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Council of Europe Youth Peace Camp: 150 football fans learn about racial tolerance and fair play

Strasbourg, 30.05.2006 – Just days before the start of the World Cup on 9 June, 150 football fans from all over Europe will participate in a four-day convention co-organised by the Council of Europe and Europa-Park, one of the continent's leading fun parks. Supporters of 14 European teams participating in the World Cup will take part in the Youth Peace Camp from 4 to 7 June at Europa-Park, near Freiburg in southern Germany. The participants will focus on fair play, racial tolerance and the prevention of spectator violence at football matches. The event is part of the Council of Europe's "All Different-All Equal campaign against racism, discrimination, anti-Semitism and Islamaphobia".

The aim is to raise awareness of these issues among the 18 to 25 year-old supporters, and to actively involve them in networking, developing supporter charters in Europe, and promoting fair play and intercultural dialogue. In addition, the participants will join non-competitive sport activities in intercultural groups. A fan market will be organised to enable the participants to present their achievements in their own countries and share good practices.

The Council of Europe Youth and Sport Directorate prepared the workshops together with organisations involved in fan activities such as FARE (Fooball against Racism). Europa-Park will host the Fan Convention, opening its park free of charge to the participants, as well as providing meals and accommodation.

The results of the Youth Peace Camp will be presented at a press conference in Europa-Park, Rust at 10.00 on Wednesday 7 June, in the La Scala (Milano) room. Representatives from both the Council of Europe and Europa Park will be present, and English-German interpretation will be provided.

For the Council of Europe:

Ralf-René Weingärtner, Director of Youth and Sports of the Council of Europe

Michael Raphael, intercultural trainer, project-coordinator

For Europa-Park:

Roland Mack, Managing Director of Europa-Park and Goodwill Ambassador for

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