

Press Release

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European Ministers of Sport: an enlarged partial agreement to promote sport in Europe

Moscow, 24.10.2006 – The Ministers of Sport of the 49 countries party to the Council of Europe's European Cultural Convention, meeting in Moscow on 20 and 21 October, recommended the establishment of an Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) to reinforce pan-European sports co-operation. The representatives of the sport movement, including UEFA, FIFA, ENGSO and ISCA, took part in this groundbreaking meeting to support discussions on this new platform of co-operation.

The Ministers underlined the importance of sport in building a more humane and inclusive Europe and encouraged member states and non-member states of the Council of Europe to accede to the EPAS as soon as possible. Other international organisations, international sports federations, as well as sports NGOs, have been invited to become active partners of the EPAS.

With a view to promote the values of the European sport model at world level, the ministers designated their representatives in the structures of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

A large preference was expressed in favour of the designation of the French Minister, Jean-François Lamour, as the European candidate representing the public authorities for the position of interim Vice-Chair of the WADA for 2007.

The designation of the Danish Minister, Brian Mikkelsen, to the position of member of the WADA Executive Committee for 2007-2008 and the designation of the Russian Minister, Vyacheslav Fetisov, as a member of the WADA Foundation Board appointed by the Council of Europe for 2007-2009, were also approved.

The 11th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport will take place in Greece in 2008.

The resolutions adopted at the end of the meeting are available at www.coe.int/sport.

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