

Press Release

Council of Europe Press Division

Ref: 804a08

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 25 60

Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 39 11

pressunit@coe.int

internet: www.coe.int/press

47 members

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom



Council of Europe brings human rights to the playing field: discrimination, diversity and media coverage

Strasbourg, 14.11.2008 - A seminar for sports journalists and anti-discrimination specialists across Europe starts at 2 p.m. on 20 November at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. It is part of the Council of Europe's "Speak out against Discrimination" campaign and is supported by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS).

The seminar will provide the opportunity to scrutinise the "media perspective" of sport and discrimination and will challenge sports journalists with questions like "How can journalists contribute to a fair, more balanced coverage of competitive sports between nations?" and "What role can sports reporters play in anti-discrimination initiatives?"

Jonathan Hill, head of the UEFA Brussels office, will introduce the first of two themes: "Intercultural awareness, racism and sport," which will be followed by a discussion on intercultural dialogue and the role of journalists.

The second theme, "the media as a means to relay information on anti-discrimination initiatives in the sports world," will be introduced by Kurt Wachter, Project Coordinator for Fairplay and Football against Racism in Europe (FARE). His introduction will be followed by a presentation from Lilian Thuram, president of the foundation *Education against Racism*.

Meantime, in the *European Encounters* event also supported by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), researchers from Finland to Austria will discuss discrimination and diversity in sport in separate meetings at the Youth Centre, also on 20 November. They will cover themes like sports and sexual discrimination and how sports can help integrate "ethnic minorities" or immigrants. On 21 November, European institutions, NGOs and other actors will focus on sport's relationship to cultural diversity and dialogue. On that day, Lilian Thuram will formally present his foundation.

A reception will take place at the Youth Centre on 20 November at 6.00 p.m. At 6.15 p.m., a press conference will follow, with Lilian Thuram, Kurt Wachter, Jonathan Hill and Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni of the Council of Europe.

For more information please contact Council of Europe press service :

Until 18 November: Panos Kakaviatos, Tel. +33 3 90 21 50 27 ; Mob +33 6 65 09 16 07 ; panos.kakaviatos@coe.int

From 19 November: Henriette Girard, Tel. +33 3 88 41 21 41 ; Mob +33 6 75 65 03 39 ; henriette.girard@coe.int

./..

Note to editors

Meeting locations:

20 November: all meetings will be held at the European Youth Centre, 30 rue Pierre de Coubertin

- at 2 p.m. : seminar in room 3.1
- at 6 p.m. : reception on the ground floor
- at 6:15 p.m. : press conference in room 3.1

21 November: meeting at the Winston Churchill building, Allée Spach – Avenue du Président Robert Schuman, Room WIC 100.

For more information on the Council of Europe's new anti-discrimination campaign:
antidiscrimination@coe.int.

After more than 30 years of experience in the field of international sports legislation, the Council of Europe adopted [Resolution CM/Res\(2007\)8](#) on **11 May 2007 creating the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)** in order to give new momentum and dynamism to pan-European sports co-operation.