

European Women's Lobby Lobby European des Femmes



Women, Sport and Democracy
Sport, a challenge for women
Women a challenge for sport



Conference of Organisation of European
Women and Sport

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Top-sport is learning to loose!

- Balanced participation of women and men in decision-making
- Position of women in
 - sport
 - decision-making structures
- Dealing with loosing



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Paris Olympic History



- 1900 Olympic Games in Paris
- World Exhibition
- 1st women Olympians
 - ballooning
 - croquet
 - golf
 - tennis
 - yachting

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Martial Arts World

- Male dominated
- 1st Female Martial Artist in wheelchair
 - referee
 - coach
- Being different
- Support to female colleagues



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Gender stereotyping

- Rooted in society
- Parallel between sports world and society
- Patriarchal cultures
- Feministic waves



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Process women in decision-making

- Since 1995 priority of EU
- Relate to:
 - politics
 - not in social society
 - not in economy
- Internal Program for promotion of women
- Directive not launched



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Olympic and Paralympic History

- Female Olympic Games 1000 BC
 - again in 1920
- 1st Female boxing coach 440 BC
- 1st Olympics for women in 1928
- 1st Paralympics in 1960
 - for all in 1976
- Balanced participation IOC / IPC



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Myths & Facts

- Women inferior to men
 - strength
 - speed
 - intelligence
 - endurance
- **All** men are not stronger
 - overlap in strength and speed
- Women more
 - flexibility
 - body fat
 - smaller size



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Myths & Facts

- Women too emotional to be good in business or management
- Always on maternity leave
- Men are emotional too, but in a different way
 - dominant male culture
 - ‚old-boys-network‘
- Female leaders have similar/more strength and endurance



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Everything measured by football



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- Not ALL men are football players; not all football players are men
- Women are never credited for their achievements
 - less worth
 - less important
 - makes less hours on court or in office

Portrayal of women in media



- New directive failed
- Women in reporting
 - invade men's locker rooms
- And how about the male reporters?
- Male coaches?
 - Sexual violence

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Why equal representation?



- MS have commitment to gender equality
- GE is pre-requisite to democracy
- Both sexes in policy making:
 - fits citizenry
 - new issues
- Women are taxpayers too

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Benefits EU and all women

- Involvement of women in decision making
 - less euro scepticism
 - more women in sports participation
 - reconciling family and work/sport
- Visibility of women
- Women's interests on political agenda



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Parity democracy



- Equal
 - value of both sexes
 - dignity
 - respect for differences
- Renewing social organisation
 - share rights and responsibilities
- Equal representation in decision-making
- Essence of humanity is its duality
- Both sexes should have influence on decisions that effect their lives

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Parity democracy or 50% quota



- Quotas to make up for lack of representation
- Ceiling for minority
- Power sharing and participation on equal basis
 - 50/50
 - or from 40/60 to 60/40
- Women are not minority nor category

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Natural progress?

- **NO**
- Evolution of society is never natural
- Nothing natural about
 - political institutions
 - electoral districts
 - methods for choosing
 - result of human intervention



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PD contra democratic universalism or contra principle of freedom?

- **NO**
- Universalistic view implies
 - citizens are undifferentiated beings (classless, race-less, sex-less...)
 - promotes white, rich, male, able
- True equality - accepts difference
- **NO**
- Liberalists argue against
- Democracy is ruling of people by and for people
- Political parties, sports organisations not above democracy nor constitutional law

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Does PD take account of merit?



- **YES**
- Prejudice against women
- Male superiority
- Women have interest in politics, sports
 - more noble
 - less political games
- NGO involvement
- Prove 2x more skills
- Question quotas?

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Legal provision



- Legislation driving force of gender equality
- Principle of Equal Treatment
- No binding legal provision for decision making
- Some resolutions
- Legislation new concepts in equality

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Conclusions



- Going for a medal
- Women always competed
- Political will but also
 - legal provision
- Win or loose with dignity
 - for yourself
 - and opponent
- No victimizing



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Reculer pour mieux sauter?



Time to attack!

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