

THE INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF SPORTS LAW

AND

THE EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF LAW AND ECONOMY

Present

CONFERENCE

on

THE FUTURE OF SPORT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Beyond the EU Reform Treaty and the White Paper on Sport

Brussels, Thursday, 6 December 2007, 15.00 h.

K.U. Brussel

Vrijheidslaan 17 - 1081 Brussel

International Encyclopaedia of Sports Laws - www.ielaws.com

European Academy for Law and Economy - www.eu-academy.org

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THE FUTURE OF SPORT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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PRESENTATION

For the first time in the history of the European Union, sport is on the verge of becoming part of a European Treaty.

Article 124 of the new Reform Treaty, as approved by the IGC on 18 and 19 October 2007, stipulates that *“The Union shall contribute to the promotion of European sporting issues while taking account of its specific nature, its structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function”*. If the Treaty is ratified, it will finally provide a legal basis for a Community action in the field of sport.

The adoption of the White Paper on Sport on 11 July 2007 already represented an important step towards a comprehensive European sport policy.

In this scenario co-operation between the Union, European as well as national sports organisations, and national governments is necessary. Therefore UEFA and FIFPRO have recently signed a historical Memorandum of Understanding where they claim, once again, their autonomy and the specificity of Sport. This Memorandum seems to pave the way to a collective agreement in the field of football at EU level

Academics and representatives of the Sports world will examine the legal issues related to the latest developments at EU level, and their impact on the Sports Organisations, in order to better understand the future of Sport and to answer to the questions which will inevitably arise from this new situation, such as:

What do “Specificity” and “Autonomy of Sport” really mean? What can these names justify? What will be the impact of the new Treaty provision on the “acquis communautaire”? Is an EU level collective Agreement in the Sports sector feasible? And how do we reach it?

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15.00 h. Welcome

Frank Fleerackers

Dean of the Faculty of Law, KU Brussel, European Academy of Law and Economy

Introductory Remarks and Legal Analysis

Roger Blanpain

European Academy for Law and Economy, KU Brussel, KU Leuven, Hasselt, Tilburg University

The White Paper on Sport

Pedro Velazquez

Deputy head of Sport Unit, DG EAC, European Commission

Specificity and Autonomy of Sport in the EU case law and Legislation

Michele Colucci

European Academy for Law and Economy, College of Europe (Parma –Italy); University of Salerno

The way ahead

Frank Hendrickx

European Academy for Law and Economy, KU Brussel, KU Leuven, Tilburg University

16.00 h. Coffee Break

The Point of View of Sports Federations

Gianni Infantino

UEFA Deputy General Secretary

Jean Marie Philips

General Director of Belgian Football (Federation Koninklijke Belgische - Voetbalbond (KBVB))

Ludwig Sneyers

General Director of Belgian Football League (LBV)

Theo Van Seggelen

Secretary General of FIFPro (Fédération Internationale des Associations de Footballeurs Professionnels)

17.00 h. Conclusion

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