

**No. 25704**

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**MULTILATERAL**

**European Convention on spectator violence and misbehaviour at sports events and in particular at football matches. Concluded at Strasbourg on 19 August 1985**

*Authentic texts: English and French.*

*Registered by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, acting on behalf of the Parties, on 14 March 1988.*

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**MULTILATÉRAL**

**Convention européenne sur la violence et les débordements de spectateurs lors de manifestations sportives et notamment de matches de football. Conclue à Strasbourg le 19 août 1985**

*Textes authentiques : anglais et français.*

*Enregistrée par le Secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe, agissant au nom des Parties, le 14 mars 1988.*

## EUROPEAN CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> ON SPECTATOR VIOLENCE AND MISBEHAVIOUR AT SPORTS EVENTS AND IN PARTICULAR AT FOOTBALL MATCHES

The member States of the Council of Europe and the other States party to the European Cultural Convention,<sup>2</sup> signatory hereto,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members;

Concerned by violence and misbehaviour amongst spectators at sports events, and in particular at football matches, and the consequences thereof;

Aware that this problem is likely to put at risk the principles embodied in Resolution (76) 41 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe known as the "European Sport for All Charter";

Emphasising the important contribution made to international understanding by sport, and especially, because of their frequency, by football matches between national and club teams from European States;

Considering that both public authorities and the independent sports organisations have separate but complementary responsibilities to combat violence and misbehaviour by spectators, bearing in mind that the sports organisations also

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 November 1985, i.e., the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of one month after the date on which three Member States of the Council of Europe had signed it without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, or had deposited an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, in accordance with article 13 (1):

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of definitive signature</i>	
Denmark .....	19 August	1985
Sweden .....	13 September	1985
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland .....	19 August	1985

Subsequently, the Convention entered into force for the following States on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of one month after the date of signature or of the deposit of their instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, in accordance with article 13 (2):

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>	
Italy .....	8 November	1985
(With effect from 1 January 1986.)		
Iceland .....	23 January	1986
(With effect from 1 March 1986.)		
Finland .....	16 January	1987
(With effect from 1 March 1987.)		
France* .....	17 March	1987
(For the European and Overseas Departments. With effect from 1 May 1987.)		
Norway .....	14 April	1987
(With effect from 1 June 1987.)		
Cyprus .....	22 June	1987
(With effect from 1 August 1987.)		
Portugal .....	26 June	1987
(With effect from 1 August 1987.)		
Spain .....	16 July	1987
(With effect from 1 September 1987.)		

\* See p. 145 of this volume for the text of the declaration made upon ratification.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 218, p. 139.

have responsibilities in matters of safety and that more generally they should ensure the orderly conduct of the events they organise; considering moreover that these authorities and organisations should work together for this purpose at all appropriate levels;

Considering that violence is a current social phenomenon with wide repercussions, whose origins lie mainly outside sport, and that sport is often the scene for outbreaks of violence;

Being resolved to take common and co-operative action to prevent and control the problem of violence and misbehaviour by spectators at sports events,

Have agreed as follows:

#### *Article 1. AIM OF THE CONVENTION*

1. The Parties, with a view to preventing and controlling violence and misbehaviour by spectators at football matches, undertake, within the limits of their respective constitutional provisions, to take the necessary steps to give effect to the provisions of this Convention.

2. The Parties shall apply the provisions of this Convention to other sports and sports events in which violence or misbehaviour by spectators is to be feared, as appropriate to the specific requirements of such sports and sports events.

#### *Article 2. DOMESTIC CO-ORDINATION*

The Parties shall co-ordinate the policies and actions of their government departments and other public agencies against violence and misbehaviour by spectators, where appropriate, through setting up co-ordinating bodies.

#### *Article 3. MEASURES*

1. The Parties undertake to ensure the formulation and implementation of measures designed to prevent and control violence and misbehaviour by spectators, including in particular:

- a.* To secure that adequate public order resources are employed to counter outbreaks of violence and misbehaviour, both within the immediate vicinity of and inside stadia and along the transit routes used by spectators;
- b.* To facilitate close co-operation and exchange of appropriate information between the police forces of the different localities involved or likely to be involved;
- c.* To apply or, if need be, to adopt legislation which provides for those found guilty of offences related to violence or misbehaviour by spectators to receive appropriate penalties or, as the case may be, appropriate administrative measures.

2. The Parties undertake to encourage the responsible organisation and good conduct of supporters' clubs and the appointment of stewards from within their membership to help manage and inform spectators at matches and to accompany parties of supporters travelling to away fixtures.

3. The Parties shall encourage the co-ordination, insofar as legally possible, of the organisation of travel arrangements from the place of departure, with the co-operation of clubs, organised supporters, and travel agencies, so as to inhibit potential trouble-makers from leaving to attend matches.

4. The Parties shall seek to ensure, where necessary by introducing appropriate legislation which contains sanctions for non-compliance or by any other appropriate means, that, where outbreaks of violence and misbehaviour by spectators are to be feared, sports organisations and clubs, together with, where appropriate, stadium owners and public authorities, in accordance with responsibilities defined in domestic law, take practical measures at and within stadia to prevent or control such violence or misbehaviour, including:

- a. To secure that the design and physical fabric of stadia provide for the safety of spectators, do not readily facilitate violence between spectators, allow effective crowd control, contain appropriate barriers or fencing, and allow security and police forces to operate;
- b. To segregate effectively groups of rival supporters, by allocating to groups of visiting supporters, when they are admitted, specific terraces;
- c. To ensure this segregation by strictly controlling the sale of tickets and to take particular precautions in the period immediately preceding the match;
- d. To exclude from or forbid access to matches and stadia, insofar as it is legally possible, known or potential trouble-makers, or people who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
- e. To provide stadia with an effective public address system and to see that full use is made of this, of the match programme and of other publicity outlets to encourage spectators to behave correctly;
- f. To prohibit the introduction of alcoholic drinks by spectators into stadia; to restrict, and preferably ban, the sale and any distribution of alcoholic drinks at stadia, and to ensure that all beverages available are in safe containers;
- g. To provide controls so as to ensure that spectators do not bring into stadia objects that are likely to be used in acts of violence, or fireworks or similar devices;
- h. To ensure that liaison officers co-operate with the authorities concerned before matches on arrangements to be taken for crowd control so that the relevant rules are enforced through concerted action.

5. The Parties shall take appropriate social and educational measures, bearing in mind the potential importance of the mass media, to prevent violence in and associated with sport, in particular by promoting the sporting ideal through educational and other campaigns, by giving support to the notion of fair play, especially among young people, so as to enhance mutual respect both amongst spectators and between sports players and also by encouraging increased active participation in sport.

#### *Article 4.* INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

1. The Parties shall co-operate closely on the matters covered by this Convention and encourage similar co-operation as appropriate between national sports authorities involved.

2. In advance of international club and representative matches or tournaments, the Parties concerned shall invite their competent authorities, especially the sports organisations, to identify those matches at which violence or misbehaviour by spectators is to be feared. Where such a match is identified, the competent authorities of the host country shall arrange consultations between

those concerned. Such consultations shall take place as soon as possible and should not be later than two weeks before the match is due to take place, and shall encompass arrangements, measures and precautions to be taken before, during, and after the match, including, where necessary, measures additional to those included in this Convention.

*Article 5. IDENTIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS*

1. The Parties, respecting existing legal procedures and the principle of the independence of the judiciary, shall seek to ensure that spectators committing acts of violence or other criminal behaviour are identified and prosecuted in accordance with the due process of the law.

2. Where appropriate, particularly in the case of visiting spectators, and in accordance with the applicable international agreements, the Parties shall consider:

- a. Transferring proceedings against persons apprehended in connection with violence or other criminal behaviour committed at sports events to their country of residence;
- b. Seeking the extradition of persons suspected of violence or other criminal behaviour committed at sports events;
- c. Transferring persons convicted of offences of violence or other criminal behaviour committed at sports events to serve their sentences in the relevant country.

*Article 6. ADDITIONAL MEASURES*

1. The Parties undertake to co-operate closely with their appropriate national sports organisations and clubs and where appropriate, stadium owners, on arrangements regarding the planning and execution of alterations to the physical fabric of stadia or other alterations, including access to and egress from stadia, necessary to improve safety and to prevent violence.

2. The Parties undertake to promote, where necessary and in appropriate cases, a system laying down requirements for the selection of stadia which take into account the safety of spectators and the prevention of violence amongst them, especially for those stadia used for matches likely to attract large or unruly crowds.

3. The Parties undertake to encourage their national sports organisations to review their regulations continuously in order to control factors which may lead to outbreaks of violence by players or spectators.

*Article 7. PROVISION OF INFORMATION*

Each Party shall forward to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe, all relevant information concerning legislative and other measures taken by it for the purpose of complying with the terms of this Convention, whether with regard to football or to other sports.

*Article 8. STANDING COMMITTEE*

1. For the purposes of this Convention, a Standing Committee is hereby established.

2. Any Party may be represented on the Standing Committee by one or more delegates. Each Party shall have one vote.

3. Any member State of the Council of Europe or other State party to the European Cultural Convention which is not a Party to this Convention may be represented on the Committee as an observer.

4. The Standing Committee may, by unanimous decision, invite any non-member State of the Council of Europe which is not a Party to the Convention and any sports organisation concerned to be represented by an observer at one or more of its meetings.

5. The Standing Committee shall be convened by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Its first meeting shall be held within one year of the date of the entry into force of the Convention. It shall subsequently meet at least every year. In addition it shall meet whenever a majority of the Parties so request.

6. A majority of the Parties shall constitute a quorum for holding a meeting of the Standing Committee.

7. Subject to the provisions of this Convention, the Standing Committee shall draw up and adopt by consensus its own Rules of Procedure.

#### *Article 9*

1. The Standing Committee shall be responsible for monitoring the application of this Convention. It may in particular:

- a. Keep under review the provisions of this Convention and examine any modifications necessary;
- b. Hold consultations with relevant sports organisations;
- c. Make recommendations to the Parties concerning measures to be taken for the purposes of this Convention;
- d. Recommend the appropriate measures to keep the public informed about the activities undertaken within the framework of this Convention;
- e. Make recommendations to the Committee of Ministers concerning non-member States of the Council of Europe to be invited to accede to this Convention;
- f. Make any proposal for improving the effectiveness of this Convention.

2. In order to discharge its functions, the Standing Committee may, on its own initiative, arrange for meetings of groups of experts.

#### *Article 10*

After each meeting, the Standing Committee shall forward to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe a report on its work and on the functioning of the Convention.

#### *Article 11. AMENDMENTS*

1. Amendments to this Convention may be proposed by a Party, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe or the Standing Committee.

2. Any proposal for amendment shall be communicated by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the member States of the Council of Europe, to the other States party to the European Cultural Convention, and to every non-

member State which has acceded to or has been invited to accede to this Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 14.

3. Any amendment proposed by a Party or the Committee of Ministers shall be communicated to the Standing Committee at least two months before the meeting at which it is to be considered. The Standing Committee shall submit to the Committee of Ministers its opinion on the proposed amendment, where appropriate after consultation with the relevant sports organisations.

4. The Committee of Ministers shall consider the proposed amendment and any opinion submitted by the Standing Committee and may adopt the amendment.

5. The text of any amendment adopted by the Committee of Ministers in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Article shall be forwarded to the Parties for acceptance.

6. Any amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 4 of this Article shall come into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of one month after all Parties have informed the Secretary General of their acceptance thereof.

#### FINAL CLAUSES

##### *Article 12*

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by member States of the Council of Europe and other States party to the European Cultural Convention, which may express their consent to be bound by:

- a. Signature without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, or
- b. Signature subject to ratification, acceptance or approval, followed by ratification, acceptance or approval.

2. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

##### *Article 13*

1. The Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of one month after the date on which three member States of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 12.

2. In respect of any signatory State which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of one month after the date of signature or of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

##### *Article 14*

1. After the entry into force of this Convention, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, after consulting the Parties, may invite to accede to the Convention any non-member State of the Council of Europe by a decision taken by the majority provided for in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe and by the unanimous vote of the representatives of the Contracting States entitled to sit on the Committee of Ministers.

2. In respect of any acceding State, the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of one month after the date of the deposit of the instrument of accession with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

#### *Article 15*

1. Any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the territory or territories to which this Convention shall apply.

2. Any Party may, at any later date, by declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this Convention to any other territory specified in the declaration. In respect of such territory the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of one month after the date of receipt of such declaration by the Secretary General.

3. Any declaration made under the two preceding paragraphs may, in respect of any territory mentioned in such declaration, be withdrawn by a notification addressed to the Secretary General. Such withdrawal shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

#### *Article 16*

1. Any Party may, at any time, denounce this Convention by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2. Such denunciation shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of six months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

#### *Article 17*

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council of Europe, the other States party to the European Cultural Convention and any State which has acceded to this Convention, of:

- a. Any signature in accordance with Article 12;
- b. The deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in accordance with Articles 12 or 14;
- c. Any date of entry into force of this Convention in accordance with Articles 13 and 14;
- d. Any information forwarded under the provisions of Article 7;
- e. Any report established in pursuance of the provisions of Article 10;
- f. Any proposal for amendment or any amendment adopted in accordance with Article 11 and the date on which the amendment comes into force;
- g. Any declaration made under the provisions of Article 15;
- h. Any notification made under the provisions of Article 16 and the date on which the denunciation takes effect.

*[For the testimonium and signature pages, see p. 141 of this volume.]*



IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Convention.

DONE at Strasbourg, this 19th day of August 1985, in English and French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each member State of the Council of Europe, to each State party to the European Cultural Convention, and any State invited to accede to this Convention.

EN FOI DE QUOI, les soussignés, dûment autorisés à cet effet, ont signé la présente Convention.

FAIT à Strasbourg, le 19 août 1985, en français et en anglais, les deux textes faisant également foi, en un seul exemplaire qui sera déposé dans les archives du Conseil de l'Europe. Le Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe en communiquera copie certifiée conforme à chaque Etat membre du Conseil de l'Europe, à chaque Etat partie à la Convention culturelle européenne, et à tout Etat invité à adhérer à la présente Convention.

For the Government  
of the Republic of Austria:

Sous réserve de ratification ou d'acceptation<sup>1</sup>

HANS G. KNITEL

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République d'Autriche :

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Belgium:

Sous réserve de ratification ou d'acceptation<sup>1</sup>

J. R. VANDEN BLOOCK

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Royaume de Belgique :

For the Government  
of the Republic of Cyprus:

Strasbourg, 19 December 1986

With reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance<sup>2</sup>

ANDREAS POUYOUROS

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République de Chypre :

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Denmark:

JULIE RECHNAGEL

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Royaume de Danemark :

<sup>1</sup> With reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance.

<sup>2</sup> Sous réserve de ratification ou d'acceptation.

For the Government  
of the French Republic:

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République française :

Paris, le 12 mars 1986

Sous réserve de ratification ou d'acceptation<sup>1</sup>

ALAIN CALMAT<sup>2</sup>

For the Government  
of the Federal Republic of Germany:

Pour le Gouvernement de la  
République Fédérale d'Allemagne :

For the Government  
of the Hellenic Republic:

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République hellénique :

Sous réserve de ratification ou d'acceptation<sup>1</sup>

D. CONSTANTINOU

For the Government  
of the Icelandic Republic:

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République islandaise :

Strasbourg, 20 November 1985

With reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance<sup>3</sup>

GEIR HALLGRIMSSON

For the Government  
of Ireland:

Pour le Gouvernement  
d'Irlande :

Strasbourg, 3 November 1986

With reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance<sup>3</sup>

AIDAN MULLOY

For the Government  
of the Italian Republic:

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République italienne :

Strasbourg, le 23 septembre 1985

Sous réserve de ratification ou d'acceptation<sup>1</sup>

PAOLO MASSIMO ANTICI

<sup>1</sup> With reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 145 of this volume for the text of the interpretative declaration made upon signature — Voir p. 145 du présent volume pour le texte de la déclaration interprétative faite lors de la signature.

<sup>3</sup> Sous réserve de ratification ou d'acceptation.

For the Government  
of the Principality of Liechtenstein:

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la Principauté de Liechtenstein :

For the Government  
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg:

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg :

Strasbourg, le 19 septembre 1985

Sous réserve de ratification ou d'acceptation<sup>1</sup>

JEAN HOSTERT

For the Government  
of Malta:

Pour le Gouvernement  
de Malte :

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands:

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Royaume des Pays-Bas :

With reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance<sup>2</sup>

V. J. J. M. BRUYNS

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Norway:

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Royaume de Norvège :

For the Government  
of the Portuguese Republic:

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République portugaise :

Strasbourg, le 4 septembre 1985

Sous réserve de ratification ou d'acceptation<sup>1</sup>

JOÃO PEREIRA BASTOS

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Spain:

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Royaume de l'Espagne:

Strasbourg, le 3 février 1986

Sous réserve de ratification ou d'acceptation<sup>1</sup>

FERNANDO BAEZA

<sup>1</sup> With reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance.

<sup>2</sup> Sous réserve de ratification ou d'acceptation.

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of Sweden:

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Royaume de Suède :

Strasbourg, le 13 septembre 1985

FREDRIK SVEDANG

For the Government  
of the Swiss Confederation:

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la Confédération suisse :

For the Government  
of the Turkish Republic:

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la République turque :

Strasbourg, 25 September 1986

With reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance<sup>1</sup>

FILIZ DINÇMEN

For the Government  
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland:

Pour le Gouvernement  
du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne  
et d'Irlande du Nord :

C. D. LUSH

For the Government  
of Finland:

Pour le Gouvernement  
de la Finlande :

Strasbourg, le 7 juillet 1986

Sous réserve de ratification ou d'acceptation<sup>2</sup>

HENRY SÖDERHOLM

For the Holy See:

Pour le Saint-Siège :

<sup>1</sup> Sous réserve de ratification ou d'acceptation.

<sup>2</sup> With reservation in respect of ratification or acceptance.

INTERPRETATIVE DECLARATION  
MADE UPON SIGNATURE

FRANCE

[TRANSLATION<sup>1</sup> — TRADUCTION<sup>2</sup>]

*Article 3*

The controls provided for in Article 3 paragraph 4.g as well as those necessary for the application of the provisions of Article 3 paragraph 4.f, shall be carried out "in the framework of the French legislation in this field".

By safe containers shall be understood containers which are made neither from glass nor from metal (Article 3 paragraph 4.f).

DECLARATION MADE  
UPON RATIFICATION

FRANCE

[TRANSLATION<sup>1</sup> — TRADUCTION<sup>2</sup>]

The measures provided for in Article 3, paragraph 4, sub-paragraph *a*, and in Article 6, paragraph 1, must be compatible with those adopted in order to prevent the risks of fire and panic and in case of need, to permit the rapid evacuation of the public.

DÉCLARATION INTERPRÉTATIVE  
FAITE LORS DE LA SIGNATURE

FRANCE

« *Article 3*

Les contrôles prévus à l'article 3, paragraphe 4, alinéa *g*, ainsi que ceux rendus nécessaires pour l'application des dispositions de l'Article 3, paragraphe 4, alinéa *f*, sont effectués « dans le cadre de la législation française en la matière ».

Il convient d'entendre par récipients non dangereux ceux qui ne sont ni en verre ni en métal (article 3, paragraphe 4, alinéa *f*). »

DÉCLARATION FAITES LORS  
DE LA RATIFICATION

FRANCE

« Les mesures prévues à l'article 3, paragraphe 4, alinéa *a*, et à l'article 6, paragraphe 1, doivent être compatibles avec celles adoptées en vue de prévenir les risques d'incendie et de panique, et de permettre, le cas échéant, l'évacuation rapide du public. »

<sup>1</sup> Translation supplied by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

<sup>2</sup> Traduction fournie par le Secrétaire général du Conseil de l'Europe.