports Federation and supported by the National Olympic Committee, are playing a very significant role in this process.

If the situation in the Netherlands leaves something to be desired, how is it elsewhere - in Southern and Eastern Europe for example? This brings me to the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation. The main body of this federation's visible membership is to be found in Western Europe. However, the large number of visits to the federation's website from other parts of Europe shows that the potential membership is many times greater. An important objective for coming years is the outreach to other parts of Europe.

In order to achieve this objective, the professional development of the EGLSF will be necessary.

**The Dutch government has therefore decided to make available a subsidy of around seventy-five thousand guilders (thirty-four thousand euros), from both the emancipation policy budget and the sports policy budget.**

This decision was not taken overnight. There is no ready automatism whereby the *Dutch* government can support an organization with a *pan-European* scope.

The subsidy is intended to aid a number of activities, which have already been discussed with the committee of the EGLSF. These are:

1. *The development of a long-term plan.* This will cover research, monitoring of anti-discrimination measures, the gay emancipation policy of European sports organizations, outreach and organization of support throughout Europe and the organization of activities on a European scale, such as the Euro Games.
2. *The integration of the EGLSF within the European sports infrastructure, the European gay infrastructure, or both.* Here, we can think of possible links with the European Regional Structure of the International Gay and Lesbian Association and membership of ENGSO, the European Non-Governmental Sports Organizations.
3. *The achieving of consultative status at the Council of Europe and the generation of European funds* for the implementation of the long-term plan. Within the context of the gay emancipation policy, Sport for All, and Sport, Tolerance and Fair play, there is surely a significant role for the EGLSF!

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to conclude my speech, and with it the official part of your conference, with the observation that sport can be an important means towards achieving gay emancipation in society as a whole. That much was proved by last summer's Gay Games in Amsterdam.

My conclusion is therefore that the investments in the EGLSF will be repaid many times over, for an investments in sport is an investments in society. I am counting on your fullest support in the continuation and upgrading of gay emancipation policy in sport over the years ahead.

I thank you very much for your attention.

# Addenda

## Photo impression

*Photos of the reception at the Residence of the Swiss Ambassador, the Conference center, the Conference itself and the visit to the Homomonument*

## Results opinion poll

*Between all speeches an electronic opinion poll was held under the audience. These are the results to the questions*

## Draft declaration on Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play

*to be submitted to the Round Table on Sport, Tolerance and Fair play (Amsterdam, 11 April 1996) by the Committee for Development of Sport (CDDS) of the Council of Europe - 27 February 1996 [cdds96.10r]*

## Press release on the occasion of the Round Table on Sport Tolerance, and Fair Play

*issued by the Directorate of Information of the Council of Europe – 8 March 1996*

## Press release about the declaration: regrettable: no recognition of gays and lesbians sport

*issued by The European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation - 11 April 1996*

## Motion for a resolution to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

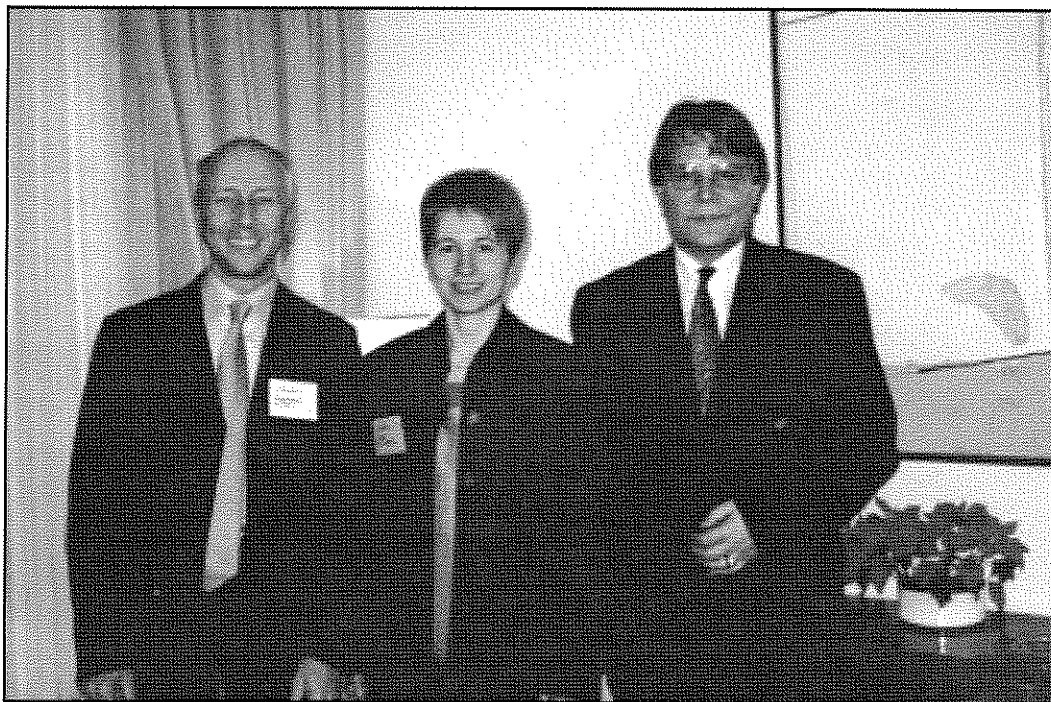
*presented by Mrs. Karlsson, MEP and others parliament members - 10 February 1999*

## Addresses of relevant European institutions

## Short introductions on EGLSF and GISAH

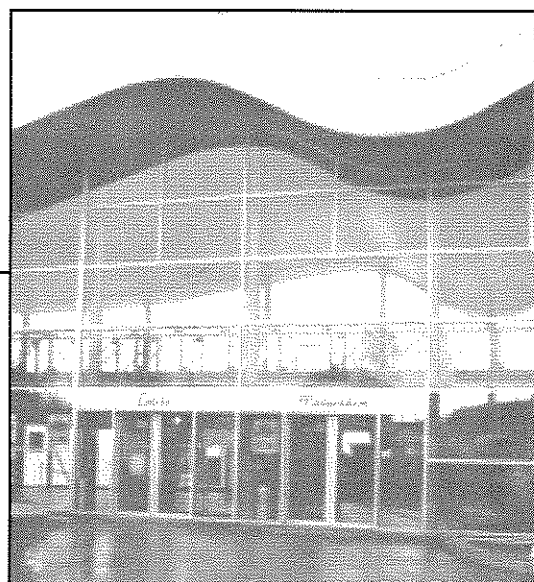


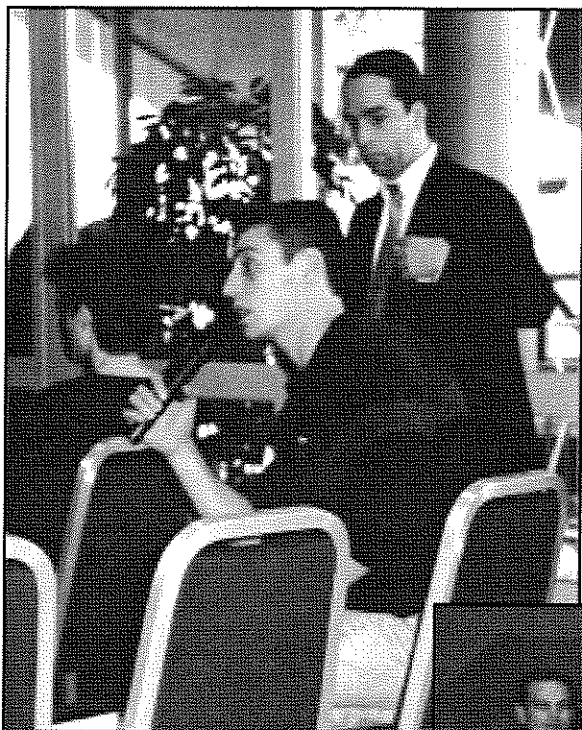
## Photo impression



Mr. Baks and Ms. Schälcke, co-presidents of the EGLSF and Mr Reimann (right), the Swiss Ambassador











Above and left:  
Ceremony at the International Homomonument



At right:  
Lunch



# Opinion poll

These are the results of the opinion poll, taken at the Round Table Conference:

## Gender:

- 34% Man
- 66% Woman

## I am/represent:

- 16% National or European Sport Organisation
- 47% Gay and/or Lesbian Sport Club
- 7% National or European Gov. Organisation/Institute
- 30% Neither

## I consider myself:

- 73% Homosexual or bisexual
- 27% Heterosexual

## How many gays & lesbians are there in Europe?

- 7% 0.5% of the total population
- 56% 5% of the total population (the right answer)
- 37% 10% of the total population

## The recent GayGames took place in Amsterdam.

### How often do the GayGames take place?

- 82% Once in 4 years (the right answer)
- 15% Once in 2 years
- 3% Once a year

## In what city the first EuroGames took place?

- 74% The Hague, The Netherlands (the right answer)
- 17% Paris, France
- 9% Zurich, Switzerland

## Which of the following statements do you accept the most?

- 4% Gays and lesbians do not participate in sport at all
- 7% Gays and lesbians separate and make their own sport club
- 82% Gays and lesbians have their own sport club but also participate into regular sport
- 7% Gays and lesbians hide themselves in their regular club

## What can the European parliament do?

- 7% Practically nothing
- 41% Something but not much
- 52% Very much

## The best way to stimulate emancipation in sport is:

- 26% a gay top football player as a role model
- 2% National code of conduct in sport
- 58% Working together between G&L and regular organisations
- 5% Tell the people about good practices
- 9% Give the EGLSF consultative status

## The best organisation for emancipation is:

- 2% National Government
- 15% National Olympic Committee/Nat. Sport Fed.
- 15% Individual sports men/sports women
- 15% Gym-teacher at school
- 15% Sport press
- 10% Board of local sport club
- 28% (Inter)National advocate for G&L in sport

## The major pitfall in the emancipation process is:

- 8% To over-emphasise the need for integration
- 28% 'Because no G&L participate in my club' there is no need for change
- 5% Stigmatization
- 44% Ignorance
- 15% Segregation

## How long do you think separate gay/lesbian sport clubs will be necessary?

- 5% Within a few years they will cease to exist
- 26% Always
- 69% They will remain, even in case of complete integration

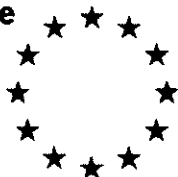
## Gay & lesbian sport clubs contribute to the integration process in society

- 86% Yes, I agree
- 3% No, I disagree
- 11% I do not know





**Council of Europe**  
**Conseil de l'Europe**



Strasbourg, 27 February 1996  
[cdds96.10r]

CDDS (96) 10 rev  
Tolerance

COMMITTEE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT (CDDS)

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION  
ON SPECTATOR VIOLENCE AND MISBEHAVIOUR AT SPORTS EVENTS  
AND IN PARTICULAR AT FOOTBALL MATCHES

**Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play**

**19th Meeting of the CDDS, Strasbourg**  
**6-7 March 1996**

**Draft Declaration**  
**on Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play**

*to be submitted to the Round Table on*  
*Sport, Tolerance & Fair Play*  
*Amsterdam, 11 April 1996*

*Revised following the meeting of the Drafting Group on 16 February 1996*

### **Draft declaration on Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play**

*We, participants at the Round Table on Sport, Tolerance, and Fair Play, meeting in Amsterdam on 11th April 1996,*

Having in mind

- the Vienna Declaration and the Plan of Action against racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in Vienna in October 1993;
- the Resolution on Tolerance and Sport adopted by the European Ministers responsible for Sport at their 8th Conference in Lisbon in May 1995;
- the European Sports Charter adopted by the European Ministers responsible for Sport at their 7th Conference in Rhodes in May 1992 and subsequently adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe as Recommendation N° R (92) 13,

declare as follows:

I. We are confident that sport offers a vast potential to society as a ground for intercultural encounters and understanding, as a workshop for socialisation and integration - not least for disadvantaged groups - and as a school for democracy. We fully agree in this respect with the Declaration on the Significance of Sport for Society adopted at the Lisbon Conference of Sport Ministers. Sport is a vital area of education, particularly for young people.

II. We also believe in sport's ability, notably through the intense media coverage which brings it to a broad and enthusiastic public, to project an image of fair play, team spirit and solidarity and to promote mutual understanding and respect. Major sporting events, at world and European level, with very large television audiences, provide a rich opportunity to bring home the message of tolerance. In addition, hundreds of thousands of smaller but no less important competitions for all ages, all levels and all sports are organised each year throughout Europe and the world. Each represents an opportunity for implementing new initiatives with regard to tolerance and fair play.

III. We emphasise the important responsibility borne by well-known teams and sports stars as role-models - especially for the young - and consider that it is very important that every individual and organisation involved in sport, whether governmental or non-governmental, amateur or professional, should combat intolerance and violence at sporting events by all appropriate means.

IV. We welcome the very valuable work that has been done by individuals, by the sports movement, by governments and by European institutions concerning the universality of sport and the need to keep it free of discrimination in all its forms, and express our support for all those national and international sports organisations which have drawn up and implemented

V. We regret the fact that some forms of sport have too often provided a pretext for outbreaks of intolerance and violence, sometimes racist or xenophobic in character, as well as for showing those tendencies, such as the incidence of foul play, lack of discipline, doping and corruption which are in contradiction with the fundamental values of sport and undermine its effectiveness as a positive influence in society.

VI. We believe that the following are the most important ways of creating a climate of tolerance:

#### EDUCATION

Just as intolerance is born of ignorance and misunderstanding, tolerance is engendered by knowledge and understanding. It follows that everything begins amongst the young: at home, in classrooms, on playing fields and in sports clubs.

#### AWARENESS

No opportunity should be missed to ensure that all sporting events, and any media coverage associated with them, raise awareness of the message of tolerance.

#### PARTICIPATION

One of the most basic guarantees of fair play and tolerance is to ensure that as many people as possible practise sport regularly within a sound ethical framework.

#### INCENTIVES

Rewards for outstanding examples of fair and tolerant behaviour are one way of helping people to understand the importance of positive attitudes to the success of their sport as well as of harmony and justice in society.

#### SANCTIONS

In the last resort, dispositions must exist in law and in the rules of sport to sanction unacceptable discrimination and incitement to racial hatred by appropriate means.

#### COMMUNICATION

Most of these elements depend for their effectiveness on communication of clear and unambiguous information amongst all individuals and organisations concerned.

In this context, we recommend to all potential partners the guidelines set out in the Appendix to this Declaration.

With this in mind, we

1. encourage all countries to find ways, at national level:
  - to ensure that sport plays its full role in campaigns to promote tolerance in society as a whole;
  - to devise national plans of action on sport, tolerance and fair play using the guidelines in the Appendix to this Declaration;
  - to consider organising joint sports projects with neighbouring countries and/or countries of origin of minority groups to promote tolerance and help dispel prejudice between different groups;
2. invite all governmental and non-governmental organisations to share their experience through exchanges of information concerning their efforts to promote tolerance and fair play;
3. invite all sports organisations which have not yet done so to adopt action plans on tolerance and fair play;
4. invite the media to give their support to the promotion of tolerance and fair play and to consider ways of giving more prominence to the subject, as well as to events and campaigns organised to promote it;
5. invite the organisers of forthcoming major international sports events to work out initiatives for promoting tolerance and fair play through these events;
6. invite sponsors of sporting events and sport organisations to include clauses in sponsorship agreements whereby the sponsored organisations or persons undertake to support the aims of tolerance and fair play to the best of their ability;
7. appeal to sports stars to use their influence to help promote tolerance and fair play;
8. invite the Council of Europe to give appropriate follow-up to this Declaration;
9. invite all national and international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, which have influence in the domains of activity covered by this Declaration, including:
  - The European Union (Parliament, Commission and Committee of the Regions)
  - Unesco
  - The International Olympic Committee
  - National and international sports organisations

to bear the aims of this Declaration in mind in the conduct of their activities and, if they have not already done so, to take appropriate action.

## APPENDIX

### **Guidelines for action programmes on Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play**

The following guidelines are divided into two parts, each having its own aims and needs:

1. *Encouraging national programmes to promote Tolerance and Fair Play and eliminate discrimination and racism*
2. *Encouraging international programmes aimed at strengthening the positive values of each sport, and promoting the principles of tolerance and fair play at major international events*

#### **Aims**

With the support and close co-operation of all concerned:

- to promote tolerance and fair play in and through sport using concrete measures and activities;
- to create and consolidate, in and around sport, a morality which maintains and strengthens the positive values of sport for individuals and society.

1. *National programmes to promote Tolerance and Fair Play and eliminate discrimination and racism*

Governments, regional and local authorities, national, regional and local sports organisations should support, in their respective fields of competence, action to promote tolerance and fair play, each country stressing the aspects relevant to its national situation.

National campaigns against discrimination and in favour of tolerance could make use of sport in their efforts to raise awareness and modify behaviour.

All programmes aimed at promoting tolerance and fairness in sport or society should embody, as a basic prerequisite, equitable treatment for and participation by women at all levels in the organisation and practice of sport.

#### *1.1 Children and young people*

Priority could be given to encouraging training for sports administrators and trainers and others involved in the fight against discrimination and intolerance. For this purpose, training and information material should be prepared for parents, coaches and teachers on tolerance and fair play in sport as proposed in the Council of Europe's Code of Sports Ethics.

- 1.1.1 Schools could be encouraged to educate pupils in sports ethics from an early age, and teachers, including physical education teachers, could be helped to draw up appropriate course material.
- 1.1.2 Sports clubs, especially those who work with schools, could be encouraged to consider education in tolerance and fair play as part of their role.
- 1.1.3 Activities could be devised to raise parents' awareness of the importance of fairness and tolerance in their children's sporting lives.
- 1.1.4 Rules could be re-examined to see whether they sufficiently reflect the principles of Fair Play and Tolerance, make games and sport more attractive, particularly for young people, and encourage the practice of sport on a social level.

## 1.2 *Sport for All and amateur sport in general*

More effort is needed to remove obstacles to participation in sport on all levels for all groups in society, most particularly for women, and for those groups which are not equally represented in sport, or excluded by custom or practice. The aim should be to promote conditions in which everyone can, within reason, participate or be involved fully in the sport of their choice on an equal basis.

The practice of sport can be encouraged and developed by improving the availability and attractiveness of sports facilities, particularly in districts where intolerance poses a particular problem.

## 1.3 *Spectator sport and professional sport*

Sport can be a focus for tensions, but it can also be the means of creating a climate of tolerance for the benefit of society as a whole<sup>1</sup>.

- 1.3.1 National federations, clubs, organisers and the media could work together, with the support of public authorities, to draw up and implement action plans in favour of tolerance and fair play as part of countries' national sporting life. These plans could involve coaches, trainers, sports participants and players, teams and clubs, schools, young people, and parents.
- 1.3.2 Players and athletes have great potential influence on spectators, especially young people, and this influence could be used to support actions in the field of tolerance and fair play.

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<sup>1</sup> Projects in professional and spectator sport such as "Fairstandnis" (Germany), "Discrimination offside" (Netherlands), "Kick racism out of football" (United Kingdom) have already proved their worth, as have other, more general fair play promotion experiments such as "Schools without racism" (Belgium), the "Blue Card" (France) or the "Green Card" (Finland and others).

- 1.3.3 Stress should be laid on encouraging positive behaviour rather than merely repressing unacceptable conduct. Nevertheless, plans can only be credible if they are backed up by appropriate, effective sanctions.
  - 1.3.4 Sports organisations, sports clubs and their officials could consider adopting policies for treating all sportsmen/women equally in recruitment and selection for positions at all levels in their clubs.
  - 1.3.5 One board or committee member could be given responsibility for matters of Tolerance and Fair Play in his or her club. He or she would then be the person to whom people could turn to for all activities in this field.
  - 1.3.6 In order to prevent unacceptable behaviour in the long term, sports organisations could develop an approach geared to the needs of their "customers" - i.e members / supporters. In larger clubs or associations, an extensive network of stewards could be part of this approach.
- 1.4 Sports organisations are recommended to consider the following as part of their plans of action for tolerance:
- 1.4.1 examining the wording of their codes of conduct and ethics;
  - 1.4.2 preparing guidelines and plans for competitions and major events which stimulate fair and tolerant attitudes amongst spectators and supporters;
  - 1.4.3 ensuring that spectators are fully informed about the rules of games and sports as well as the regulations applicable in stadia and the law concerning discrimination and racist behaviour;
  - 1.4.4 providing appropriate sanctions for unacceptable behaviour;
  - 1.4.5 creating and publicising schemes to reward fair play and proper behaviour by sportspeople, clubs, teams and spectators;
  - 1.4.6 educating spectators and the media to respect the decisions of officials, and examining the potential of technological means to provide umpires, judges and referees with more objective data. The transparency of decisions is a major factor in maintaining a sporting atmosphere.



**2. *Encouraging international programmes aimed at strengthening the positive values of each sport, and promoting the principles of tolerance and fair play at major international events***

**2.1 *Introduction***

Many international sports organisations have acknowledged their great responsibility in the fight against intolerance and violence in sport and for the promotion of Tolerance and Fair Play. They can guide and support their member organisations in tackling the problems by drawing up comprehensive rules which include positive and negative sanctions.

**2.2 *Promotion of Tolerance and Fair Play***

2.2.1 International sports organisations could examine the rules of their game or sport and their competitions, including the role and powers of referees, umpires and officials to see what more can be done to promote the principles of tolerance and fair play, particularly with regard to disciplinary codes and the terms of reference of disciplinary commissions.

2.2.2 They could encourage their member associations to adapt their own rules to exclude any unacceptable discrimination.

2.2.3 Clubs and officials could be helped to be more aware of, and to know how to deal with discrimination and intolerance amongst spectators and/or players.

2.2.4 Rules could ensure that, where sanctions are imposed on clubs or individuals, they should be applied rapidly and effectively.

2.2.5 The media could consider ways in which the impact of the portrayal of outbreaks of unacceptable behaviour can be reduced, and more prominence given to examples of good practice.

2.3 Organisers of sports events could make use of the measures laid down in the European Convention on Spectator Violence and the recommendations of its Standing Committee.

**2.4 *Special characteristics of major international events***

Major events, such as the 1996 European Football Championships in England and the Olympic Games in Atlanta, USA and the 1998 Football World Cup in France and Winter Olympics in Japan can be used to reinforce the promotion of Tolerance and Fair Play and to fight intolerance and violence. The same applies to other international events extensively covered by the media, such as tennis, volley-ball, golf, ski-ing, cycling, motor-racing and football.

The relevant international sports organisations, participating countries and all participants, officials and spectators are encouraged to become actively involved in this action.

- 2.4.1 Every means of information (television and press advertising, hoardings, display screens, public address systems, leaflets, etc.) can be used to raise awareness of the values of tolerance and fair play and the existence, and the aims and the mechanics of tolerance and fair play programmes.
- 2.4.2 All participants could make a declaration on tolerance and fair play before or at the start of the event, either before leaving their countries or at the opening; media coverage could increase impact.
- 2.4.3 Schemes to reward good, fair and tolerant behaviour could be further developed.
- 2.4.4 The regulations governing participation in international sport events could provide for a Fair Play clause (anti-violence/anti-discrimination). Sanctions for intolerant or discriminatory behaviour by players, officials or supporters could be incorporated in contracts (where appropriate) or rules.
- 2.4.5 Following the example of UEFA, Fair Play competitions could be extended to cover spectators' behaviour and plans drawn up to avoid unacceptable behaviour in sports venues. Spectators and clubs, etc. should then be well informed about the consequences of any shortcomings in this respect.
- 2.4.6 Spectators could take part in selecting winners of Tolerance and Fair Play prizes for participants.





## Press release Communiqué de presse

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### **Tolerance in sport : the Council of Europe goes into action**

STRASBOURG, 08.03.96 - The 39 nation COUNCIL OF EUROPE and the Netherlands authorities will be organising an International Round Table on Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play in Amsterdam on 11 April 1996.

Originally proposed by the Netherlands Sports Minister, Erica TERPSTRA, the Round Table will be held on the eve of the "Euro '96" football championship. It will be attended by young people, sports stars, media representatives and officials from more than 40 European countries and will give the European public a panoramic survey of projects and initiatives aimed at promoting tolerance in sport. A television programme ("European Sports Night"), recorded on the night of 11 April and shown on various European channels the following day, will show how things can go wrong - and what the cures are.

This event is one of the first results of the Council of Europe's 8th Conference of Ministers of Sport (Lisbon, May 1995), which called for an end to violence in sport, both off and on the field. In a resolution on tolerance and sport, the Ministers stressed that "well-known teams and sports stars have a particular responsibility because they represent role models, especially for the young".

It is also part of the European Youth Campaign against Intolerance, launched by the Council of Europe's Heads of State and Government at the Vienna Summit (October 1993), which calls on groups, individuals and particularly young people to commit themselves to the fight against all forms of intolerance.

**A press conference introducing the Round Table will be held at 16 h 30 on Monday 11 March at the Netherlands Ministry of Health, Fitness and Sport, Churchilllaan 368, RIJSWIJK.**

Press contact in Strasbourg: **Francesc X. FERRER**, Council of Europe Press Service (Tel. +33/88.41.28.96; Fax +33/88.41.27.89)  
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Ref. 115(96)

### ***The Council of Europe and Sport***

The Council of Europe's sports policy is formulated by the Committee for the Development of Sport, which meets once a year. It comprises representatives of governments and private organisations, and co-ordinates activities. It is a part of the work of the European Cultural Convention, which has been signed by the 39 member states, as well as Belarus, Croatia, the Holy See, Monaco and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The European Sports Charter lays down the Council of Europe's sports policy in outline. Its purpose is to promote sport, both professional and amateur. It is based on the concept of sport for all, and emphasises the importance of safety, respect for the environment and adequate funding. It is supplemented by a Code of Sports Ethics, which highlights fair play as one of the basic values of sport.

The European Convention on Spectator Violence introduces measures to guarantee crowd safety at major fixtures.



# EGLSF European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation

European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF) about the declaration: regrettable: no recognition of gays & lesbians in sport

Although the draft declaration implicitly fights all forms of discrimination and is against unfair play, the inclusion of gay sportsmen and women is not explicitly accepted. Since one in twenty sportsmen or women is gay, a considerable part of the sport-community is still feeling unrecognized.

The European federation (EGLSF) with about 60 organisations in 10 CE (Council of Europe) countries is very disappointed with this result. With this draft declaration the CE missed a chance. Despite constructive attempts by some delegates in the making of this draft declaration to include fair play towards gay & lesbians in sport, explicit recognition of tolerance towards gays in the draft declaration has not been successful.

The EGLSF hopes, that the Dutch project on emancipation and integration of gays in sport will be followed by other NGO's and Governmental sportorganisations in the CE-countries. This bi-annual project is implemented by the Dutch Cultural Sportfederation (NCS) and the Foundation Gay Integration through Sports & Activities Holland (GISAH). This project is financially supported by the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS). EGLSF welcomes this kind of projects.

EGLSF also welcomes people to attend EGLSF's EURO-GAMES. It's an european sportevent where more than 3000 gayfriendly and gay sportsmen and women meet and compete in 18 sports. This event takes place in Berlin from May 16th to 19th.

The European Federation will stimulate its members to initiate processes in regard of the making of national actionplans on Fair Play and Tolerance which includes acceptance of gay sportsmen and women. We kindly invite other European Sport Associations to co-operate on this issue. Together we can achieve a step forward in TOLERANCE and FAIRPLAY in the deepest meanings of these words.

Ben Baks  
President &  
Member of the Dutch Steering  
committee on Fair Play, Tolerance and Sport

Urs Fankhauser  
General Secretary

11 april 1996, Amsterdam,

**Urs Fankhauser**  
**General Secretary**

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2515 11 Den Haag  
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Member of the  
Federation Of Gay Games

Chamber of Commerce  
Den Haag, no. V 415152





**Doc. 8319**

10 February 1999

## **Situation of lesbians and gays in the member states of the Council of Europe**

**Motion for a resolution  
presented by Mrs Karlsson and others**

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only the members who have signed it

1. In the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the rights of homosexuals were last discussed in the early eighties. The discussion centred mainly on the decriminalisation of homosexuality between consenting adults in private.
2. With the enlargement of the Council of Europe in the nineties, short discussions took place in relation to the accession criteria for new members and to the situation in Romania. These again centred on the criminal law. But the European Convention on Human Rights and its protocols encompass a much broader range of issues. There is surprisingly little information on the situation of lesbians and gays in many Council of Europe member states. Unfortunately, this is not because there is no discrimination, but rather because homosexuality is taboo in many member states and discriminatory attitudes are widely prevalent.
3. In order to help bring about a Europe in which lesbians and gays can live free from discrimination, the Assembly decides :
  - to compile a report on discrimination against lesbians and gays in Council of Europe member states and, based on this report,
  - to draw up a common framework of recommendations to serve as a basis for legislation and non-discriminatory practices in this field in member states.



*Signed : <sup>1</sup>*

Karlsson, Austria, SOC  
Behrendt, Germany, SOC  
Etherington, United Kingdom, SOC  
Freitag, Germany, SOC  
Gelderblom-Lankhout, Netherlands, LDR  
Jäger, Germany, SOC  
Judd, United Kingdom, SOC  
Langthaler, Austria, NR  
Lörcher, Germany, SOC  
Roth, Germany, SOC  
Schloten, Germany, SOC  
Schütz, Germany, SOC  
Wodarg, Germany, SOC

SOC: Socialist Group  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
EDG: European Democratic Group  
LDR : Liberal, Democratic and Reformers' Group  
UEL : Group of the Unified European Left  
NR : Not registered in a group

## Addresses of relevant European institutions

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### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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## Short introductions on EGLSF and GISAH

### EGLSF

EGLSF stands for European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation. Countless sports groups from different European countries have joined the Federation. The EGLSF strives towards an improvement in the sport climate within European countries. Bringing sportsmen and sportswomen together, emancipation and integration are important objectives. For this reason the EGLSF gives out information about gay/lesbian sport & clubs and sporting events in their quarterly magazine 'Network' along with the European Tournament Calendar. The EGLSF has access to an extensive sports club directory. Together with GISAH, the EGLSF manage an internet site <http://www.gaysport.org>. Under the auspices of the EGLSF, the annual, EuroGames are held in a European city. EuroGames is a multi sport event where thousands of sportsmen and sportswomen, gay/lesbian people, and gay/lesbian friendly people, meet. In principle, anybody can take part in this fair play event. As well as this, the EGLSF collects complaints about discrimination towards gay/lesbian sportsmen and women within Europe, these are put together in a European 'black book'. The EGLSF was founded in 1989 in The Hague, The Netherlands.

### GISAH

The foundation Gay Integration through Sports & Activities Holland (GISAH) is the Dutch advocate for gay sportsmen and women in the Netherlands. About 40 gay/lesbian sport clubs are linked to this platform. The mission of this platform is to strive for a sport climate in Holland, where there is place for everyone. This is done, amongst others, by improving the participation of gays & lesbians in sport. To reach its objectives, GISAH is co-operating with other Dutch sport organizations and initiates national and local projects. Projects that vary from publicity and research to educational projects. Beside these projects, GISAH also provides the Dutch network of gay sport clubs with information by its [gaysport.org](http://www.gaysport.org) website. The projects of GISAH are supported by national and local authorities. A black book on discrimination was published in 1992. Since 1988, GISAH is based in The Hague.

**... and don't forget to also visit Gaysport.Org –  
our joint information service on the world-wide-web**

*Extensive information on gay and lesbian sports all over the world, International Tournament Calendar, SportMates service, EuroGames information, Gay Games Amsterdam and Sydney, Research & Politics on Sports ..... and much more!*

**[www.gaysport.org](http://www.gaysport.org)**

The Council of Europe's declaration on Fair Play & Tolerance in Sport and the European Union's Amsterdam Treaty on Sport and against discrimination marks a growing awareness of the importance of sport in society. It also makes National and European sport and (non-)governmental organisations aware of its potential to build bridges between regular and gay/lesbian sport. In many European countries gay & lesbian sport is booming. In other countries gays & lesbians are (still) left off side. These trends make bringing sportswomen and sportsmen together, from different cultural backgrounds, a real challenge.

But building bridges between the regular sport and gay and lesbian athletes is a very complex process. Since the state of the play in Europe varies strongly, it also brings problems that need to be faced and 'bridges that need to be build' to overcome these problems. A Europe of Sport without any discrimination and intolerance is a common goal that has been set several times by sport organisations and various administrations in Europe and in its regions. Sport as an instrument for fair play, tolerance and integration is a real challenge for the future. A challenge to both sides, the 'regular sport' and governmental organisations and institutions in Europe, but also for the 'gay sport'.

This Report is to contribute to a better understanding between all parties, who strive for a better sport climate in Europe and an integration process for gay sportsmen and lesbian sportswomen and a better understanding of athletes with a different background than most other athletes.

August 1999

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Netherlands Cultural Sportfederation (NCS)  
City of Den Haag

