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26.05.2010

Heysel, 25 years on: commemoration in Belgrade

Date: 27 May 2010

Place: Belgrade (Serbia), Hotel Zira (Ruzveltova 35)

Event: Commemoration and press conference (10.00 – 11.00 am)

Background: On 29 May 1985, violence exploded in the Heysel stadium in Brussels, resulting in an unprecedented tragedy, in which 39 people died and more than 600 were injured.

The Council of Europe responded rapidly and within a few weeks produced the [European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches](#), which came into force on 1 November that same year.

Twenty-five years later the Convention, which has been ratified by 41 European states, has lost none of its relevance. Sadly, throughout Europe certain sporting occasions are still occasions for violence and misbehaviour. The standing committee that monitors the Convention continues to work ceaselessly to secure its application.

It has made some thirty recommendations to clarify or supplement the Convention in such areas as police co-operation, prevention, the formation of teams of stewards to look after supporters in stadiums, pyrotechnical devices and stadium facilities. These recommendations offer important guidelines for the states party to the Convention but also form a basis for co-operation with the European Union, FIFA, UEFA and other bodies concerned with stadium safety and security.

The Standing Committee has chosen Belgrade for its 30th meeting, where together with two of the Convention signatories, Belgium and Serbia, it will commemorate the victims of Heysel, and all the other victims of violence at sporting events.

The meeting will be an opportunity for the Committee to look to the future. It will review what has been achieved and identify the new challenges it faces to ensure that tragedies such as Heysel will remain for ever a thing of the past.

[More information](#)

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