Sport competitions are not just a game; they should be a celebration of social links and understanding among different cultures and traditions. Therefore it is important to ensure that they take place peacefully and in a secure and safe environment. In many cases, the most violent incidents have an international dimension, since large numbers of supporters cross national borders to attend major events.

To tackle these challenges more effectively, the European Commission has agreed with the Portuguese Presidency of the Council and the European Parliament, in association with UEFA, to organise a high-level conference “Towards an EU strategy against violence in sport”. The event will take place on 28-29 November 2007 in Brussels, in the presence of high level representatives of the Commission, Member States, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe as well as sport organisations.

This conference will send an important signal about the political commitment of all relevant European institutions to combating violence, especially in the football community. The expected participation of some 150 delegates from EU Member States will bring together a range of practical experience.

It is only through stronger cooperation between the various communities that we will address the prevention of incidents. This requires a more structured dialogue between all the stakeholders, including national and local governments, law enforcement agencies, judicial authorities, sport organisations e.g. clubs, supporters’ associations etc.

Our goal is to deliver a multidisciplinary approach that shares best practice across Europe, and improves day-to-day cooperation between all the actors.
HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE
Towards an EU strategy against violence in sport
BRUSSELS, 28-29 NOVEMBER 2007
PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 28 November 2007

8.45 Registration of participants
9.30 Opening speeches

Jan FIGEL - Member of the European Commission responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth
Laurentino DIAS - Secretary of State for youth and sport, Portugal, Council Presidency
Giusto CATANIA - Member of the LIBE Committee, European Parliament,
David TAYLOR - Secretary general of UEFA
Maud de BOER BUQUICCHIO - Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Juan Alberto BELLOCH JULBE - President of the European Forum on Urban Security (EFUS), mayor of Zaragoza
Emanuel MACEDO de MEDEIROS - General Manager of the Association of European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL)
Sandro CALVANI - Director of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Research Institute (UNICRI)
Moderator: Tung-Lai MARGUE - Director, Directorate General "Justice, Freedom and Security", European Commission
Coffee Break

11.30 Four workshops – panel speakers’ presentations. Please see the list below
13.00 Lunch buffet
14.00 Four workshops – debate

Thursday, 29 November 2007

9.00 Presentation of the workshops’ key findings; final conference conclusions
Moderator: Paulo GOMES - Deputy Secretary-General, Internal Security Co-ordinating Board, Ministry of the Interior, current chair of the European Crime Prevention Network, Portugal
11.30 Closing interventions
Franco FRATTINI - Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security
Rui PEREIRA - Minister of Interior, Portugal
Michel PLATINI - President of UEFA
12.30 Press conference

SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS

1. ENHANCING SAFETY AND SECURITY AT SPORT EVENTS
 Chairman: Christoph LIPP – Police Director, Riot Police Forces, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Germany
 Rapporteur: Jo VANHEEKE - Head of football unit, Federal Ministry of Interior, Belgium
 Günther MAREK - Head of the Austrian Security planning office of the Euro 2008, Ministry of Interior, Austria
 Henk GROENEVELT - Head of National Football Information Point, Netherlands
 Marc TIMMER - UEFA’s Head of Stadium Security

Alain PIDOUX - Responsible for security during the Rugby World cup 2007, Gendarmerie française
John de QUIDT - Executive chief of Football Licensing Authority, UK
Otto ADANG - Chairman of public order programme, Politie Academie, Netherlands
Debate

2. CHANGING FAN CULTURE AND TACKLING RACISM
 Chairman: Radim BURES - Chairman of the standing committee of the European Convention on Spectator Violence, Council of Europe
 Rapporteur: Thomas SCHNEIDER - Fan coordinator in the Bundesliga, German Professional Football League
 Manuel COMERON - Director of fan coaching association EUROFAN, Liège
 Jose HIDALGO - Secretary general of the Association of Spanish club supporters (AFEPE)
 Joël ARCHENAUT - President of the Federation of French Supporters’ Associations (FASFF)
 Jacek PURSKI - responsible for sport matters, Polish Association “Never again”
 Clifford STOTT - Researcher, University of Liverpool
 Patrick GAUBERT - President of LICRA, Member of the European Parliament
 Debate

3. DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS AMONG CLUBS AND LOCAL/NATIONAL AGENCIES
 Chairman: Michael Van PRAAG - Vice-chairman of UEFA safety and security committee, former President of Ajax F C
 Rapporteur: Elizabeth JOHNSTON - Deputy Director of the European Forum for Urban Security
 Michel LEPORX - National coordinator for football, Ministry of Interior, France
 David BOHANNAN - Head of football unit, UK Home Office
 Stefano FILUCCHI - Deputy CEO, Inter Milan FC, Security managers’ national coordinator, Italian Football Federation
 Laurent PLATINI - Legal adviser, PSG, France
 Athanasios MACHAIRAS - Head Security Officer of Superleague, Greece
 Guillaume VINCENT - Head of National Football Information Point, Netherlands

4. REINFORCING JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUMENTS AND EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES BETWEEN PROSECUTORS
 Chairman: Jurgen KAPPLINGHAUS - Senior Public Prosecutor, former Liaison Magistrate for Germany and Eurojust at Football World and European Championships
 Rapporteur: Nick HAWKINS - Chief Crown Prosecutor CPS Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
 Roberto MASSUCCI - Chief of National Info Centre on Sports Events, Ministry of Interior, Italy
 Ursula KOLLER - National member for Austria, football consultant, Eurojust
 Jean HAYET - Head of National Football Information Point, Ministry of Interior, France
 Klaus BRONNY - Senior Public Prosecutor, General Prosecutors Office, Düsseldorf, Germany
 Henrik SODERMAN - chief prosecutor, district court of Stockholm, Sweden tbc
 Debate