



XVI Games of the Small States of Europe 2015 in Iceland

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Draft Resoluton

Integrity of sport in our times and in the future

Sport in general has evolved tremendously in recent decades. With growing knowledge and a higher level of professionalism in sports, sports have increasingly become a phenomena of economic importance that connect countries and continents. Sports as a global phenomena enjoy enormous attention and this has led to massive financial benefits for many sports. Parallel to this development, however, problems have arisen that to a large extent can also be linked to the economic aspects of sports.

The need for Anti-Doping policies in sport can be largely attributed to the fact that there are athletes and others involved in sports who try to cheat in order to achieve high economic benefits. In recent years there have also come up numerous issues related to the manipulation of sports competitions. The objective of those involved in such activities is to achieve the economic benefits associated with betting on the sports events involved. All this puts a serious question mark on the integrity of sport and sporting values. Some cases related to the manipulation of sports competitions have been related to organized crime which puts the matter in a new context. It is quite clear that the value of sports will be seriously reduced if such trends continue.

The Small States of Europe will contribute to international cooperation as well as national policies to ensure in the best way possible the integrity and value of sport in the future. This includes contribution to fight against bribery and other forms of corruption within international sport federations. This also includes to work against all forms of discriminatory behaviour among participants in sports and sport events, such as racism, bullying, child abuse and harrassment. The importance of sports in the community of nations will only be maintained if the understanding of the importance of integrity is present both in the environment of sports and within them. The responsibility of the sports movement is most important in these matters and the governments of the Small States of Europe will do everything in their power to support actions relating to the protection of integrity in sports.