

**6th European Women and Sport Conference
PARIS CALL FOR ACTION**



THE CONFERENCE,

Recalling the Brighton Declaration, the Helsinki Spirit Recommendations, the Berlin Memorandum which consider the need for a sport culture where all girls and boys, women and men shall have equal opportunities to participate, act and make decisions;

Recalling also the Athens Declaration of UNESCO on Women and Sport, August 2001;

Welcoming the adoption of the European Parliament Resolution on Women and Sport in June 2003;

Taking into consideration the IOC Resolution "New Strategies, New Commitments" adopted by the third World Conference on Women and Sport in Marrakech, Morocco, in March 2004;

Taking also into consideration the aims of the 2004 European Year of "Education through Sport";

Recognising the significant progress made since the creation of the European Women and Sport (EWS) network to promote gender equality in sport, but being aware of all the challenges that lie ahead before achieving the aims of a balanced representation in sport:

1. **Reaffirms** the concept of democracy as a tool for developing a culture of gender equality in sport;
2. **Calls upon** all countries in Europe to further the development of gender-equal democracy in sport;
3. **Reaffirms** the need for synergies, co-operation and co-ordination between all national and European governmental, non-governmental and Olympic organisations responsible for women's issues in Sport;

With the aim of ensuring balanced participation of women and men in positions of responsibility and decision making, the Conference:

4. **Calls upon** all national and European sport organisations and governments to implement democracy at all levels including programs towards gender equality, and to follow up and evaluate gender equality plans and projects;
5. **Recommends** that sport communities work on specific time schedules to facilitate the involvement of women in the volunteer sector of sport;
6. **Urges** the member states of the European Union to implement the European Parliament Resolution on Women and Sport and asks the member countries of the European Sport Conference and Council of Europe to do the same;
7. **Supports** the legal status of sport in the new European Constitution, and calls upon those implementing it to encourage policies reflecting the principles of democracy, equal access and equality; and to support programmes aiming to improve diversity and inclusion in sport and physical education.

With the aim of providing committed support for the democratisation of women's access to sport, the Conference:

8. **Calls upon** the national and European sport organisations and governments to review their policies and development programmes to ensure that funds are equally distributed between women and men allowing access to the different forms and levels of sport;
9. Embracing the diversity of cultures, **requests** that equal opportunities should be offered for every girl and boy, woman and man to participate in the physical activities of their choices and calls on the European States to fight against any kind of discrimination in sport;
10. **Stresses** the need for balanced media coverage of elite women and men in sport in quantity as well as in quality, and calls upon national sport organisations to commit to ongoing review of progress in this area.

And with the aim of developing education through and in sport, the conference:

11. **Stresses** the importance of general physical education in the school curriculum to ensure equal opportunity in sport education for girls and boys and to favour life-long physical activity, and calls upon education authorities in European states to provide gender-sensitive programmes of physical education, with single-sex and co-educational groupings as appropriate;
12. **Calls upon** governmental and non-governmental agencies, physical education and sport science organisations, universities and sport organisations, to sustain and provide gender-sensitive training programmes in management, coaching, refereeing and media in order to empower women to work in the different roles needed in sport;
13. **Encourages** the European sport, Olympic and Paralympic movements to develop training and mentoring sessions to attract women to volunteer positions at all levels from the local to the international.

The 275 delegates from 33 countries present at the 6th European Conference on Women and Sport held in Paris (France), April 23-25, 2004, address this call for action to all men and women in all relevant national and international organisations including:

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