



european women and sport newsletter

March 2001

SPORT FOR ALL WOMEN

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Editorial



Dear Readers,

When reflecting on a subject to be treated in the editorial of our 2nd newsletter I thought about progress made in women's sport and/or about possible changes in decision-making. Short time ago we received news that Anita DeFrantz applied for Presidency of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), for the first time in 107 years of the IOC's history.

In view of the average age of the IOC members, the 48-year-old woman is very young. Among candidates who are being discussed as possible future Presidents or who have applied for Presidency she is the youngest. The Belgian surgeon, Jacques Rogge, and the Canadian lawyer, Richard Pound, both 58 years of age, are considered possible successors of Juan Antonio Samaranch, however their application for candidature has not been officially announced so far. The 58-year-old diplomat Pal Schmitt has applied for presidency. Kim Un-Yong, a 70-year-old Korean, is considered to be another candidate.

In 1997 Anita DeFrantz was the first woman to become the IOC's Vice President. Now she aspires to become President. In the press her ambitions have made head-

lines, for the very reason that a woman strives for access to the IOC's throne. Is this something extraordinary? At present it is certainly sensational, treated as something special, but in future women's candidacy for top-level positions must become normal and women must be given the chance to hold respective functions. That is to say the only criteria to be fulfilled for top-level positions are ability and suitability, whereas the question of sex is irrelevant.

Yours
Christa Thiel
(EWS Chairwoman)



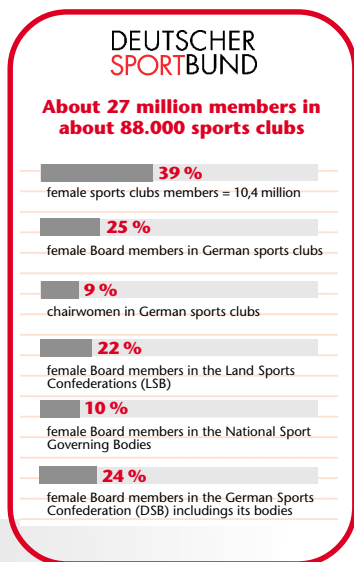
Anita DeFrantz



Women and Sport in Europe

Congress "Women in decision-making in Sport"

Statistics give a clear proof of this phenomenon: There is an overwhelming male dominance in decision-making positions in German sport. Whereas 10,4 million (39 %) of all German sports club members are female, only 24 % of the voluntary leaders in the German Sport Confederation's Board, including its committees, are women. And - in the boards of the governing bodies of sport - women's participation amounts to 10 % only.



A phenomenon which calls for investigation and counter-strategies. That is why approximately 130 participants from the member organisations of the German Sports Confederation (DSB), from Austria and from Switzerland met in Cologne to participate in the congress "Women in Decision-Making in Sport" (November 23, 2000), jointly organised by the DSB, the Land Sports Confederation of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Ministry for Town Planning, Culture and Sport of the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The female quota, one of the major topics of discussion, was fulfilled by nearly 100 % during this event. Participants agreed

that this measure, although it is by far not the most appropriate one, seems to be the only possibility of increasing the number of women in decision-making positions in sport.

In discussions, workshops and lectures the three main reasons which prevent women from assuming responsibility in decision-making were found to be the structures of the sport organisations themselves (e.g. "family-hostile" meeting times, lack of child care), traditional female stereotypes (e.g. no clear planning of life and career, lack in experience with regard to power, negative image of power and career) and discouraging behaviour of men if topics like promotion and politics of and for women are discussed.

The chief aim of the Congress was to address "multipliers" and to discuss strategies which have been successful in other fields of social life. As a consequence resulting from the findings it is intended to carry out measures which aim at increasing female participation in decision-making.

Apart from a change in the images, ideas and attitudes which men adopt with regard to femininity and masculinity, strategies at an individual and structural level have to be applied.

These strategies comprise systematic career planning for women, the creation of networks, good examples of female success to be followed, programmes of mentoring and coaching, training in Gender Mainstreaming as well as female quota, limitation of terms of office and reelection as well as new models of participation.



Ursula Voigt
Head of Department
"Women in Sport"
of the DSB

News from the Steering Group

2nd Meeting of the EWS Steering Group

On February 16-18, 2001, the 2nd meeting of the EWS Steering Group during Germany's Chair period took place in Vienna, Austria. Preparations had been supported by the Austrian Sports Confederation (BSO), which had also organised part of the social programme, as well as by the Ministry of Public Service and Sport - Austria.

It had been an explicit wish of the Steering Group members to hold one of its meetings, if possible, in member countries of the European women and sport network to give the contact persons a chance to become familiar with the Steering Group work. Thus, in her opening speech, EWS Chairwoman Christa Thiel explained why Vienna had been chosen as venue, although at present this country is not a member of the Steering Group itself: "We would like to intensify cooperation with women in Austrian sports and at the same time underline Austria's key role as bridge between Eastern and Western European countries."

The EWS contact person from Austria, Eva Janko and from the neighbouring country Hungary, Szilvia Pérenyi, were invited as special guests to give a report on developments of women and sport in their countries, in particular on "Women in Decision-Making Positions", which was the lead topic for this meeting.



Gabriele Behrendt
EWS Secretariat

Furthermore, participants discussed topics to be treated at the EWS Open Meeting of the European Sports Conference (ESC) in Tallin, Estonia (June 27, 2001), its general theme being "Increasing voluntarism in sport - a mandate for all", and they made first preparations with regard to the 5th EWS Conference on **WOMEN, SPORT AND INNOVATION**, which will be taking place in Berlin (April 18-21, 2002).

2nd Meeting of the Steering Group in Vienna: (from left to right)
Chantal Amade-Escot, Szilvia Pérenyi, Eva Janko, Nada Vlasakova,
Sirje Lubi, Christa Thiel, Kristiina Heinonen, Berit Skirstad,
Walter Pillwein, Marlis Rydzy-Götz, Anthony Ghio



Women and Sport in Europe

Taking the Lead - A Historical Review

2. Concepts and Results

The Council of Europe Seminar, entitled "Women and Sport - Taking the Lead", took place in Bisham Abbey, the National Sport Centre England, from September 11 to 14, 1989. Numerous conferences on the participation of women in sport had been held before, resulting in a lot of recommendations. Only little attention had been given to leadership positions and to strategies for the involvement of women in decision-making bodies.

The concept of the Bisham Seminar was to produce action strategies rather than recommendations. To ensure positive results, each country was invited to send three delegates, people who were in a position to effect change. Elizabeth Dendy, Chair of CDDS Expert Group and UK Management Group described the leading idea of the Bisham Seminar: "The holding of the seminar is just the start: unless action follows we shall have failed" (Council of Europe: Women and Sport: Taking the Lead. Seminar Report, The Sports Council London, 1990).

The Seminar looked into theoretical and practical aspects: At first participants considered - in a positive way - women in leadership roles in five areas: coaching and officiating, voluntary engagement, paid employment, physical and sport education and research, sports media. In a second step the seminar produced - organised in working groups - action strategies at four levels: international, national, local and personal level. These strategies were related to each of the five top areas.

Working group results were summarised as recommendations for strategies in different areas and levels:

- Education and awareness raising,
- curriculum activities,
- information and research,
- recruitment / working conditions,
- networking / lobbying / support,
- working practices / representation / marketing.



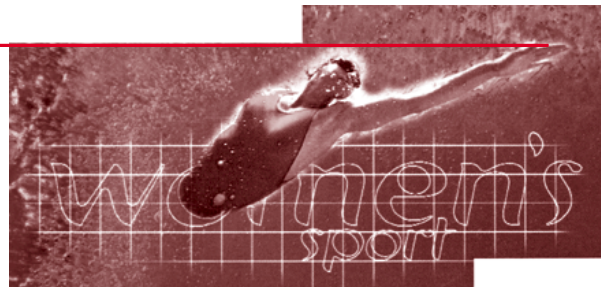
Dr. Inge Berndt

A third step was the development of national action programmes. Participants of each country identified their own priorities for action. In this case first steps to national action strategies were developed from Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Ireland, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom. In general "member countries, whether they attended the Seminar or not, are urged to consider and act upon or formulate national strategies" (E. Dendy, Bisham 1989).

Finally, the Seminar pointed out international strategies, addressed to IOC, ESC and Council of Europe (CDDS). IOC was asked to hold a conference on women and sport. ESC was asked to set up a project concerning women and sports leadership. CDDS was asked to set up a standing Women's Committee.

The most important result of these immediate actions was that the Seminar had achieved success with regard to the European Sports Conference (ESC). The ESC agreed to set up a two-year women and sport project.

Chapter 3 of this report will be concerned with this new step in the European Women and Sport work: From Bisham Abbey to Oslo. (see next newsletter)



Investment in Women's Sport - pays off

The Conference "Investment in Women's Sport - pays off!", supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Norwegian University of Sport and Physical Education, will take place in Lillehammer, Norway, on May 14-16, 2001.

The main focus of the Congress is on sport management at top level, coaching, and research on physiological, psychological and health matters for female top athletes. Highly qualified speakers, both national and international, are invited to Lillehammer.

The successful "Norwegian Women Project" will be presented. This project, organised by the Norwegian Olympic Committee, started in 1995 and ended after the Sydney Games. The main objective of the project was that female athletes should win 10-15 medals together in the Nagano and Sydney Games, and the female share of accredited support personnel should be at least 20 %. The results were 11 medals and 21 % female personnel.

For further information and registration - www.nif.idrett.no or contact the conference office phone: + 47 21 02 90 00.

Women and Sport in the countries of the Mediterranean

The first Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Women and Sport was held in Antibes in the South of France on November 23-25, 2000. The conference was organised on the initiative of the French Government and all littoral states of the Mediterranean were invited to attend. The 430 participants coming from 18 different countries were offered 56 papers and 17 success stories.

The EWS was represented by Ms Tanya Zahra, member of the EWS Steering Group. Apart from participating actively in the conference, Ms Zahra took part in the workshop chaired by Mme. Nicole Dechavanne, where future initiatives were discussed.

During the first session, which was attended by a small number of delegates, Ms Zahra explained the role and aims which EWS plays in Europe. The reports voiced during the Conference highlighted the necessity of setting an entity to organise future initiatives. Representatives from eight countries participated in the 2nd workshop. The report of the working group formulated the basis of the Final Resolution of the Conference.

Apart from encouraging the implementation of the resolutions passed in Brighton, Windhoek, and the Paris IOC Conference, the resolution suggested setting up the necessary machinery to take various actions, amongst which figure:

- establishing an information network,
- organising conferences,
- using the platform as a means to obtain international recognition
- setting up relations with other similar groups such as the EWS.



Tanya Zahra
EWS Steering
Group member

International News and Developments

2000 Pre-Olympic Congress

A Report from the Social Sciences

Pre-Olympic Congresses have a long and successful tradition. It seems to be self-evident to use the context of the Olympic Games, the most fascinating international sport event, to analyse and discuss the positive and the negative developments and tendencies in sport, its conditions and effects, and its opportunities and problems. This was the aim of the interdisciplinary Pre-Olympic Congress held from September 8-13, 2000 in Brisbane, Australia, which attracted more than 1,200 scientists from all around the world. The Brisbane Convention Centre, which was built for the EXPO in 1988, proved to be an excellent facility.

The following article is my personal impression of the Congress. I can only describe the programme selectively because up to ten parallel sessions made it impossible to get a clear picture of the whole event. The variety of topics in the "socio-cultural" area ranged from sport management, sport and the environment, and sport and disability, to numerous questions concerning physical education, sport with youth, sport and intercultural comparisons and cultural aspects and perspectives of sport.

One focus of the Congress was sport and gender. Joe Maguire rose the question how the globalisation processes in the area of sport mirror and at the same time reproduce the gender order. He emphasised the importance of analysing the worldwide similarities, differences, continuities and changes in the systems of sport and in the gender arrangements.

The topic sport and gender was emphasised in two additional events. One of the parallel sessions dealt with "Women, Power and Sport" in different countries from Japan (Satomi Tsunoda) to Norway (Kari Fasting) and different sports from triathlon (Amanda Jones) to weightlifting (Louise Mansfield). Kari Fasting received an award for her outstanding contribution on the "Experiences of Sexual Harassment among Norwegian Female Athletes in Relation to Types of Sport". The International Association for Physical Education and Sport for Girls and Women (IAPESGW), and its President Margaret Talbot, in cooperation with the International Society for the History of Physical



Prof. Dr. Dr.
Gertrud Pfister

Education and Sport (ISHPES, President Gertrud Pfister) and Women Sport International (WSI) represented by Kari Fasting and its President Carole Ogelsby, organised a one-day symposium titled "Gender, Culture and Politics: 100 Years of Women in the Olympics". The aim of this symposium was to appreciate, celebrate, discuss and reflect on the history and the current situation of women in the Olympics.

An introduction to this symposium was given by Gertrud Pfister with a lecture on the "Contested Her-Story: The Historical Discourse on Women in the Olympic Movement". Pfister not only presented an overview on the development of women's participation in the Olympic Games, but also described the construction of history and its political use and misuse. In the next lectures, Barbara Drinkwater unmasked the ideals about women as the weak sex as a myth and Margaret Talbot discussed the reasons for the under-representation of women in the Olympic decision-making committees from the perspective of organisational sociology. Her contribution was complemented by the paper by Ian Jobling, who presented a case study about the participation of women in the organisation of the Olympic Games in 1952. All contributions were important 'puzzle stones' which helped to form a picture of women's Olympic sport, and determined new perspectives, evaluations and connections. This also applies to Karen DePauw's lecture about the chances and difficulties of athletes with disabilities, and the paper presented by Daniels and Tedder who used new sources about the Olympic participants from 1900 to 1936. But women's sport also had and still has an "exotic touch". Kyoto Raita, Junko Tahra and Etsuko Ogasawara reported on the development of women's sport in Japan using new sources of information about the International Women's Sport Federation (FSFI, founded in Paris in 1921) which had decisively influenced the history of women's physical activities in Japan. Another topic from the Far East was presented by Fan Hong, who described the history of women's sport in China as a development "from cripples to Olympic champions".

As a whole, this symposium offered participants the possibility to reflect on theoretical approaches, particularly concerning the historical sciences and gender dynamics, offering new insights into developments in different countries and time periods.

Preparing for the 5th EWS Conference

Dr. Christine Bergmann, the German Minister for the Family, Senior Citizens and Women, has agreed to become patron of the 5th EWS Conference on „WOMEN, SPORT AND INNOVATION“ to be held in Berlin, April 18-21, 2002.

The German Sports Confederation, which will be organising this conference, expects approximately 250 participants from Europe and other continents to take part in this event.

*For further information please contact the EWS Secretariat,
Email: ews@dsb.de*



EWS Open Meeting Tallin

The EWS Open Meeting of the ESC will take place in Tallin, Estonia, in the Hotel Radisson Resort on June 27, 2001, (10 p.m.-16:00 p.m.).

The general theme of this meeting will be "Increasing Voluntarism in Sport - a Mandate for all".

The preliminary programme contains:

- a progress report on European Women and Sport,
- the presentation of the independent EWS homepage www.EWS-online.com,
a lecture on the general theme,
- preparations of the 5th EWS Conference on "WOMEN, SPORT AND INNOVATION" and
- the announcement of the new EWS Chair.

Contact persons are advised to address their respective organisations, requesting them to include them in the official national ESC delegation of their country. Not only female but also male national ESC delegate are most welcome to attend the EWS Open Meeting. There will be no extra conference fee charged for the Open Meeting.

All contact persons will receive the official invitation and programme by April 2001.



News Platform for EWS Contact Persons



Women and Sport Committee of the Cyprus Olympic Committee



Clea Hadjistephanou
- Papaellina
EWS Contact Person
in Cyprus

The Cyprus Olympic Committee formed the "Women and Sport Committee" in 2000. This committee has currently seven members. The Chairwoman of our Committee is Mrs Iro Mitsidou, who is also a member of the EWS Steering Group. Mrs Mitsidou is an ex champion, pioneer in the promotion of women and sport in Cyprus and member of the Board of the Cyprus Olympic Academy. The Secretary General of the NOC is acting as the liaison between our Committee and the NOC.

It is important to note that all seven women in the Committee, among whom there is a sports journalist with a PE teacher's background, have been appointed by the Executive Board of the Cyprus Olympic Committee. The philosophy of the committee is the promotion of women in sport at all levels and all relevant functions and roles based on equality.

Aims and objectives

- Creation and mobilisation of new organised bodies of all areas of sport and support of existing bodies and activities.
- Professional and personal development of women involved in sports in coaching, teaching, administration or athletics.
- Creation of training and leadership building opportunities for women.
- Increase of awareness through publicity and press coverage initiatives.

The Cyprus Olympic Committee has demonstrably proven its interest in promoting women in sport. In this regard it has taken several positive steps. Among others, it has been represented in the Brighton Conference, the World Conference held by the IOC in Lausanne, the EWS in Athens, in Malta, Helsinki etc. The Cyprus Olympic Committee is looking forward to strengthening even more its collaboration with the EWS for the promotion and development of women in sport.

Women and Sport in the Slovak Republic

The Women and Sport Commission of Slovak Olympic Committee has been working for four years. We started with the transfer of experience from previous seminars and conferences in the world and in Europe and sent questionnaires to national sport associations, trying to gain information about women's participation in the sports movement at various levels.



Mária Mračnová
Vice President of
SOC, Chairperson of
Women and Sport
Commission SOC

In a seminar on women and sport, held in April 1998, the results of this questionnaire were discussed and served as preparation of a project for Slovakia, which is entitled "Women in Sports - Sport for Women". The aim of this project is to clarify the role sport plays in the life of women.

Furthermore, we intend to organise 10 regional seminars for approximately 50 participants each, treating different subjects, such as model lessons for girls and women, the development of sport for women in small towns and villages of the Slovak Republic, sport and health etc. It is intended to promote this project in different ways: e. g. by publishing it in the media, by producing T-shirts and badges etc.

The Slovak Women and Sport Commission will be organising a seminar entitled "Esthetics in Sport", which is scheduled to take place at the end of 2001. This seminar will focus, among other subjects, on the training of esthetic feelings in female athletes, in sports such as figure skating and gymnastics and will look into the question if there are any borderlines in sports esthetics which should not be crossed.

Lithuanian Women Sport Association

Introduction

The population of Lithuania is about 4 million. More than half of the population is women. The average number of women playing sport, however, is lower compared to that of men. At the end of the year 1993, the Lithuanian State Department of Physical Education and Sports suggested to establish a Women's Board in Lithuania. Thus, in February 1994, the Lithuanian Women in Sport Association (LWSA) was established, together with a Central Women's Committee and a special consultant for women and sport was appointed within the Lithuanian State Department of Physical Education and Sports.

LWSA has focused its attention on the following:

- Increasing women's participation in fitness and leisure activities.
- Encouraging women and girls to be more active in sport including administration, organisation, leadership and decision-making bodies,
- co-operation with women's organisations at national and international level.

Background

For the planning period of 1994-2000 the LWSA focused on studying the recommendations of Oslo (1991) and Bratislava (1993). A great deal of attention was given to the activities carried out by other countries in Europe. LWSA started to participate in international conferences and seminars and to follow the mainstreams of the activities carried out by the European Women and Sport group. The Brighton Declaration, passed in 1994 after the Conference on "Women, Sport and the Challenge of Change" was published in Lithuania in 1995.



Liucija Kalvaitine
President of LWSA

This declaration, obligating governmental and non-governmental organisations to advance an equal policy for women and men in sports, was approved by the Lithuanian Sport Congress. Endorsement and practical fulfilment of the principles contained in the Brighton Declaration supported the LWSA's work considerably. As a consequence there has been an increase in the participation of women in sport activities.

Strategy

The main tasks of strategy for women and sport are:

- Working out specific topics for women in sport,
- holding meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences,
- establishing networks with groups, clubs and organisations in different regions in Lithuania,
- increasing the influence of women in decision-making.

Working methods

In order to fulfil the defined objectives the Lithuanian Women in Sport Association has foreseen - among other things - the following measures and activities:

- To initiate and start women sport projects at schools,
- to organize competitions, festivals and events for women athletes, administrators and leaders,
- to apply to the government of the Republic of Lithuania for support of top female athletes,
- to issue an information booklet about women's sport.

Miscellaneous

Application for the next EWS Chair (2002 - 2004)

Countries/organisations willing to chair the free-standing EUROPEAN WOMEN AND SPORT GROUP (EWS) after the German Chair period (2000-2002) should send their applications to the EWS Secretariat at the German Sports Confederation **before 31 May, 2001**.

The next Chair will be announced at the EWS Open Meeting of the ESC in Tallin, Estonia, to be held on June 27, 2001.

The application may be drawn up in free form, containing, however:

- The structure of sport in the applicant country and, in particular, the situation of women and sport,
- the main aims of the new Chair,
- a preliminary organisation and financial plan,
- (possibly) first announcement of the 6th EWS Conference (preliminary dates, place and general title).

Applications should be addressed to:

**Deutscher Sportbund
EWS Secretariat**
Otto-Fleck-Schneise 12
D-60528 Frankfurt/M.
Phone: + 49 (69) 67 00-216
Fax: + 49 (69) 96 74 05 94
E-mail: ews@dsb.de

Also send a copy to:

**ESC Secretariat
Mr. Toomas Tõnise
Estonian Central Sports Union**
Regati 1
EE-0019 Tallin
Phone: + 3 72 (6) 29 86 50
Fax: + 3 72 (6) 39 86 53
E-mail: toomas@esk.sport.ee
eskl@eskl.spin.ee

Internet

For more information on the European Women and Sport group, please look at the independent EWS homepage, which will be completed soon.



<http://www.EWS-online.com>

Impressum

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Upcoming events

March 23 **Round Table of Estonian Women and Sport Network**

Tallin, Estonia – Contact: lubi@cmm.ee

April 26-29 **9th ENGSO General Assembly**

Helsinki, Finland – Contact: rydzy-goetz@dsb.de

May 14-16 **International Conference**

"Investment in Women's Sport - Pays Off"
Lillehammer, Norway – Contact: berits@nih.no
www.nif.idrett.no

May 18 **National Conference on Women and Sport**

Tallin, Estonia – Contact: lubi@cmm.ee

June 9-10 **Asian Conference on Women and Sport**

Osaka, Japan – Contact: Etsuko@jws.or.jp

June 11-14 **IWG meeting**

Kumamoto, Japan –
Contact: Trice_Cameron@pch.gc.ca

June 26 **3rd EWS Steering Group Meeting**

(3-5 p.m.) Tallin, Estonia – Contact: ews@dsb.de

June 26 **ESC Executive Committee**

(5-8 p.m.) Tallin, Estonia

June 27 **EWS Open Meeting - General theme:**

"Increasing Voluntarism in Sport - A Mandate for All"

Tallin, Estonia – Contact: ews@dsb.de

June 27-29 **European Sports Conference**

(7 p.m.) **General theme: "Sports Volunteer - Quo Vadis?"**

Tallin, Estonia – Contact: toomas@eok.ee

July 24-28 **6th Annual Congress of the European**

College of Sports Science (ECSS)
"Perspectives and Profiles"
Cologne, Germany – www.ecss2001.de

September 14-16 **Council of Europe SPRINT seminar on sexual harassment**

Helsinki, Finland (to be confirmed)

October 26-29 **14th International Congress "Life Long Learning: Towards active Girls and Women" International Association of Physical Education For Girls and Women (IAPESGW)**

Alexandria, Egypt
Contact: m.talbot@lmu.ac.uk

November 09-11 **4th EWS Steering Group Meeting**

Paris, France (to be confirmed)

autumn 2001 **4th ENGSO Forum**

January/February **5th EWS Steering Group meeting**

Berlin, Germany – Contact: ews@dsb.de

February 8–24 **Olympic Winter Games**

Salt Lake City, USA

April 12-14 **10th ENGSO General Assembly**

Bratislava, Slovak Republic (to be confirmed)

confirmed)

April 17 **6th EWS Steering Group meeting**

Berlin, Germany – Contact: ews@dsb.de

April 18–21 **5th EWS Conference on WOMEN, SPORT AND INNOVATION**

Berlin, Germany – Contact: ews@dsb.de

May 16 – 19 **3rd IWG Conference**

Montreal, Canada
Contact: Sue_Neill@pch.gc.ca