



11th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sport 11 Dec 2008

Theme 1: Introduction on Ethics in Sport, Sports movement perspective

Mrs Birgitta Kervinen, ENGSO President

Madam Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe,

Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Sports Friends,

On behalf of ENGSO I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Council of Europe and to our Greek hosts for organising this high-level conference in this truly historical City of Athens, in the country where ethics were born.

I have the honour to represent the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation ENGSO. – ENGSO consists of 40 National sports confederations and Olympic Committees in Europe. European sports policy is one of ENGSO's main priorities. And since it involves policy it also involves ethics. ENGSO is a partner with EPAS, a Bureau and a Governing Board Member and a member of the Consultative Committee.

The Council of Europe documents and implements - **the European Sports Charter** and **the Code of Sports Ethics**, this Charter was revised in 2001 – and is broadly used in promoting ethics in European and national sports organisations.

I have been asked to briefly outline ENGSO's perspectives on ethics in sport in Europe — I would like to emphasize **ENGSO's priority** which is — **equal opportunities for participating in sport** which is in itself an ethical aim. The aim of ENGSO is that every European citizen will have the opportunity to be physically active and to have open access to participate in the various activities of sport clubs. These activities are largely based on the voluntary non-profit work of its members. Which means that every decision made at every level from the local voluntary sports club to the most elite sporting enterprise must have an ethical basis.

Increased effort in human and financial resources are needed to promote all equality in sport.

Increasing the active participation of girls and women in sports and the representation of women at

national and international decision-making levels is also needed. This is an ongoing ethical challenge that still needs to be fulfilled.

In order to further promote good governance and ethical management in the sports organisations, **more openness and democracy are needed in the decision-making of sport bodies**. This point was discussed in Budapest in 2004. ENGSO appreciates the IOC rules of good governance in sports organisations and underlines that ongoing implementation in this process is needed.

One such danger that threatens the integrity of sporting competitions is illegal betting and match fixing. ENGSO believes that gaming operators which are owned and controlled by the government are the more reliable partners for sport when it comes protecting the integrity of sporting competitions.

The carbon foot print of **use, travel and new buildings of sports venues** also have an ethical dimension. In brief sustainable development — everyone can contribute.

Let me briefly turn to the new challenges of ethics,

There will always be new challenges to sports ethics – as brought up by the Council of Europe and the previous speakers. **It should be one of our main priorities to be well prepared to react quickly to new ethical challenges**. Therefore, we should always be on our guard.

In order to develop further ethical policies of European sports - constant co-operation at governmental level, sports movement and the Council of Europe is needed. ENGSO would like to **underline the importance of the need to draw up further recommendations of the Council of Europe on the new challenges to sport ethics**. Ethics have to be a stronger guiding principle in the decision-making and conduct for sport organisations of any level.

And finally, at present there is much focus on EU matters. From ENGSO's point of view we see ourselves as a bridge builder between the Council of Europe and ENGSO members all over Europe. We will strive to continue this co-operation to the highest ethical standards.

Dear Colleagues; Thank you for your attention.

