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## Joint Statement on European social dialogue in the sport sector by EASE and EURO-MEI

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The European Association of Sport Employers (EASE) and EURO-MEI, the European trade union sectoral body with jurisdiction in sport, mutually recognised one another as social partners for the sport sector, including professional, not-for-profit sport and commercial sports (active leisure), in Arnhem, Netherlands, on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

In Brussels, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009, the two organisations held an Informal Social Dialogue Meeting with some 30 representatives of European employer and worker organisations and of other stakeholders from the sector.

### Why engage in European social dialogue?

- Because of the **strong interaction between national and European social dialogue**;
- Because of the **learning process** between the EASE members on one side, and between the EURO-MEI members on the other side: learn from each other, exchange experiences of social dialogue, is a driving force for both organisations;
- Because **workers' mobility within Europe** requires **minimum work standards** that can be defined through reference to **best practices** developed in some countries ;
- Because of the necessity to **secure the working relation** between employers and employees;
- Because of the importance to be part of the process to **structure** and **professionalize** the sport and active leisure sector both at the national and European level: that means **be proactive** and defend, in this way, the **specificities** of the sector through social dialogue.

EASE and EURO-MEI's work is carried out while respecting the **principle of subsidiarity** defined in Article 5 of the Treaty establishing the European Community. It is intended to ensure that decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen and that constant checks are made as to whether action at Community level is justified in the light of the possibilities available at national, regional or local level.

Therefore, EASE and EURO-MEI urge national social partners' organisations to get involved.

The following steps have been validated by the European social partners at the end of the CC-project Informal Social Dialogue Meeting:

**1/ To complete the representativeness process by completing the questionnaire on representativeness of the European Commission**

**2/ To seek to have the European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee (ESSDC) for the sport and active leisure sector recognized by the European Commission**

**3/ To create standing committees under the plenary committee once it is established:**

EASE and EURO-MEI propose the following standing committees:

- not-for-profit sport,
- professional sport,
- active leisure.

Numerous bridges exist between the sub-sectors in terms of mobility and employment.

The secretariats of the European social partners will serve as a link between the standing committees and the plenary committee.

**4/ To endorse the Joint Recommendations of the CC-project on both employment contracts' minimum requirements and on health and safety**

**5/ To make a list of the subjects to be dealt with through the consultation process**

Article 138 of the EC Treaty provides for the consultation of social partner organisations at European level on a range of issues concerning employment and social affairs set out in Article 137 of the Treaty. Article 138 provides for a compulsory two-stage consultation procedure: in the first stage the Commission consults the social partners on the possible direction of an initiative, whilst in the second stage, the focus is on the content of an initiative.


Consultations in accordance with article 138 are limited to representative social partner organisations.

The dialogue between employee and employer organisations at Community level may lead to contractual relations, including agreements (Article 139).

Date



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The English version is the original.



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