

The German Sport University Cologne and the European Academy of Sports Velen e.V. in cooperation with ENSSEE organized this European conference at the Sportschloss Velen (Germany) on 23./ 24. of June 2008.

Sport in a European context still has major challenges to cope with. In this respect, the Irish “No” to the Lisbon Treaty is not really beneficial as sport was designated a special status which also would have involved more funds for research in this area. Even so - sport experts are prepared to meet the challenges: at least this was the impression left by the conference “The role of Sport in Europe – Future challenges and strategies” organized by the Institute of European Sport Development and Leisure Studies of the German Sport University Cologne and the European Academy of Sport Velen e.V. in cooperation with the European Network of Sport Science, Education & Employment (ENSSEE).

Within the framework of the conference held on 23./24. June 2008 at the Sportschloss Velen, top-level experts from politics, sport and the scientific community provided insights into potential future spheres of action in the field of sport in the course of the European Unification Process. In this context the Head of the European Commission’s Sport Unit, Michal Krejza appraised the so called structured dialogue between Commission and different stakeholders in the field of sport as a strong and effective foundation for an optimized exchange of information. Professor Ken Hardman’s call for in-depth research as to the socially integrating functions of sport as well as for more sport classes in European schools met with broad approval.

Professor mult. Dr. Walter Tokarski, President of the German Sport University and Franz-Josef Probst, the Vice-President of the European Academy of Sport also welcomed Mr. Karl-Heinz Schneider of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Head of the EU-Department, Mr. Folker Hellmund, Head of the EU Office of German Sport, Professor Dr. Ian Henry from the University of Loughborough, Professor Dr. Maarten von Bottenburg, University of Utrecht, the lawyers Mr. Mark-E. Orth and Mr. Tim Eller from ArneckeSiebold as well as the representatives from European soccer bodies Jonathan Hill from the UEFA, Dept. of European Affairs, and Emanuel Macedo de Medeiros, CEO of the European Professional Football League EPFL.

The Institute of European Sport Development and Leisure Studies of the German Sport University Cologne will summarize the suggestions compiled in the different workshops in a final conference document and forward it to the European Commission by end of the year. For further information and progress on the project work please visit the web site www.sport-in-europe.com.

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