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Informal Meeting of EU Sport Ministers

Ministers agree to promote "structured dialogue" among all levels of sport

21-04-2010



EFE

The informal meeting of EU sports ministers, which ended on Wednesday, concluded with a "unanimous agreement" on the creation of a "structured dialogue" group between all levels of sport, according to the Spanish Secretary of State for Sport, Jaime Lissavetzky, during the press conference after the event.

"There has been unanimous agreement between the Commission and the party making the proposal, in this case Spain, and total agreement on the need to create the "structured dialogue" group, which will include representatives from public authorities, the Council, the Commission, the Trio, Member States and the European Parliament; and on the other side, the world of sport, which will have to define who will be its representatives in this group which is going to be created," Lissavetzky explained.

"Structured dialogue is not the starting point but rather the road to follow. Only with negotiations can we progress together and what we want, in terms of the future, is to see how we can reconcile everybody's interests: international federations, international leagues, sportsmen and women, governments, the Commission, etc.", the Secretary of State added.

The Secretary of State stressed that "the federations will naturally play a role, but the professional leagues also play another role, there are associations of clubs and then there is the role of the sportsmen and women, who expressed their desire to join this social dialogue involving the Commission and of course the host country, Spain".

In terms of the composition and operability of the "structured dialogue" group, he added that "we have not capped the number of people", and that "it has to be a group that meets permanently and that can also be operational", adding "it has been mentioned that there are highly specific topics that can be dealt with at the same time as the group is functional."

In order to resolve these specific topics, Lissavetzky said that sports forums and meetings "where there is greater participation" should continue to exist in parallel since "as the Commission agrees that they should continue to do so".

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Likewise, to mark the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in 2010, the EU approved a proposal by the Spanish Presidency to create a new working group on sport and social inclusion.

Proposals from Member States

Jan Trzuszczński, Director General for Education and Culture of the European Commission, pointed out that "we now have a new legal situation. For the first time in the history of the EU, sport has a legal framework under the Treaty of Lisbon and we have to apply these provisions that are now part of the Treaty".

He explained that "we already have our opinions on how we could achieve this. We want to propose a political framework at EU level; we also want to propose a dedicated instrument, a programme, to apply these types of policies".

"There is now common ground between what the Commission thinks and what Member States think about what should be done in the area of sport," said Trzuszczński, and in relation to the aforementioned programme, the following proposals agreed during the Informal Meeting of Sports Ministers will be included with other proposals by Member States:

- Work in the area of the educational and social role of sport.
- Creation of sporting structures that work appropriately, above all among volunteers and their activities in the area of sports.
- Inclusion of the funding of sports activities.
- The physical and moral integrity of sport, placing special emphasis on dealing with drug use in sport.
- The need to protect minors in the world of sport.
- The importance of accessibility and fair play in sport.
- Greater detail in the dialogue between sports organisations and EU institutions.

[VÍdeo: Highlights of the press conference at the start of the Informal Meeting of Sports Ministers](#)

