



# european women and sport newsletter

November 2000

SPORT FOR ALL WOMEN

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## Editorial

### Dear Readers,

The Olympic Games in Australia were marked by women. 4.400 of the 10.300 participants were female.

100 years ago, in Paris, women were allowed participation in the Olympic Games for the first time and there were 19 young ladies who fought for medals. Nowadays women participate in nearly all Olympic disciplines. Since the Olympic Games in Atlanta, new disciplines for women like weightlifting, water polo, modern pentathlon, pole vault and hammer throw have been introduced into the programme – apart from triathlon, taekwondo and

trampolining, in which both sexes were members of the Olympic family for the first time.

In order to celebrate this anniversary the Australian organising committee decided to have the Olympic flame carried exclusively by women on the last metres.

Despite these successful developments, a lot of work remains to be done.

Among the 127 members of the IOC there are only 14 female members. In his opening speech Samaranch himself expressed his regret that women are under-represented in the top-level positions of the federations and appealed to the international and national sport organisations to make decision-making positions more easily accessible to women.

Women should be encouraged to bear responsibility in decision-making positions.

Women's competence should be taken into consideration and be used appropriately.

We should focus our efforts on initiating changes in traditional roles. Women play an important role for the future of sport. The potential which they represent is wasted if they are not involved in decision-making in sport and for sport.

**Christa Thiel,**  
(EWS Chairwoman)



# Women and Sport in Europe

## Helsinki Spirit 2000

### Recommendations of the Helsinki European Women and Sport Conference

#### **The mission of the European Women and Sport (EWS) network is to promote gender equality in sport.**

The main objective of the EWS Group is to create a sports culture where all girls and boys, women and men shall have equal opportunities to participate, act and make decisions. Attention is focused on activities which support women's leadership in sport.

During the 1990's, several of the 41 member nations of the EWS network have made significant progress in developing equality as part of the European sports culture. Much work remains to be done in the new millennium to provide equal opportunities in sport and decision-making. Equality in sport is essential if sports culture is to develop, thrive and keep pace with the rapidly changing world.

#### **The fourth EWS Conference was organised under the theme "Women, Sport and Culture – How to change sports culture?" and was held in Helsinki, Finland, on 7-10 June 2000.**

250 delegates from 47 countries formulated the Helsinki Spirit 2000. These recommendations are founded on earlier documents which form the basis of equality work in sport: namely the 1994 Brighton Declaration and the 1998 Windhoek Call for Action.

### Recommendations, Helsinki Spirit 2000

#### **1. That women's role as a resource for sports culture and decision-making be strengthened**

- Women's know-how should be used in sports culture.
- The number of women involved in decision-making should be increased and supported through training and professional advancement.
- Decision-making should be transparent and ethically sustainable on all levels.
- Women and men should participate equally in discussions on the basic values and development of sport.
- Women in sport should build strong networks at regional, national and international levels.
- Women should seek elections in international bodies and be supported in those roles.
- Women and men should participate equally in international sports policy making.
- The amount of media coverage of women sports should be increased and quality improved.
- More women should be trained as sports journalists.

#### **2. That women and men share responsibility in/for equality in sport**

- Women and girls, men and boys should have the opportunity to choose their own sports and equally participate in their sport's organisational activities.
- Both women and men should participate productively in equality work.
- The structures and rules of sport must fulfil the needs of both women and men.
- Both women and men should participate in the planning of sports facilities.

#### **3. That sports and physical activities for people with disabilities and special needs be guaranteed an equal part in sports culture.**

- People with disabilities and special needs should have equal opportunities to participate in physical activities, both in different sports and at different levels.
- Women with disabilities and special needs should have equal opportunity in sport decision-making at all levels.
- Enhance tolerance through co-operation and communication among people with and without disabilities. Promote contact among diverse groups.

#### **4. That the awareness and value of equality in sport be increased**

- Equality work in sport should receive fair financial resources and strong political support.
- Ongoing evaluation and research of the equality work should provide a basis for advancing the movement.
- Sport and physical activity should be promoted as a positive strategy for dealing issues on broader political agendas, e.g. health, substance abuse, nation building.
- History, archives and activities in the development of gender equality in sports should be recorded and maintained.

#### **5. That the Bratislava Council of Europe resolution on sexual harassment be implemented and monitored**

- The Bratislava Council of Europe resolution on sexual harassment be implemented and monitored in all European countries, both by sports organisations and authorities.
- This resolution is a highly revealing and particularly positive development.
- It is a challenge to create a safer environment for people in sport.

#### **6. That the Berlin Agenda for Physical Education and the Declaration of Punta del Este be implemented and monitored**

- Ministers for sport and education should work together with the physical education profession, to ensure that girls and boys receive high quality programmes of physical education throughout their school lives.
- In recognition of the particular role of school physical education in preparing girls and young women for their future lives in sport, the place of physical education in school curricula should be strengthened.
- Teacher training programmes should include courses aimed at improving the inclusiveness of physical education for girls and boys, all abilities, cultural and social backgrounds.
- Teachers of physical education should encourage equal participation of girls and boys in school programmes of physical education, sport and physical activities.

#### **Ratification of recommendations:**

The EWS Conference calls upon the European countries that the Helsinki Spirit 2000 be ratified at different levels both within the sports movement and the governing bodies.

Recommendations are directed at: National and regional sports organisations, national Olympic and Paralympic committees and Ministries responsible for sport, youth and education, the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO), the European Olympic Committee (EOC) and the European sports federations and physical education, sport and sport science organisations, the European Sports Conference (ESC), the Committee for the Development of Sport of the Council of Europe (CDDS), and institutions of the European Union (EU).

#### **Implementation of recommendations:**

Conference delegates call upon all relevant organisations, their networks and all member countries of the European Sports Conference to take account of these recommended actions in their gender equality work. To assist in implementing these recommendations, gender equality plans should be developed by all organisations and agencies. Good practices, monitoring and evaluation of equality activities should be shared through the EWS network.



# Women and Sport in Europe

## Taking the Lead – A Historical Review

### 1. Introduction

“The place and role of women in sport at all levels has preoccupied policymakers for many years already. Despite increasing participation of women in sport, there appears to be no corresponding increase in the number of women sports leaders on the field, in administration, or decision-taking bodies” (Marilyn Delforge, Brussels 1989).

The Council of Europe discussed this point on several occasions. One of the first attempts to ensure equality between women and men was made in 1980 in Dublin: An international seminar “The greater involvement of Women in Sport” examined the place of women in decision-taking bodies and administration. The participants concluded: “Because sport remains dominated by men and women are reluctant to pose as efficient decision-takers, women are excluded from leadership positions in sports organisations. As a result, decisions concerning women are taken by men without any real knowledge of women’s true needs. The conference therefore emphasised the need to encourage the recruitment of women, starting at the top of the hierarchy at local, national and international level. The place of women in leadership positions in the media is also restricted, so that women have little influence on policies and decisions related to media coverage of sports events” (CDDS (80), 63, Strasbourg, 2.10.1980, p. 3).

A lot of recommendations were added concerning measures at national, regional and local levels.

Nearly ten years later the theme of women in sport was again included in the CDDS programme. It seemed useful to evaluate the impact of former recommendations and to initiate new action programmes. At the initiative of the United Kingdom a preparing group was invited by CDDS. Men and women as experts from Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Malta, the Netherlands and Spain discussed the

organisation of an international seminar. Elizabeth Dendy (United Kingdom) was elected as Chair of the preparing group and she explained the British proposal. This proposal focused on the issue of women and leadership in sport, because the situation of women was less satisfactory when considering their presence in leadership roles and positions of responsibility in general.

The participants of the preparatory meeting agreed “that the work so far carried out at national and international level on women and sport had dealt mainly with participation and, to a certain extent, with the fundamental reasons for the low number of women in leadership positions, but had not looked at the practical ways in which their numbers could be increased. It was therefore agreed that the seminar should focus on the issue of women and leadership in sport, from a positive point of view, proposing ways of translating into practice the results and conclusions of previous work and research” (CDDS (88)10, p. 3). The suggested working method of the seminar focused on five topics of leadership: Coaching and officiating, voluntary administration, leisure management, physical and sport education and mass media. Recommendations were to be addressed at international, national and personal levels. Participating countries should send three delegates – ideally two women and one man, with competence and influence at national policy level and at sports movement.



### 2. Concepts and Results

(see next Newsletter)

**Dr. Inge Berndt**

## News from the Steering Group

### Constituent Steering Group Meeting in Frankfurt



Participants of the Constituent Steering Group Meeting in Frankfurt (From left to the right) Last row: Gabrielle Behrendt, Berit Skirstad, Ursula Voigt, Marlis Rydzy-Götz, middle: Sirje Lubi, Chantal Amade-Escot, front Nada Vlasakova, Dr Christa Thiel, Birgitta Kervinen, Tanya Zahra

**There are two new Steering Group members and the composition for Germany’s term of office is the following:**



After a most successful and impressive 4th EWS conference on “WOMEN, SPORT AND CULTURE” in Helsinki, in June 2000, Germany will have to meet high expectations in view of women and sport issues in Europe to be advanced during its Chair period (2000-2002).

The new EWS Steering Group met for the first time in Frankfurt, in the House of German Sports (DSB) on November 3-5, 2000.

After warmly welcoming the participants, Dr. Christa Thiel, the EWS Chairwoman, introduced Germany’s motto for its Chair period, “SPORT FOR ALL WOMEN”.

She emphasised that Germany would focus its efforts on increasing women’s net-working in Europe and developing strategies and modern approaches of communication for women in sport. These aims are also reflected by the motto of the 5th Conference on Women and Sport, to be held in Berlin, on April 18–21, “WOMEN, SPORT AND INNOVATION”.

Participants gave a review of the situation of women and sports activities and presented successful sport for all models for women of their respective countries. These presentations lead to very interesting results and it was decided to summarise them and make them available to all EWS contact persons. This network of approximately 40 women in numerous European countries is the main target group for disseminating information and advancing women and sport issues.

Participants are looking forward to their next meeting in February 2001, which will mainly deal with the preparation of the so-called EWS Open Meeting on 27 June, scheduled to take place just before the Opening of the European Sports Conference in Tallin, Estonia.

**Gabrielle Behrendt,**  
(EWS Secretariat)

# News from the Steering Group

## New French Law regarding Sport improves Women Status

Certain provisions are made under French law n°2000-627 of 6th July 2000, which modifies the law of 16th July 1984, concerning the organisation and promotion of sporting activities, and through the legal texts in application of the above mentioned law.

One of these is that sports groups will only be granted state recognition, necessary to obtain financial assistance, on condition that, among other things, their statutes provide for equal access of men and women to their governing bodies (article 8). Another states that the Youth and Sports Ministry will give approval for their public service mission to sports federations whose statutes include clauses tending to promote access to sporting and physical activities for all (fourth paragraph of III of article 16).

In a concern for equality between men and women in the practice of high-level sport the National Commission for High Level Sport decided at its meeting of 21st January 2000 to no longer make a distinction between men's and women's practice of a given discipline.

**Chantal Amade-Escot,**  
Member of the EWS Steering Group



## A new Association: Femmes-Mixité-Sports

On 23rd June 2000 the association "Femmes-Mixité-Sports" (Women-Mixed Sport) was set up. The association is politically independent and has the aims of (article 1 of statutes)

### Promoting & defending the access of girls and women:

- to all levels and forms of sports activities in all disciplines.
- to positions of leadership at all levels of the hierarchy concerning the organization of sport.
- systematically denouncing discriminatory behaviour and intervening against those practising it.
- bringing influence to bear on institutions, the media and mental attitudes to improve the position of women in sport.

The association's first task will be to take stock of the existing situation so as to fit its interventions to the various forms of inequality found. The association already has 50 members, including a few men. The President is N. Dechavanne.

**Chantal Amade-Escot,**  
(EWS Steering Group member)

# News for EWS Contact Persons

## Women and Sport in Europe

UK Sport was established by Royal Charter in 1997 and is responsible, as part of its objectives, for leading the UK in:

- Promoting and representing the UK internationally;
- co-ordinating UK-wide sporting policy on issues such as gender and sport.

UK Sport has established a network of national contacts, which includes Sport England, Sports Council for Wales, Sports Council for Northern Ireland and **sportscotland**. This network provides a vehicle for distributing information from the European Women and Sport group and providing advice and support on sport and gender.

UK Sport has also been working closely with the Women's National Commission (WNC) and developing partnerships beyond the sport sector to help ensure that gender and sport is considered in other areas of policy such as education, health, human rights and employment.

Currently UK Sport is reviewing its Women and Sport action plan following the appointment of a new Chief Executive in August 1999. It is hoped that a UK co-ordinating group with representation from sport and other sectors from across the UK will be established by March 2001.



UK Sport has two (out of six) senior women directors and 47% of UK Sport members are women. UK Sport is firmly committed to developing and promoting the highest ethical standards in sport and gender forms an integral part of that ethical framework. UK Sport's focus is on the needs of athletes and it is working with national governing bodies of sport and other partners to help ensure that there are equal opportunities at all levels of sport. 35% (253) of all athletes in April 2000 that received funding from the World Class Performance Programme were women.

### Further information

For further information on gender and sport in the UK:

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UK European Women and Sport Contact Person

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# Preparing for the 5th EWS Conference

The 5th EWS conference will take place in Berlin, on April 18-21 2002, in the Hotel "Crowne Plaza Berlin City Centre". Its motto will be:

**WOMEN, SPORT AND INNOVATION**



## EWS Newsletter – Impressum

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## News from our European Partners

### 3<sup>rd</sup> ENGSO FORUM Berlin/GERMANY November 23-25, 2000

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> ENGSO FORUM in Berlin, which was hosted by the German Sports Confederation, about 100 experts from more than 20 European countries discussed the two main topics "Sport and Modern Media (alternative ways of presenting sports)" and "Sport for Senior Citizens (55+)".

During the first working day, in 3 workshops the participants compared the situation of sport and modern media in different European countries, they highlighted the difficulties concerning media coverage of small or less telegenic sports and problems related to the presentation of female athletes in/by the mass media. In a panel discussion facilitated by Prof. Günther von Lojewski (Chairman of DSB media commission) the five top level experts Klaus Schormann (President of the International Union of Modern Pentathlon, UIPM), Prof. Dr. Gertrud Pfister/Germany (Free University of Berlin), Mike Reynolds (UK, Institute of Sports Sponsorship), John Bromley (British sports journalist) and Leif Nilsson (President of the European Sports Press Union, UEPS) discussed the question "How to raise the attractiveness of sports for media presentation".

The second main topic of this FORUM was dedicated to a completely different but equally important issue for the future of sport development in Europe. In his key note speech on "Sport for Senior Citizens (55+)" Hans Hansen, former President of the German Sports Confederation, underlined the rapid increase of this age group and the challenge for the sports movement to make itself fit to master them, in terms of organisational capacities to be established for new tasks, including perhaps an adaptation of structures and in view of well-designed programmes, in order to actively involve this important target group in our societies. For the benefits of health and fitness, fun, social

togetherness and guidance for adapted sporting achievement, organised sport can offer multiple contributions which constitute an added value to the general quality of life.

Having been introduced to national examples of good practice in Finland, Estonia, Switzerland and Slovenia, FORUM participants took part in 2 workshops aimed at developing fundamental elements for strategies needed at a national and a European level to motivate elderly people to become actively involved in sports and recreational programmes.

As a consequence of views and recommendations expressed by the participants of this event, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ENGSO FORUM suggested the adoption of two documents: the "Memorandum on Sport and Modern Media Presentation" and the "Memorandum on Sport for Senior Citizens (55+)" which are aimed to serve as an appeal to the sport movement at national and European levels, the respective governmental and inter-governmental partners as well as the representatives of the media, to support translating into practice the findings and recommendations laid down in these documents.

A documentation brochure on the 3<sup>rd</sup> ENGSO FORUM will be provided by the German hosts and made available to participants, interested partners and to all ENGSO member organisations by March 2001.

**Marlis Rydzy-Götz,**  
(ENGSO Secretary General,  
International EWS Secretary)



# Miscellaneous

## Book recommsation

### Women, Sport and Physical Activity: Sharing good practice

ICSSPE, in collaboration with UNESCO and the dedication of many others, is pleased to announce a publication of outstanding initiatives for girls and women in sport, recreation and physical activity. It is the first in a series of books dealing with good practice in policies, participation and leadership programmes. In each category, a brief description is provided, together with details related to the target groups, goals, cost, funding, administration, and success of the programme. A Directory of contributors provides contact details, and a list of Internet sites provides links to many more projects and programmes.

The ICSSPE has included policies and programmes that create genuine participation opportunities based on a proven track record. Readers will learn which organisations advocate in unique ways to promulgate the issues, projects and programmes for women in sport, as well as what steps should be taken to promote women's health, education and equality. Reader will also be informed which countries have come up with successful leadership programmes, and how they provide support networks,



mentoring and workshops for women. It includes a wealth of good practice and practical approaches for increasing participation and leadership.

The goal of this publication is to strengthen the women's network at all levels, and connect women more strongly with international organisations. Many examples of goods practice in this guidebook serve this need. Therefore, it is an excellent resource tool for schools, universities, community centres, clubs, government and organisations searching for ideas to promote girls and women in sport, recreation and physical activity.



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## Upcoming events

### Calendar of Events

#### DATES 2000

December 8 *National conference on women and sport*  
**Prague, Czech Republic**  
**Contact: [nada.vlasakova@iol.cz](mailto:nada.vlasakova@iol.cz)**

#### DATES 2001

February 03-04 *CNOSF (French National Olympic Committee) seminar on Women*  
**Paris, France (to be confirmed)**  
**Contact: [amade.escot@wanadoo.fr](mailto:amade.escot@wanadoo.fr)**

February 16-18 *2nd EWS Steering Group Meeting*  
February 23-25 **Cyprus, Malta or Vienna, Austria (to be confirmed)**

February 26-28 *ESC Executive Committee*  
**Dubrovnik, Croatia**

March *National Conference on Women and Sport*  
**Estonia**  
**Contact: [lubi@cmm.ee](mailto:lubi@cmm.ee)**

April 26-9th *ENGSO General Assembly*  
**Helsinki, Finland**  
**Contact: [rydzy-götz@dsb.de](mailto:rydzy-götz@dsb.de)**

May 14-16 *International Conference on Top Level Sport of Women*  
**Lillehammer, Norway**  
**Contact: [berits@nih.no](mailto:berits@nih.no)**

June *Asian Conference on Women and Sport*  
**Japan**

June 26 *3<sup>rd</sup> EWS Steering Group Meeting*  
(2-5 p.m.) **Tallin, Estonia**

June 26 *ESC Executive Committee*  
(5-8 p.m.) **Tallin, Estonia**

June 27 *EWS Open Meeting*  
(10 a.m.-4 p.m.) *General theme: "Sports volunteer - quo vadis ?"*  
**Tallin, Estonia**

June 27-29 *European Sports Conference*  
(7 p.m.) **Tallin, Estonia**

October 26-28 *4th EWS Steering Group Meeting*  
or  
November 09-11 **Paris, France or Prague, Czech Republic**

Autumn 2001 *4<sup>th</sup> ENGSO Forum*

#### DATES 2002

January/February *5<sup>th</sup> EWS Steering Group meeting*  
**Berlin, Germany**  
**Contact: [ews@dsb.de](mailto:ews@dsb.de)**

February 8-24 *Olympic Winter Games*  
**Salt Lake City, USA**

April 12-14 *10<sup>th</sup> ENGSO General Assembly*  
**Bratislava, Slovak Republic (to be confirmed)**

April 17 *6<sup>th</sup> EWS Steering Group meeting*  
**Berlin, Germany**  
**Contact: [ews@dsb.de](mailto:ews@dsb.de)**

April 18-21 *5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Women and Sport*  
**Berlin, Germany**  
**Contact: [ews@dsb.de](mailto:ews@dsb.de)**

May 16-19 *3<sup>rd</sup> IWG Conference*  
**Montreal, Canada**  
**Contact: [Sue-Neill@pch.gc.ca](mailto:Sue-Neill@pch.gc.ca)**