

**MINISTRY OF CULTURE
GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF SPORTS**

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
“VIOLENCE WITHIN SPORT VENUES”**

**THURSDAY the 22nd & FRIDAY the 23rd
OF JANUARY 2004**

START TIME: 9.00

END TIME: 19.30

COORDINATOR: ALEXIS KOSTALAS

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

“VIOLENCE WITHIN SPORT VENUES”

JANUARY 22 – 23, 2004

*Amphitheatre of the National Bank of Greece
Aeolou & Sofokleous*

PRESIDING:

- Mr. Nickos Exarchos, General Secretary for Sports and Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Seminar.
- Mrs. Maria Iliopoulou, General Director for Sports and Vice-Chairwoman of the Organizing Committee of the Seminar.
- Mrs. Catherine Panagopoulou, Ambassador of Fair Play.
- Mr. Achilles Mayromatis, Director of the Minister of Sport and member of the Organizing Committee.
- Mr. George Tsitroulis, Director of Champion Sportsmen and Sport Events and member of the Organizing Committee.

SPEECH PROGRAM

Thursday, 22 January 2004

09:00 Deputy Minister of Culture, Mr. George Lianis.

- 09:15 Minister of Culture, Mr. Eyaggelos Venizelos.
- 09:30 Minister for Public Order, Mr. George Floridis.
- 09:45 Dr. Clifford Stott, Head of studies for the confrontation of violence in football fields, for the University of Liverpool.
- 10:00 Mr. G. Orphanos, Head of Sports, New Democracy.
- 10:15 Mrs. L. Karatza, Head for Sports, Greek Communist Party.
- 10:30 Mr. Jules Synadinos, Coalition of the Left of the Ecology of Movements.
- 10:45 Mr. D. Papadopoulos, Head for Sports of the Democratic Social Movement, DE.K.KI.
- 11:00 Mr. Papalakis, President of the Committee of Professional Sports.
- 11:15 Vice General Ch. Christofareizis, General of the Hellenic Police Force.
- 11:30 Intermission
- 12:00 Mrs. Catherine Panagopoulou, for the Tolerance, Sports and Fair Play in the Council of Europe.

- 12:30 Lorenzo Rodriguez, police inspector, presenter of the penalties for the Spanish Committee on the confrontation of violence.
- 12:45 Mr. V. Gagatsis, President of E.P.O.
- 13:00 Mr. Th. Kanellopoulos, President of E.P.A.E.
- 13:15 Mr. P. Kokkalis, Vice President of P.A.E. Olympiakos.
- 13:30 Mr. A. Mitsou, President of P.A.E. Panathinaikos.
- 13:45 Mr. V. Pagonis, President of P.A.E. P.A.O.K.
- 14:00 Mr. G. Granitsas, President of P.A.E. A.E.K.
- 14:15 Mr. Theodorakopoulos, President of the Connection of Sports Press.

Lunch Break

- 17:00 Patrick Mignon, member of the laboratory of Sociology of the National Sports and Physical Health Institute of France.
- 17:30 Mr. Arno Weise, Head of the German Police and Head of Security of football fields.

18:00 Mr. Ronni Abergel, Council for Crime Prevention in Denmark.

18:30 Dr. Just Crijn, Head of Stadium Safety of the Royal Federation of Football in Holland.

Friday, 23 January 2004

09:00 Mr. Manuel Comeron, coordinator of the Eurofan program in the European Union and teacher of the University of Liege.

09:30 Mr. Henk Groenvelt, Inspector of the Holland Police and Head of the Information Center regarding football related vandalisms.

10:15 Mrs. Christina Diaz, Head of Stadium Security for the Royal Football Federation in Spain.

10:30 Mr. P. Vassilakis, President of the Continuous Committee for the Confrontation of Violence.

11:00 Intermission – Coffee Break.

11:30 Mr. Chris Whalley, Head of Security for the English Federation.

12:00 Mr. Bryan Drew, Inspector, Head of the Information Center
for Football related Vandalisms, National Crime
Intelligence Service.

Press Conference.

COORDINATOR:

Given that some of you may be wondering who I am, my name is Alexis Kostalas, so may I ask you to take your seats, we will be able to start in five minutes. Thank you very much.

Parliamentary Representatives of the Political Parties, General Secretaries, Heads of the various Security Services, Chairmen, Ladies and Gentlemen, delegates of the press, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen may I bid your heart to welcome to the beginning of this International Conference on “Violence within Sport Venues” to be celebrated in Athens today and tomorrow.

Prior to commencing our work may I be presenting to you a video-clip produced with the care of the Ministry of Culture of Greece. It’s a video on the idea and the objectives and the targets of the Olympic Games of 2004 and the Olympic Spirit in general. It has been produced and shot on the Parthenon in Acropolis with the presence of practically all the big winners and major champions of Greece.

Channel 1 will be for English, channel 2 will be for Greek and channel 3 will be the Spanish translation.

May I now introduce the distinguished panel; Mr. Nickos Exarchos, General Secretary for Sports and Chairman of the Organizing Committee of this Conference, followed by Mrs. Maria Iliopoulou, she is General Director for Sports and Vice-Chairwoman of the Organizing Committee of this Seminar. Mrs. Catherine Panagopoulou, Ambassador of Fair Play, Mr. Achilles Mayromatis, Director of the Minister of Sport and member of the Organizing Committee and Mr. George Tsitroulis, Director of Champion

Sportsmen and Sport Events and member of the Organizing Committee.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Good morning on the part of the panel. In view of a Ministers' Council to be hosted within a few moments from now both Mr. Venizelos and Mr. Lianis will have but very few moments to spare with us. Never the less we bid them a very hearty welcome. We will have an effort to have a debate on violence in sport venues. We have distinguished guests from various parts of the world and many countries of the European Union.

More specifically, it will be very important to follow what we have to say. We will now be able to compare the tones and provisions of the Law recently implemented by Mr. Venizelos. This new Law will be opening up new horizons within this field, and you will see the government has been making every effort to have improvement in this field. It will be very important for us to see how practically, these men involved in the process are doing whatever they can to promote the idea of fair play. Rather than loosing more time I will ask Mr. Lianis to come and take the floor.

MR. LIANIS:

Your Excellency the Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished guests you have take the trouble to come all the way from your home countries and it is an honor for us to have you here amongst us. Dear friends, coming from all over Greece to attend this Conference welcome to Athens. Welcome to Greece for those coming

from abroad. Athens, declaring itself to be ready for the Olympic Games within 200 days from now, will be able to host Olympic Games based on ideals and principles.

We have been able to do that for 27 centuries, sportsmen led to freedom and the spirit of friendship, acceptance and tolerance of the others and the understanding of what is fair and what is equal. If we were granted the privilege of hosting the Olympic Games it's because Greece is used to these principles able, as it is to host fair games based on the principles of justice of equitable treatment and fair play.

A paradox whereas this country has been building in the idea of the revive of tolerance and truce, whereas this country has been able to build on the principles of a new Greece, the paradox remains that in football stadiums there is trouble. In the football stadiums every Sunday we are dealing with crude violence and the principle of justice, of tolerance for equitability of fairness whereas written on banners and on the stadium are not respected.

Ontocracy, scorn, inequitability and sometimes even violence and criminality show their ugly face into the stadiums. Violence has been questioning the principle of the sport idea and to us it is a major enemy. So we will be frank and candid about this enemy. We have amongst us important personalities from major countries, members of the European Union who have been able to deal with and win the battle against this enemy. It is a very happy circumstance that today's Conference on violence coincides with an excess of this phenomenon in Greece, hence the importance vested in this event.

So, how is it possible at a time when sportsmen are evolving, where our country is developing that the ideals of humanity, of

humane treatment and justice towards a better world are flourishing, how come, I say that we still have to deal with violence questioning the very principle of sport and turning our stadiums into places of violence, of anger and of anathema?

Ladies and Gentlemen we have the honor in our country to have Mr. Venizelos ahead of the Ministry dealing with this phenomenon. He is a professor of ... Law, a European personality that has been promoting this new Law with important provisions in the Law, in the matter of violence. We have tried within this Law to combine the Olympic Spirit, the sportsmanship and training education in order to create citizens in human face and civilization comparable to that of the past.

So, over these two days of Conference we will be able to host a true debate and here we see amongst us all those who are in various ways involved in the realm of football and are in capacity to hold this debate. We are most happy to see that in your country you have been able to manage this phenomenon of violence, this major webs of violence. It will be a precious thing for us to know that you will all be contributing decisively and in a co-responsible spirit for us to be able to banish forever violence from the football stadiums.

Our measure is man, our measure is human, we want the opportunity through this seminar to express towards the National Bank of Greece our thanks and appreciation for letting use this wonderful premises. Mr. Karatzas more specifically, the Director of the Bank and all my colleagues from the Ministry and George Mayros, an old friend of mine, who traveled all the way to work and prepare this event,

visiting as many as five countries trying to invite all those people who were honoring and are honoring us today.

I wish the best of success. It is a difficult day today due to the weather conditions, so it is very important to us to see you around. Thank you very much for your presence. Thank you because most of you took some trouble to come to these premises and did whatever you could to contribute to what you love most, the promotion of football. I will now ask Mr. Venizelos the Minister of Culture of Greece to come and take the floor.

MR. VENIZELOS:

Dear friend George, Ladies and Gentlemen may I, in my turn, wish the best of success to this seminar. A hearty welcome to Greece to all the foreigners all those who are here to contribute with the knowledge and the skills to the success of this seminar. This is a very appropriate Conference. The conjecture is quite appropriate. All the more since it ascribes that we are all of Greek professional sportsmanship in conjunction with the state and the wider society of citizens, the public opinion which many times witness in awe and surprise what is happening in football stadiums.

It is so a happy conjuncture as Mr. Lianis said before me to see that this Conference is being hosted within the first weeks of the month of January, the first month of this Olympic year for us. Greece is now heading towards the Olympic Games. The Games, which are of course, a major sports event needles to say to other sports important but also a major political, organizational, developmental, communicational, tourist challenge for us. A challenge that has been

of much concern to the government and the Ministry of Culture more specifically because we are in charge of the co-ordination of this major national effort.

And of course, needless to say, we have the responsibility in conjunction with the Olympic Committee for the hosting of this major event where the government is in charge of the organization of all activities within the country. It is an ongoing process, a process of organization of both the country and the society for the hosting of the events and most importantly for all those things and events and activities to take follow after these Games.

This and the organization of what will happen after the Games, the new Greece of the first decades of this new century. Quite importantly may I ... that the countries in proximity in the west, European countries such phenomena have already been managed successfully and that to a high level and a high degree. It is very important to see that there is a stock of experience and know-how in the matter of dealing with the phenomenon of violence.

I would not like to anticipate to whatever things our foreign guests will be contributing in terms of intervention, know how they will be able to comment and formulate eventually suggestions. All those Greek participants in this Conference, a Conference which may I hope be if not a catalyst at least a decidedly crucial factor towards a better world in the world of football, so as for us to be able to improve our efforts and efficiency, come up with new measures and a booster efficiency. I would not like to anticipate either of the specialists or those who have the experience and know-how from everyday practices in the world of football in the stadiums, in situ.

May I nevertheless indulge in a few thoughts about the things and the context of the phenomenon of violence in this country; Violence in stadiums to my opinion should be distinguished in two major categories. Most often we are faced with phenomena of crude and blatant violence that when in stadiums simply take the pretext of a simple event to manifest.

I wouldn't like to bend your ears with what you know as an obvious thing, nor would I indulge in any sociological facile remarks as to how a developed society this modern, truly European such as the Greek society and all other social milieus of this western type can tolerate such pockets of crude violence. How can we nurture such phenomena? This deplorably is a true fact, it happens for many reasons hence the existence of crude violence is manifested with pretext of football games and which comes from external factors.

Nevertheless, this kind of violence may at times meet with some inherent violence, violence generated from football as a sport and as a spectacle. Because when you have a massive phenomenon like a football game where there are two teams in opposition and when you have the need to score a goal or have a football player make a decision within a few seconds of a moment it is natural you have some feeling of injustice or some violent reactions which might generate violence, which nevertheless should never take any extreme form unless there is a background.

A background I mentioned before, this background is simply introduced within the sport and is not produced by sport, which further means, to my opinion that dealing with this phenomenon of violence in football as the case is with other manifestations of our social life is

not primarily a matter of sport concern of sport behavior. It is primarily a matter ascribing society and it's many functions, definitely ascribing the political life of a country.

All the more since the political life is what it is possible for everything because of it's structures and really composes the society, whatever connivances or consents or objectives, whatever the case, but this is a matter of antisocial behavior and antisocial behavior is a matter to be dealt by public order.

It ascribes the realm of police and judicial authorities it is to be dealt through appropriate operational planning and projection as perceived by the Ministry for Public Order in Greece, as perceived by the Greek Police. Hence the need for both such factors to co-exist and we have to move simultaneously at both levels, namely at the level of police and judicial management and at the level of sports management.

Thus, not simply dealing in forms of imposing sanctions on sportsmen and the impact and also the consequences suffered by the sporting just because some fans take part in one way or another in such phenomena of violence, but also at the level of sports intention and will which is a social will, it is a political will also.

I say so because we are all fully aware of the fact that such phenomena of violence are not just antisocial. They are also anti-economical; because they shrink the market of the Greek football, they avert many groups of possible fans from taking part in venues and ultimately I would say this ... limit the social interest in football, hence the limitation of the volume of the market in football.

We therefore have an obligation legally and politically an obligation emanating from sport moral, an obligation emanating from

the financial rationalism amongst markets, amongst companies, as says per companies that operate in conjunction with sport teams, with amateur associations that are also within the matter of the professional football.

We therefore are in need of measures of sports and nature, organizational interventions, police measures. We also need to have vigilance both at the level of magistrates and to the level of courts and of course we need political and social will. A sincere will, I insist on the word sincere, a will concerning everyone, not just the others. We are also involved personally, each one of us and our teams and we need intend, frank and ongoing support of this effort by the press and more generally by the mass media.

I am taken aback by what I witness sometimes. I am surprised at seeing the controversy and contradiction in the way some initiatives are dealt with by many commentators when it comes to violence measures, when I hear people who are involved in public debate, because through their commentary is the shape, the milieu, the context and sometimes they even guide and insight or even sanction in a way socially some behaviors that otherwise are contrary to the rules imposed by the state. Hence, there is a vicious circle that eternalizes and we are unable to truly change things around in those matters.

If whatever we were in agreement with upon ... some months ago had been materialized I am sure that today we would be at a different level. Nevertheless where until of having a systematic implementational work has been agreed, here we are witnessing a continuous re-examination, a re-challenging of those measures and instead of understanding that the initiative of this kind of phenomena

may not ascribe the competences of a Ministry like that of Culture or the General Secretariat of Sport because ex officio it pertains the scope of competence of the Greek Police, the Public Order Ministry, the Magistrates, the Courts.

An initiative pertaining the sport courts that obligated to impose disciplinary sanctions. Until of understanding these we still hold debates on the context without dealing with the cracks of the problem. There are some exaggerations, there are some excesses, some novel measures that sometimes bring us face to face with some very important problems when it comes to implementation, but everything can be solved provided we have the social consensus, provided we have communicational support and most and above all if there is a will.

But to have a will, when to have not it not only amongst politicians, but also at the level of Police, Magistrates, Courts and most of above all, will amongst entrepreneurs, sportsmen, will ultimately of all those who have an interest in shaping a different milieu and a different image amongst football factors. Which means that debates should be held frankly which is also why I give so much importance to the transfer of skills and know-how coming from other countries.

Because whereas the measures imposed in Greece may be scorned for lack of efficiency or even for excess novelty, such measures have been implemented with ... to other countries. And we may also have new ideas, new visions, new opinions which rather automatically but with true adaptations and adjustments may be implemented in this country.

After all Ladies and Gentlemen as you know the State is within the magnetic field of various controversies. A society may manifest itself in many ways and after all the society itself shapes and determines the political decisions taken within a democratic system. A democracy that is truly participative, but we have to be made aware of the fact that from the moment where an agreement on violence since we are shaping new rules, ah well, these rules should be equitably and justly applied towards all and should be applied and implemented.

These are I believe the cracks of the issue. We cannot have the conscious embedded in the world of football but Games should be held in fairness and justice. Of course there are some inequitable behaviors, of course there are still injustices, of course when there is a feeling of injustice then we have no sincere will to deal with any issue, least of all violence.

We therefore have to overcome this barrier, this obstacle and make people understand that ultimately, if there is a big loser in the game, the major loser is the less powerful. The less powerful a team is both economically, financially and sports wise the more the possibilities for this team to suffer the consequences of violence. So if there is a constant feeling of injustice and inequality issues have taken into account this parameter. This is why I address a plea to all of you, a plea and a suggestion. A plea to fans, to all those who are interested in these issues, to all those who have the possibility to formulate publicly their opinion and their ideas and visions and co-shape the ambience and milieu of the Greek football.

The plea is please assist us in those measures, please support and sustain our measures. Try to demand the presence and active operation

of the sport Magistrates. Demand from S.A. sports football companies to participate in the form of practical measures in these major projects for the dealing of violence within the realm of football and professional sportsmanship.

Let measures take their effect and be tested, formulate your suggestions and remarks in a spirit of insight rather than a spirit of reversal for measures that are gradually shaped and I gradually believe that if you do so the results will be very promising because together what is being made to enhance transparency in football. We have the possibility to enhance participation and invite participation of more citizens and more persons in this process.

Then and only then shall we have expanded the milieu of funds and the market of football. We will also be able to improve the parameters of professional football and sportsmanship and we will have elevated the social status of football, which at the moment is at a very low level.

With these thoughts, Ladies and Gentlemen may I congratulate Mr. George Lianis and his collaborators for the initiative of the hosting of this International Conference. May I also thank you and congratulate you all for your attendance here, because through your presence you aptly manifest and tangibly show that you have the will primo visu of contributing to the improvement of the milieu of professional sportsmanship.

And truly ask from all agencies involved and all agencies involved in football, from all Sports Teams Associations, F.C.'s, Funds Associations, E.P.O. and the union of F.C.'s in Greece to truly contribute and join forces. Not virtually but truly and tangibly in this

major effort waged and under way for us to be able to deal with the phenomenon. But rather than just sport phenomenon is something that is manifested to attachment of sport and football in general. Thank you very much.

COORDINATOR:

We repeat that the Minister and Deputy Ministers need to attend a ... meeting, now in favor of the Greek hospitality and in order for us to the atmosphere of this Seminar would like ask Mr. Clifford Stott to take the floor from the University of Liverpool, Department of Psychology.

Mr. Clifford Stott is considered to be the expert in both the analysis as well as the management of the violence phenomenon. Recently, he was called in Portugal by the Organizing Committee of “Euro 2004” to give his own opinion on the potential violence. Mr. Stott, you have the floor.

MR. STOTT:

Thank you very much for your very positive introduction. I am here today first of all to thank you for the invitation to speak, but secondly to talk to you about some of the research that we have been conducting on the issue of football related violence.

And in particular, a body of research that we have been conducting in partnership with my colleague Dr. Otto Adang from the Dutch Police Academy and in connection with our partners the Portuguese Police Academy. And I want to talk to you specifically about two issues.

First of all, how do we understand football related violence? And secondly, once we've developed an understanding, how do we deal with it?

Traditionally, when we've looked at the problem of football related violence we've tended to rely on a notion that football related violence formed by the presence of particular criminal elements, we might term these criminal elements "hooligans", so that somehow we can understand this violence purely and simply in terms of the presence of hooligan fans. And as a consequence of this understanding what we've tended to do is to react to the issue of football violence through implementing particular measures of control. To try to intervene into the situation to prevent hooligan fans from being present or acting in criminal ways.

Now our work is seeking to contradict this notion. We've begun a program of research to understand the origins of violence in the context of football across the European Union. And one of the things that we've begun to realize that is missed about our attempts to understand the football violence is that football violence occurs during crowd events. If there is one thing that is constant when we look at this violence, it's violence that occurs during crowd events. And what we know is that those crowd events have their own dynamics.

We have to begin to understand these incidents as crowd incidents. Because crowds have their own psychology, they have their own dynamics. But it's important we begin to understand, because a failure to understand these dynamics can lead to an escalation in the problem. If one is faced with football violence and one implements

measures to control that violence, one can begin to engage in practices that make the problem worse. And that is the central finding that comes out of our research.

What we are beginning to do is to try and shift peoples' understandings, to change peoples' understandings about the nature of football related violence. Of course within the context of football and football violence we do have elements that are highly problematic. We do have hooligan fans. Nobody is seeking to deny the presence of these individuals. But when we look at football related violence, football related violence is more than just the presence of these fans and involves the measures of control that we implement to try and deal with the problem.

And I want to try and encourage you to begin to do certain things as a function of your questions about football violence in Greece.

The first of those is to develop systematic ways of understanding why the problem is there in the first place. A note from the speakers of the Conference over the next day and a half that there are no Greek Academics talking about football violence. I may be incorrect in that, but there certainly is no involvement of systematic research in the context of Greece about the nature of this problem and one of the things, I think it's important that we need to do is to begin to question whether that's adequate so we can develop means of understanding the nature of the problem in Greece.

Often in the context of our attempts to understand football violence we find situations where people are brought together to discuss the nature of the problem. But the issue stops there. The

question has to be if you are serious about addressing football related violence, what's going to happen after this Conference?

A Conference is not sufficient. Generating knowledge is not sufficient. What has to be done is to build pathways between knowledge and practice. So that the understandings that come from a situation like this are actually implemented into practices that affect change and reduce the levels of disorder.

So, a Conference is not enough, we have to ask questions about what happens after this Conference. And I want to talk to you about what might be possible to do in order to implement the kinds of changes that are necessary.

Now, the first thing I want to turn to is this understanding of football related violence as crowd behavior. What we know from the science of crowd behavior is that crowds are driven by what we call a "social identity". It's a technical term that we use in psychology that can be understood more simply in terms of a crowd's culture. A crowd has a sense of who it is as a social group and that drives the kinds of behaviors that a crowd will exhibit during a crowd event.

But what we also know from the scientific research is that a crowd psychology is shaped by group interaction. So, when we talk about controlling the psychology and behavior of a crowd, we have to take into account the nature of group interaction during crowd events and we have to harness that interaction in order to manage it in a way that minimizes the level of disorder. And it's really a failure to recognize that fact that can lead to very serious problems during football crowd events.

So, when we discuss the issue of football related violence in the context of football we have to discuss it as an issue of crowd behavior. And when we understand crowd behavior, we have to understand crowd behavior as an outcome of interaction. And the pattern of that interaction affects the overall levels of disorder.

So, when we instigate measures of control as a consequence of the levels of disorder that we witness in the context of football, we have to implement methods of public order policing that take account of these interactions, in order that we can shape them to minimize disorder.

And one of the central lessons that comes out of our research on football related violence is that policing, the way in which we police the problem of football related violence is part of the dynamics of that violence. We have to recognize that the methods of control that are implemented in order to try and tackle the problem can have consequences for the overall levels of disorder.

It's a finding that's consistent across all of the research that we are doing. We have been engaged in a systematic body of research in so far nine different European Union States examining the nature of public order policing and the consequences for the overall level of disorder.

And one of the things that we understand from that research is that the tactics of public order police can have very serious consequences in the overall levels of disorder. Effective public order policing of course minimizes disorder but mistakes get made and practices are used that can exacerbate or make worse the problem.

Now, to demonstrate this I want to talk to you about one of the pieces of research that has been conducted as part of our partnership of research development.

This research was conducted primarily by the Dutch Police Academy by my partner in his research, Otto Adang. As you remember from “Euro 2000”, “Euro 2000” was conducted in two European Nation States. The Netherlands and Belgium. And it was conducted in eight venues across those two Nation States. And during the tournament Otto Adang and his colleague Christine Cavaliere conducted research observing the nature of public order policing in those two Nation States, during all of the Games that took place.

And what he was able to do from that research was detect two different styles of public order policing were adopted during the tournament. And he examined those two different styles of policing in relationship to the defined levels of risk. We have a notion in football of defining or classifying a particular football match as having high or low levels of risk. For example a high-risk game would be a game between for example England and Turkey. That would be a game that would be classified as high risk while other games are classified as low or normal risk.

What Otto Adang was able to do, was to collect data on the styles of policing that were used in matches that adopted low and high-risk classifications. And from those observations he was able to detect two different styles. On the one hand, he was able to detect a style he has called “low profile”, “low profile” policing on the other “high profile” policing. Now high and low profile policing were

defined in terms of the presence of particular styles of police deployment.

On the one hand high profile policing, you see here in the red color, was defined in terms of three times the level of visible police presence. So, during a football match, high profile policing was characterized by three times the levels of police officers being visible on the grounds.

It was also defined in terms of a much higher visibility of riot police officers. Police officers in full riot equipment, the wearing of the helmets and the protecting equipment, and that was true in both low and high-risk situations. It was also true in terms of the presence of riot vehicles. So high profile policing adopts high levels of visibility of police overall, higher levels of visibility of riot police officers and higher levels of riot police vehicles in contrast to low profile policing.

Now, what was significant about this was not just that there were high levels of police officers present. But also that despite the fact that there were more police officers visible on the ground during high profile operations, the levels of contact between police officers and fans was much less. So, despite the fact there were three times as many police officers on the ground there was much less interaction between police officers and fans themselves.

As part of the data gathering exercise, Otto Adang used a team of expert police officers drawn from police forces across the European Union to engage in judgments about the quality of interaction. And what was evident from the data that came out of it was that in high

profile situations the contact between police and fans was not only less in terms of quantity, it was also poorer in terms of it's quality.

So, in terms of the approachability of police officers, contribution to the festivity of the event, showing respect for different cultures, ability to recognize violent prone situations, it's justness, it's fairness, treating visitors as guests, actively contacting fans and switching between different forms of police approach was significantly worse in high profile situations. What we see is that in high profile situations a higher visibility of police officers, a higher visibility of police officers overall and in riot gear, a lessening of contact between police and fans and a poorer level of contact between police and fans during an event.

Now, one of the interesting features of the analysis was that not only did it measure police deployment; it also measured levels of public disorder. And what's most significant out of this research is that the highest levels of public disorder during "Euro 2000" occurred in situations that were defined as low risk.

So, one thing that this research does is tell us that our understanding of the risk that particular football events pose for producing public disorder is very limited and we need to develop our understanding of how we define risk, and how we understand risk but most importantly what we see here is a situation in which the highest levels of disorder occurred in low risk situations, where high profile policing had been deployed. So, despite the fact that we have a situation where there was low risk, high profile policing tactics were used and when we have that situation we had the highest levels of disorder during the tournament.

Also, in high-risk situations, while we see some differences here, the differences were not significant. So what this means is that despite the fact that there were three times as many police officers deployed on the ground, despite the fact that our police officers have been deployed there was no detectable difference in the levels of disorder between low and high profile situations.

So I think that this data begins to ask some very uncomfortable questions of us in terms of how we begin to understand football related violence. And it's very important that we start to address this data. We will hear many opinions about why football violence happens. We will hear many opinions about how we deal with it. The question is how do we know who is right? How do we know who is correct? Well one of the ways in which we can begin to understand what's actually going on and who is actually right is begin to address scientific data.

So here we have some scientific data. Let's begin to address it and begin to understand its relationship to the facts of the matter. So one of the issues that come out of this analysis of "Euro 2000" is that it begins to demonstrate that incidents of disorder can occur in a variety of different situations. Our sense in which we understand when public disorder or violence is going to happen in the context of football is very limited and we need to begin to address more clearly the kinds of situations in which violence is going to happen.

What this data also talks to us about is police deployment. What we know from this research is that police deployment makes a difference. But we weren't initially clear about why. Why is it that police deployment during police football matches with an international

dimension makes a difference in the levels of disorder. And what also talks to us about is how our understandings of risk are very limited and need to be developed.

So, between “Euro 2000” and now we’ve been engaging in further research to try and address these questions in partnerships between the University of Liverpool the Dutch Police Academy and now the Portuguese Police Academy and the “Euro 2004” Organizing Committee.

What we’ve begun to understand about risk is that risk is dynamic. What we tend to do is to classify a particular football match as high or low risk and stick to that classification throughout the event. Now while of course these classifications are useful in helping us to understand how we need to deal with the particular event they do cause problems because they take our attention away from the kinds of factors that actually introduce risk during an event itself.

What we argue is it’s important to understand is that risk is understood as a continuum, that all events can pose high and low risk at different periods during the event itself. And we have to ask ourselves the conditions under which that risk can be materialized and what we found from our research is that risk is materializing during public order events in the context of football as a function of group interaction. That group interaction during these crowd events shifts us up and down a continuum of risk, so the kinds of group interaction that occur during a crowd event has implications for the levels of risk that event poses at that particular point in time.

Now one of the factors of that group interaction is influenced by the police. The police are a very – very powerful group during crowd

events. They have the ability and the opportunity to manage group interactions during a crowd event. Partly because they have the power and authority to affect whether a group can go into certain physical spaces or not, but also they themselves are one of the most powerful groups in that particular circumstance. So, the way in which a police officer behaves during a crowd event has implications for the nature of the dynamics of the group interaction.

And one of the most important features that we've begun to understand in understanding the dynamics of risk is a notion of balance. What we argue is that it's very important in policing operations to maintain and achieve what we call balance. And the reason for that is that conflict during crowd events is embedded in people's perceptions of the legitimacy of group interaction.

So if we take an example of a low risk situation during a football event and we might choose to adopt police tactics that are low profile or low impact, because of the low levels of risk posed by that situation, as a consequence of that you are likely to generate in a crowd perceived appropriateness. People in the crowd, fans themselves will see what you do as legitimate. They will see what you do as appropriate, and as a consequence of that there will be certain behaviors that people will engage in or are more likely to engage in.

First of all, is an isolation and marginalisation of hooligan elements. So the ordinary football supporters are more likely to distance themselves from those you seek to police.

Secondly, you begin to generate cultures in the crowd yourself or in the crowd itself of self-policing. People would be more likely to

engage actively in the prevention of violence during a crowd event. And people, ordinary fans are more likely to avoid conflict.

However we take an alternative scenario where we have low risk and high profile deployment, we get a perceived inappropriateness. People understand what you do as illegitimate or incorrect. As a function of that in a crowd you are more likely to create a particular type of psychology, a particular type of behavioral response. You are more likely to create a uniform aggression in the crowd, you are more likely to create support for the anti-social activity you are seeking to reduce and you, by your actions, will create the conditions, the psychological conditions in the crowd for conflict.

Now, we can also take this concept of balance into a situation where you do have risk, where there are elements in the crowd that cause you problems, that you need to deal with and you may seek to deal with that by deploying in a high profile way. Well if we take the notion of balance it's important that when you deploy in a high profile way, you deploy at the actual factors that are causing you the problem.

Now, if you do that, if you accurately target your intervention you can again create in a wider crowd perceptions of appropriateness. You have a balance, where people's response is to see your actions as justified. And as a consequence of that, what will happen is you will an isolation of hooligan elements, you will see a generation of a self-policing culture in the crowd and you will reduce the overall levels of disorder.

However if you get it wrong, if you intervene into the crowd as a whole and start to involve those fans that are not causing you any problems in your policing practice you can begin to generate in the

crowd a perception of inappropriateness and here you see an increase in the levels of aggression as a more uniform aggression, ordinary fans begin to support anti-social activity of the hooligan fans and you create the conditions of conflict in the crowd.

So, these are the kinds of findings that are coming out of our research, that we are conducting on crowd psychology and public order policing in the context of football. And they have implications. Our understandings of the crowd and our understandings of the dynamics of crowd implications involve an understanding of the implications of what the police do.

So, of course leads us into a situation where we can begin to make recommendation to police forces about the appropriate kinds of public order tactics that should be used. What we see here is a situation in which risk is variable. Risk can vary from one situation to another during a crowd event. And because it's important that your policing is in balance with that risk, it's important that policing operations are dynamic. They are open to change, they are able to change your profile of policing during the event itself. It's no good to start an event with high profile policing and keep it high profile all the way. What's much more important is that you have a system of policing that's able to respond accurately to the actual levels of risk that are posed.

So, when there is low risk you've got low profile deployments and that you only bring in your high profile intervention squads when you've actually got risk and when you can target that risk effectively. But of course, in order to target risk effectively you must know what's going on, you have to have evidence and information on the ground in

order to be able to understand that risk is present and secondly if you are forced to intervene that you can intervene into that crowd in a targeted differentiated way. It's no good policing a crowd as a whole, if you try to police a crowd as a whole you are more likely to create conflict.

So, what we have here is a situation where the police operation must be information led. Now in the context of football matches with an international dimension what this also means is that you must begin to incorporate international police forces into the way in which you police.

When you have these football matches, "Champion's League" level for example you do have available to you police officers from the visiting nation, who can assist you in developing information about the risk that is posed to you and it's important that you involve that in your policing operation. And it's important not just to have this information, but to have this information in a way that affects your tactical deployment and that can lead to targeted intervention.

It's also important that when you have this intervention you can have a strategy of de-escalation. That once you have removed risk that you can move away from that situation and bring your policing operation back into balance with the overall level of risk. So you must have a strategy of de-escalation.

But I think that another issue that's going to come into focus during this Conference is our whole understanding of the nature of football violence and how we deal with it. The overwhelming emphasis in our attempts to deal with football related violence, lead us into a situation where we fell the need to control. We must control the

hooligan problem, we must control the crowds that cause us a problem.

I think that this is counter productive, that what we have to begin to think of is a way for facilitating the legitimate fan. Football fans and football stadiums are populated by a majority of fans who are seeking to engage in perfectly acceptable behavior. And we have to take into account those people and we have to do what we can to facilitate their legitimate intentions. Because what we find is, when those legitimate intentions are contravened we start to begin to create the psychology through which riots happen, through which violence escalates and we need to adopt public order policies that don't do that.

Now, this research fortunately is being listened to and it's being listened to by the "Euro 2004" Organizing Committee and through a partnership of sharing our knowledge with that Committee and with the police forces in Portugal we've managed to engage in a process of developing public order strategy for the year 2004. And in particular, the adoption of a protocol for graded intervention. And what we've done through the sharing of this knowledge is to try and assist the police force in Portugal to understand the general principles of crowd management.

We are not here to tell you how to do your job. What we are here to tell you is how crowds behave and why they behave like they do to draw out the general principle to pass to you who are the experts in understandings how these principles can be applied in the context of your own countries.

But what is important here is that there is a process of evaluation. It's no good enough just to implement Laws, just to

implement policies. What are you doing to evaluate the effectiveness of those policies? Where are your measurements about whether these policies work or not? We need to see a system of evaluation. And part of that system evaluation is a process of developing partnerships.

What we are trying to do through this research is generate an environment of international partnerships between academic research, police forces and governments, football authorities across the European Union to change the shape of public order policing. We are moving into a period of a developing uniformity in political and policing practices within the European Union. And we have to look toward the future developing the kinds of policing practices we are going to see in the 21st century in Europe.

Week in, week out you are involved in policing football matches with an international dimension. When we begin to see the development of the “Champion’s League” it’s going to be the norm that your policing crowds of high risk foreign nationals. What are you doing to learn from the good practices of other police forces across the European Union in developing your policies to deal with that future? Where are your partnerships? How are you learning from others and how are you, in your good practices, assisting in the development of European policy? O.K.?

I hope that you found that useful, that’s all I have to say today. If you would like to ask questions I am happy to receive them.

COORDINATOR:

Thank you very much Dr. Stott. Now we would like to ask all the speakers to speak slowly since there is simultaneous interpretation and it's a very difficult job and we'll try to facilitate the interpreters.

MRS. KARATZA:

(...) We had for example the roof of the stadium prepared by Calatrava for which we paid so much money as a Greek people. So, this is very important because those who are unemployed, those who do not enjoy the appropriate ... services e.t.c. are prone to riot and well I cannot engage into this rationale as a political party.

We need to improve things right from the essence, the substance. Our children are the ones who riot, our children are hooligans. I am a journalist and have seen a colleague of mine throwing bottles in the football field and I've also seen something else. The communist party completely disagrees with the dissolution of the football clubs and things that restrict democratic freedom.

These fifty children who were ... Nikaia and rioted there did they belong to football clubs? What do we do with such type of violence? We thank the British gentleman who came here to tell us. He told us that we should take them out of the fields, the football fields. I don't know where they will go after that. I don't know whether in the neighborhoods of Liverpool there is violence manifested because people are not in the football field.

If we had provided education to these youngsters we could have avoided the problem of violence. And I don't agree that there is a financial cost to be born because it's a matter of will. And there is no

political will to do that. And this will go on forever. And I am not talking about socialist type of measures. I am talking about open democracy measures so that the Ministry could take.

Furthermore, the Ministry must not be responsible for everything. There is a Law. Isn't there a Magistrate to supervise the implementation or non-implementation of the Law? Science has methods, sequential approaches. We set an objective, we work towards the objective and we make corrective actions e.t.c.

I was here in the previous Conference three or four years ago. We again had the discussion, we were glad to discuss and we said, yes, we have the problem of hooligans. And nothing happened. No outcome. So, this is the truth. The bitter truth. We have to make a start. There are two strands. The serious strand is the education of the youngsters, the youth e.t.c. and of course we need to have certain other measures to maintain the order. And we need to evaluate our efforts to make an assessment.

Concluding let me tell you sometimes I feel like rioting dear colleagues when I hear that a football player costs many billions and the drug addiction problem could be solved with these millions. Thank you very much.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Thank you Mrs. Karatza. I would like to remind you something. When this initiative began to organize this course, this seminar in violence in sport venues we had this trip to Europe by Mr. Mayros. We visited some of the speakers in other ... and we decided that a dialogue would be very fruitful.

We then didn't have in mind that we would have the elections coming soon, so it's not very proper to engage into a political discussion within the framework of this seminar.

There is a Law that includes specific issues in the management of violence. It is currently discussed in the Parliament but please focus on the issues and topics that we have selected for today's discussion.

So, I would like now to ask the Representative of the Coalition of the Left Mr. Synadinos to take the floor.

MR. SYNADINOS:

Good morning. Dear Ambassador, dear Secretary General, dear friends. The interest of the coalition of the Left in violence can be taken for granted and we have expressed our views in several ways.

The approaches and different explanations of the phenomenon of violence in society and particularly in sports are quite known. We all know about the safety valve concept of sports, where we have the safety valve to let go of tension in the social groups.

Of course, if the reasons for this accumulation of pressure and tension are a result of the economic and social policies applied in the last twenty years in our country the objective of the Ministry should be to create the prerequisite in order for this..., letting some steam off and not to be dangerous or risky in order not to hide the real social conflict and problems of the Greek citizens.

An efficient way to protect sports from such negative phenomena is to incorporate it in the social policy of the State and at this point gentlemen from the government you have failed. You have totally

ignored the pedagogic side and aspect of sports and you always transfer your own responsibilities to other bodies and authorities.

You are trying to find ways to manage violence of cope with the violence that is caused by fifteen-year-old children to whom you have never given the opportunity to enjoy the pleasure of sports. That would render them more rationale. To the contrary you have built the athletic and sports ... policy contributing to a situation when young people consider it sports what the professional sports mean with all the sick, negative phenomena that accompany it.

You have delivered a social activity to the laws of profit and the market because you have led young people to be passive viewers and spectators and now these youngsters can follow closely sports events from home. So, we have sports as a product and not as an activity for young people.

Now, in Greece we see those who go to football matches. Only Associations of fans go there. When a fan admires his or her team why can't this fan be subscribed to the amateurs club? So, there is the democratization of these Associations that have turned into closed clubs. You have made an effort to control the Associations and the F.C.'s. However you were unable to do what was simpler. You distinguish between the legal and illegal clubs and groups. The illegal ones being controlled by extra-institutional bodies.

So, you undermine the Law and the opportunity to solve the problem prolonging its deadline for implementation. Why did you do that? Who would be displeased from the implementation of this control? I am talking about the F.C.'s. Recently, Mr. Lianis in an interview said that we will cut the umbilical cord of the F.C.'s and the

Associations of fans. And I wonder what company would accept the exploitation of symbols, brands, names e.t.c. by groups of professional funds? What company wouldn't react to that?

The umbilical cord, is not only an economic one. We are not talking only about the tickets or the blouses, the shirts that our fans wear. There is a whole system with an important turnover that includes sports press, sports media, a part of journalists, travel agencies, sports agents and managers and professional fans who do the ... We all know that some of these professional fans work in companies that belong to chairmen of F.C.'s.

And I will also refer to the TV shows, the sports TV shows, so that challengers prepare the milieu, the environment or the atmosphere for a riot. Why isn't the Radio and Television Council intervening? Who is responsible for that? The umbilical cord has it's own political expansions and branches. We are aware of the political parties, representatives who are involved in the ... work of the F.C.'s. We know some good guys who are related with these gentlemen.

The Coalition of the Left claims that we want sports for man and not for profit. We need to have sports that will be incorporated equally into the social policy of the State. These kind of sports neither you, from the government nor from the opposition you can offer to the Greek youth today. Thank you.

Thank you very much Mr. Synodinos, Representative of the Coalition of the Left. And now Mr. Papadopoulos will take the floor, who is the Representative of DE.K.KI., the Democratic Social Movement Party.

MR. PAPADOPOULOS:

Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen, maybe I will sound a bit bitter here, but allow me to say that when we talk about sports we shouldn't talk about violence. These are notions that do not go hand in hand. Sports promote spirit and mind and body. They do not promote violence.

So, in order for violence to have entered sports something has happened, someone is responsible. And since the Secretary General told us to focus on the issue of management of tackling of violence I will tell you that in order first to tackle this problem we don't need long term analysis. We simply need to identify the specific problem.

Let's not forget that we too were young, we too used to go football matches, we too used to quarrel. I remember when I was young I was in Touba in Thessaloniki, the two famous F.C.'s P.A.O.K. and Olympiakos was hell. Do you know what hell meant? Well, we would swear, there was no police, there were no riots, there were no problems.

Earlier, I heard the Minister who said that it is an issue of suppression and justice. What? Are we to introduce the notion of courts in sports? And if we do that why don't we pass a very simple Law, as my son put it? If an F.C. has done the same mistake twice they will fall to another category. Can't the government take measures? Or is the government dependent on the F.C.?

I heard earlier our dear friend from the U.K. Another phenomenon, we make a science out of violence. He has shown us diagrams, tables, curves. Well, I don't think we should reach this level

of analyzing what violence is. I don't think that through the diagrams we will find how to tackle violence because this reminds me of Bush.

What do we sell here? We have the Olympics this year. Do you remember a few months ago, publications, articles that Greece does not meet the requirements for safety and that we have a problem and that the Olympic Games will not be safe? When did these articles stop dear friends? When the agreements were closed. Agreements for billions of Euros and the pie was shared and distributed to those people who were interested in providing us with safety.

What are we talking about here? Aren't we all aware of the real situation? Why are we hiding from our own self? Both the State, and us all. The Minister talked about will. Yes, this is clear ... suffers for him to prove that. We will be at his side. I am talking about a will that will be real and will not hide the nature of the problem and will not be influenced by intertwined interests.

On the other hand the governments use the F.C.'s to gain votes. This is not for ourselves. So, if we decide to be frank and earnest we need not only one Conference but many, and we can discuss it in depth.

And another factor, the Mass Media. Have you seen anywhere else where we have riots and where the channels show all the hideous images. So this sells. If this promotions did not exist do you believe that those who would be prone to violence would do that? If they knew that no one would see them? Why would they do that?

And finally, violence is an element of poor societies, of poverty in society. So, violence was also caused by poverty. We are talking about 20% below the limit of poverty. As you can see the Minister, the

Deputy Minister left, they are not interested. So, either we will change our policy, our mentality, our mind setting or we won't be able to tackle this problem. Sports and violence do not go hand in hand. Thank you.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Thank you very much Mr. Papadopoulos. Now, before I give the floor to the next speaker who will be the last one, Mr. Kostalas has an announcement.

COORDINATOR:

In conjunction with Dr. Achilles Mayromatis who has participated in the preparation of Law 3057 we decided to give you a few minutes of the Parliament, the nine articles that have been ... regarding violence where we must confess that there was the greatest concern from all the political parties. And we are letting you know the ones who voted in favor of these Articles.

I think that it is important to indicate that there is a political consensus as far as violence is concerned. So, within the day we will let you know these data. I simply wanted to inform you that Mr. Grigoropoulos from the F.C. Kalamata cannot attend, because yesterday he lost his father, so he apologizes, he won't be here.

And now our last speaker for the first session, the ... of the Hellenic Police, General Christofareizis.

MR. CHRISTOFAREIZIS:

Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen in my capacity I will tell you a few words about the tackling of violence on the basis of sports events and I will tell you a little bit about the extend of success of the policing measures.

The Hellenic Police, as all police authorities around the world and allow me to speak about Europe, within the scope of its mission and in application of the Laws into force that are fully harmonized with the respective European Laws. So, within the framework of its scope police attends the several sports events and is called to pull the chestnuts of the fire.

So, we take measures for the order, safety and the traffic before the start of this event. During the event and after the sports event what do we aim at? The safe and normal coming of the spectators in the venue, the normal ... of these events, the protection of all those involved. We protect them while they leave, while the players leave, the spectators leave, the B.A.P.'s leave and lastly we protect third parties, who have nothing to do with the sports event.

Sports events constitutes the majority of fans and spectacle which is accessible because the tickets are quite cheap and this leads to the accumulation in the field of many thousands of fans. Of course when we have a derby we have many more spectators. So, taking this for granted, we need to take respective measures and we need to form all our competent services and agencies.

A particular characteristic of the climate that prevails through these sports events, football matches and basketball matches is a big crowd, big passion of the large crowds which makes us think of what

the professor from Liverpool said. We have the crowd psychology. The crowd ... and is guided it turns into uncontrolled crowds and mass. And when we talk about passion, we talk about the passion of fans and this is caused by the professional F.C.'s, their will to become champions e.t.c. A passion that arises even from little differences.

So, within this plummet it is easy to see the manifestation of phenomena of violence varying in intensity. They all depend on the age of the fans, their social statures, their education as well as primarily their ... presence in the field.

This behavior of the crowd of fans, what we usually call hooligans to the extend that it contributes to violent manifestations concerns the sports authorities and particularly the Hellenic Police. We are talking about young gentlemen, sixteen to twenty five years old. And violence that regions in them is not only verbal violence that is the main characteristic of the expression of the large volume of fans but it also evolves into other forms of violence like ... severe injuries or even death. Fortunately, this is quite limited in Greece.

Also, violent manifestations of these fans are not observed only within the venue but also outside the venue. In several areas where fans gather, offices of the F.C.'s, the cafeterias where the fans gather, the wider region of the sports venues. While we see assaults, attacks and what is most hideous is that we see assaults against cars of third parties who happened to pass by. They start throwing things at banks.

So, if for the violent actions we can trace the causes in the referees judgment or the behavior of players e.t.c., for the violence outside the sports venues we can only say that they are not justified and they are irrational. And this last characterization of irrational and

unpredictable violence is what leads the police to engage into a large deployment scheme, in order to prevent riots, violence, violent actions e.t.c.

It is the planning and the strategy of the police not only restricted to the areas in the field. Let me tell you that in order to cover football matches and basketball matches in 1995 we had 350.000 days of work. In 1996, 385.000 days of work. In 2001, 180.000 days of work. In 2002, 130.000 days of work.

So we see that there is a de-escalation of the presence of the police in the field, in the stadium. And this is also due to the organization of the services, particularly of the special forces. This is due to the planning and the correct deployment of the police forces and to the training and behavior of policemen. Particularly in those who work in the special forces.

And there is also another association as far as the presence of the police is concerned in the presence of the police and the outcome. We see that there are injuries observed either in the field or outside or in areas neighboring of the stadium in places near the stadium. So for the 1995 we had 155 injuries of which one was serious, and in 1996 104, 2 serious injuries. I am talking about injuries in sports events throughout the country for all types in all kinds of sports from polo, to football, basketball, volleyball e.t.c.

In the year 2001 we had only 78 injuries all of them light throughout Greece 2002, 84 injuries, light injured, one was severe. In the year 2003 throughout the year in all sports only 53 injuries, all light.

I don't have any data to compare from the countries of the European Union. The inability to fully project this unjustified and irrational violence of the hooligans renders the taking of measures difficult. However, a way to tackle with riots and restore the order presents many difficulties and involves a lot of risks, because the groups of hooligans act under the protection of the great mass of other fans who do not take part in these incidents. And even a slight movement of the police forces might be seen as an insult by the simple fans and might lead to the generalization of the incident.

Also, the accumulation of crowds in these closed and limited alleys of the football fields e.t.c. are very complex. Any police involvement which is very difficult because we have thousands of fans who want to enter into the stadium and we have thousands of fans in the subway, the trains e.t.c.

Most of the times, publicity or rather the press follows the violence in the stadium and outside the stadium. The press rarely recalls what takes place away from the stadium. In the metro stations, the subway e.t.c.

So, taken in account of the above, for all these football and basketball matches and particularly for the derbies where we have the traffic and circulation of a whole mass of fans, the police has plans that cover the Football Club offices, the cafeterias, the offices of the Associations of fans, banks nearby the stadium, offices of political parties nearby the stadium. We try to protect the bus stations and grounds, through supervision and not from the point of view of traffic police.

We try to accompany the football teams, Football Clubs and we gather and protect and accompany the organized fans of these teams, whether they are pedestrian or whether they are on foot or whether they go to the stadium by bus e.t.c.

This measure has greatly limited this unpredictable, unjustified violence of which the parties and in helps us distribute and in order to avoid the riots and cause quarrels.

We try to separate certain fans as they approach the stadium. We make body search as they enter the stadium which as a result helps us find objects that surprise us and we wonder what would have happened if they hadn't been identified and found. Of course body search when you are talking about such a rich crowd is a very difficult job to do.

We do not allow potential hooligans to enter the stadium, this too contributes to the limitation of the violence. The separation of the crowds in the stadium, the isolation. We try to keep them in their positions to contain them until the fans of the other team leave.

And concluding I would like to point out that the existing, the legal framework, of the prevention and tackling of violence. I am talking about Law 2725 of 1999, as modified in 2002, is sufficient and the sanctions and penalties are very strict.

What we further need is to implement it correctly. Of course, the police is not the only body responsible for it's implementation or other involved bodies are responsible of these but authorities, justice, the Magistrates e.t.c. We need to have an honest cooperation not only between the sports authority, but the organizing authorities, the F.C.'s, the Associations of fans.

The Law is not against the presence of Associations of fans, we as police are based in favor of their presence, so this cooperation with the authorities will bring about the anticipated results. So, we are in favor of the cooperation and we ask for the cooperation of these parties involved. This cooperation has been established by virtue of the recent Law.

And it thus leads to a situation where each one of us has to undertake one responsibility in hope that we will finally achieve even in National Championships what is achieved in International Events where despite the fact that we are talking about a large number of crowds the violent actions have almost reached zero.

At this point we should point out that there has been a contribution in the control of violence by the courts, the penal justice and the penalties. Particularly, following the establishment of the sports Magistrates in Athens and Thessaloniki.

We are not in favor of the strict penalties. What we are in favor is to have the implementation of the Law and penalties that will help us control violence. Thank you.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Thank you very much, General of the Hellenic Police. Now, before we go out on a break, let me tell a few things. These Conferences or rather these Courses and Seminars are somewhat particular because some people come and give their views and leave and they are followed by others who are waiting to hear the Chairman from the Football Clubs, which will be something very interesting.

However, since after this break we will have so much newcomers we would like to thank now the organization of the political parties. I think they have touched upon significant issues that need to be discussed within this two-day seminar. We will discuss whether professional ... the profits from sports, lead us closer to violence. This has to be discussed and examined and considered. With my own personal experience in amateur sport I've observed many phenomena of violence both in football as well as in basketball.

We have elements of local, geographical conflicts, so in this first session we heard about the three points the Minister mentioned. He asked for a social consensus, in order for us to support the measures the government has formulated together with citizens. He indirectly touched upon an important issue that will be considered in the second part. He asked for the positive involvement of the F.C.'s. We usually say when we talk that with this legislative or institutional framework it would suffice to have an agreement between the Chairman of the F.C.'s to prevent the phenomena of violence.

We'll have to discuss this further. However, in this grate derby in the Rizoupoli, let us remember that when the two Chairmen discussed with the Magistrate and conveyed a different type of messages we had complete absence of violence.

Third, he asked us to be positive and not to try to reverse things. There is a trend to criticize in a negative way whatever good is done by the government. This negative criticism creates tension and of course the Mass Media and the authorities there do not particularly help with their behavior. We have to deal with situations that have not been predicted, but we heard about the psychology e.t.c. There might

have been errors in our tactic, but negative criticism and sterile criticism does not help. There are indeed people who want to see violence continue.

So, we heard about all these issues and the issue of equality, of justice must be further nurtured through such a consensus climate, Mr. Venizelos indirectly put it. He said we are in need of a real consensus, not a virtual one. And let us decide to unite our forces to tackle this problem. And if we claim that this institutional framework needs corrections, let us proceed to the corrections if we are all from the same side we will solve the problem.

This is the bitter truth. We are in need of a real consensus, a real one and we won't have the armies of which we heard. The armies of Football Clubs. Some people consider that this umbilical cord they consider the F.C.'s and the Associations, ... the implementation of measures because there is a way out. But are we against the Associations or the Football Clubs? Because we also heard, or maybe the government is influenced by the F.C.'s thinking about the political cause. This must be further discussed in our next session.

We would like to thank those who attended this session and welcome those who have just come in and we will meet again in twenty minutes. Thank you.

COORDINATOR:

I would like to inform you that we will have the Representative from Spain and the Representatives of Larissa are not able to come due to...

We welcome you in the second part of this morning session. I would like to tell you that after the last speaker lunch will be held at the “Aegli” at Zappeion. Thank you very much. Secretary General.

MR. EXARCHOS:

The second part includes the presentation by Mrs. Panagopoulou. We also have the presentation from the Representative of the Spanish Police on the sanctions and penalties and then we will listen to the Chairman of the Greek Football Federation and the Representatives of the important F.C.’s and Mr. Theodorakopoulos who is the Chairman of the Association of Sports Press. We will start with Mrs. Panagopoulou, Ambassador for Fair Play.

MRS. PANAGOPOULOU:

Secretary General, Representatives of the political parties, dear participants. I feel particularly pleased today because the topic that we are going to discuss, I have the opportunity to place it very near the wider trend of violence in society. As violence is inflicted in variety we see the same trend in sports since sports constitutes a social sector. We will simply focus today our attention on sports since they entail strong symbolism and they can influence youngsters.

So, violence in sports venues constitutes one of the most important problems of sports throughout the venue. It is the largest threat of the devaluation faced by the sportsmen around the world and particularly in an era when the international, political and economical conflict adds further conflict and tension in destabilized areas and regions of the world.

Seeking the causes of violence must originate in the social dimension. Sports do not produce violence and through the course of sports through times there was always a ... of violence. To the contrary sport functioned, depending on the conjuncture, by minimizing tensions and this aspect, in this sense coping with violence must be done in two ways.

First of all we must base ourselves in two axes. The technical one and the moral one, the ethical one. The technical point pertains to the practical suggestions and solutions that aim at preventing the phenomenon and it's origin using two principles. We need to accept that the prevention and suppression of the phenomenon is acceptable in order to protect sports and the ethical content of sports. And then we need to agree to the rule that the suppression of violence is not an exception of the rule that violence gives but to violence. Thus, such means must be used cautiously.

As far as this point of view is concerned I feel obliged to express my sincere thanks to the people from the police forces who try to insure safety and civilization and culture in sport venues. I too share their views and we need to point out that the inability of modern society to put an end to this problem must not be attributed to the witnesses and inabilities of the police forces. This leads to internalization of these phenomena.

Dear friends the ethical point of view of this aspect pertains to us understanding that since sports do not produce violence by nature, the causes of violence are of social origin. Particularly poverty, racist and nationalistic discrimination, exploitation of men, illiteracy, prejudice e.t.c.

We cannot solve the problems with such a complexity that simply, at the same time we need to understand and accept that the more we eternalize these programs and the more we continue with them we might accept the potential that sports will be the host of violent actions and there we have the question, why do we have this identification of violence with sports?

The answer is that sports is the only social activity that still concentrates and gathers so many people in such an organized and socially acceptable way. We have the prevalence of the mass media in the civilization of the west. Sports however insist on the massive recording of its operation. That is, it is a public event and a spectacle, since historically the release of tension took the form of mass doubt and of events, sports remain one of the last safety valves for such social impasses to the extent that they are acceptable and effective.

Another question put is whether the current form of the competitive sports, of the records, enhances or minimizes the phenomenon. Indeed it enhances this phenomenon. From the ethical words and recognition from ancient Greece to the gold medals, the doping and the star system of our era, a long way has gone through. We try to prevail, against the opponent and any means, and this has destabilized the ethical content of sports and has turned it into a vehicle for egoism to the contrary to the athletic ideals, to the sports ideals.

Thus, we often see masses supporting a club or a group not aiming at enjoying the participation or the sports events itself. A negative impact is exercised on the commercialization of sports that introduces in sports a wide range of humble motivation. For example,

a large company, a sponsor of some athlete is served by the formulation of hooligans.

For these reasons the contribution of the Olympic Games of 2004 in the sense of the return of the Games to their birthplace could contribute a lot. Another critical issue is whether there is a relationship between the phenomenon of violence in sports and terrorism. When terrorism is manifested in sports activities, sports events. These two phenomena, the manifestation of balance in sport venues and terrorism do not have any other common element than this. For methodological, practical purposes these two phenomena must be discriminated and separated clearly and expressly because in terrorism what is to be lost is political, as in sports violence what is to be lost is political and social. In the case of violence in sports venues as is already been put the resort to violence is the ultimate solution.

Ladies and Gentlemen as far as the moral issue of violence is concerned, under my capacity as Ambassador or in the Council of Europe as Ambassador for tolerance of Sports and Fair Play I would like to underline the critical part and contribution of fair play in dealing with violence in sport venues.

The real and definite and final solution of the problem lies in the need to combine sports with the respect and creative competition. This is a priority we should all put all our efforts within our limit and possibilities to contribute to the prevention of violence in sports. And as a prevention, I consider, a means for prevention, education. We need to focus our attention on educating youth and contributing our attention at the information of a new mind setting the culture of fair play.

Moreover, since our country has undertaken this huge responsibility of organizing the Olympic Games for 2004 we should further intensify our efforts. Before I conclude I would like to inform you on initiatives and suggestions submitted to the Council of Europe from the Greek side of Fair Play.

Six years ago we submitted a proposal for the suppression of violence in Lisbon in 1998. It was a Greek proposal where we suggested the adoption of a hymn by all the countries of the European Union that would be heard before the beginning of any sports event. I suggested that this hymn should be the Chariots of Fire by the Greek composer Vaggelis Papathanasiou. This proposal has been accepted by the Council of Europe and it would be a grate joy to see these proposal implemented here in Greece.

I also suggested that there should be a blue card instead of a yellow and a red card. This blue card will be used by a referee to honor an athlete who would engage into fair play. Of course in our current society such actions might be considered to be of secondary importance, however they will further enhance a positive climate. With this proposal regarding the blue card could lead to somewhere else. Maybe in the end the Football Club with highest number of blue cards would be cold a Fair Play Club and maybe we could have a Fair Play Euro League between these Football Clubs.

Also we could incorporate in our curricula the Fair Play Lesson. Maybe we should train young people on the violence, the fair play because sometimes the good rules of the Games are misinterpreted and this leads to violence. Having with us representatives of the government and of all the political parties, having with us people who

are experts and became famous in their fight against violence I believe that through our cooperation there is hope to improve the area of sports and our society. Thank you very much.

COORDINATOR:

We thank Mrs. Panagopoulou. Mr. Lorenzo Rodriguez will now take the floor. He is from the Spanish Police, the Committee on Penalties in order to deal with the problem of violence. In this Committee the Chair is the General Director for Policy of the Minister. Mr. Rodriguez proposes the penalties.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. Since it's usual I would like to thank the Organizing Committee for the invitation since this is a grate opportunity for me to intervene and try to explain a few things about the problematic of violence as my agency sees it, particularly as far as football is concerned. We will also try to discuss the way with which we reached our decisions. I come from the police, I will talk to you about the aspects that the police has on this issue.

Now, to talk about the fight against violence in Spain in football fields we should talk about the legislation that governs this field since 1998. Let me also talk about the coordinate. We have a new agency that has been created in order for us to tackle with the problem of violence. We have the Security Coordinator who intervenes at every Football Club. This has been imported through Law and this coordinator let me explain.

In Spain we have several Police Forces, regardless of the Regional Police we also have the State Police that includes the guarda civil that is the State Police, the most of this ... for Catalonia and several other agencies of the level of cities, regions e.t.c. in the big cities. The competent agencies are the State Police. In smaller regions we have Regional Police and there is also another body in Catalonia which is an autonomous region in Spain.

The Catalonia Police and the Basque Police have incorporated the competences that belong to the State Police. Now, the combination as a function, as an operation. It pertains to the organization of all the public order forces in view of sports events where we have the involvement of State Police, Regional Police, the Fire Brigade, Medical Services and Private Policemen who have undertaken this project.

The assignment of a Security Coordinate is in the competency of the political instrument of each region and under a specific legal and institutional framework. So, we had a network of Coordinator Agencies with 140 Coordinators who cooperate with the Football Clubs in the First and Second League. That is the professional Football Clubs as well as the Agencies competent for Basketball Clubs. A hundred forty people coming from the State Police, fourteen from the Guarda Civil and the rest from the Regional Police e.t.c. All these operate under the auspices of a State Coordinator, the Head Coordinator who reports to me.

Horhe, my colleague told me that we should also talk about the transportation of the hooligans who accompany the F.C.'s in their trips. One of my main tasks is to coordinate everything we need to

identify those who formulate the hooligans groups. We need to trace them, we need to quantify them, to know how many they are, we need to identify their political ideology, the way with which they traditionally act, where they act in the stadium, outside, in the subway station e.t.c. the means of transport that they traditionally choose, the destinations that they select as well as their fears and their preferences.

For example, the football clubs or rather these groups are to act in this way. What do they fear? What will be the best way to control these groups? And who are the ones who continuously create trouble? Who are the troublemakers? Of course, it's not that simple as it is in theory since in the last few years we understood that the situation becomes even more complicated because this phenomenon of trouble makers is increased by year. This is why we have operation with experts and those who deal with the social study of such phenomena. So, the Coordinator draws some conclusions and these conclusions are disseminated to the F.C.'s and there is a continuous exchange of information.

The information that the Coordinator of the opponent F.C. should provide to the Coordinator is also very significant. Of course, this also deals with the transportation of the fans and the hooligans. Our objective is to provide the guarantees that will ensure the safety not only of the players but also of the spectators, before, during and after the sports event both inside the stadium and outside. This legislative framework and the provisions put emphasis on the controlled arrival of spectators who must remain under the control of

those responsible for security. From the time that they arrive at the city where the sports event would take place until their departure.

Let us not forget that there are also those who suffer the consequences of violence these groups of fans do not only include trouble makers. So, before the beginning of any sport event each agency must report to the Coordinator who is responsible to check that the necessary measures have been taken, that all the conditions are met for passive security and safety, a safety that will be imposed on the basis of the conditions of the match. We need to have seats all conditions must be met pertaining to safety.

All F.C.'s must provide the stuff necessary to respond to the legal provisions and conditions in order to avoid the entrance to the stadium of dangerous hooligans, those who have consumed alcohol or carry weapons e.t.c. As a result the Security Coordinator is responsible for the safe passing and guaranteeing of the safety. Any security and safety problem is in the competency of the Coordinator before, during and after the event. Where the Coordinator must prepare, must draft a report in which he will depict all the incidents, the conditions of the event. This report must be submitted to the Special Committee for the control of violent actions in sports within forty-eight hours.

So, this report will mention the incidents we identify the violations of Law, the Law on violence and we impose sanctions and penalties. And the case is taken to court according to on a case by case basis. Now, ever since this Law was passed in Spain, we see that we managed to eradicate violence in the stadiums. However, this

violence was shifted elsewhere. It transferred elsewhere outside the stadium.

You must remember that in 2002 as a consequence of a terrorist action, near Bernabeo in Madrid, in the perimeter of a football match between Real Madrid and Barcelona, in view of this rivalry that traditionally exists. A terrorist group took advantage of the situation and as a consequence we had serious incidents in the streets of the Spanish capital, something that obliged the Spanish State to proceed to arrests and to proceed to amendments and modifications of the laws and to provide for stricter penalties and sanctions.

And we also modified the penal code following this amendment that was recently completed. We had a series of amendments at the level of a special, specific laws and by October 2004 we will have the creation of a new penal crime that will bare a penalty of up to two years imprisonment for violence against fans of football clubs and actions of violence that lead to injuries e.t.c. This penalty might even reach three years of imprisonment when these incidents are created in the occasion and the opportunity of spectacles that attract a large number of people.

Whatelse? ... football matches. And of course, we've referred to the areas where such events take place. We are talking about behaviors that potentially ... a chain of reactions in the football field. We all know what this means. We have seen the sequence of events in such cases. Despite the penalty that is imposed that is up to three years of imprisonment there is the possibility to prohibit the organization of such events and the prohibition of following such events that is the

person who has been content will not have the opportunity to follow such matches three years after the penalty.

So we are still in the effort to tackle the problem of violence. Many people have given different opinions of what is of interest is to gain control. Some people also talk about a special bracelet with a microchip that will help us identify the troublemakers. Except from that, penalties may be imposed in the prohibition of access to the football field or stadium.

If we are talking about a football club, the visitors lets say, the Coordinate must know the representatives of the football club and the troublemakers among its fans. This person must be aware of the number of fans and the means of transport that they use traditionally. All this data must be disseminated on a timely basis to the home F.C. in order to ensure the safety. As I told you in Spain the legislation obliges the F.C.'s to provide the Coordinate with such type of information.

I talked about the National Agency of sports and it is usually involved in such type of activities. As I told you this pertains to the general sector of safety and security. In Spain this befalls under the competency of the Inspector for Security. So, the main function of this agency is to coordinate and in some way to centralize at a state level all kinds of police activities pertaining to violence and sports events.

Furthermore, our actions include the creation of an Association of Coordinators that since I am Head of this Agency I try to coordinate all the other Coordinators. I don't want to see any differences between the practices followed in Thessaloniki for example and Athens. I also am responsible for the coordination

between these Coordinators and as I have already told you the Coordinators must send their reports to our office and our office studies these reports and proceeds to certain proposals of situations and to the Committee on Sports.

Our Agency is also the national register data on the transportation of fans and F.C.'s in Spain and around Europe. Now what is the use of the information we take from the several agencies on transportation aside from the fact that we are interested in controlling all the groups at a national level, all the teams at a national level and at controlling the trouble makers we send data to the police force who will be in direct contact with these fans.

For example if we have police forces in Madrid or a special sports event we will inform the specific police forces on the fans and the hooligans and the trouble makers and these specific police forces will try to prevent acts of violence based on the information that we will provide them with. The Catalan police or the Basque police are always ready to prevent such acts.

If the team goes abroad this data, this information will be disseminated to the police of the host country.

Now, another point, we have the Committee on Sports. This was formed on the basis of Law in 1990, whereas in 1992 we have formulated the rules of composition and the rules operation of this Committee. This reports to the Ministry of Health and Sports and education in Spain and it might act on it's own initiative or following order by the Ministry.

There are twenty five members of this Committee representing several agencies, that is the State, the several autonomous regions, the

municipalities, press from the football area or basketball area as well as individuals who think through their prestige, legitimate can participate in this agency that is our effort is to involve in a legitimate way individuals who can control or prevent violence in the area of sports who will also cooperate with other agencies.

Let me also tell you that the Committee as in planery on the basis of priorities and interactions given it might also act in the form of subcommittees. At a National level this Agency has consulting duties that can take a most specific form in the form of studies, accumulation and dissemination of data on violence. The conduct of researchers, studies on the measures that will be taken depending on the instructions given to us by other agencies.

This Committee might also enhance and encourage prevention measures and might also formulate particular suggestions, proposals. In Spain, according to the Law, it is not prohibited to stop people entering the stadiums having toilet paper with them, because there is also a need, but to have twenty five toilet papers being rolled over in the stadium its something different. Then again they can put fire in the toilet paper. So, you can understand the dimensions that this phenomenon might take.

For example I remember that the Committee of which I am talking about made a suggestion to the two of the several Unions and Associations trying to engage them in the effort to prevent such phenomena. Now at the level of cooperation this Committee is responsible for several activities that might encourage the participation of volunteers in such measures. Moreover, we make forecasts in regard to the impact of the imposition of such measures

and there is a controlled ... of the number of tickets. In the back of this ticket we record all the prohibitions, the objects that cannot be taken into the stadium e.t.c.

All this is done under the care and under the auspices of this Committee. Let us not forget that since it is a controlled environment it is not always very popular. There is a categorization between high risk and low risk in Games in Spain, so this Committee intervenes in this classification of the events and might differentiate causing to, depending on the case the classification. This Committee also drafts reports and submits to the government as far as the subcommittees are concerned and this brings me to the end of my presentation.

We have created four subcommittees where we have the subcommittee on reports which analyses the reports of Coordination of the officers and analyses reports and there are suggestions and proposals submitted to the interested agencies. There is another subcommittee, its mission is to control the implementation of laws and it cooperates with all other agencies involved in the implementation of law. This Committee has acquired significance.

Now we have a violence prevention subcommittee that analyses the causes of violence in the area of sports and undertakes the initiatives also coordinating the actions of other agencies. And finally, we have the subcommittee on actions in the more general framework of violence in football.

So, this subcommittee examines whether football violence is connected with violence in other sports events in Spain. Unfortunately we still have problems with basketball. We are not talking about generalized problems, however basketball can turn into a field of

violence. We also have problems with hockey on ice e.t.c. Thank you very much for your attention.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Allow me Mr. Gagatsis, one or two minutes. Wait for Mr. Rodriguez to put on his headset. Thank you very much Mr. Rodriguez however I would like to take the opportunity to steal something more from our foreign guests.

I wanted to put some questions to our foreign guests. We need to have the speakers understand the situation here and we need to see in parallel what takes place in Greece and in the rest of the European countries. We need to know whether it is a reality or a myth that in the other countries there is no violence anymore. The Chief of the Hellenic Police accurately and precisely described the way with which the Police Forces undertake the obligation to plan e.t.c. And we also talked about the result, the injuries we had e.t.c.

So, I would like to ask Mr. Rodriguez who described the way this tree of organization acts to tell us a few more things about the topic. Let me tell you that we are at a point where we have voted a law that prohibits cameras in the stadium, we have established that the penalties provided, but we need to engage into further preparations to see how these penalties will be implemented. We haven't completed the procedure with the F.C.'s yet e.t.c.

We are at the stage of implementation of a legislative framework that is almost similar to respective European legislative frameworks. We are waiting to see how the full implementation will go. We expect to see some improvement.

However, what we need to get from our foreign guests, is that we need to know that for example in Spain what data do you have on injuries, even deaths e.t.c.? Do you have more violence outside the stadium or inside the stadium? Do you have light injuries? What is the extend of that phenomenon? Or have you completely eradicated it? Because it's very important for me to know that, because I believe that a myth is shaped as far as the other countries are concerned. We sometimes believe that violence has been completely eradicated in other countries.

So, I would like to ask Mr. Rodriguez whether there are injuries, what is their extend e.t.c., in order for us to see what the anticipated results should be. So Mr. Rodriguez, if you can please use the microphone in front of you.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

O.K. I don't have any data on me. And we don't have many data on that. But anyway are only few and we are talking about First League in football, we have approximately 800 football games in the First League. We don't have many injuries and we have approximately arrested 600 individuals. We had 600 arrests. Excuse me we have arrested 100 individuals following 600 investigations.

Now, those that have been arrested, they have been arrested following battle or struggle with the police. They didn't have any weapons e.t.c. aside from one or two important games per year we don't have sever injuries. When Real plays with Barcelona in such kinds of cases we might have arrests or injuries.

Now the police intervention, these take place particularly in the streets not in the stadium. Approximately 80% of those who have been arrested, have been arrested following combat with the police, and we are talking about man to man cases. For example policemen trying to control a fan who has gone wild. We can't claim that violence has been completely eradicated. ...that we have been obliged not to allow certain individuals to attend fields. Thank you very much.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Thank you. Now may I ask the President of the Greek Federation of football, Mr. Gagatsis to take the floor.

And until he takes the floor may I tell you that as it was explained by delegates of the various parties being here, ... the case was made by various observatives, by the various Unions and Clubs there is an open issue having to do with this ... and subsidies paid to the various clubs. So, I believe this will be a very interesting idea to discuss, a would be announced by the Minister of a point. May I allow this for you to have a more general idea and to have a first taste of what will happen in the following days. This we examine very seriously. Mr. Gagatsis has the floor.

At this first stage there are simply intervention by the speakers but after some ideas exchanged during the break we might have some interventions by some veteran football players present in the room all the more since they are members of the Labor Union. Yes, we may be in a slight excess of the specific context of the problem, provided that these will be just five minute interventions. If speakers are allowed fifty minutes, I think an extra five minutes to the veteran football

players is only fair to be given if we are in this way to follow their ideas and have a taste of what the football players themselves believe. The speaker.

MR. GAGATSI:

Ladies and Gentlemen despite the fact that the General Secretary attempted prior to my taking the floor on the issue of subsidies to give some ideas let me tell you I will be speaking about those things, although he tried to avert me from doing so.

Because resorts for reasons of violence. No, in this country deplorably and despite the fact that efforts have been waged to avert the phenomenon to have a repetition of events that are strange both to our culture and foreign to any mentality in Greece. Non has heard about it least of all the Greek State. Any serious attempt to deal violence in the field could not afford to be called practical unless it takes into account all parameters.

And of course, taking into account the particularities of the various countries. Very correctly you said Mr. Secretary that some things happen in other countries, things of this kind happen in Greece and it would be so constructive to exchange ideas as to what exactly happens in this or that country by the fact that we as a Federation know very well that in Greece, after a very long period of exchange of ideas and sometimes unilateral conclusions we are as yet to institutionalize measures that could be directly implementable, applicable and practical such as to give the right to all of us to believe that gradually we will be able to bring people back to the stadium.

The Law recently promulgated of course goes to this direction and undoubtedly there are some decisions made to a good direction, but may I say that as of late the most recent police measures taken, measures not to be commented in such forums, nevertheless go beyond the mentality of the democratic regime we mean to have in Greece and of course go against the freedom of the individual as we learn to leave it.

The monitoring of identity cards when there are no such things in Greece as yet as nominal tickets may not be tolerated in a country such as ours. You cannot afford to have acceptance in the stadium depending on where he or she was born or where he or she dwells. I believe that in priority these kind of measures may not continue to apply because they precisely show our inability to implement a series of correct, practical measures that will only pursue one goal, to attract rather than avert people from coming to the stadiums.

No one could possibly say and plausibly assert that measures now taken are there to attract people. Fewer and fewer people come to the stadiums and now after these measures we may have only two thousand people, of twenty thousand we once had because this is where the measures lead us. Now, if some people ... on this and this we have to make them understand that immediately which could further lead us to recall those measures and do something else in exchange.

I reiterate the fact that the philosophy is a little different, probably too different to what the case is today and the idea should only be how to bring people back to the stadiums. Our Federation has

specific suggestions. What we propose is very specific and has consequences.

We mean to have the Federation be responsible for whatever events and whatever consequences of the events. Some of you may say what are we talking about? Yes, I say this consciously, we demand to be the sole parties responsible for dealing with violence.

Secondly, we ask for the institutionalization of the presence of the proud police in the stadiums which in term should rely upon three pillars. First of all our stations of the various delinquents outside the stadiums also conduct provisional controls and restrict access to the stadiums of those likely to create trouble.

In this way we would be able to free the hands of other people allowing them to do better things the way they know how to do them and then by distributing the roles when we also implicate the private police in the process of maintaining order within the stadium. We also want the institutional framework to change in the case of teenagers and minors.

It is a fact that most of the arrests made are directed to people between sixteen and eighteen years. And because our legal framework is totally different to what the case is in other countries fatally these youths go back home under the tutorship of their mother or parents and then once again they repeat the same problem. We also further ask for a change in the legal framework and the imposition of minor and imprisonment penalties, ten, fifteen twenty days at the most, along with full publicity of all such penalties to the wider audience.

We ask for a standardization in all stadiums of the regime of seated spectators only. We are asking for nominal tickets and we ask

for cameras to be installed on the premises. Provisions already made about that are in the new text of the Law. We need a framework agreement with all organized clubs of fans and the institutionalization of specific frame of conduct.

Our federation is about to take initiatives for a conference with the various clubs in order to elaborate a code of conduct and further asking all clubs in Greece, all organized clubs to observe such a code otherwise they will be responsible for it. Hence sanctions to be expected.

We also wish to have warranted presence of all such acknowledged associations within the stadiums, not just the gates as we now have them in Greece. The gates of the various fans but we need also to have a specific control on the various movements of those fans who also need to abrogate the existence of the so called dead zones in the stadiums.

The only thing that triggered, those zones triggered was violence and more controversy. It was then that when the no-man's land in the stadiums were imposed and we had the new guns that shoot fireworks from zone to zone reducing the number of tickets allowed for each group to 5% and not 20% which is pure paranoia. This 5% is the reality throughout the world, throughout Europe for Champion's League.

We need to have the first division games be organized according with Champion's League rules. We also wish to have less coverage of the violent phenomena. Very recently I saw something happening. Something we saw happening every Sunday in the stadiums. During thirty minutes we had incidents of violence amongst fans. This should

be stopped or not publicized, maintenance and improvement of the framework of penalties provided under the new rules of the Football Federation in all cases of infractions.

I will disagree with those who say that there is no legal control of the various Football Clubs and Sports Associations. This is not so. Out of the thirty or so days of game, in 32 cases of games, in 32 stadiums there was a closed door restrictions because of violent events and the various associations of the first division had to pay several thousand Euros in fines and penalties. This is unique in Europe and this proves that there is legal control and no impunity.

Now the rationale I mentioned is quite specific. We need to go beyond the traditional mentalities of segregation and distribute better the load of responsibility amongst various agencies allowing the fans to really connect with the game. We need to avert the mentality of controversy and contradiction between the police and spectators. We need to have three conditions for this to happen.

First of all have new stadiums. If it wasn't for the Olympic Games the youngest of all stadiums in Greece would be thirty five years old. How can we expect to have a reduction of violent phenomena unless we have modern stadiums? There is hoping that thanks to the assistance of the Greek State and I would like to thank the State for all this that the police as far as the First division teams are concerned, new stadiums are constructed that conform to modern standards, provide safety, security and therefore imposed specific conduct upon spectators, facilitating a repression if may be.

Now the point is that the police have full coordination of whatever happens in the stadium. Nevertheless, my personal feeling is

that the impossibility sometimes of the all police, unwanted though it is, to control such phenomena sometimes leads us to also implicate private police.

Thirdly, we need to have amongst all Football Associations to create a framework for the implementation of these measures in a more standard way and to an acceptance of those measures. For the past two years police is perfectly absent from the stadiums in the operation of football. After one half year we see that there is full diffusion of violence in the stadiums, which is why we say that we need to focus on amateur football.

We keep asking for a change of philosophy and mentality because this is where the change of mentality starts. But how can we ask for a change of mentality and philosophy when the State itself is still in arrears as far as subsidies are concerned towards us. How can we expect to go back to amateur football which is a production of the new football players, impose solutions upon the amateur football where the State considers there is no such thing as amateur football? And the State does so by indulging the concept of this as admissible.

If the amateur football is not assisted, something we all acknowledge and no one dares insist, because the amateur football is what we all came from, unless it changes philosophy, unless the State helps the amateur football to create new football players and change the mentality of fans and sportsmen alike, then we would not have done anything at all for the future, not only of football but for the society in general.

Nevertheless we cannot ask from amateur football players to change. We can't impose unless we change our behavior towards it.

Under the circumstances we do not acknowledge the existence of the amateur football. The Greek Federation can no longer tolerate the actual image of the stadiums. We can't tolerate the saying "Greeks have the fans they deserve". Our football should reacquire a more family-like mentality and really avoid becoming the violent mass.

All we need to do is adopt a modern language, change mentality and embark upon an effort for modernization so as to attract to the stadium all those who really like football with specific goals. Thank you very much.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Thank you Vassilis Gagatsis. And before we hear Mr. Thanassis Kanellopoulos, I'd like to comment, just to let you know that these two Institutional Representatives will not remain and will leave.

There is a series of proposals by the Greek Federation that are similar to what has already been proposals for Law or what has already been approached or discussed or considered. However, there was one essential point that was discussed in a meeting with the Minister and all the Agents and Players e.t.c. Indeed, the Greek Federation asked for the presence of private police in the stadiums.

And that the Greek Federation would undertake responsibility for everything? Well, what does this mean? This is a political question. Will the Federation be responsible for everything that happens? Then, this is unthinkable. Let me remind you Vassilis that the Federation, the Football Federation as well as all other Federations do not have a love affair with the government all the time. There have been divorces between the Football Federation and the government in

the past. So, can you imagine that such a Federation would carry the full responsibility? What would they do? Because if we had a combat in a stadium, what would the Federation say?

There must be a mutual undertaking of responsibility. We have discussed that and in my office I had the opportunity to discuss with owners of two basketball clubs and we concluded that as a pilot project we could have this agreement under the responsibility always of the State Police to assign the safety and security to private police.

As you've heard the presence of policemen sometimes creates more tension. Well all that could be considered and could be discussed but the fact that you said that the Greek Federation would undertake the full responsibility, it's unthinkable because you must understand that there is a full cost. You will undertake the full responsibility and we will pay? We are in favor of a mutual undertaking of responsibility. Yes, we will be able answer later Vassilis if you wish.

Now, as far as the age-limit you mentioned is concerned from sixteen to eighteen years of age I personally agree. I don't want to mind the Minister. I am just telling you my personal own view because I think that there are Associations of fans who teach their fans how to avoid the legal judicial problems. Of course, it's a given that if you are under eighteen you can do whatever you like because we will be there, behind you to support you e.t.c. So, I am in favor of what Mr. Gagatsis proposes. We will consider such a modification or an amendment could take place.

This is all is very positive, correct publicity for the penalties and sanctions e.t.c. Everything else has been voted on and we simply

wait to see the results of this implementation. As far as the dead-zones that you mentioned, we should examine that more cautiously.

NO COMMENT WE ARE OFF THE MICROPHONE

MR. EXARCHOS:

What Mr. Venizelos said today was that the violence sells, pays in the mass media. Mr. Venizelos put it that we need the support of the mass media. The press and the mass media. The press and the mass media. These representatives of the mass media have a name we can't hide from ourselves. Don't we know who this channel is or who's newspaper this is? I will agree with Mr. Venizelos the Minister who said that we need the support of the mass media and the press. Fifty years ago, no one would pay attention to such incidents of violence.

As far as the stadiums are concerned we can't say that no work has been done. Of course, the State has it's own responsibility but it's the F.C.'s, don't they think that they should have private stadiums? Which of the F.C.'s though about constructing their own football stadiums? The State has offered help and already then such stadiums are underway. Instead that we would subsidize such constructions already the construction of ten such stadiums is underway. We need approximately fourteen such stadiums, I am talking about the Premier League.

So, the State took that in mind and considered it and of course we need new stadiums. And when the Greek Football Federation claimed that there were no stadiums for the Greek National Team we were by their side. Imagine that what Mr. Gagatsis said presents a completely different picture from the reality. We agreed. You gave us

your opinion, we agreed to the voting of these laws and rules e.t.c. We are always in favor of dialogue and discussion.

Of course, you as a Greek Football Federation are right in claiming that the subsidies were not enough. However, when it's for the center of your members are economically independent I don't think there is much room for demanding claims. Maybe you could undertake the cost of private police.

So, very friendly I would repeat that we must all be on the same side here. We must not be in opposite sides. If this discussion within these two days allows us to go all on the same side and accept that there are laws and there is a political will and there will be a support not by the owners of the F.C.'s but by the Mass Media and the Press, then we will become wise within these two days and together with the Hellenic Police and we will have much better results. Because the problem is not a tragic one of course and there is always room for improvement.

I apologize for these comments. Mr. Vassilis Gagatsis takes again the floor.

MR. GAGATSIS:

I will not engage into a quarrel because I am on the same side here and I have proven that many a times. If Greek society is pleased with the organization of Championship Games in the Premier League with what has taken place in the last few years I will tell you that we as the Greek Football Federation are not pleased.

I am talking about the responsibility of the organization Secretary General. We didn't ask for any money for the private police

nor anything else. Let Football function and operate on the basis of it's own rules and regulations. Of this we are all part of football and a path that will be completely different than the current one. Nor the responsibility for the lack of stadiums did I transfer and convey to the State.

Of course the Football S.A. Associations ought to have done something about it and I went on to mention that we thanked the State and the Minister for ... I am in no mood of quarreling and as you must very well know I am always on the same side and this is the side of football. Thank you.

COORDINATOR:

Allow me for a comment. One of our foreign guests, our friend from Denmark would like to put a question if you allow him to the Chairman of the Greek Football Federation.

MR. ABERGEL:

Thank you Mr. Chair. Thank you also to the Greek Football Federation. I just have one quick comment. My name is Ronni Abergel, I am invited here as a guest to give a presentation later about the work we are doing in Denmark.

I found this presentation extremely interesting and very innovative. Many very new signals compared to what I hear from Football Federations around Europe. Here we have a situation where the Greek Federation that's willing to take responsibility for security. In my country this is not true. We have a Federation that wants to look at implementing sanctions so that fans that are banned in one place

cannot enter another place and here is the most interesting for me is, the President says, we have to get the press involved not to give a big exposure.

In my country it's completely opposite. There is no chance to have this discussion to try and tone down the activities of the hooligans. So, I found actually the presentation very positive and I wanted to ask the Federation President in what way would we be able to gain from down-toning the exposure of the activities of the hooligans in the media? What can we obtain? What could be the benefits for the game?

And second of all we had a signal now that families are not entering into the stadium, parents are not feeling safe to let their children go to the matches. In the long run this could kill the game. The dynamics of the game, maybe not the TV.., but the dynamics of the game and the whole atmosphere in the stadium is deteriorating.

It's the same in Denmark where the bad exposure is leaving us in a position where less and less people feel encouraged to come to the stadium. So, this is not only a Greek I think phenomenon, it's also in Denmark. But I would like if there is a chance to get maybe a brief comment on these questions. Thank you.

MR. GAGATSI:

Let me tell you that the proposal of the Greek Football Federation on governing the press does not come on it's own. We know that we imitate cases and we all know that hooligans in the stadiums as I've seen since I was a legal consultant in S.A. Football

Groups, the hooligans come to the stadium thinking that they will proceed to incidents that will be promoted and will be shown in TV.

We know that they are not fans. We have seen them in other areas, in manifestations e.t.c. And lately, we've seen them in football matches. And they go there in the sense that the promotion of all these incidents will create a call for attraction of other groups who will also come to the stadium. However, isolated as a measure it cannot offer anything without being accompanied by the other measures. Thank you.

MR. EXARCHOS:

We thank the Chairman of the Greek Football Federation since one of these speakers will not be able to attend. We used his time. Now I would like to ask Thanassis Kanellopoulos to take the floor who is the Chair of the Football S.A. Association E.P.A.E.

MR. KANELLOPOULOS:

Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear guests. And I also I would like greet those who are here.

Now, from the first day where the two days administration of the Football S.A. Association and it took its duties it had as it's objective to tackle the phenomena of violence. This is why in September 2001 we organized the Conference on "Yes on football, no to violence" with the participation of foreign guests and Greek experts, University Professors e.t.c. The main aim was to subsidize the public opinion and to create an open channel for communication between the society, the State, the Football S.A.'s e.t.c.

That Conference was an invitation for discussion to build a mutually accepted platform. So, to us in the football S.A. Association it is very important that the doorway had opened then. We come across once again following the invitation of the Ministry.

Now, throughout this time we have submitted specific suggestions and proposals that to all the competent bodies in our effort to pave the path for a fertile dialogue and a mutual management in tackling of the problem.

Indicatively, I will mention our previous suggestion for equipment of the stadiums with all the means for safety and security insure that the normal conditions such as closed TV circuits, metal detectors, alarms, magnetic doors, breath analysis equipment, security facilities, areas for the police forces, medical services provided. Secondly, the implementation of the electronic ticket. Third the establishment of a special agency according to the British model in the police force in Athens. Fourth, the development of training programs as far as the training and practice of fair play is concerned in schools. Fifth, the change of the legislative framework for the juvenile delinquents.

Aside from these general measures we also need to have the active participation of the F.C.'s themselves that must be making the necessary decisions – measures that can contribute to our aims are as follows. The private policing facilities for the better control of fans and for the development of an organized security and safety policy in coordination with the competent bodies from the Hellenic Police Force.

At this point we need to have an amendment of the legislative framework that governs these issues today. The creation of a Safety and Security Committee and a Safety Officer for the fans. Third, the adoption of a pass system and the membership status by all the F.C.'s.

Another element is to change the way the tickets are sold and ultimately the drafting of a national manual in cooperation with the Greek Football Federation and the Ministry on the Issue of Safety and Security of the public in sport events.

These were some indicative measures that we have submitted as proposals to the State, these suggestions and proposals deplorably have not been met with any answer and the more powerful partner of the football club and one of the largest companies O.P.A.P. S.A. has not managed to respond in essence to the challenges of the Greek football and contribute to its promotion.

It does not contribute to the combating of the violence. Of course brain storming is always welcome and today's event will help us to assist our action. The training of people who hold managerial positions in the Greek football arena constitutes a substantial foundation on a stable basis to engage into dialogue.

Let us not forget that the unilateral prohibition and of taking measures, despite the fact that they seem to solve the problem do nothing more than replacing it or transferring it. Measures that are not understood or are not in as necessary lead to impasses that we cannot manage and then those who are responsible try to solve the problems and trouble shoot. There you see that we have policing measures that are against the constitution, they are antisocial and they are a shame, a

disgrace for football. We see them implemented without of course solving the problem of violence.

So, in order for us to deal efficiently and tackle with the problem of violence we need to understand the weaknesses, or we need to identify the gaps that the law leaves. We need to understand whether the policing system offers something useful or not, whether the Committees against violence have a part to play. We must all realize that in order for us to tackle violence, we cannot do this by magic. We need to understand that there is no panacea as is the case for all other social problems. We need to experience scientific expertise and long term planning and it is the only way with which we will have a dialogue and better results in our fight against violence.

Allow me to say that this discussion cannot be circumstantial or occasional. It must cover the whole spectrum of football activities and not isolate violence from the series of problems that concern professional football. There are no sufficient stadiums or sports facilities or venues in Greece. Apparently the organizing authorities are trying to find stadiums where the games will be held. The legislative framework that governs the Football S.A. Association is out of date and many teams do not have the opportunity to face their commitment and they asphyxiate under a heavy fiscal regime.

Is it irrelevant that the organizing authority faces economic problems because there have been competent authorities that have been put on top of that? The Football S.A. Association together with the F.C., S.A.'s formulated a framework for the viability and sustainability of Greek football through the fight against violence using specific measures and proposals and this proposal is still open

and remains open for discussion. All the authorities and all the agencies unfortunately not even one has sent a ... answer.

So, from today's event I think that we will be able to draw conclusions. I am sure that we will here many views and I am certain that this will ultimately be the basis for a responsible analysis of the violence phenomenon. A scientific analysis that will propose a series of measures, acts, changes of the fossilized management of the phenomenon of violence. I am sure that we will be able to consider the problems from a different spectrum.

We, from our part are ready to reconsider all our proposals. We are open to new proposals and suggestions and we have hope that we will achieve a consensus in order to tackle the problem of violence. Without the cooperation of all the players involved it is impossible to deal with, even in a new problem.

So, concluding I would like to thank you for the invitation to take part in this interesting event. I would also like to thank all our foreign guests on behalf of all the football clubs who traveled here today to share with us their knowledge and expertise in our fight against violence. Thank you.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Thank you very much Mr. Kanellopoulos for your views and proposals, indeed you have submitted these proposals, of course, some them have formed part of the Laws that have been passed. We had a meeting with the Greek football federation and the football S.A. Association.

Let me remind you Thanassis where we observed a different behavior of fans, or rather of troublemakers in fans when there are European football matches compared to the national championship. We heard then that the sanctions and penalties abroad are stricter. This is why the fans and hooligans are more obedient and they are encouraged to do so, by the presence of the F.C.'s and we had then agreed, we had reached an agreement that two measures that will potentially help us would be to render the penalties and sanctions stricter for the national championship games.

One measure was to take away their points. That would mean that they would be risking their position in their League. And a second measure would be that when such situations would be repeated or where we would have such incidents e.t.c. the one or two games would not be shown to a TV.

These two measures were agreed upon. Back then however, we didn't manage to implement them because they had to be further defined by the start of the F.C.'s. Has they been implemented we would have been in a better position today, allow me to say, because I repeat myself here. There is a very important instrument which is called the Football Association. I believe that those in the Board of Directors are of a ... that is a Football S.A. Association. If they had the real consensus, if they really agreed that they would put an end to the phenomenon of violence under the current legislative framework with its amendments and improvements I think that it would be a closed case.

E.P.A.E., the Football S.A. Association is a powerful instrument. If we have consensus in this we will be able to achieve our goals. This

is my own personal view. I think that Mr. Stratos as a representative from the F.C. Panathinaikos will take the floor.

THE COMMENT IS OFF THE MICROPHONE

MR. STRATOS:

The responsibility of the State has no end. If some instruments are negative we have to find in any way the way to fight violence.

COORDINATOR:

Secretary General, excuse me. Mr. Delorenzo Rodriguez made a phone call to Spain and has the data that you asked him to give you as soon as Mr. Stratos concludes with his presentation, Mr. Lorenzo will take the floor.

MR. STRATOS:

Secretary General, members of the panel, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen allow me to convey the greetings from our President, Professor Mitsou, he had an emergency, he is in the E.R. right now. And secondly, allow us to warmly welcome distinguished guests and to thank them beforehand because we have used work as a guide. And I warmly thank them now because what you hear might displease you.

Violence is a phenomenon in society. It's not only manifested in the stadiums. Football sees violence that is born by society. Violence cannot be dealt with through suppression or oppression because violence brings further violence, gives birth to further violence. This is a very serious question, a very hot topic in our country.

Yet we consider that Conferences and Training Courses no matter how useful they are will not bare a practical impact on that. What is mostly required is for those who take the responsibility of decision making to undertake the cost of implementing their decisions. It is indeed difficult for us to understand what these two days Conference might offer.

The State constantly calls for the independence of football clubs in order to get rid of its responsibilities and to justify its absence. So if football clubs are independent let the institutional instruments respond to their role. If the football clubs are not independent let the State admit it and let the State undertake the responsibility.

Panathinaikos through initiatives and actions against violence is a pioneer and has not been helped by anyone. We are not in politics here nor are we in theoretical approaches of the phenomena. What is of interest is the essence. We are put to test every Sunday. Whatever has been submitted here as a proposal to us has been made action for quite some time. We are the first among the F.C.'s who for the first two years have installed a C.C.C. We have established the electronic ticket and electronic gate. We are the first and only club who undertake the cost to displease our fans when the issue is serious.

Violence is produced by injustice seen in and out of the stadium. Violence is produced through impunity and the absence of institutional instruments and the decisions of athletic justice, sports justice. This all creates anger and anger without an exit results to violence. Greek fans are very angry and to us this is justified.

Hence no matter how much we ... the current framework, no matter how much the other F.C.'s clarify their intents and their

practices as far as violence is concerned, violence will not be dealt with. And it will not at all be eradicated if we do not eradicate the root of the anger of the fans. And this will only be achieved through the absolute implementation of legitimacy and transparency in the operation of the institutionalized instruments in Greek football and to this we a long way ahead of us. Thank you.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Thank you very much Mr. Stratos. This was a very important talk. We will take with us both the positive as well as the negative comments. You said that the legislative framework is more than enough because you talked about the equality as far as sports justice is concerned.

Indeed in the last two years, compared to the situation at hand we had more competitive championships. It's not that there have been no complaints. The players are unjustified sometimes. However, the fact that we have reached the point where we have very competitive championships in the last two years must be attributed to the fact that there was a more fair treatment of the F.C.'s through the institutional framework. We obviously have not reached the ideal situation yet since ... instruments sometimes have needs to pass a better judgement.

So, thank you very much Mr. Stratos. And now will invite the Chairman of P.A.O.K. ... Mr. Pagonis will take the floor. I have promised to Mr. Lorenzo that he would give us the data that he gathered.

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

O.K. I would simply like to give you the statistical data that you have asked for. So, speaking about specific games, for 2001-2002 we had 870.000 approximately policemen and in the last season 88.000 policemen used. We controlled the transportation of fans, 24.000 in the first season, 27.000 in the second and in the next one. Those who were taken away from the stadium are 407 people, with 60 arrests in 2001. In this last year we had an increase of this number, we had 565 individuals who weren't allowed to watch the game and we had a high number of arrests.

I gather that this increase was a consequence of the amendment of the Spanish Law. As I explained earlier we have now other types of ... and this led to a high number of arrests. As I have told you we still do not have any statistical data, as far as other sports are concerned since the problem of violence in other areas is not that important. On average, approximately four games in every season are problematic.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Do you have anything on the injuries?

MR. RODRIGUEZ:

No, thank you very much.

MR. PAGONIS:

First of all I would like to thank the Secretary General of Sports for this invitation to be part of the F.C. and to congratulate them on the organization of this Conference. I wish that this Conference is the

beginning of a ... operation aiming at the eradication of violence. I've already been covered by the previous speakers primarily by the Minister, so I will limit myself to the following comment since I am not and as I cannot present to you any scientific study.

Violence has inflicted sports in Europe in the last twenty years. In order to fight it we need to understand it, to identify it sufficiently to have a good understanding and to apply the necessary measures. So, I believe that we need to refer to the history of sports as in ancient times sports was a noble event and spectacle.

However there have been cases where sports, particularly when they were more of a spectacle, they were interwoven with violence since they led to the death of the players. Let us remember the gladiators. Secondly, we need to examine the evolution of violence in the stadiums in the last twenty years, study the causes and the omissions that exacerbated this phenomenon.

To put it indicatively there are specific points that have to be taken into consideration in our study. We need to consider the education and training of our children at school. Secondly, the legislation and its implementation, the decisions and deliberations of these courts, magistrates, the referee, the policing methods, the types of sanctions and penalties are not always towards the football clubs but also to the troublemakers. Also, we should examine the legal framework for the F.C.'s themselves.

Of course all the above must be considered in combination with the human behavior, the aggressiveness and the good will also of the fans. Personally I believe that the good will is the most indicative

measure against violence. It is so with this direction that we are all to move.

I heard earlier some negative comments. I have my ears and eyes open, we have a low profile, however, we are quite decided the new administration of P.A.O.K. F.C. and I personally right from the start emphasized that our good behavior will be our most ... way to support our team. I believe this indeed, the people of P.A.O.K. and the fans of P.A.O.K. applied this. Despite our position against violence we also took other measures. We named a part of our stadium against violence, where a new administration and these were the things that we are able to do in such a short time.

However, we tried to examine this topic from all it's aspects and we are at the disposal of the Secretary General. We are willing to cooperate, we want the fans to return to the stadiums with their whole family together, so we are aiming at working at this direction. Thank you very much.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Now, before I call upon Mr. Granitsas I will tell Mr. Granitsas what we said earlier. Mr. Granitsas will try to focus on the topic trying to avoid the pre-election climate. I want to tell you, to let the public know that you are running for elections.

MR. GRANITSAS:

Ladies and gentlemen, the topic that we are discussing today is of particular interest for me. Let us not forget that sometime ago I was myself a victim of assault when I went to watch a game as the Chair,

the President of the F.C. and there suddenly, without anyone realizing how things happened and without the responsibility I might say of the host team we weren't able to leave the stadium due to violence.

So, this has remained engraved in my memory as I will never forget what we saw in TV. I tried to minimize the dimension of the phenomenon because I believe that such incidents must be downgraded. We must forget them the sooner the better. Of course we must use them as examples to avoid and we must try not to repeat them.

I've been watching games for forty years now, as a romantic fan at first then as an organized fan let's say and afterwards as a member of the Board of Directors reaching the possession of the President in one of the biggest teams in our country. So, throughout these years I was lucky and unlucky enough to experience such events and to acquire an experience on what takes place in the area of sports today. Despite the honest efforts that the State has made I think that there is a long way to go still.

In a condensed declaration I can tell you that this kind of violence that we are considering today is due to certain factors that I can enumerate here.

First of all the fans, those who form an indispensable part of sports, they become the cause of these incidents, organized associations. There are differences between members of the association itself. They try to impose their view on their peers, indicating fanaticism and violence. This, within the Association. We have a competition between the Association of fans which is the most

power Association. The Association of fans trying to impose their view on the Board of Directors of the teams e.t.c.

Let's forget the Association of fans. Let us now consider the members of the Board of Directors of these F.C.'s. We see that sometimes violence is nurtured right from very early, before the game begins. We have declarations, we have statements and this gives us the impression that we are at war. We need to win the game and this is a fascist mentality, according to which there is no other result than victory and this leads to extreme situations.

Many a times members of the Board, the President of the F.C.'s have tried to cover their own mistakes, mismanagement or their failures, or the failure of the team trying to justify what cannot be justified. And there we have it's tolerance, we have the subsidize, the grants towards certain Associations.

And this all creates the problem of violence. The Mass Media, whatever is a disgrace for football and sports in general is promoted in an exaggerated way. Pictures that should not be seen go into our houses and small children. And children watch them and instead of using them as an example to be avoided, they use them as an example to be imitated.

The press. It is the same as with the Mass Media. The sports Magistrates, they make decisions that sometimes come in conflict with the feeling of justice. Sometimes we are surprised by their deliberations. Sometimes certain specific F.C.'s are favored despite the presence of the legislative framework. Despite the will of the State, the political will.

So, these instruments must be extremely cautious and careful. The referee, another important issue. We don't know whether a game would end. This is also due to mistakes of referees. Referees are human and they have to make a decision in instants. However, there is suspicion against them. Everyone is suspicious of the Referees. Efforts have been undertaken by the State then by the Associations of the Referees and by the Greek football federation and other federations to change this negative climate. Despite that I think that we have not reached yet the point where we will all believe that the Referees will be objective.

The State has passed a number of Laws, has made several efforts. Despite all that, it seems that though the legislative framework is sufficient in practice it is not the case. The Police Forces, sometimes we are under the impression that despite the fact that we have meetings with the Police Forces before the game, we agree on something and we see something different applied in practice. Sometimes the timing is not correct. They are not in the correct place at the correct time. Stadiums, sports facilities, this is a huge problem. When they are no sources of inspiration, it goes without saying that people won't be interested in them protecting the stadiums.

The organized fans that go to the seat to watch the game, go there to watch the game or to let some steam off, or solve other problems, alcohol and drugs have made their appearance a long time ago. Some parts in the stadium are ideal for this kind of job. The trips of the organized fans turn into troubles where they can do anything else but support their team. They cause riots in the cities where they

travel and when the Police arrests them, they find drugs and alcohol. What can we do?

Each one of us, all these players must undertake, must assume their responsibilities. Organized Associations must try to exclude such elements. The legislative framework sets the conditions and the prerequisites. I believe that the more well organized the Associations of the fans are the lesser probability to see that the hooligans in the field. The more the administration is democratic, if it is elected legally, the more we will limit violence. The organized Associations of fans, are a necessary evil, though the legislative framework, we must bring them to a point to be a benefit for the team.

The administrative factors must try to lay low for a while. The teams are there for the people, for the anonymous crowd and they are for the fans, who have no other interest than the victory of their team. So, we cannot use these positions to the personal interests. We have the team first and then the personal interests.

The State, it makes a lot of efforts. They are not always efficient. I think that currently everyone is willing to change things. We say this through the efforts that the State does to prepare the Stadiums. This is a prerequisite, without appropriate facilities we won't be able to tackle the problem of violence.

At this point it is very difficult for us to go back. I think that we have the unique opportunity in the occasion of the Olympic Games not to loose the momentum since Greece will pass a test throughout the world. I am sure that this test we will meet with success and after the Olympic Games, hope that we will never go back to a current situation. Thank you very much.

MR.:

A question for Mr. Granitsas. Mr. Granitsas the Law of Sports gives you the right to recognize or not to recognize the Associations of Organized Fans. So, I wanted to ask you who has been a victim of violence. Have you as the A.E.K. F.C. recognized that the organized fans Association and that it creates trouble in your games?

MR. GRANITSAS:

First of all this new law gives the rights to the amateurs club to officially recognize these Associations. We are obliged to a grant that these Associations are official. It's latest law gives the Committee of professional sports the right to proceed to the control of the Articles of Association, of the procedures used e.t.c. We do not recognize certain Associations. We are not responsible for the control of the Article of Association or the members of any kind of Association.

So, this is a completely formal procedure. If the law gives us the right to proceed to controls and judge by the behavior of the members of the Association whether this Association is officially recognized or not then we would be pleased to do so, but our approval is simply formal.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Before this question I had in mind that Mr. Granitsas did not try to hide anything and what is important is that here we have a man who knows what he is talking about. He comes from the administration and this to me is very important. However, to this question I don't think that the answer was correct. We say that this competency provided by

the law is of essence and it is contrast with what Mr. Granitsas said. He described that there is an umbilical cord between the administration and the Associations of fans and that there is this interaction between the administration and the fans.

I was invited in a TV channel, there were generals e.t.c. and the channel said I called you and you answered the phone call. And I wasn't able to trace another president of an F.C.

Now the responsibility of the amateur F.C. that provides us symbols exists. If the F.C. does not want to give it symbols to fans that it does not approve of, it won't approve the existence of the Association of fans. So, we considered that we will transfer this responsibility to the F.C.'s. Because they are the ones who know how the Association of fans works. Consequently I believe Mr. Granitsas that you can intervene on that.

And a last remark, the point of the independence of F.C.'s, I believe that we have already ratified that the football clubs are independent and I believe that this was a mistake. We were under extreme pressure in a meeting we had in Zurich so we were told there that the supreme principle was to have an independence of F.C.'s and then we would have F.I.F.A. on top. There was a disagreement as far as the judicial instruments were concerned, the sports Magistrates e.t.c.

So, although in the previous regime we had five members of the court in the secondary instrument, secondary instance instrument the agreement was that since those members of the court would not except to be selected by the Federation we would have a permanent assignment from the Association of Lawyers e.t.c. I don't know

whether this will have better results. This is to be judged by the Greek football federation or the F.C.'s e.t.c. I don't feel more safe using this instrument. So, at this point the whole responsibility lies in the agencies, the F.C.'s. I do not criticize these decisions.

Mr. Theodorakopoulos is our last speaker, coaches will take us to "Aegli" for lunch afterwards, I will give the floor for comments in the afternoon and in the afternoon we will also hear our foreign guests. I would like to ask you to attend the afternoon session because we Greeks tend to ignore what takes place in Europe. Yanni you have the floor.

MR. THEODORAKOPOULOS:

Good afternoon, thank you for this invitation. I hope that from this initiative we will have a concrete result because up to date these discussions resemble more an official procedure where everyone knows his duty and leaves afterwards without putting what has been said in practice. For change we need the State, the official government and the State, the government has not convinced us and we also have the F.C.'s who seem disinterested in what takes place in football.

I am not talking about the Football S.A. Associations nor about the Greek Football Federation, because it's participation seems to be limited to institutional issues. As far as footballers are concerned one can only have positive comments. As far as referees are concerned we have to say that, we have to think the conditions under which they work. And we blame them for mistakes of others and as well as the press, maybe you ask me or rather maybe you tell me that it's the

press' fault but let me clarify that the press nor the media do play in the game. So, those who understand that, they will reach a solution.

The press and the Mass Media are means that connect football with the public opinion. They simply convey a picture from the football stadium to the public opinion. Some believe that this picture is distorted. Yes, indeed mistakes do happen. However, news are not created by journalists. They do not score, they do not impose sanctions e.t.c.

We have thirteen sports newspapers in Greece. In England when hooligans rioted no sports newspapers were on circulation. Of course newspapers, the Mass Media, are commercial enterprises and their main and primary objective is profit. Right from the titles of the first pieces of news one can understand the public that they address. We see certain titles "Lobbying e.t.c."

What we need is to make this distinction between journalists and owners of the press. The environment around football is sick. It's dangerous not only for the fans but also for the journalists and it is a negative environment both for those who work as journalists in the stadium. The absence of journalists means a lack of credibility. Maybe the fact that journalists do not go to the stadium is part of a more general plan. Otherwise we cannot explain it rationally why journalists are terrified. In Iraq the correspondents are more safe than in the Greek stadium. And this does not annoy anyone. Not even the Secretary General of Sports.

The General Secretary talks about the political cost. But in Greece political cost means that if we turn to help a small team we would have a political cost to the expense of the other citizens who

want to see healthy sports events. We ask for safe journalist places. We ask for interviews without the presence of hooligans. We ask for regular press conferences.

As for pre-interviews for coaches e.t.c. whenever something is wrong with a team refuse to talk, they refuse to give interviews. And people are not interested in finding out what's going on, they are interested in the protection of journalists. Journalists cannot work properly because they can't go into the stadiums because there are people bullying them. So, what are we asking for? Decency. We can't have war conflicts every week in the stadiums.

So, first we need to correct the environment, which is the State and the F.C.'s and then we will examine the role of press or the Mass Media. There might be a role for the press or the Mass Media. The complaint of those who love football is that there is no common sense in the management of things. Who has an open mind as far as football is concerned, usually the alliances formed are not the appropriate ones. The sports casters are not at all happy with what takes place in the Greek stadiums.

Our Association has done many efforts to improve the climate, we cooperate with the press departments, U.E.F.A. and from other countries and F.I.F.A. e.t.c. and we have also to cooperate with the Greek Football Federation and the Football S.A. Association. So, if we want the climate to be improved, the other side whose interests are directly touched must want even more and we will see what will become in the future. And let us not forget, football first and then teams. Thank you.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Thank you Mr. Theodorakopoulos, you have exonerated the journalists completely, as far as the Secretary General of Sports is concerned I want to point out that recent incidents against journalists in Thessaloniki infuriated the Deputy Minister who contacted President and he sent letters, certain letters. And one of the topics was the assault on journalists. This by no means, means that we were successful in the protection of journalists. However, we take this into account and Mr. Lianis is infurious about the incident and he phoned Mr. Yannis Theodorakopoulos and they talked about it. So, there is such activity as far as this topic is concerned. We want the journalists to be near, to be close ... whether the owners of the newspapers are responsible for the negative climates or this is to be further discussed.

Concluding I would like to give the floor to the General Director of Sports Mrs. Iliopoulou to tell you something that we forgot.

MRS. ILIOPOULOU:

Thank you. I would like to thank Mr. Theodorakopoulos for his remarks. I too agree, we need to separate the journalists from the owners of newspapers. It could be a grate omission today if we didn't remember late journalists Takis Charalambidis who has passed away and remember his column, "Third Card", through which he tried to denounce phenomena of violence, referees and who fought for fair play. So, one moment in his memory, thank you. One moment of silence.

Thank you.

MR. EXARCHOS:

We will now take the coaches that wait for us outside to go to “Aegli” to have lunch. Thank you.

COORDINATOR:

We start in less than a minute.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Mr. Orphanos will have a presentation following the first speaker. Not a presentation rather a comment. We said in the morning that we would hear from the old football players. News it would be if you didn't intervene Costas, so we'll have an intervention. This was a positive remark because you are always next to us.

COORDINATOR:

We have with us representatives from the police and please allow me to speak for this afternoon session. It is Mr. Patrick Mignon, he is a member of the Laboratory of Sociology of the National Institute of Sports in France.

MR. MIGNON:

Ladies and gentlemen good afternoon. I will speak in English, I will speak about the French situation but I will speak in English. So, I apologize for my accent, especially my colleagues who are English speaking and for the translators, I will try to find my purpose.

So, football is popular everywhere, but football cultures are different. The differences are for example the importance of football

in the national culture, differences between the ways to support football teams. The kinds of passion and ... of fruits that you can find in different countries, but also policy to deal with problems.

What I will present to you this afternoon is two points. The first point is the situation of France on the point of view of supporting violence in football and the French policy on supporting and football related violence.

So, football in France is a new passion. We can say that passion with football in France begun in the eighties. The first manifestation of hooliganism in Paris Saint Germaine in the Palais de Prince in the Midequis took place in a half empty stadium. The first organized groups of supporters in the mid eighties that we call also ultras, on Italian modern, especially in Marseille for example are the first form of this new passion of football. It means people organizing themselves to support a team.

Today, the stadiums in France are almost full with at least one ultras group in each professional football club. For example in Paris we could have twelve associations of supporters, ultra associations. We can find six or eight in Marseille, four in Saint Etienne, for example. And besides this ultra associations, you can find the core of hooligans in some clubs. Like for example Paris Saint Germain but in clubs also maybe less known at the European level like Strasbourg or Lille.

What is that violence? Unfortunately, we have no reliable data on these issues. This is an interesting point to know that why we are unable or have no will or no means to collect data and to count violence especially if you think that it's a problem. You have very

dispersed data on violence. Nobody is O.K. to say that they want to count on this issue.

So, I can't say for example if violence is growing in French football. It's sure that we have no violence during the last twenty years and during the fifties and sixties. This is sure. But what was the sight in potential violence in the eighties? It is impossible to say. But we can say that there is a low level of violence in French football. For example we can say that only one person was killed during a football game and it was by accident, a firework missile thrown by somebody.

Of course, we can find several badly injured policemen or fans during the games, after the games. You can also count several people who have been condemned for racism or actions of violence on the supporters or passer-by's. This is the state of the art, the number of the violence. But sure if you speak about the French situation of that, youth for example suicide, death to road traffic on Saturday night fever are much more important if you want to speak about violence than football hooliganism.

But what is violence in football? But we can say by looking at a newspaper, by going to a football game, by going to a meeting with football authorities. You see that this violence is for example fireworks which are forbidden by U.E.F.A. which could be dangerous because you got an accident because of fireworks, but an accident which is really very often not used for a violent matter. Vandalism, is very important. Seats on the stadium, cars are in the stadium, the subway, busses, coaches when they supporters are traveling to the game. Lots of squeamish between supporters, a cycle of vendetta or a

big fight over the fact that some group of supporters stole the banner of another group of supporters.

Then you have also this, which is maybe the most dangerous in the French football is the attacks against non-white or non-French depending on how you define yourself that for example are coming from the Far-Right elements in hooligans who looks for after the black people, the ... people after the game. This violence occurred in the stadium till the mid nineties. It was, fight before coming into the stadium, fight in the stadium with the police or with the supporters.

Since this moment the violence is very often and more often outside the stadium during for example traveling, we have ambushes on the motorway. Supporters waiting for other supporters. In the subway station or railway station. And which is also a problem for the mobilization of football authorities and political authorities is the increase of football violence in the amateur football. It will not be our discussion this afternoon but this is a point which is important to say that there is a relatively high level of violence, amongst amateur football, on the very low level of football.

How can we interpret this violence? Very quickly, I don't want to give a lecture on the causes of violence, but just to give five big reasons from structure, general reasons to very local reasons. The main one could be for example could be the status of young males in modern societies. Uncertainty of their identity, the search of proof of existence and values, and it could be for rich young male or poor young male. Search for social status often for poorer males and status among peers while attending a football game.

Another level of explanation could be that participation to fans culture. For example the solidarity between the member of an Association of a group, the shared values and memories that they could have, the honor of groups and individuals. All these are good reasons to react by violence, to ... any act coming from the supporters but also from the police or from the clubs depending on the moment.

A third level of explanation could be the situation this morning before Mr. Stott gave us an example of the fact that we don't have to forget that violence is something that happens. You could have a lot of good reasons to be violent or you could stay come and quiet and peaceful and don't be violent. The problem is violence occurs. So, it means that we have a lot of reasons of violence which are connected to the policing, to the organization, to the atmosphere of the game which could give some good opportunity to act violently for people who are attending to a game.

A fourth point that you could develop to interpret violence, it could be a strategic violence. For example I speak about the ultra groups. Ultra groups are official Associations, very official and declared to the administration but they have some objectives and the will to defend their position, their idea of football, the place they want to have in the club for example and they want to defend their position against the others.

And the others as I said could be the other supporters, the supporters of the other teams. Also, they could be the supporters of their own team, because when in a club you have five – six Associations. It means that the Associations are in competition together to be the best Association of supporters in the club. And so

for this reason there could be a defend, they could use violence to defend their position.

Another strategic violence is for example the violence of hooligans. It means that you are violent because you want to be violent, because it's a way to create disorder and disorder is a good thing for a certain point of view. Or a pleasure, it's a pleasure to be involved in a fight and to fight against each other and to take honor of this fight.

You have in the strategic violence this attitude and the action of the Far-Right elements who attack everybody who is foreigner and which means that for them football is a way to demonstrate the other good ideas about the society, they are defending the real French against the foreigners, they are defending the white against the black e.t.c. And this is a strategic violence, it means that it is important to state in the newspaper the rumor and the reputation that on Saturday they attacked some people who are passing close to the stadium and they were foreigners.

(...) Are supporter are in connection with a different kind of violence. For example ordinary supporters, I mean you and me when we go to a football game. Our violence could be caused by the situation. Something touched our sense of honor, our sense of place for example. We are not coming ... to violence, but we react violently. I say Ultras and the will to be recognized by clubs and by members, in this case violence is very similar to the violence that Unions or Associations could use when they want to express themselves.

For example, as I am talking about France, you have to know that for example that when the Union of Countrymen, of Peasants they

are very – very violent, much more than a bunch of hooligans. For the Police it's much more difficult to control countrymen than hooligans. But this is an action which is understandable because it is interpreted like something which is going in the defense of social identity, social status.

Of course we can, in this ... you can distinguish in their action, what things ... For example violence is not legitimate, but for example to do a show is legitimate action, or to have some position on football values is also a position, but could be legitimate but everybody would think that it's normal to have some opinion on football as it is working. And finally, we have the hools where violence is violence for violence or violence for racism.

So, the second point is how in French society the different Institutions who are concerned with violence try to regulate this phenomena. So, first point, who can do something on these issues? The first level of action of course is State. It could be a Minister who decides to do a Law.

And for example we have several laws in the French history that violence in sport, the last one in 1994, the "Loi ..." which has defined new penalties for hooligans, for violence e.t.c. And in the implementation of law you can find police and justice. This is the State regulation.

We have also the society regulations. It means that besides the State you could find local authorities, you could find football clubs. You could find also market forces who ... the kind of regulation of the problem.

And the third level of regulation could be the people themselves. It means that supporters themselves are a part of the regulation of the problem. And this is the mix of these three level that could define the policy on football violence.

So, in this matter we could find different models. For example to tomorrow and not only tomorrow but for a long time we know and we think that there is an English model of regulation and control, of policing, of hooliganism with a lot of success. For example a question that we can ask on the English model example could be the strength of the market forces in the regulation of hooliganism in the stadium, maybe not outside the stadium, but in the stadium. For example the fact that you can, not everybody can go to a football game because of the price of the ticket for example, we can say that is a regulation by the market forces.

Maybe we could hear also this afternoon the Germano – Dutch – Spanish model. So, does there exist a French way, a French regulation of hooliganism? We can see that till 1995, it means three years before the World Cup, we could describe the French policy act like a system of irresponsibility.

It means we were in a situation where there was a big problem of hooliganism and violence. And people were saying, and when I say people it was the State, society, supporters it's not our fault. Football is not concerned by violence. Violence is something which is outside football, so we don't have to do things about hooliganism. Or it could be also because, for example on the police side, saying that we are the best to deal with this problem. We know how to do this, we don't have

to discuss, we don't have to imagine other solutions. We are the best and we have to do the job, we know that we have to do.

And it means that when something occurs the club said, it's a police mistake, the police said, it's the club's fault, or both together say it's society, if it's society we have nothing to do with in this. Of course police and football club, they are not part of society. They are something else.

So, things have changed. How did they change? First, things which is very important I think in the creation of a policy, it's not only ideal. Theoretic it could be only a small fact, an incident. And in 1994, there was a very dramatic incident in Palais de Prince where a policeman has been very badly injured by supporters. And it was the moment when the State, the government said, no, impossible to go on like this and we have to do something. And for example the first reaction was the "Loi ..." which were following some months after this incident. When I say "Loi " it means special crimes and penalties connected to football and sports and disorders.

The other fight, Law was one year later. We tried to be different. It wasn't about penalties and crime, it was about sharing the responsibility between Club and State. For example this Law said that responsibility should be divided between the clubs and the State. For example safety inside the stadium was a responsibility of the clubs. Safety and security outside the stadium is a responsibility of the State, so of the police. So, it means it's very important of course because at the moment clubs could not say that they have nothing to do with the problem. They have to deal with this obligation.

But the implementation of the law is not immediate and you will have to wait till the World Cup in France to have a real implementation of these measures. Of course you can understand that World Cup is too important for a country, that you must prevent every kind of incident during this competition. So, for this reason a lot of things have been done around the World Cup. And this is both of the policy, which is primarily coordination between police, justice and professional football.

So, let me now for this last part describe this football policy which will be a description and in some time it will be a statement of the problems, the things which made difficult to implement policy. So, I will take the different factors and try to present things, explain why they act in this way and why you could find some problems.

The first of the factors, police. When you want to deal with hooliganism and supporting you have all kinds of things to do. You can imagine, you can't know but you have two things to do.

The first thing of course is a matter of public order. You have to make sure that people, for example supporters don't meet together in a fight and if they fight you do what you have to do to make them, displace them, everywhere, make them disappear to stop the violence.

And also the second thing is that to accompany, to go with this public order policy you need intelligence, you need information of who are the supporters? How do they act? What is the situation for a game? And you have also, you need also a judiciary action. For example if I go to a football game and there is some fight I am a policeman, I can't go to the fight, beat the people and dispose them. But for example if I do this I can precisely have judiciary action

against them. If I won't be able to punish, it's impossible. I can't beat and I can't take them and describe what their action is.

So, this is a relationship, a connection which is very difficult and for example this is something which is still difficult to organize in France. It means the three levels of action, police, policy, public order, intelligence and judiciary action. And, you have also to think at some small problem, it could be also a strategic problem. Is it better to have disorder elements in the stadium or to have them in the street? What is better? To have the hooligans everywhere in Paris or to have them every Saturday night in Palais de Prince, you know them, you know where they are, you can control them here.

So, these are also the kind of interrogation, reflection which is of some importance to the attitude of the police and maybe the efficiency of the policing.

The second factor is justice. But for justice to be very simple we have two problems. The first problem is the similarity of sanction in France. When you go to see a supporter of Marseille and a supporter of Paris Saint Germain and the supporter of Paris Saint Germain says that when somebody from Marseille does this thing he gets nothing from the justice in Marseille, and we when we go to Marseille we get one, three months, maybe more, we have penalties e.t.c.

So, it means that for justice, for normal reason, this is the way that justice is working have very individualized section of crime. So, it means that to have this similarity, which is a problem when you want to have global policy.

And the other problem is there are ... of problems for a judge. What is a football hooligan? It is nothing compared with all the things

they have to look at, to all the fights they have to treat, it could be a burglary, it could be a crime, a very tough, a very dramatic crime and this guy who just likes fireworks or broke a car. Is it important? Did I ask to go to a quit, to treat the case? So, for this reason, you have a lot of problems of articulation between justice, policing and on this issue.

I took another factor, which is the cities and local authorities. Football is very important for a city. Of course now it's forbidden to give money to a football player because of the European regulation but it's always possible to subsidize the club for different reasons, for example for marketing. You don't pay a club to pay the players but you give money to a club like you give money to a museum or to an advertising agency to promote your city.

So, it means that football is very important to local authorities and it means that local authorities are tempted to instrument lies, sport and especially football in their political objectives. It means for example that sometimes in some city, in some part of France it's very difficult to have the cooperation of local authorities because they think that supporters are electors. Supporters are part of a population. So, sometimes they are a little bit reluctant to have a real action.

Fourth factor football. Football should be divided in two levels, and maybe three levels. First of all could be the Professional League. I am talking about the Professional League, not about the French Federation of football, Professional League.

The League, it's work is to apply, to implement the regulations of U.E.F.A. for example. So, a lot of measures in football are coming from the ... from U.E.F.A. For example the seat, the all seating

stadium it's coming from regulation from U.E.F.A. Inside the League you could have some special Committee, for example there is a Commission where I am member which is working since 1994 on Professional Football and trying to promote some good ideas, some good practice for security and atmosphere. And although an atmosphere is a good word it means "ambience", the fact that a football game could be joy and friendliness e.t.c.

In this Commission, does recommendation to the Football League and the Football League can implement or not. Some of them have been implemented others not. For example, the coordination between police and justice. Stewarding, training and degree for people who are doing stewarding for the clubs. The creation of a Director of Security in every professional club. It means that somebody would specialize in security inside the football club ... Suppression of fences around the pitch, the list of objects which are forbidden to the stadium to prevent the local interpretation of this. Fines against clubs which create a problem, with fireworks, with hooligans, with violence e.t.c.

And also with the ideas of the project which are not into reality for the moment. For example, the idea to create a Director of Supporting, of supporter's relation in it's club, it means not only security but the daily relationship with supporters to know exactly what they want, who they are e.t.c.

The will to work on managers, coaches, players and referees and officials of the National League about the attitude during the games. Because it's not useful to say to supporters, you are behaving badly, if on the ground the players, on the touch line, the coach or the manager are saying bad words to everybody, refusing to apply a served decision

e.t.c. So, the good conduct is good for everybody, for supporters but also for players. But it is very difficult to make it understand to all these people.

Working group with supporters around different topics. It could be to discuss with supporters ..., see between supporters, steward and police. Recognition of supporters in the club. Attitudes towards ... supporters, because it's a big problem how the supporters are greeted by the home club. It's a lot of occasions to be violent on this issue. Animation of the stadium, what to do to have a pleasant atmosphere in the stadium. What things are forbidden, what things are authorized to have good animation.

And also working with the Media and try to find what we discussed this morning, the kind of balance attitude that the Media could have about the hooligans and violence issues. So, you have to keep in this policy the ideas to keep the balance between friendly, warm and by some ways decontrol events which is a football game and the necessity of the duty of security and safety.

For this you have to convince clubs that security or safety or fair attitude towards fans are part, very important part of the economic success, for example. Because the problem is that security, safety, relationship cost a lot of money. And where do you want to spend you money? On this or on another aspect? We have also on these clubs too few supporters of their teams, because you have a lot of clubs.

Why can't I give you data on the number of people arrested and condemned by justice? Because the clubs don't want to view their own supporters when they do bad things. And why don't they want? Because there are a lot of reasons, they could be afraid of reprisal,

they could be afraid of loss of support, they could be..., because they instrumentalise also very often the supporters because they need them, in a situation where you don't have a lot of audience the supporters, the hard core of the supporters are very important for the club, their reputation and the possibility to do pressure on the clubs. You can understand the use of supporters by the club, if you take that in mind, that supporters could mean some condition, a way to put a lot of pressure on the away club than the club who is visiting.

We have also tried to convince in the Football League for example the other Commission to judge fairly and steadily the club's manager, the players, the coaches who have bad attitude against fair play for example. And it's a big problem, and I know this is the case in Greece, in Holland, in Germany or in Milan. But it's sure that the Commission which are representatives of all the clubs, the Professional clubs are a little bit reluctant to have real sanctions against their peers, because they are afraid of the retaliation. If I condemn one player, the next time they will condemn mine very bad. So, it's very difficult to have a really good policy on this issue.

And it's also very difficult to convince the police because there is a big conflict, but who knows the best, how to deal with hooligans. So, in this case you need of course good will, and you also be able to follow any decision when you could take and follow them very hardly, very precisely to be sure that they are implemented. And it's very more difficult than to have some good ideas on the ways to ... people that you have this very hard work to met measures implemented in the reality. I thank you.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Thank you very much for this very interesting presentation. We take note before Mr. Orphanos' presentation that we start hearing from our foreign guests today as well as tomorrow we will hear things that are repeated. There seems to be a level of coordination missing here. The State Coordinator or a simple Coordinator as we had, was the case in Spain. So, there are people who come in contact with people in a specific region and they are responsible for collecting information, managing information and balancing things. This seems to be very helpful.

Now, Mr. Orphanos will have a brief presentation, a brief intervention and then this will be followed by our second foreign guest.

MR. ORPHANOS:

Secretary General, members of the organizing Committee, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I would simply like to make a few comments and draw certain conclusions. From what we've heard until now we've found out that violence is a continuous phenomenon, it's not stable, it's not static hence it is necessary to hold such discussions.

Thus answering to Mr. Stamos who is not here right now, but who surprised me since he said what happens with Panathinaikos F.C. I am the Secretary General of the Veteran Football Players in Thessaloniki. Three years ago we had held a Conference and we drew certain conclusions but things have changed ever since. An important element I wanted to mention is that I haven't heard anyone of the

speaker talk about the involvement of the football players themselves. I heard that the non-involvement of the football player is a positive element as far as violence is concerned.

And this pleases me because me, and my fellow football players started an effort many years ago. I see Mimis Domazos, Takis Loukanidis and sometimes us from the past are accused for creating the conditions that led to violence. It goes without saying that an element of primary importance is infrastructure. At this part, our distinguished guests from abroad are very far from our situation.

Efforts have been by the State, by the Greek Football Federation in order for us to acquire stadiums in order for people to be able to enjoy football games with their families. However up to date this has not been feasible. Of course these efforts will continue both from the F.C. owners as well as from the State.

Another element that I consider an element inducing violence is that there is no equal implementation of the law, a just implementation of the law. And this is a prerequisite for prevention of violence, since if we feel there is equality before justice, then we will have taken a step forwards to eradicate violence. I wanted to make a distinction of violence in two parts. The one organized by third parties and violence in the stadium, in the sports venues.

And for the first kind of violence that is the result of actions of third parties I am sure that those responsible for the administration of the F.C.'s together with the State can solve this problem. I have been a member of the administration of P.A.O.K. F.C. and I am sure that we can solve this part of violence.

And the other kind of violence is the violence caused by several causes, I am not the most appropriate person to analyze that. I believe that the Head of the Police is more appropriate to analyze this. However, I will mention a characteristic element that depicts the situation as it is today. I don't know if you remember if a football club went abroad for a game and where we had fans or supporters arrested abroad. I've been many years in this area and I don't recall of any such team or any such incident.

What I mean by that is that since we know that there is strict policing abroad and since they know that they are going to pay for the crimes or offences they too, the supporters or the hooligans, or the fans control themselves.

And two suggestions. I believe that I am the youngest Veteran player here but I remember that we had a ... called civil education. I don't want to be considered out of date or not modern but I think that we should remember that we should give lessons and teach lessons to our children in school for their behavior in sports venues.

And a last remark to conclude, in our field, in the field of Veteran players there is a pool of people who are standards. They have become models and examples in our society. The State must take advantage of them. The State has the ease to choose people. For many years now we are talking about the way the Football Federation was elected. I do not put to doubt the procedures e.t.c. However, people do not show any credibility. Thank you.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Thank you very much Mr. Orphanos. It's important since from the part of football players we see important things. And before Mr. Kostalas invites our next foreign speaker let us not forget to take into account what the previous speaker mentioned as well as Mr. Orphanos.

We heard that the model of a generalized irresponsibility in France until the passing of the Law. So they have started to believe that the responsibility belongs 50% to the State and 50% to the F.C.'s. The implementation of Law is not something that can take place immediately. Mr. Kostalas will now introduce our next speaker.

COORDINATOR:

Our next speaker is Mr. Arno Weise who is Lutenant Colonel of the German State Police and will now take the floor. Thank you.

MR. WEISE:

Ladies and gentlemen, first of all I would like to thank the Minister of Culture, especially the organization team for the invitation and secondly before I begin I wish to apologize for my rough English.

I am pleased to present to you the German Departments and it's tasks. Since ... is something like the German counterpart of your ... Committee against violence and has similar basic aims. However, the ... go somewhat further in that involves daily routine jobs, which I will present later. I've told that my presentation time is not more than between twenty to thirty minutes. So, I just will stay to the history of the Department.

In Germany the hooliganism took part in the middle of the eighties and our Department was established in 1992. In my presentation I hope to give you an insight into the German hooligan scene, our national concept on sport and security and about our police tactics. By the way when I speak about violence on sport events, in Germany that means, it is 99% related to football matches.

I heard this morning here in Greece you have a problem with basketball, in Germany there is absolutely no problem. Only football.

So, what is a hooligan? We work with a categorization of football fans into the known categories from A to C that has an aim to simplify the communication between the police forces and even to other parties. And now I think that it has become an international standard. As far as I know this was an idea of our English colleagues and has been adapted by us in Germany also.

So, what about the categories? Category A is a peaceful and normal supporter. He is wearing plain clothes and typical fan clothes of the national team or the club teams. He is very interested in soccer and sometimes, but it's not a must, he is a consumer of alcohol. The Category B fans, they have some potential for violence especially the alcohol related and alcohol consumption is very high. Our problem fans and what we call hooligan is the category C, they are ... to use violence. They are wearing inconspicuous, fashion-ever and sometimes expensive sportswear like Replay, Chevignon and Diesel e.t.c.

In general, there is not only low consumption of alcohol on ... as long as they expect to be ... with other parties. On the national level category C supporters never use club insignia or club colors. What's different on the international level, there they do so, as well as those

of the category A announcing their nationality by any means, like national colors and a large flag.

In the last five years we have a new phenomenon called Ultras, or better they call themselves Ultras that are very young football supporters from fifteen to twenty and they belong somewhere between category B and C. But the danger is very high that they become in the future category C.

So, I want to give an insight into the German hooligan team and ... count about 670.000 relevant persons all over Germany with 420 of them in category B and another 2.500 in category C. The local B, C's are different from venue to venue. The only characteristics they have in common are 2/3 of them are between eighteen and twenty five years old, they have only very few females and more or less all sorts of classes and professionals are represented, also all education levels.

The relationships from the National Team supporters, we have this tradition of hot-style relationships to Belgium, England, The Netherlands and Austria to all other countries who are friendly or at least neutral.

So, what about the degree of organization? The image of German hooligans abroad is largely influenced by foreign media. The German hooligans are well organized and act under a common command. But the reality up to now is different. So, what is the reality? On the national level hooligans ... game place, railway timetables and the meeting points at each of the venues were unknown. So, they have no problems on the ... without further thought where to meet and what to do. If we add to this the fact that personal relationships between all of

the local hooligan scenes we have the ingredients of the so-called German hooligan organization.

Political Motivation. The German hooligans in general are not interested in politics. Nevertheless, they owe their reputation abroad to the excessive use of Right Wing slogans, insignia and gestures. Usually, this is not a serious political opinion, but they do this first to provoke the public and the police and second, also very important to attract media attention. I will mention this later on. However, a minority, including some skinheads expresses ... a Right Wing application.

Common criminality. As mentioned before the German hooligan seems to cover all educational levels, all sorts of classes and professions. Only a few local are known to be ordinary criminals, most of them in the field of offenses against property. Interest in football, we have noticed that their interest in football is different and depends. They show more interest in the international games, than in the national. But for these individuals the so-called third half time before or after the match is at least as important as the match itself.

Fireworks, that were mentioned before, it's also often used in Germany, very popular as is Red Shining Bengal Fires, but we noticed something else, we have a problem that is being used more and more that is home made pyrotechnics. What is it? This is only powder, they can carry it in bags and when they light it, it sets the same effect like a small bomb. It is easy to smuggle into the stadium under the clothes.

The last point, Media attention, this is an example for acting German hooligans abroad with it's media reply. The same situation we had at a friendship game in 1996 in Poland. Media attention is one of

the targets and a source of energy at the same time for the hooligans. They will find them more aggressive and violent than they can act on stage and you know what I mean.

Here I can give you an overview about the football related offenses, the highest percent we can count every year about assault and bodily harms. And what the so-called political offenses are the 6% as forbidden symbols.

So, the next part is our national concept on sport and security, the elements of one initial concept are based on five major concepts. The first is fan coaching and street work. The images are decreased of football related violence through participation in fan culture, street work and public relations in this part.

In Germany local fan clubs and projects are financed by $\frac{1}{3}$ of the local club, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Community and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Federal State. Guarding lines of stewarding. This is a private security in the stadium. Our aim is an effective way of stewarding nationwide through guidance for selection and education and training, appearance and equipment.

The third thing as the stadium bands, very important for us and I think it's very effective. They are based in a nationwide set of rules, actually in Germany we have about one thousand several hundred bands nationwide.

The fourth thing is stadium regulations, in ways to create similar rules and these rules we find for example the direction for video monitoring or electronic monitoring of the stadium. So, every team, which belongs to the First and Second League in Germany has to have a video monitoring in the stadium. It's paid by the club and used by the Police.

And all together in this cooperation we have permanent meetings of all parties involved on local level. This is all part of the national concept and I think it's very important for us as a hooligan fire, we have it since 1994 and covered about five thousand data in it. It's nationwide twenty four hours a day available and they give information about the person, about the ... and maybe about the stadium band. And the file is not deleted before five years.

So, that means when someone is controlled by the police, the file will say this is a national hooligan. It is nothing when it's controlled in the middle of nowhere, in the middle of the week, but it's very interesting when it's in front of a match or nearby a match.

So, I'll give you all an overview about our major police tactics. The first is exchange of information, our police quarters to every restriction, separation or international cooperation. At first we have the exchange of information, we have the ... report, the ... information. Every Police Force of a town with a team and a certain technique has to make a report, in front of the season with the experience of the last season, the number of B and C's, supporters, the behavior of them and what is known about the relationships to other clubs.

Then we have a pre-match report, we make travel arrangements on the match day, we have a match report up to match day and follow up measures. Let's come to the pre-match report. That part of the police have three days before the match to happen to give information about the number of visiting supporters, times, routes and means of transportation about potential offenders, about accepted behavior,

weapons, dangerous objects and all other relevant information. This goes to the Police Headquarters and is our pre-match report.

After the match, that part of the police of the hosting club giving back a match report to the Police Headquarter of the visiting club and they send it also to us to ... and we put them together from all Police Stations in one report and send it to all of them or to the Federate State Police on the right and on the left it's our Border Police. In Germany the Border Police is also responsible for the security in trains and railways.

So, how to get this information? That's very important to get quality based information and therefore we have our Police Quarters the same like in England. Hooligans absolutely need anonymity of the crowd for the violent activities. Therefore, we need as well as an international context as also as national police officers who are seen inside us, called spotters and who know most of the active ones of the local scene by name.

So, they have the inside knowledge to make all investigations of the football related cases an often they approach, early intervention and they can advise the stadium Commander. Important that German spotters do not operate undercover. They operate clearly, visible according to the general policy to know and to be known, to see and to be seen.

Another of our major tactics about traveling restrictions, here we work with different levels. The lowest level is the warning, the violent supporters have been visited by the police officers at home, or at work where as a measure it is considered to have a strong impact. It was made clear for the supporter, that the police already know them and

will identify each of them who commits and offense in relation to the match either through the spotters at the venue or through photographs of videos later on.

The next as report requirements, if violent supporters make clear to the police or intelligence indicates that they will take part in these confrontations and cannot be detained by warnings, the domestic police forces them to report to a Police Station during the match time. In Germany the Police Force is entitled to this by German Law. For example, during the “Euro 2000”, 230 violent German supporters have been placed under report requirements. There was a fine for not appearing to the Police Station of up to € 500 (five hundred Euros). Mr. Mayros was so kind to send me some of your Greek Laws and I see that there is something like this also in your Law. I think it’s very effective.

And then we have all passport restrictions, they will take on advise of the police to the passport authorities. There was an update since May 2000, in front of the “Euro 2000”. Now leaving the country despite the passport restrictions, presents a criminal offense. Not more an administration offense as it was before.

And there is another thing that is not here on the picture, we have even the possibility it’s the last chance, we can somebody arrest in front of the game and all these measures don’t have.

So, another of our major tactics is the separation of ... the supporters and there is nothing new in this room. We can separate them by ticketing, we escort the risk supporters, we make a separation in the stadium of home and guest supporters. And another measure is

to holding back the guest supporters after the match, till the stadium is empty, so there is no chance for a fight.

The next tactic is an international cooperation, there are also on like a national level you can give the general background information, this report, the travel information, what we can offer is stand-by support, by telephone, fax and mail. We can advise border monitoring. We give the travel restriction to the border police and we can send a police delegation.

For example we have an international match, between Holland and Germany, it's the same like on the national level, we make pre-match reports here to the C.R.V. it's our counterpart in Holland, Mr. Henk Groenvelt who will talk here tomorrow. And here we also give the number of visiting supporters, times, routes and means of transport and all the stuff they do on a national level.

And what we can do also, we can send a Police Delegation but only upon request and it's self-evident we don't have Police Power in the foreign country, we only advise the local police by working alongside with local police, to recognize risk fans and aggressed risk fans. And afterwards we get back the match report from the other country.

So, finally allow me to cast an eye on the broad Championship 2006 in Germany. Immediately after the decision to give the games to Germany a number of working groups were established. When I say a number, I mean many working groups.

The group responsibility for security under the control of the Police reports to the Minister of Interior of my State ... There were five sub-working Committees formed about cooperation with foreign

countries, interchange of information, situation depiction with other institutes and bodies, public relation and operational measures. The results of these groups are daily updated and extended. Don't ask me about the results, we can mail it maybe.

So, at least I can say “Ευχαριστώ” and thank you for your attention.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Thank you. A brief intervention by Mr. Costas Linoksilakis. We are lagging behind, this is why have to be very brief and the we will hear your own dimension and we have the Hellenic Police.

We talked about the spotters in this presentation, so you see there is something missing here, we had coordinators e.t.c. and we need to have the spotters.

MR. LINOKSILAKIS:

Dear Secretary General, Ladies and gentlemen from the panel, ladies and gentlemen, I am here with you today not as Costas Linoksilakis a Veteran football player ... for the National Team, but as a representative of all the Veteran football players who are here with us today.

I heard very carefully, all the previous speakers and I can honestly say that I fully agree with them. Both with the Spanish delegate who said that a list of twenty or twenty five people would be collected, the French delegate who said that incidents do not take place in the stadium but outside the stadium and also I agree with the

German delegate who said that all incidents have their origin in youngsters.

Let me tell you the following, our multi-annual positive experience in football, I am talking about the Veterans, has left indelible marks in our soul. Let me not mention what we were left with but allow me to say that we back then, used to play because we loved our team and we respected our fans and our supporters.

Nowadays, football has changed. When one goes to the football field today, we can see people shouting, people swearing yet this does not mean that the people do not have this right. If any supporter is found in the center of Athens and starts using the words that he would use in the stadium, any Policeman would arrest this man. In the stadium they swear constantly and I've seen policemen sitting over there without getting involved, because ladies and gentlemen we must all know that football is used by the supporters as a way out of their daily life problems.

Obviously, I can't claim that I will take my wife or my family to go and watch a football game, because things are not predictable. In other words we have hooligans here and there is hooliganism. And this I say on the basis of experience. This is why I don't go to watch a football game.

The issue here is what we should do. So, I heard very carefully what the previous speakers said. I would also put another suggestion on the table which is my own personal view. Maybe representatives of sports e.t.c. could define a number of five or ten individuals who would go in the football games, in the stadium.

For example, Linoksilakis will watch the Panathinaikos – Olympiakos game today. Before the game, I will gather everyone in the center of the stadium, I would talk to them and I will tell them that the Referee is an individual with a storm in his mind right now. Thus, I will be able to draft their reports regardless of what the Referees will of course, in order to punish the troublemakers.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is not I who can pull the chestnuts of the fire. The State makes efforts, all of us make efforts. However, the solution does not lie nor in the State nor to anyone. We must all know that the stadium or rather football is the king of sports. In order for one to abide by the rules someone ought to give some advice to young players if they want to make progress in this difficult but manly sport, that is football, they must be fully devoted to it, they must love it.

They must admire it and always be indifferent for it's material goods. They must be ready for any kind of sacrifice. Orderly sacrifices such as lesions and injuries, moral sacrifice, such as injustice, non fair play, they must be humble when they win and they must stand upright when they loose. And they must be aware that many games have been lost or won in the nineteenth minute. They must respect their opponents and their co-players, they must respect the decisions of the Referees and if they want to if in what I've mentioned they also dispose of the physical skills I am sure that they will become famous football players.

Ladies and gentlemen, concluding, in the opportunity of this evening, allow me to make a wish. A wish that I believe will come true because it comes from the depth of my heart. I wish you all health, happiness, personal and family happiness. I wish that all your

dreams come true and all your desires come true. Thank you once again.

COORDINATOR:

We thank Mr. Linoksilakis and now we will call a man who has an important job to take the floor. All of you who have been involved in football you must have seen the behavior of Roligans, the fans from Denmark who are never involved in incidents of violence. So, in this admirable behavior of Roligans we owe this admirable behavior to the Council Against Criminality of Denmark Headed by Mr. Ronni Abergel. Mr. Abergel you have the floor.

MR. ABERGEL:

O.K. While we wait for the equipment I have time for some special activities. First, to say thank you to the organizers of this very professional seminar. Thank you for the invitation. I hope that this incident will be an inspiration to you and this day has already been a big inspiration for me.

My name is Ronni Abergel I work for the Danish Crime and Prevention Council. I am in charge of what's called the "Violence Prevention Department" which is a fairly new Department, but before we get into the details, I would like to ask a question to all of you and please raise your hand if you feel you can answer. How many of you have brothers and sisters or grew up with brothers and sisters? That's it?

Ah, O.K. Because I heard that the Greek are also one-two make families. How many of you used to fight with your brothers and sisters

when you were young? So I see that there is a lot of violent people in here already. Because violence in my opinion starts for many people at home. And my point with this question was really to try and show to you that violence is something that we can all be a part of if we are pressured in the right way. For example if our little brother is being a pain in the ass, we beat on him, so it's not only football fans who tend to use violence.

But now for the, I hope the presentation if I am so lucky to get my equipment to work, just a second. Now the question of the resolution.

MR. EXARCHOS:

We will give the floor for a small intervention to the gentleman next to me.

MR.:

Secretary General, thank you very much, I represent the Federation of Greek Policemen, dear guests I would like to thank you for the useful information you have provided us with but as the Secretary General put it much of this information can be applied in our country.

However, other pieces of information cannot be implemented here such as the spotters. However, most of your remarks were very significant for us. As the Head of the Police Force mentioned in the morning presentation the Police is responsible with regard to the public order, the traffic e.t.c. within and without inside or rather and outside the field and the stadium.

Thus, the Police as a public good cannot be transferred or the work of the policing cannot be assigned to third parties, particularly to private companies because you've mentioned earlier, President of the Greek Football Federation that the security of the stadiums should be assigned to private companies. This is not constitutional and I agree with Mr. Gagatsis.

Other speakers put it that there are multiple levels of violence of course policemen have to deal with criminals, several social groups who protest and claim their rights and we have violence against these men for leisure and this is exactly the point when policemen are assaulted or are victims of violence during football games. Thus policemen, of course we've heard about civilians who were injured, who are injured annually. We had 53 civilians last year, but I didn't hear anything about policemen who were injured during their service, during their duty. Last year we had 149 policemen injured.

So, we should point out that these football games and sport events, professional football games e.t.c. are organized by companies, thus every Sunday there is a commercial action there, profits and thus there is friction because there is competition, there are conflicting interests e.t.c. We all understand why violence exists. And it's exactly at that point where we put policemen. Some people assault the police and the policemen become victims.

We should also assume our own responsibilities admitting that from the part of the police, sometimes there is a challenge but at that point we should point out that policemen start working five hours before the match, they remain two hours in the stadium and they have to stay there, they have to stay put for the next three or four hours

until the end of this procedure which is not their job, because we are talking about a commercial act.

So, in these games where we have internal problems the F.C.'s should ask for internal policemen, because civilians pay for wages. We are talking about high sums here of money spent for our presence in the stadiums. And since we are needed for professional football games, we cannot attend amateur football games. Thus, the tax payers are obliged to pay more than five or six billion annually in order to have policemen the stadiums to ensure the interests of these companies I mentioned. As I said earlier this is paid by tax payers.

At this point I would like to point out to our foreign guests that the policemen do not get paid extra for their wages but in the public budget during these other services and departments do not operate fully and thus there is a deficiency, a deficit of security and safety. As I've heard already the problem is the implementation of Laws. We need to implement the law in order to deal with the phenomenon of violence.

Concluding with my intervention since we have heard many things about the education of training in school, our own view is that policemen should remain outside the stadiums and the responsibility for the safety and security within the are of the stadium must lie in the F.C.'s since the tax payers are called to pay money for our presence in the stadium. Anytime the police intervenes it's its own fault, whenever it does not intervene it's its own fault. So, we need each one of us to assume it's responsibility. Thank you very much.

MR. EXARCHOS:

Of course we need to decide whether we are interested in what takes place in the stadium or not. Everything is for discussion on the table. I will not agree with you as far as the absence of policemen in the stadium are concerned when we have an incident or a death, as was the case in France or severe injuries. We are obliged to take an interest in policemen in the stadium. The way policemen get paid is another issue. We need to find a solution there.

Now let us give the floor to a friend who is waiting, Mr. Abergel.

MR. ABERGEL:

Sorry, for the inconvenience I had tried to prepare a thorough presentation and I'll try to give the presentation and you might miss a little bit but I hope it will be understood.

I've been invited here to talk a little bit about strategic, preventive partnerships with football fan clubs. As mentioned I am in the Crime Prevention Council and we developed a fan project called Fair Fans. Before we get into details of the Fair Fans initiative I should say that Denmark is as you heard in the introduction, it's not a country with a big hooligan problem. In fact we are in the very happy situation, we have less than 100 category C actors in the whole country and it revolves around four clubs.

But we are noticing now, as things are becoming more and more international is that we are getting influences from many other places and a new culture is beginning amongst the risk supporters, a casual culture which is growing out, so we decided to try and develop a

project for the big group of fans who want to help to protect football, who want to be part of securing football as a family sport which it still is in Denmark. Families are going in the stadium in Denmark and we would very much like it to remain that way.

So, this is more of a self-protection project. It's not a project based on the problem now, it's a project based on the problems that we will have if we don't start to mobilize already. The idea was to make a project for the fans, not for the football players, not for the fair play, not for U.E.F.A., but for the fans. To stimulate a positive fan culture. Which is the best thing about having fans? To have fans that take responsibility.

A little bit about my Council, we are a little bit more than thirty years old, we do general.., we are in the Ministry of justice under the offices of the Chief of Police, the National Chief of Police, we do crime prevention in a broad context, we have many different topics, violence in sport is only a small part of the work and it's only been initiated now for two and a half years.

Fair Fans was really a project that was initiated at the same time as I arrived in the violence protection department and it's aimed at developing this partnership with the fan clubs to get the fans actively involved in the prevention of violence, racism and vandalism. In another word, to mobilize the majority of organized normal fans or supporters dedicated supporters to make a distance to the hooligans. To make not only a visible distance or a verbal distance but physically to make a distance away from this behavior.

Who are the actors in this project? Well, in Denmark there is a fan club association representing all the fan clubs, we call it an

umbrella. Inside the umbrella are all twelve official fan clubs of the Premier League football club, under F.C. Copenhagen e.t.c. They are the primary partner and actor, they are the primary actor in the project. The Crime Prevention Council is supporting the project and the next actor is the twelve police districts and the National Police Football Committee.

There are also some partners in the project because the project cost money and some of the partners here are the National Football Association with the Fair Play Committee and one of the players earlier mentioned that he did not hear one word about the role of the players. Well, actually the players have a very big role to play in the Fair Fans project. Because in Denmark we believe that the players have a very big and important role to play in influencing the fans positively. Just like other fans can peer group educate other fans there is a possibility for players to make a very positive impact on the fan culture.

So the Players Association is in the project. Besides from the Players Association we have a very big sponsor, the French Sport Parallel Company “Le coq Motif”, we have all the twelve football clubs part of the cooperation, we have the daily media newspaper and TV as a media partner to bring the messages of the campaign, to give news about it.

What does this partnership contain? Well, it contains an agreement between fan clubs and police to have designated contact points. We heard a little bit earlier in Arnos’ presentation it was very similar in the German model but actually there is an exchange of information in the preparation of safety for matches.

There is also an agreement of the fan clubs that they agree to work actively to prevent violence, racism and vandalism and on the side where you are not able to read the whole part, I put that fan clubs enforce adequate sanctions against members who misbehave. Which means they should not protect their own when they make mistakes, they should get them out once they have proven that they don't have the right attitude to be part of the fan club.

Also, we've asked fan clubs to develop a supporters charter, to put some principles what does it mean to be a supporter? Can you be a racist and be a supporter? Can you be a Nazi and be a supporter? Can you be a hooligan and be a supporter? To put principles of what is a supporters, to identify what is really a real supporter, a true supporter of the game. And finally to establish a dialogue with the police about zero tolerance policy. Because as Clifford Stott mentioned early this morning sometimes actually this policy affects big groups who are not part of the problem and they become part of the problem, because they are exposed to the zero tolerance policy.

So, there is an opportunity for dialogue. Some of the dimensions are improved cooperation and increased activities between the rival fan clubs which we call bridge building activities. If you learn to be with each other outside of a game context there would be less animosity and less hatred after the game or during the game. To develop further cooperation, official cooperation with the police and local authorities and as I mentioned there is peer group education.

How did we do that? Through something called an Attitude Building Campaign. An Attitude Building Campaign to the fans from the fan clubs. I hope I am not going too fast. Some of the key security

issues for the Danish fan clubs and I assume that it must be the same here, is to have security in the stadium and have fans segregation where necessary.

To coordinate safety for supporters on away game trips the Fan Club of F.C. Copenhagen has fifteen thousand members. Each year they organize seventeen trips to go out. Sometimes they leave in ten busses. There is a coordination to be done there. There is a responsibility of the fan club as the travel organizer. In fact, the fan club is responsible for the safety on a trip organized by the fan club. Cooperation with stadium crew and controllers, mutual sanctions against offenders and cooperation as mentioned with police and local authorities. These are some of the issues.

This campaign that I briefly am going to go through, because I lost a lot of my time with the technical problems is a campaign very visible, media campaign. It's a media campaign to try to give people the chance to not only say that they want to be fair fans but in practicality to go out in the stadium and go out to the fans and promote fair fans. To say hey, I like my team, I love my team and I love the game but I am still fair. I am not a racist, I don't care which color you have in your skin, I care about the color of my team.

So, we give these away for free. We give these away for free and believe it or not, which you probably won't we give these away for free. And who is player number twelve? The fans, thank you, there is a true fan here. We give shirts away because you can say, hey this is my identity, I don't want trouble. I am somebody else here, I am here for the positive.

Also, and this is the next slide, I am almost there, done with the fashion show, you cannot see these campaign posters, because this technical thing is basically not working satisfactorily, but this final picture I can explain briefly. This is the referee giving the red card. On this poster, which is in all the stadiums in all the fan club magazines in all the football match programs, in the newspaper, in a full page, on websites this message says, we don't go crazy when the referee gives the red card.

Or the other one actually said, we don't like dirty tricks. You see it's a tackle from behind which is very illegal. We don't like dirty tricks but we tackle them well. The first one Fair Play, you see one player helping another player and that basically is a message to the fans from the fans saying we want Fair Play in the game but we want Fair Fans in the stadium. That's what it says. And the last one says, you see fans of different color it says, we don't care about the color of skin, we care about the color of our team, an antiracist message.

We've jumped past the police there, run to the security cooperation. Fans are now actively involved in the security. I realize that could be difficult in Greece to invite the fan clubs, it was very difficult in Denmark. The police did not want to talk to the fan clubs, the National Football Association did not want to talk to the fan clubs, in fact nobody wanted to work with the fan clubs except for the Crime Prevention Council.

Once we started working with the fan clubs and the Player Association decided to go with us, everybody else decided well this is a good idea, let's support this project. And we are very happy for that, because without the cooperation of everyone you cannot promote a

positive fan culture. And what's really the purpose? To organize the fans to be aware of security. That's one thing. To get them involved. This is the police meeting with fan clubs having a debate. To create activities and events that bring fans together and build bridges. You see here some of the fans of the F.C. Norshelan, which played in the U.E.F.A. Cup earlier against Panionios, we lost. But o.k. it was a very interesting game. Panionios, o.k. my Greek is not so good, I apologise, next time I come I will be better, it's my first time.

What did we do in main events? We invited all fan clubs to open the Fan Club House. Bring the parents, bring your kids, come down and see football fan clubs are not dangerous. To show the positive side. We organized a big exhibition in the football fair, we have fans playing against each other football in the Supporter Cup, we had events in all twelve stadiums, we had players making events in the stadium, we had the big "Eurofans" seminar last summer.

These are just the Open House, the Fair Fan Embassy, the Fair Fan Cup and here is the huge shirt of the one I showed you which in fact is a present for George Mayros but it's not his size, so don't tell him. This is a huge shirt and here is the funny part of this idea, the fan club who is home have the shirt, the team that comes to visit comes on to the pitch and carries the shirt to the other end, gives it to the away fans who take it home and do the next thing next week.

This way the shirt was traveling all over the country the whole season and fans were showing that there is more to us than just being opposite. It was a very positive manifestation, the same with the players going on to the pitch with banners, everyone in the same stadium at the same time sending a signal, we are behind the fans, the

fans are behind us. This is basically the communication of this campaign.

Some of the results this cooperation has finally been established one and a half years, we've made visible the real fans and their motivation for football and the positive fan culture, we've supported the development of a fan umbrella for all fan clubs and we've put a lot of peer group pressure on radical groups. Some of the things that's going to happen further in the second year of this campaign is to bring in Norway and Sweden first and then to make a European expansion.

Basically, some of the countries that are relevant for this initiative are sitting right here. We have already one European sponsor which is the French company, we are looking to establish another European sponsor. We have already dialogue with Lithuania, Spain, Germany, Norway and Sweden and we are hoping that this would be kind of a European fan culture. We are hoping that this could grow and others will say we also want to be Fair Fans.

We need the positive counter movement. I know it's a pedagogical approach and I realize to some people here this is very scary when the only you have been used to is the repression. But I believe in long term the pedagogical approach will even things more out. Because what happens once the fan clubs begin to protect themselves, well, it's no longer going to be so easy for hooligans to recruit new members from the fan base. And what with a group that doesn't get new blood? It dies. And when it dies it doesn't come back.

So, I am slowly trying to suffocate them and make sure they don't have oxygen. Make sure they don't have new soldiers, make sure they don't have a basis to grow and build their identity and some of

the things said here today are very important. Like the President of the Greek Football Federation mentioned with the press. The more press we give them, the more famous they become, the more status, the more will join. The more week souls will join these groups.

So, it's obvious that we need to try and down tone the activities. And by that I don't mean not to mention that something went wrong last Sunday on the stadium, but don't put their picture there and don't put their name. Just write, low status, once again losers tried to ruin the game, once again police had to act, and finish story. Because the reason they do it at least in Northern countries is to get exposure. To be seen, to be heard, to be identified. And if we don't identify them, we don't hear and see them, they will have to find another arena to get attention in the long run. I am almost there. In fact I am there.

It didn't go exactly like I wanted, I wanted to have done this differently but my equipment did not want to cooperate. I am sorry for that. However, for all of you not to forget this brief intervention, and that we traveled 3.000 miles to be here I brought these small patches for all of you, that says Fair Fans. We gave 50.000 – 40.000 of these away in stadiums. We even helped people to put them on their shirts. So, that they can show who they are and what they stand for. It's my belief that in the long run we will win. (...) Within the supporter group, that wants good for the game. But to do that you have to respect them. And how can you respect someone that you don't trust? You need to first have trust and to have trust you need to reach out.

Who wants to be the first to reach out? I did it two years ago, if you want have a go at it. Thank you very much.

COORDINATOR:

What was exactly said in words by the former speaker was the way he said it. The passion of his delivery, the commitment of his delivery was incredible and it's not really to wonder that they are having success if they are so passionate about it.

We will now introduce our last speaker. Mr. Just Crijn. Mr. Mayros pointed out that I should use a correct pronunciation. Mr. Just Crijn is Responsible part of the Royal Federation, the Royal Netherlands Football Association on security and he contributed in the tackling of violence that has been close to Europe eradicated. Thank you all.

MR.:

Allow me Secretary. I just wanted to point out that in 1974 I was in the Netherlands and we were to leave the newspaper I was working for and to go to Rotterdam to watch the football game in Rotterdam and while we disembarked the train they would beat us indiscreetly believe that we were Ajax supporters and we used to be beaten although I was with ... Now nothing happens in the Netherlands.

MR. CRIJN:

First of all I would like to thank ... and people involved for the invitation for me to speak here and I would like to thank you all for staying up so long to listen to me. Because I know it's been a long day. I'll try to keep you awake for the next about half an hour about talking to you about the crowd control we perform as a football association and we don't do that alone.

We don't lay down the rules. In the Netherlands it's common that we do it collectively. That we make arrangements with police, with local authorities and I would like to give you some insight about how we do it and what we are trying to reach with those assumptions, with those negotiations.

The contents of my presentation is first a brief history into hooliganism, then I lay down the starting points of my association, what are we trying to reach with this crowd control, how are we trying to reach it, then I'll give you some insights in the collective framework, because we are not alone on the planet. We need our partners in security to join us to have the same idea.

Then I'll give you some insights in the conditions we lay down on the clubs, what do the clubs need to do in order for example to get a license to be able to play in our competitions. How do we do that? How do we make the checks? It's ... with the system. What are the results we are getting? Because it's important, you can take any measure you want but you want to reach, how do you measure it?

So, I'll give you a brief insight in the results we have a few moments to look at the projects that we are trying to do like continue our policy and give you an insight on the costs as well, because I've heard nobody speak about what it costs to be preventive. I am talking about a very small group of hooligans. In Holland it's less than 1% of the people going to a match that are actually hooligans.

So, we are trying to do the best for the 99% and what does it cost to prevent that 1% from doing wrong. I'd like to show you that as well and I'll show you that by showing you the cost our top clubs

make to make a secure match. And of course in the end if you still have breathing left there will be room for questions.

First of all, what are we talking about? This is violence in the stadium, this is violence outside the stadium. I think as a football association we are concerned with both, cause it's both related to football. It's not only inside the stadium that we are responsible, it's not only outside the stadium that we are responsible. I feel that collectively we should say this is a social problem. It's not a football problem at all. Those are most of the time, people with social problems. Those are people with criminal ... that are showing it a football stages. So, we have to deal with it collectively.

Brief history, in Holland, hooliganism started around the early seventies where first some groups were showing signs of their clubs in trying to fight other clubs with supporters with other signs. In the eighties this continues and got worse.

Then first in Netherlands there came a collective approach and as a result of that the center of information about hooliganism and the police which is based nationwide got started in the eighties. In the nineties we have covered a collective approach which reaches both parts. It is not only the information side but it's really how we behave at a match, what every partner has to do, what the police have to do, what does the organizational club has to do, what does the away club has to do and we laid it down in a few rules and we accepted it as being not a football problem, hooliganism but as a social problem with leaders who are also criminals and that's another way of looking at it than just as a football problem.

It means you can have policies inside the stadium with police can for example use video taping of hooligans to identify those guys in the city center whenever they are going out so they've been noticed and they know they are being followed.

What are our starting points as association? First of all we like the access to the stadiums to be as easy as possible. Like I mentioned it's 99% of the people who want to visit the match and who want to enjoy the match. We like to make that possible. What we don't want is the 1% to have the chance to disturb that peace, to disturb that enjoyment.

How do we try to do that? By a chain approach. We say we have a government which is nationwide, we have local authorities, we have the police, we have local police, we have fan clubs. We try to involve all of those at making security policies. So, you don't have any separate policy with another aim than the central policies. We try to aim at the perpetrator. We don't aim at every fan with our measures. We are trying to aim the measures at a group that is meant to be hurt by it. So, we don't want any measures that goes for the 100% of the fans. If we have a measure we want it to be hit to the 1% the measure that we want to hit.

We have a license system as you do in Greece. The license system makes it possible to demand that every professional club in Holland has a video system that operates in the stadium. Those pictures, those tapings can be used by the police to identify some criminals for example. We gave techno-preventive support. We believe strongly in that. For example we now have a project with face recognition while entering the stadium. And we believe in repression

as conclusion. If you don't start out with repression you might need it in the end, but at first you welcome your fans who want to come to your stadium. And this is the result of what we want. We want a happy crowd, we'd like to see a happy stadium.

How are we trying to realize the starting points? By a collective framework. I mentioned it before, we have policies laid down, made by six-seven, eight groups, by travel agencies, by the Fan Association, by the National Association, that is us, by Ministries for example of Internal Affairs, by the Police and they all recognize this is the framework that we want to work in. We have separate home conditions, like I mentioned a video system that is necessary in every stadium. We have an auditor system where people are checking if the license system is fulfilled, if clubs are coping with the demands we make upon them. And we, as mentioned, have some projects we would like to support the policy.

The collective framework, what does it say? It mentions the tasks and responsibilities of every different partner, not only what we need to do as football association as well what does the police have to do. As a collective policy we all want to diminish the hooliganism, yet there is still room to have individual policy. Policy for police will just be that everything will be quiet and then they are satisfied. Policy for the football association is to attract as many people as possible, which is not in favor of the police.

We have tolerance boundaries. For example there are things said about the tolerance of alcohol and drugs in the stadium. There are things laid down with away supporters. I hear here in Greece you have decided, at least tried to ban away supporters from the stadium. We,

the Football Association don't believe in that. We believe away supporters as well as home supporters are for 99% view it. So, why take away what they want?

We believe in arrangements that people can travel safely. We believe they can be obliged to take either the train or the bus to have an organized trip and not allowed to go by their own cars. We believe in combinations when they can take their own cars and go to a distinguished parking lot and then we transport them to the stadium. But what we don't want is that there will be just one side looking at the stadium where it's meant to be two. It's logical for football to have two sides, so, why not in the stadium?

And at last there is a research team which could be compared to your, I'll look it up, your ... Committee against violence, what you have in Greece, we have a research team as well that looks at the Collective Framework, that goes to matches that sees if the Collective Framework is followed and if not, why not, because there can always be improvements.

Our own condition as an Association, we say for example, you need a video system. It needs to be working as well, you have to see every corner of the stadium with this video system. We demand for our Premier League that they have automatic access control, that means on the tickets you can see who bought it. You can control if you want who bought it. We demand the clubs to have a steward system, because we believe inside the stadium the club itself is responsible. It's not the police, it's like a discotheque, your are responsible for your own party, not somebody else and we believe a steward system

can help control your crowd, can help you to know your own supporters.

We believe in the stadium that has a division between sectors. So, if there are any troubles in a sector you can separate them and of course this goes for the away supporters as well. You should always separate them from the home crowd.

And at last I would like to mention the safety declaration, we as an Association obligate the club to go to their local authorities and make sure they get a declaration from the local authority that their stadium is safe, that it's safe concerning fire regulations, that is safe concerning exit ways and we as an Association demand this in order to get a license to be playing next season.

And this is one of the results we believe of our situation. We like nice, clean stadiums where things are secure, where things can be monitored and where people feel safe inside and can just enjoy a match.

The auditor system, the way we check our licenses. We check the conditions we lay down upon the club. You can look at it in two ways. There is a match auditor who faces about five matches of every club each season and then they check, is it well organized? Is the steward system working? Our people who are getting in can they still carry the fireworks or is it taken away? They make all those checks a few times a year. Not every match, we don't believe in that. We believe that if it's right, five matches a year, it should be alright all year.

And there is a club auditor. That's the one who controls the license conditions. Who looks once a year if the videos system is there. Is it working? Is the safety declaration of the local authorities

is it there? And so on. And he advises the club as well. If things go wrong, how can a club improve it's organization? Because this man, the club auditor knows the situation, he knows everything. He gets the match report, he visits maybe once or twice the club and he knows the situation there.

The results of this system at this moment. Before the start of this season 2002 – 2003 wrote 140 restrictions concerning the licenses everywhere. So there were, in total we have 37 professional clubs there were about let's say six restriction on each club in order to get a license they had to be taken away, they were actually.

Last season, with this auditor system, with the stimulation of clubs there were only 61 restrictions so, that's less than two restrictions for each club. If you look at the incidents, we have our own registration of incidents at the association in the 2001 – 2002 season. In the end of it there were 135 cases being prosecuted by the prosecutor of our association the K.M.F.B.

In the last season there were only 68, so it's being going down a lot and for the ones who are interested as well I have some police information as well. In 2001 – 2002 season there were 117 cases registered by the police, that means incidents that are different from the ones our prosecutor will follow. Last season there were only 96 so that's being going down as well. So, as far as I can judge I think we are doing the right thing with this collective framework, we have our own conditions and we are trying together to make is safe and to make it more secure.

Some of the projects we are doing now, trying to establish this policy and to make it work in the future as well we are trying for

extensive camera surveillance. Now, we just demand to have each corner in a picture. We are now trying at one club what it's like if you take the hard core side and just monitor them so we can picture them almost individually. We can make it work, we can identify them from those camera systems and we can pick them out whenever they are doing something wrong. We are trying face recognition as well at the entrance of the stadiums and we are doing some investigations if it can work and how it can work.

And last but surely not least we are trying the stewards to be trained better. We are now developing a new stewards training where in the old days it was just two nights then you got the diploma. Now, we are expanding that because we think steward had to be able to do more and has to be better giving service as well as next to security.

What are the costs of all these security operations? Of course as I've mentioned before this was not mentioned today. I found that the top clubs which are peace ... in Rotterdam and Ajax in Amsterdam in Holland, spend about one to two million Euros each year on their safety, which is quite a lot, it's 2 – 4 % of their turnover. But they think it's worth it. They think this will make their audience grow, they think this will pay back.

Most of the money is spent on stewarding as you can see. It goes up to one and a half million Euro each year. The other highest spending is on other safety personnel. Sometimes you need some more professional stuff, for example the main entrance, you might think that in order to invite my business guests it would be better not to put a stewards there but just a professional safety boy. Housing is not included in this figure. Some other investment of the clubs, some

video investment, fan projects, meetings e.t.c. but they are a small amount of money only compared to the cost of safety personnel.

And in the end this is what we are trying to reach, just a happy crowd celebrating the team or even winning the Cup. Here I come to an end of my presentation, I thank you for your attention. If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask me. Thank you.

MR. EXARCHOS:

We warmly thank Mr. Crijn who is in the Royal Netherlands Football Association and we warmly thank him for this documented presentation pertaining to the measures to tackle violence in sport venues. Are there any questions? Otherwise we will tell you what we will do next on our agenda.

I would like to warmly thank all the participants on behalf of the panel. We will now get the coach and have lunch at the ... restaurant.

COORDINATOR:

And now all the members of this discussion will board the busses and we'll go to the "Dionysos" restaurant to have diner. So, thank you very much for a wonderful discussion and we'll continue it on the table.

Violence in the Sport Venues

23rd January 2004

Mr. Alexis Kostalas:

We welcome you to the second day of the International Conference. Please excuse me I need to have my mobile phone turned on. I have my mother who is a little bit sick and we need to communicate.

Now we will hear Mr. Manuel Comeron who has a PhD from the University of Liege and he is an academic expert in issues of violence. Mr. Comeron has been the coordinator of the Eurofan program of the European Union aiming at the coordination of the actions of fans at a European level organizing seminars as well as embassies of fans. Mr. Comeron please take the floor.

Mr. Manuel Comeron:

Bon jour and good morning. I will speak in Spanish. Good morning everyone.

I would like to thank first of all the organizing committee of this conference for their welcome and the hospitality and of course the invitation. This seminar has been organized thanks to the efforts of this organizing committee.

I was only able to come here to Greece only yesterday because I had a meeting for the European Championship in 2008 in Switzerland. We are already at the phase of preparation for this Euro Championship and as you can understand I have to be present.

Now the topic of my intervention deals with the prevention of violence in sports. And in order for me to inform on my whereabouts I deal with the fan coaching.

I try to train fans on issues of violence, violence prevention and management of crisis. I am responsible for the Eurofan project aiming at coordinating prevention measures in several European events, sport events, through several interventions and measures.

So I will talk to you about a suggestion proposed by the Council of Europe with regard to prevention of violence in the sports area. We are talking about social measures and social educative measures aiming at preventing violence. This was formulated by the permanent committee of the Council of Europe precisely for the prevention of violence in sport events. It was submitted in 2003 and it has validity in the 45 countries.

We are talking about rules that can set up a framework for the implementation of measures against violence. This recommendation was formulated following a study conducted by experts on violence in sports. It is of a European scale and it has been published by the Council of Europe; it is at your disposal. Suffices to come in contact with the Council of Europe in the Internet where you can submit an application to get this manual.

Now, I will say a few words about the issue of the prevention of violence. We all know that the prevention of violence in sports during sport events is something that must concern all European countries because it's necessary. And it is necessary because in all European countries we come across problems of violence in the area of sports particularly in the area of football.

We are also very well aware that there are two types of violence: we have spontaneous violence; violence that could arise, which in any kinds of fans whenever a football match takes place where there is an identification of the crowd with their team and there might be spontaneous phenomena of violence. This might lead to vandalism or even escalate to even more acute cases of violence.

There is another aspect or type of violence which is the premeditated one, such type of hooligans who enter the sport venue aiming at creating such incidents of violence. In Greece too you have such groups of hooligans who are organized and go to football games aiming at creating violent incidents.

So we have these two types of violence. And there are also phenomena of violence even before the game. The events and incidents before the game are inscribed in the field of premeditated violence. And there are also rivalries between fans that lead overly to violence.

Another issue is that throughout Europe measures of prevention have been developed. Aside from that however each country has its own philosophy of managing the issue. This is why the provisions of law and the methods used differ from country to country.

We are also aware of the fact that serious incidents as well as catastrophe such as the Hazel problem or Sheffield case are very significant cases. And this all indicates that the greatest disasters are also due to infrastructure of the venues because sometimes the facilities are not adjusted to the needs of the sport.

So there are certain general principles governing this field. Currently Europe experiences a stability of the phenomenon of violence in the area of football.

However, there is a trend of shifting these problems from the country to the big cities- that is although we can control better the situation in the area inside the football stadium violence shifts in the city streets where in the urban environment, in the subway, in the bus stations there is this shift.

And this is quite useful to bear in mind because we take significant measures at a theoretical level trying to manage and control violence. However this kind of violence is transferred somewhere else and these fanatic fans who resort to violence go outside the stadium and cause incidence of violence inside the city.

And we found out that there was a difference between the fans and supporters of the several FCs who play in national championship and the supporters of national teams who participate in international events such as the World Cup or the European Championships or the Eurofoot in 2004 in Portugal, the one that was organized in Belgium and the Netherlands.

There are also university championships and from outsiders we have drawn the conclusion that there is a difference of the degree of fanaticism between the supporters of several teams in several events. This is why we need a different approach.

The fanatic supporters at a national level are much more moderate than the ones we see in international events. There are differences between countries; Germany has a long tradition in such an incidence of violence.

We are not talking about *stricto sensu* violence in cases of international championships. Across Europe and in all the important sport or FCs we have groups of hooligans, fanatic supporters who

potentially create incidence of violence. We have also found out that there is a need to have preventive measures that will be complementary to policing measures as well as other measures pertaining to infrastructure, stewarding.

What are stewards? Stewards are the ones who work in the area of the football field for the FC which they represent and during the event they help the police forces; they are placed near the control cameras and they are responsible for the tickets and the entrance of the fans in the stadium.

These all are necessary measures. However aside from these we need also preventive measures. Now for quite some time now I've been studying the legislative framework in Greece.

The law in Greece is particularly interesting because it covers all the aspects of the management of security and safety in the stadium and the aspects of violence in sports and sport venues. There is another aspect that has not been involved. We are talking about the socioeducative aspects of the phenomenon of combating violence. And we are talking about the education of fans and supporters.

Of course, when we talk about measures we think of initiatives. We have six main suggestions and recommendations by the Council of Europe and initiatives. We are talking about first of all the relationship between the clubs and the supporters; secondly the environment, the social environment: the role of the FC and the social environment.

Thirdly the fan coaching; fourthly the role of the local government; cultural activities etc with regard to the relationship between clubs and their supporters. FCs must have a more active

policy as far as their fans are concerned since we need to have a social link between the club and its supporters because we need to have a social framework in this prevention policy.

There has been a substantial difference, a substantial gap between the clubs and their supporters. This does not take place with every FC. Some FCs tries to develop a policy that will render the approach feasible.

So we identify these needs and this will be accompanied by the drafting of a specific charter of supporters, a list of supporters that would enhance the relationship between the FC and its supporters standardizing and formulizing their relationship, creating a commitment, an establishment of duties and obligations as well as of rights of fans. This is what will link these two different worlds: the FC and its supporters.

Another specific measure is the one of the assignment of an individual who will assume responsibility with the public relations with the fans trying to capitalize on this relationship providing motivation to the fans who want to develop positive actions. There have been groups of hooligans in every FC.

However, there are fans or supporters who had a positive will. Moreover there will be this person who will be responsible for the public relations of the FC- something that will render this policy more effective.

Now in the same sense a special agency will be created within the FC that will involve the fans and will capitalize on the relationship between the FC and the fans. This was with regard to the PR issue.

A second point is the activities of the FC in the wider social environment. Having seen different kinds of action in Europe we gathered that it would be very important for us to work with society at a neighborhood level, at the local level, regional level etc. Particularly for football there are intense symbolisms and this led us to think that we should develop such policies that would have a positive influence and impact on society.

For example in the UK there are actions where the FCs take part in school courses, courses organized for children with learning disabilities. At this point the FCs supports the efforts of school teachers and professors etc. How does this take place? The Ministry of Education pays the professors and teachers.

However, the professors and teachers are held by football players, FC executives etc. something that would give further incentives to the children. So these incentives and motivation would help us convey messages against violence in sports.

A lot of cities, neighborhoods etc we know that there are certain difficult neighborhoods where criminality and delinquency is quite high. In the city of Havre there is such a problem. So there the local FC organizes football games in order to provide motivation to youngsters and avoid criminality.

Now in Geneva as far as hockey on ice is concerned the local team supports such actions cooperating with agencies who are involved in social activities in the neighborhoods.

This is the case of the city in the stadium where the supporters are incorporated also in other social entities. We are interested in the interaction between these two roles of supporters. So as we have

social activities we are interested in having stadium activities. There is this interaction between these two roles of supporters and fans. This is what we try to create. This will act as a catalyst for a more effective action and management of incidents of violence.

Fan coaching: this is a widely used term. This is an activity; I will show you photographs. It is typical from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands soon to be imitated by other countries. You've already had about such type of programs and projects of working with the fans.

So fan coaching supplements the other activities. It takes place in the field of young fans; it is addressed to young supporters. It is something like the creation of a social and educational environment that embraces these young fans.

Now we are trying to place certain individuals who during the game will animate the fans and will intervene between the police forces and the supporters in order to moderate the climate of tension trying to lead to the letting of some steam off and the de-escalation of incidents and violence.

This is in some sort a channel of communication between the fans and the police forces. Since these individuals are already in contact with the fans for many years they are aware of the behavior that leads to violence and they are familiar with the fans. Thus they can convince them in more effective way since they are seen with credibility and they are seen with respect.

In Belgium for example these fan coaching projects have already started. In Liege we have five individuals working as fan coaches. And

the Ministry of the Interior is competent for this project. In Liege there is a special agency that involves these people.

However these individuals not only work on Sundays; they have an educational task since they are addressed to the fans or supporters. Well anyway we are not talking only about football; there are also other sports such as basketball etc. and the work of fan coaches is to provide information to educate and train the fans and supporters.

We are talking about a nucleus of contact and link aside from agencies, social activities, youth centers etc in Belgium. Since these do not suffice we have also provided for the development of fan coaches.

Another important element is the element of the relationship developed with the police forces because we always have to cooperate with the police forces. The social worker usually works isolated from the police using different methods. So far so good, however in the case of violence in the sport venues we need to cooperate with the police constantly.

Another element that gains grounds is the role of local government and agencies and bodies and services. Up to date hooliganism and violence prevention was seen at a national level. We were talking about competent ministries involved.

However it is necessary aside from the ministry to activate the bodies from the local government, municipalities, communities etc, because they too can develop social actions. The municipalities, the communities institutionally have the opportunity to approach and come closer to the fans and supporters because sometimes the problem of violence is not known at the national level; it is rather a local

problem. So people from the communities and the municipalities are in a better position to tackle this problem.

Another issue is to have a consulting committee that will deal with the prevention of violence in sports. We have municipalities where we have FCs with hooligans. These municipalities have the opportunity to develop a committee that will provide advice on issues of violence prevention participating in the decision making process, facilitating the wider consideration of the problem of violence and the more specific solution.

Another element is the creation of embassies of supporters. Greece will soon experience the organization of the Olympic Games. Aside from that we have the World Cup; we have the European Championship etc. So at this point we see the institution of embassies of supporters or supporters of several teams.

The aim here is to create a positive environment together with prevention measures. Fans and supporters let's say Greek fans traveling to Portugal to watch the Eurofoot will have established contact point where they will meet people who speak their language and who will be able to help them providing information on transportation, leaflets etc. they will know everything about the city, the infrastructures etc.

So the role of the embassy of supporters is very significant. It facilitates the dissemination of information during the event and it is also positive at the level of communication between the agencies, the authorities and the fans and supporters.

Through these embassies the communication with the police forces will be immediate and this will help us take measures on time.

The challenge during such an event is to have a balance between the principle of security and safety in the event and the climate of the friendliness and celebration that must accompany such an event.

I remember the recent European event where there were problems between the British fans and German fans. In the Charles le Roi we experience quite significant event and incidents of violence. We often see in events such as Eurofoot that certain celebrations might tend to violent incidents.

We need to take specific measures to suppress such incidents. This of course does not please the inhabitants of these regions who experience the presence of police forces in the streets.

So there needs to be a balance between the security and the safety and the celebration of the event since the aim of such an event is also for one to enjoy oneself. This spirit of friendliness must prevail of course taking into consideration the need for protection, safety, security etc. There needs to be a balance found; we need to avoid the presence of police force that will escalate the negative climate.

Another thing is that these embassies will serve the aim of the de-escalation of tension. They contribute to the creation of the friendly environment preventing violence, preventing the escalation. So these embassies act as means of guidance.

They also assist in the entrance of the fans in the stadium for example sometimes there are incidents during the entrance of the fans. And these people from the embassies help us avoid such problems.

There should also be a language support since we will have people coming from abroad. We will need individuals who will speak

their language. If Greeks come to Portugal for the Eurofoot it would be wise to have Greek speaking individuals there to assist the fans.

Another issue is for the police forces to get rid from other duties in order for them to focus on more specific tasks. So this will lighten the burden of the police.

This is a series of transparencies connecting the role of embassies, fans with regard to the police forces and the organization of the event. This is a contact point for the fans; these are fans from Denmark- I don't know where Ronnie is, maybe he remembers this- other fans and supporters in Liege organized events during the tournament. And this is what I was talking about: the organization of the flow and entrance of fans.

And let us not forget that the primary endpoint is to have this friendly atmosphere; this is a primary objective to always have a positive and friendly climate during the event.

Every time we have a sports event be it the World Cup or the Olympic Games we need to have activities for the local population, the inhabitants of the region where the event will take place otherwise people are under the impression that something happens in their absence.

Since it's not feasible to have the whole city watching the games there should be awareness campaigns for the locals: information for the games, the event. This might take place in schools, youth centers. We need to have targeted prevention actions. Talking about targeted actions since all these actions must aim at the general population.

In conclusion I'd like to point out that it's extremely important to join in our efforts in Europe in the area of violence prevention in

sports. Also important is to have a good structure at a local, national and international level.

And as we have at international level working groups and working committees the same should also occur at the local and national level.

Already local government has many successful efforts. We need to exchange the best practices for events such as the ones to be held in Greece. This should be a good opportunity to exchange the best practices and of course the promotion of the sports ideal: tolerance, respect and solidarity are values that must be underlined and developed and promoted during these events.

So let us try; let us try to implement those principles. And finally something about a program organized with the support of the European Commission. This is the program “Hippocrates”. It is a program for the study and prevention of hooliganism in Europe.

Its name is “Eurofan” through which we try to have exchange of practices. Knowing that there are significant initiatives this is quite important since it is the only way we will enrich our knowledge trying to make progress, trying to engage into a fertile cooperation, fruitful cooperation. Achieving our objectives through prevention we will reach the goal of security in general. Thank you very much for your attention.

Mr. Exarhos:

Thank you very much. It was very interesting. We invite now Mr. Papalakis. Yesterday I had promised to give you information on the nine articles of the Greek law. From yesterday’s discussion we can

see that whatever we've heard from our foreign friends exists in the current law and these nine articles include CCTV, sanctions etc.

And from these nine articles six were voted unanimously in the Parliament and the other three were voted by all the parties but one. This shows that there is a full harmonization of Greece and the other countries of Europe. Mr. Papalakis

Mr. Papalakis:

Secretary General, ladies and gentlemen good morning. As an introduction I'd like to point out that I will speak as a law expert because I deem it is necessary since we are talking about violence in professional sport. And we haven't yet analyzed what is in force; what is the legislation; what is the law on violence; what is provided by this law; and secondly whether this specific law is implemented, is applied.

I think this is the correct way to analyze the topic and go to the core of the problem: what is in force, what is applied and where there is room for improvement.

On this occasion I will say a few things about a new institution, the Committee of Professional Sports that I happen to chair. Maybe my intervention will be a bit tiring; I hope you'll be patient enough.

So, before I talk about violence that we discuss here today...concerns I will try to give you a brief description of the new legal framework to find where violence falls in it.

As you all know law 3075, the Venizelos law as we call it, was published in October 2002- that is 15 months ago. By virtue of this

law we provided for certain innovative provisions aiming at the improvement of the condition of professional sport.

The new provisions and stipulations of Venizelos law have three different aims: the first aim is the financial control of the football SAs with all accompanying issues: whether they pay their debts to the state, the insurance funds, the debts to third parties, to the players etc, the control of shareholders, their fiscal obligations etc. This is the first aim.

The second aim is the control of administrations of these FCs as far as obstacles and hindrance are concerned. The administration of the members of the board must have nothing to do with penal justice. We should clear the environment of the FCs. This was the second aim. The third aim of the law is to tackle violence through new regulations and provisions with a special penal code.

I'd like to ponder this sounds good, innovative towards the correct, the sound direction. How are we to implement it? How is it to be applied? Indeed this law is excellent.

At this point and to the question I put, the Venizelos law gave for the very first time an integrated, a complete solution. It provided for the creation of a new control instrument, independent one, credible and effective.

This instrument would have judicial competencies and controlling competencies: the Committee of Professional Sport. I think that this was a bright concept by Mr. Venizelos with the support of distinguished law expert Mr. Panayiotis Perrakis.

The establishment of this Committee: 14 members: two higher magistrates, Supreme Court judges; independent members: 6-7

Professors of the University, a Vice Rector among them. This instrument would be independent; it would have its own budgets, its own regulation. We are not talking about a committee under a specific ministry.

Of course some people exercise criticism claiming that the members of this Committee have nothing to do with sports. This does not hold true because in my opinion in such controlling instruments it's not necessary to have members who had been involved in sports. We need people without prejudice, without dependencies in an independent spirit.

We will have a clear view of things because things are quite difficult and complicated. I believe that the results following the operation of this Committee were quite significant. In the near future we will organize a conference where we will report on the outcomes of this Committee.

Of course we had to respond to many doubts as to our efficacy. We are active 11 months now and we believe in this vision.

Now following this brief description of the general legal framework I will discuss the issue of violence. I think that we all agree that it is a major problem.

We experience it every day: vandalism, barbarities, horror pictures, horror scenes in the area of sport where sport equals culture and civilization. The whole society has abandoned on the football stadium. I studied the chapter of the new law that refers to violence.

My first impression was that there was a detailed description and reference to issues of violence and violence prevention. It is a very complete law as far as the recording of the problem is concerned.

Now I have slight reservations as far as its implementation is concerned but I will speak about that in the end.

Now the Professional Sport Committee is involved in this field as far as the fans association is concerned. We are talking about organized fans. Quite aptly the legislator provides among other things first of all for the requests for the registers of the members of the association, the absence of legal problems, problems with the law of the members. They call for perquisites that will ensure the good behavior of these people.

Also in July each year this Professional Sport Committee will control the legality and the legitimacy of these associations. With this they will control the quality of the members of the association on the basis of this provision which is perfectly formulated.

Our Committee begun working in July 2003 and we requested to have data and information on the associations and their members in order to implement the law. We came across a tragic situation: there were no records of members of associations nor were there any further data.

The members register is a very important element because this is the basis for the provision of tickets. And this is the way we legally and judicially control the associations.

Following a long period of waiting the Committee made a decision. We talked about the Constitution; we proceeded to analysis of the law and we recognized officially only 80 associations; 120 approximately were not recognized. Among 120 associations only 12 met the conditions and the prerequisites.

Mr. Exarhos made an effort to take complementary data passed the deadline. But still there have been associations that have not received the approval. Associations submitted an application who had not been recognized by the courts. And one such association had a very bad reputation in violent incidents.

I believe that this decision of our Committee is historical because it will signify the start of an effort to prevent violence. Many claim that the way these associations worked acted as violence nurseries. The truth is that many things went astray in this sector.

But those who love professional sport we need to have a different view on the nature of associations. I can't understand this change of climate. We need to cut the umbilical cord between the FCs and the fans and the associations of fans.

I think that society without any particular manipulation either to the level of family or friends must be left to return to the football stadium. This must be met in sobriety by the executives of the FCs. This is imposed not only by the social interest but also by the interest of the football SAs themselves.

One might claim that I am against the presence of fans associations. They serve collectivity; they are in favor of culture, environment, civilization etc. However the way in which they work right now collectivity is not served. We need to have associations of fans with other structures and other aims.

I will talk about a different issue. I would like to point out the stipulations and provisions of the law on violence. If we don't talk about the legal framework, what is provided and what can be done, it's

as if we are talking abstractly. I want you to see the completeness of this law.

The first article states that the rules of fair play must be observed. Any public statement or declaration or any action of players, coaches, executives that might disturb the normal organization of an event is prohibited.

At this point through this provision the hot issue is touched...by the executives or the players or the press.

It is obvious that all this might lead to uncontrollable situations. This might ignite the fuse. We are talking about numbered tickets etc.

Furthermore the CCTVs or the cameras, electronic systems of the controls, provision of the areas and the individuals. It's very important. It is evident that with the help of these systems we can have pictures of incidents of violence, photographs.

As far as a penal armamentarium is concerned new penal offences are established. It's very important. And there is another provision, a very good one: the appealwhat are some of these offences: throwing of objects that might cause bodily harms, threats, the use of fireworks etc. And the next article grossly: there are punitive sanctions for the executives of the FCs, the closed door bans and restrictions.

So, in other words this law establishes a complete system for the prevention and suppression of violence creating this armamentarium that covers almost all anti-athletic behavior. There are also provisions or stipulations that provide the establishment of the Continuous Committee for the Prevention of Violence.

Of course, I'm not that romantic. I don't believe in utopias. Hence I do not believe that through the provisions of law we will have solutions for everything.

Moreover violence that prevails in the Greek stadia indicates that the presence of the law is not enough. We need a correct implementation and application of the law, an effective one.

In summary I'd like to put certain suggestions on the table. On the basis of this law and my experience as Chairman of the Professional Sport Committee working with my colleagues in this field I am in the position to identify and suggest the following; this is my own personal opinion as far as the administration of the football SAs is concerned, the executives.

If the administrators, the executives from the football SAs- there is a parenthesis here: they are decent people however they must help; they must change the way they see things; they need a change of mentality and mind setting.

I believe if they are all oriented towards the correct direction without conflict or differences we might have a positive result as far as violence is concerned, indicatively to avoid intense statements, strong statements.

They should assume part of the responsibility for the protection of the people in the stadium. I believe that the state help is not enough. There are also penal sanctions on all this. Thus this whole thing calls for a new approach.

They should not stimulate violence; they should not incite violence through their criticizing the decisions of referees. They

should avoid strong statements as far as the decisions of referees are concerned.

What I mean by that overall is that the members of the boards of the football SAs can play an important part. And this will be to their own benefit. And I've explained this to them and they have understood it and they help us in our work as Professional Sport Committee because what we aim at is the return of the people in the stadium.

In order however for this to succeed we need to repress violence and prevent it. If this is achieved the profits of these football FCs will be much higher. They will have higher profits from advertisement; television rights, sponsors etc. and their own credibility will be increased. In conclusion I think that the members of the board must help.

A second suggestion is for the Continuous Committee that must be reinforced and ...professionally. Maybe the two Committees must be united in the future.

Following my study of the law this Continuous Committee does not have the competency to control, supervise or proceed to legal action for actions of violence whereas our own Committee, the Committee of Professional Sport, was effective in this part.

So what do I mean by that? The Professional Sport Committee, which is in essence independent, must become an independent authority. As I've served in courts for 35 years justice is highly recognized because it is considered to be independent. Its independence is constitutionally established.

Moreover in the last few years you have seen in our country that there was a need to establish independent authorities where the

competition is highly strong. We need independent authorities; we have the Citizen's Advocate, the Personal Data Authority etc. In conclusion all these issues must fall under the competency of such an independent authority.

Sports Magistrates is provided by an innovative article in Mr. Venizelos law. There will be a Sports Magistrate in Athens, Piraeus and Thessaloniki who will deal with such penal offences.

We didn't reach the outcomes anticipated because the Sports Magistrates did not have only to deal exclusively with sports offences. This is why I suggest that the Sports Magistrate should deal exclusively with such issues pertaining to sports.

Mr. Venizelos made an honest effort. However it didn't work. This Sports Magistrate institution is a very good one because we are talking about independent Magistrates, athletic justice with sanctions and penalties where we might need further provisions here because people claim that the work of this justice is not enough.

We need to examine the issue of majority votes; this too is important. The Greek Football Federation as well as the football SAs must play their institutional part keeping equal distances from everyone.

This is all I had to say. I apologize. It is the voice of concern because I live within the area of professional sports. There is a need to improve the situation through the coordinated efforts of all the parties involved without excluding anyone always being aware that there is an increased responsibility for the next generation. Thank you.

Mr. Exarhos:

Thank you very much Mr. Papalakis for having described to us the provisions of the law putting emphasis on violence issues. I think that this could have preceded all the presentations because we cannot take for granted that all the participants are aware of what this new law means and entails.

I'd like to point out as far as the association of fans is concerned there was an retrogression as far as its implementation was concerned since the events and incidents every Sunday focused on what took part with the associations.

Whenever we made an effort to call the associations for control this effort was met with failure. Only a few associations submitted information with their application since most of them were not associations in the sense they exist in other countries; they've not been granted permission to use the insignia etc and the symbols; there is this umbilical cord of course as Mr. Papalakis put it quite correctly. But they do not work as they should.

That's the first thing is to solve the problem of the associations of fans. Otherwise we will be led to their extinction and their dissolution. I'm not in favor of that; this can't happen because it's against the Constitution. And the European experience shows that the associations should exist.

We've become wiser though since yesterday since we've seen examples where associations operate under illegal and institutional framework; they've changed their mind setting and instead of having an umbilical cord between the football SAs and the association of fans an umbilical cord has been developed between the state and the police

forces and the associations of fans be them supporters, state police etc.

There's a gap here. The state has not appointed the individual who will be competent for the negotiations with the team and the associations of fans etc. The individuals will be very well aware of the situation in the associations.

There is this distance which we try to cover by a simple call for the submission of data by the associations of fans. We cannot dissolve them; we have to approach them in a way so as for them to be able to operate within a sane environment.

As far as the athletic justice is concerned in essence Mr. Papalakis repeated what was yesterday: we need to reexamine and reconsider the issue of the majority votes in such committees etc.

It was written by certain newspapers that Mr. Papalakis did not come to this conference. As you know he has been here since yesterday and if we had time he would be able to describe the work around the task of the Committee that he chairs, the outcome of this Committee. It was very interesting intervention Mr. Papalakis. Mr. Kostalas.

Mr. Alexis Kostalas:

Now this has nothing to do with the previous speaker. Speaking in general I would like to ask all speakers to make their presentations in the time provided.

The next speaker is Mr. Henk Groenvelt who is heading the Information Center on Football Vandalism having a seat in Utrecht

gathering information from all police forces throughout the Netherlands.

Let me read to you the annual report of the Ministry of the Interior. The football vandalism and violence are concepts that have not been legally established and we cannot find them in the penal code. And the Ministry of the Interior of the Netherlands has given that the Information Center has a coordinating role in the analysis of data on vandalism and hooliganism.

It is desirable for all the authorities to accept this agency. In other words the Dutch Government in order to legislate accepts the suggestions of the Center of Information. Mr. Groenvelt

Mr. _____ :

We have Mr. Kokkalis and Mr. Theodorakis here. Whenever Mr. Kokkalis would like to intervene we will give him the floor.

Mr. Henk Groenvelt:

Good morning. I would like to introduce myself first. I'm from the Netherlands and I'm from the Central Information Point for Football Hooliganism. In Dutch we say CIV, that's the Dutch word for...We are a part of the Dutch Police; we are a police organization and there is the logo of the Dutch Police and our work is football. So here you have the sign of our department.

First of all, I would like to thank the organization for inviting me. I can tell a lot of the problems in the Netherlands but you asked me to tell something about the position of the police in the Netherlands and the position of our Central Information Point.

So my name is Henk Groenvelt. I'm a Chief Superintendent and I'm the Head of the CIV. I have more than 36 years of police experience and I'm Head of the CIV more than six years. I'll tell you something about the history of the CIV, the organization and network-network is very, very important- something about our tasks and initial database.

Without initial database you can't do anything. It is very, very important not only nationally but also internationally. And I hope I have some time to tell something about international police cooperation- also very important for the Greek Police.

The history of the CIV: we date back to the 1986 and they make us together with our English and German colleagues all the National Information Center dedicated to football hooliganism in Europe. But Brian I must say we are the mother of the National Information Centers.

I don't know if the old age of 18 is something to be proud of because it shows the size of the problems we face in Holland. In fact I envy countries that only need a single national information center run by a single officer for whom football hooliganism is one of the several tasks. My department has six full time police officers who are dealing with this problem.

I shall not pretend that we have an ideal situation. What we do have is the experience we build up and has come from the developments, the organizations, the infrastructure and the culture in the Netherlands.

I do not believe that all of these can be parachuted in other countries, for example in Greece, just as it is even if you wanted it.

But I believe that our experience enables us to give tips and suggestions for organizing an expert national information center. And as you know since 2002 there is the decision of the Council of Europe that every member state of the European Union must have a national information center based on police matters.

Because of our experience we support some countries to establish such an information center like Estonia, Check Republic and ...Republic.

As I said something about the history of the CIV: in 1984 questions were asked in the Dutch Parliament about an approach to football hooliganism. It was also indicated that an integrated approach would depend on all parties to getting the information they needed.

To realize this it was decided to form a National Information Center. And this information center was to collect information on methods used by the police on the various organizations like local authorities, the police, the Crown Prosecuting Service, the Dutch Football Association, the Clubs and the Dutch Railway. In particular it would focus on measures taken, meet schedules and so on and thus to be an accessible informational point for all cooperating organizations so not only for the police but for all cooperating organizations.

Now at that point in time information, if there was information, was distributed across the very many bodies involved. It was not transparent and it was not easy to obtain. And this did not help cooperation at all. In 1985 the Mayor of Utrecht in his position as Director of the City Police offered the Minister of the Interior to bring the Central Information Unit under the umbrella of the Utrecht Police.

And that is what eventually happened on the 1st March 1986. But the CIV is nowadays more than a police organization. We are more or less independent and I shall come to this later.

In 1986 the CIV was brought up in the Utrecht Police Force. Since 1993 we have a new police organization in the Netherlands. And the Netherlands now has 25 police regions- you can see it here. The regions are autonomous and are financed by the Ministry of the Interior.

But almost all the nationwide or specialized like air police, Interpol, highway police, national criminal databases and so on come under this nationwide region.

The CIV, we are left within the Utrecht regional Police Force. And in terms of content the Head of that region- you can see him here- has not say about the CIV; he is only responsible for the management of the department.

In other words, the Police Chief is responsible for the basic conditions to enable the CIV to function smoothly like finance, personal policy and so on. And the Ministry of Interior gives the Utrecht regional police force founding exclusively for the CIV.

Another Chief of Police the...Central Police Force got the football hooliganism portfolio from the Head of Police in the Netherlands. In fact he directs the CIV; we are his advisor on issues around football hooliganism.

But we have also a special relationship with the Ministry of Interior. Like in many countries the Ministry of the Interior is directly responsible for the whole police service. And we are a police

department. But unlike other police departments we interact directly with the Ministry of Interior. I don't have to go via a senior officer.

Strictly speaking in form of terms the Ministry of Interior has no authority on our office. But because we work so closely together and because of the frequent questions from politicians in practice we see the Ministry as a client. And we advise the Ministry of Interior directly without the mediation of the responsible Chief of Police.

Of course we inform him but this our more or less independent position we do not exclusively represent the police standpoint. I can also make direct application to the Ministry, perhaps for additional financing for example, without the mediation of the portfolio holder of the Regional Chief of Police. And I also can negotiate directly with the Ministry.

For this moment I don't know how long it will take but it is fair to say that my department takes unique position in the Dutch police system. And that's partly because we don't work exclusively for the police.

We started in 1986 with three policemen. Till last year we have six policemen full time busy with hooliganism, national but also international. What will happen this year I don't know; maybe six, seven or eight. We will wait; we will see.

But we can't work without partners. However the most important part of our colleagues forms the police forces in our 25 police regions. Without them there would be no CIV and without the CIV they would not get the information they need.

In the Netherlands...additional football club has its own police officer. And I don't think that's the same in Greece.

In the Netherlands there are 37 professional football clubs and the responsible police officer he or she is responsible for safety measures at matches. And we call them “football coordinators”. They know the clubs inside out.

The same goes for the supporter of the local towns; they know them too. And the football coordinators are our most important information users and sources of information. And of course we have a good relationship with these police officers. And there is an extensive exchange of information and give them support where necessary.

For the football coordinators we are also sorting information on national and international policy. And sometimes we are used to raise certain issues nationwide.

To have a good communication we organize twice a year in January, for example next week, and in August a conference with our colleagues.

This is to discuss problems and clarify new regulations and usually we invite a guest speaker to shine some light in an issue or to confront these officers with some alternative approach of the football hooliganism problem. In short we have quite a good and intensive contact with our football coordinators and we talk on the phone with them almost every week.

These are tasks of the football coordinators as I said. But what are we doing? We have a lot of main tasks. The most important task is of course collecting and distributing information on national and international basis. The actual content must be reasonable and clear to everyone.

Over the course of time we have quite a lot of data and it also covers to clubs and the way supporters behave. At a national level our key sources are the football coordinators.

For six years they have linked up in a national database where they can put in their own information and really everybody is connected to that police system and not only our football coordinators but also the Dutch Football Association, the Public Prosecutors and some football clubs- six football clubs at the moment. So taken use online all actual information about matches played, arrested persons, support where the stadium ends, civil stadium ends, and so on.

Second task is support for parties involved in football. It is also quite clear I think with our expertise we can provide support for a whole range of organizations and bodies, support that is required and support that we give of our own initiative.

A very important task is the management and control of national data. The management and control of the national football hooliganism database- I told you something about it- is rather a special task.

This database contains a very large quantity of information from and for the various partners in combating football hooliganism. Combating football hooliganism- I give you an example- is still a high priority in the Netherlands.

The aim is for example is to persist and arrest supporters as fast as possible so that punishment follows while offense is still fresh in the mind. Thanks to our database we can monitor developments very well. And the same applies to the other partners linked to the network.

At the same time the CIV has to be active here. In plain language that means regular notes to colleagues that they must complete the processing of a certain case like making out of a charge.

But we also remind the Crown Public Prosecuting Service if and when they need to complete work around certain cases. Or at least we mention when nothing has been done. The action they take is reported in the database. No action means no report.

So we can check on progress. The same applies to civil stadium...by the Dutch Football Association.

So we can see exactly who has done what and how long it takes before a criminal case is completed. In fact we monitor the process of the database network partner and help their memories.

Apparently this is quite a unique situation while with the initial information unit more or less checking on the Crown Prosecuting Service to ensure rapid processing engages.

But anyway this situation is accepted in the Netherlands and it works in good harmony. There is no law for it; there are no regulations for it. It's based on mutual agreements rather than hierarchy or law. The way we carry out the task is crucial for the acceptance of the matches of course. We are also tasked to make trend analyses, policy and investigation.

A second task is coordination and control task on the policy framework for combating football hooliganism and violence. Just Crijn talked yesterday something about our policy framework in the Netherlands.

The monitoring or control function given to us after establishment of the policy framework in 1997 is comparable to our

role with the database. As part of the policy framework agreements were made on allocation of responsibilities and tasking.

As the CIV we have to monitor these agreements on a regular basis. We do show a regard to police task and we report it to the Senior Police Officer with the national portfolio for football hooliganism. But the same applies for tasks allocated to the municipal authorities and the majors.

And so for example in 1999 we completed a study into agreements with the municipal authorities under the authority of the major...the police, the Crown Prosecuting Service and the clubs.

These agreements were to be formalized in local governance. Our study showed that in several towns the quality of this governance was not in line with the agreements.

Of course we reported our findings to the Ministry of the Interior and later on ...at several municipalities did not agree with our findings. And I received some angry reactions from some majors- but I'm still there.

Sixth task is advice around policy. We have of course because of our database and our national and international experience a large store of knowledge. And it is not confined to incidents but also includes the policy of various national and international institutions.

In some cases we are viewed as the friendly spider on the web. Thanks to our knowledge, experience and overall view at the national and international levels we are regularly consulted by the police, the Dutch Football Association and other institutions.

We also sit on various committees and ad hoc working groups. The fact that our output is valued throughout so highly put heavy pressure to our staff.

If we do not put up well founded arguments it loses our credibility. Also the media appreciate our independent expert opinion.

Our international task: we are appointed by the Ministry of Interior as the Dutch National Information Point like the European Union decided.

This task has been expanded due to the increase of international competitions and increasing demands for information within this scene: all information which is sent abroad in regard to matches comes from our department.

And they also ensured that other stake holders like the Border Patrol are kept up to date. The CIV also frequently joins the Dutch Delegation to international gatherings such as the committee meetings of the Council of Europe and European Union.

And lastly we are responsible for deployment of the national police....at home matches and matches abroad involving the Dutch national team.

So we will visit Portugal with 11 policemen to support the Portuguese colleagues during the Euro 2004 and I can assure you we will stay there until the last day of the tournament.

In the meantime we have also been involving a lot of effort to creating a good international exchange of information. For years now the European Union has a certain level of cooperation on information sharing.

This took on a more concrete form as the manual during Euro 2000 in Belgium and Holland. After a debt in the European manual, Belgium playing a very definite pioneering role, we took a practical initiative around information before and after the matches.

Together with Belgium, United Kingdom and Germany we took a good look at the information sharing for the Euro 2000 and we altered it for the needs of matches in the Champions League.

But most important of all is that the last three years we have invited all European National Information Points and the local police who are participating in Champions League to a special conference in Amsterdam to share relevant information.

And I was glad to welcome the representative of Greece for the first time in last year. In this year on 2nd September we organized this meeting for the fourth time.

In general the police are very good at giving information in advance but...of matches especially written down first end experiences is often forgotten.

And it is almost never fed back internationally. Via a special procedure this information even when you get back to the police we collect all information from the matches who are played in the Champions League.

And we have a lot of information also from the Greek clubs who are participating in the Champions League and we handed over to our colleagues in Europe.

So we have now created the database with part of information on supporters from the various international clubs. And this is hard information on the behavior of a group of supporters and is available

for all police colleagues in Europe. Before September last year it was hardly possible to receive information from Greek clubs even to receive information from Greece.

Since September last year we have a good contact point and we get good information. And we hope that our colleague can also create a national network for that's very important for him for he must supported by his colleagues in Greece.

A short statement about our national database: we are the owner of the national database; it is financed by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice. And one of our tasks is to act as helpdesk for the users.

And the users are the football coordinators of course, as I told you, the Crown Prosecuting Service, the Dutch Football Association and some clubs- the five biggest clubs. As you see here what's in the national database: reports of matches, police deployment, number of arrests, and if we can find a picture of the arrested person his picture will be in the system; police action after arrest, I told you something about it.

We have a database of the support of the ...with or without the photo, action taken by the police after an arrest, action taken by the Crown Prosecuting Service on the base of the charge and the court verdict.

We know for every supporter that has been arrested what has done and you can read it in the database and action by the Dutch Football Association is regard to a possible stadium. So I have a demo with me. So if someone is interested in the pause after the meeting I can show you what we have.

So I will conclude that for combating hooliganism, violence in sport in the Netherlands it's in football, is very, very important that you have a good cooperation with all parties. Make a chain of it; make a chain of cooperation. And collect information and exchange that information.

So you make a cooperative combating of that problem. And I hope that Greece will do that and I heard something about a law; I think that's a very good start to handle this problem. Thank you very much.

Mr. Alexis Kostalas:

It is now the turn of Ms. Christina Diaz who is Head of Stadium Security of the Royal Football Federation of Spain and coordinates those who are responsible for security in all the stadia in Spain. They are assigned by all the football SAs and they are responsible for the behavior of fans at every stadium at the same time with the police forces. The mere fact that she is a woman indicates the level of football and sports in Spain. Ms Diaz.

Ms. Christina Diaz:

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, distinguished representatives from the authorities. What else can we say about violence in sports? Following all these presentations we had in this two day conference I need to thank all those who organized this international conference because they give us the opportunity to intervene. And I'd like to thank you for the hospitality.

Such types of conferences aim at rising the awareness as far as violence is concerned. The federations, the associations etc, the state are all responsible for raising the awareness of the public opinion on violence.

It would be correct to say that all players must draw conclusions in order to find compromising solutions. I would like to point out that there is this significant contribution from the clubs and associations in prevention. This role is established by the Spanish legislation and I have to say that there should be cooperation between the several bodies.

The issue of hooliganism is a modern form of....We need to convince the fans who reflect the spirit of the same and this must not be delayed. This will lead to a new perspective. And since we will have new solutions, since we have new teams we have been used to enter the event facilities in a peaceful way.

These days we've talked about the evolution of hooliganism as a social phenomenon. We all know that this phenomenon exists and we know who the trouble makers are. We also know that usually hooligans have legalized and legitimized their action through the tolerance of the FCs.

This tolerance was even more enhanced when we had skinheads in society. There was a symbolic aggressiveness using Nazi insignia and symbols which led to racist behaviors. Fortunately the big FCs understood on a timely basis that there was a need to show zero tolerance to such issues.

So each time there is an important derby or important events as is the case between Barcelona and Real Madrid we put emphasis on that.

The importance of the several activities that developed in the area of sports sometimes is the cause of the expression of certain rivalries. This has nothing to do with the phenomenon on general basis violence, is frequently caused by the reactions of the players against the referee etc. despite the fact that there is no reason for rivalry etc.

Eventually the mistakes of referees cause tensions and thus the youngsters are identified with these problems and there is this aggressiveness. So there is an adjustment of several strategies and frequently the efforts of the police to control the situation instead of creating positive results create negative results. This in its turn increases or exacerbates the phenomenon.

Globalization also influences sports. The phenomenon of violence also affects and inflicts South Eastern Europe and Africa. This is why the agreement between the fans and associations, the police forces, the mass media must be done in a general and globalized way. Our responsibility as organizers is legitimized by the established legislation.

In Spain already since 1987 we ratified the European Agreement on violence and the explosive behaviors of fans in sport events, particularly football events. This was an agreement that was signed in Strasburg.

On the basis of this agreement the autonomous and independent associations of fans have specific responsibilities and duties.

Furthermore the associations of fans and the football SAs are responsible for the normal organization of events.

There is also the duty of the contracting parties to ensure a normal behavior of their fans and supporters as well as the assignment of specific individuals who have to facilitate the control and information of spectators as well as the accompaniment of the fans and supporters when they visit other towns or foreign countries.

There should be efforts made for the coordination of transportation of organized fans in the area where the events take place in order to prevent the potential of violent incidents and trouble makers.

In order to prevent violence we should all dispose of specific means that would help us control at the level of access in the stadium. As more specific measures for the implementation of the suggestions following the agreement I talked about are the passive safety measures that will ensure the safety and security of the citizens.

We should have an efficient control of the crowd and appropriate management of the teams. Other measures include the segregation between the fans in specific zones in the stadia. And this segregation can take place through the strict control of ticketing.

And in the stadia we should also have efficient equipment of communication with the public and we should also have printed material as well as a system of announcements that will help the people operate and work more effectively.

We should take all necessary measures on an educative and social level focusing on the role of the mass media to prevent violence in the stadium and promoting the Olympic ideals. This agreement has

been signed by France, Spain, Portugal, Norway, UK, and Sweden among other countries.

Since we have already talked about the Spanish legislation let me tell you that the law on sport in 1990 considers that this phenomenon is very critical and it controls it to all its forms. Already today this law indicates how significant this phenomenon is for society, sport.

Take two different aspects today: sport for the citizen means something spontaneous; and as something spontaneous it cannot be limited within racist framework.

On the other hand every organized activity must abide by certain rules. The violence increases and this is why the Spanish legislator took on certain measures. Thus on the one hand the law seeks to implement what is provided by the European Agreement in Strasburg and also promotes the suggestions by the Spanish Parliament on violence and provides therefore the creation of new penal offences related to violence in the stadia.

The sport federations in Spain also exercise other competencies of an administrative character. They also act as agencies in cooperation with the Spanish Justice. Thus frequently the heads of these federations and associations have to abide by the rules, duties and requirements of their role.

This is very important and we have it in mind in Spain. Much more specifically Article 9 of the law talks about violence prediction in national events. The FCs are particularly responsible for the security of their spectators and supporters and they should also seek for the help of the Special National Committee where there is

representation of national teams abroad particularly for sports that are influenced by violence such as football or basketball.

We are allowed to have up to six representatives on a number of 25 members of this Committee. The physical entities who organize any event as well as the FCs who take part in these events are subject to the athletic justice and they are held responsible for any kinds of incidents that occur within the venues where such events take place.

The legislation considers that it is unacceptable to have any entrance in the area of the stadium of individuals who have premeditated that they will create incidents of violence. We have seen serious incidents people crushed etc.

This is all done in the belief that the organizers will finally and eventually ensure the security and safety of the events. The professional leagues and associations in Spain are obliged to notify the committee of the state about the games and the matches, whether there will be high risk or low risk in order for the state to take all the necessary measures and precautions to avoid violence.

And we also need to put restrictions whenever is necessary for specific events the organizers must have their own bodies of security and safety and an individual who will undertake the issue of security and safety and will obey the instructions of the general coordinator for whom Mr. Rodriguez talked yesterday.

This is very important for us to understand the role of the cooperation of the security executive who is under the police coordinator in the case of events where we have problems such as the introduction of objects that might be considered dangerous or harmful etc; there might be sanctions and penalties; or sport facilities where

we have the organization for professional matches, professional football matches or basketball matches are covered with the help of computers etc.

The respective professional leagues must provide in their article of association for the exclusion of certain individuals from these facilities in case of violation of the law. Tickets might also form part of a control system.

The reasons for banning an individual will be recorded specifically and are recorded in the tickets and they are written on the tickets. The organizers must guaranty the necessary safety measures in accordance with what is provided by the law.

Of course we need to be vigilant and we need to have in mind that it is not the police forces that are responsible for the security and safety.

We are all responsible particularly when we are talking about injuries, bodily harms etc. The non abidance by the rules and the provisions of the law creates specific obligations and leads to very strict sanctions and penalties.

As far as the administrative offences are concerned there are three categories depending on the severity of the offence: we have economic and financial sanctions; for very important infractions we have pecuniary fines starting from 70000€.

Here we also include the violation of rules governing the organization of sport events leading to bodily harm, the non observant of the deadlines and the non fulfillment of the conditions of security as a result.

A FC must provide for the organization of such an event depending on the number of spectators, fans etc. Consequently there is profit; this will be controlled. The non abidance by the safety rules also means fines and sanctions.

In case of negligence there are also sanctions. I don't know if you remember when we talked about passive safety. There are serious infractions ranging from 3000 to 70000€ for behaviors I already described.

Also similar fines consist for behaviors regarding the non observants of the rules for the entrance of the fans, throwing of objects. Among the light offences we have fines from 150 to 5000€. In this category are included omissions or not important negligence. That however constitutes a violation of the law.

Aside from these sanctions there is also the restriction and the close doors restrictions and the bans from the matches which are recorded. And there is also a ban from the specific facilities that could last even two years.

In cases of facilities the design planning must be such so as to prevent acts of violence through the segregation of the fans in zones. There should also be an organizational control point equipped with the necessary infrastructure and means.

In the articles of association of the Spanish Football Federation there is mention of the obligation of the FCs to prevent violence.

There is also another regulatory instrument that is the Royal Decree on the creation of a Committee against Violence; this was approved in 1992. This Committee through this Royal Decree provides

for the framework of action of groups of volunteers from the FCs who participates in professional events.

This Committee proposes the framework of action of these volunteers: their actions, their operations, their rights, their obligations, their training, their recruitment etc. These are all issues that are regulated by the Royal Decree. The associations of fans must facilitate the training of their fans, must contribute to the prevention of violence.

The law on sport is also complemented by a Royal Decree in 1993 that describes in detail all the previous items and combines with another framework of reference such as the law on the protection of the citizen, the general law on policing in spectacles.

This Decree that very clearly and expressly describes the duties and obligations of the Special Coordinator particularly the actions that apply for the control and the organization of the coordinating work in the area of sport.

This regulation has three different chapters where we have the responsibility of the organizers, the competences of the police forces as well as the organization and creation and function and operation of the security coordinator.

And this is complemented by specific rules on the efficacy of all these players, all these factors. This is reported to the higher ranks. This regulation governs the owners of the facilities of the FCs and all the organizers of events pertaining to the facilities and venues in order for all the prerequisites to be met.

There is a regulation on the issue of ticketing regarding the facilities and the obligations of the owners of the facilities. We are

talking about the computerized control of access in the stadium, the creation of numerical seats and tickets, the creation of special separated zones for the executives from the different FCs, special facilities for the representatives of the press and media. That will allow for the provision of credentials.

The Spanish law also obliges all facilities to have a special unit of operational control that will operate in an automated way which means automated opening of the gates, electronic means of control of access of the area in order to control in an automated way the access to the stadium.

As far as the ticketing is concerned any time ticket selling is done near the facilities. This must be done only in specific areas. Tickets must meet certain conditions and must guaranty that no falsification is allowed.

Those who enter the stadium must bear a ticket with their name on; and there are also annual entrance tickets etc. Each time the spectator must take the seat written on the ticket. Otherwise those who are responsible for the safety in the stadium must help the fan change his or her seat.

The tickets must bear the data of the specific match or game and they must also include the reasons for banning of entrance of a spectator to the stadium. The organizers are obliged to have specific inscriptions hung in the facilities where they will expressly mention the conditions for the entrance in the stadium.

As far as the board of directors are concerned and other executives and bodies from the FCs Spanish law calls for a maximum cooperation between the agencies in order to prevent violence.

For this reason the security coordinators must have at their disposal means, staff etc. to be efficient in their task. These associations must also have a representative who will act on their behalf for any legal consequence, who will represent them as far as the security of the organization and the event is concerned. This individual on behalf of the organizers and before the security coordinators will assume the responsibility to support the work of the police.

The organizers and by this we mean the FCs and the associations of fans must facilitate the coordinator in his or her work providing all types of information available pertaining to groups of fans, their composition, their behavior etc.

They are also responsible for providing information on the transportation schemes and timetables, the places where they will be seated in the stadium.

Other obligations include the correct recording of the conditions in the field and in the stadium in order for the coordinator to provide for the appropriate and adequate supervision.

There is also an obligation to investigate the efficacy of the automated systems for gate opening and closing and the appropriate lightning equipment, the removal of dangerous objects from the facilities; every time an object can be dangerous there will be immediate removal of this object.

Concluding I would like to talk about certain practical measures that have been taken from time to time in order to facilitate the work of these agencies responsible for combating violence in the stadium.

Now during the organization of sports events it is important to maintain this friendly ambiance, this friendly environment and atmosphere. This is why we promote the creation of complementary events and activities, the publication of printed material. All these are means that help us achieve our goals.

Before the event it would be wise for all those involved in the sectors of security and safety in the field to have a meeting where they will share information.

There must be a timetable drawn for the activities during the event; there must be information on the transportation timetable of the fans, the particular happenings that are organized from time to time and all these in a very coordinated way in cooperation with the coordinator of the stewards etc.

During the match as organizers we must define the role of stewards who as main function will control the spectators, will solve the emergency cases, will inform the police forces, and will let other people know where the emergency exits are, the removal of dangerous objects and all other means together with of course the appropriate training and information.

Now following the event we also have to make provisions for incidents of violence or the removal of seats or aggressiveness. Thank you very much for your attention.

Ms. _____ :

Thank you very much. We will now have a 20min break and we will continue with the second and last part of this conference. Thank you.

Mr. Alexis Kostalas:

Please be informed that we'll have a 20min or 15min brake if possible.
Thank you.

BREAK

Mr. Alexis Kostalas:

Before we start the second part of the morning session I'd like to tell you that all the introductory notes for our foreign guest have been written by our distinguished colleague- I don't know the person who made research- Mr. George Mavros.

So Mr. Mavros thank you...because we have to call things they way they are. Now I give the floor to the Secretary General.

Mr. Exarhos:

I'd like to make a remark...Welcome Minister. We'll briefly debrief the Minister. There are three or more speakers to go. And since yesterday, Minister, we have proceeded to a brief recording of what we've had from the experience of our foreign friends and compared it to what takes place in our country.

So it seems that the countries where our distinguished foreign friends come from in the last three or four years have seen legislative interventions. What has been frequently heard was that the law takes two or three years to be applied and implemented fully.

And this is very important for us who are currently at the initial stage of this legislative framework. What was really difficult was that

there was this model for generalized irresponsibility for many years. It was no one's fault; everyone claimed it was someone else's fault.

So this was the preamble of reforms that took place in many countries throughout Europe. And what was really hard was that we need this strict cooperation of all the parties involved.

Some people specified that 50% of the application of the law is under the auspices of the state and the rest belongs to the FCs organizing the events that is there was a distinction made between violence inside the stadium and outside the stadium.

We all feel and this was further reinforced by what we've heard from our foreign friends, we all feel that our legislative framework is considered to be sufficient and adequate. Among the 9 articles six were voted by all parties, unanimously that is. So consequently everyone agrees that this law is adequate.

Furthermore there are statistical data coming from other European countries indicating that those who fall into the category of hooligans who watch football matches just to instigate acts of violence are very few thus in our country too the category C, class C as was said of fans of hooligans. We are talking about very few people.

However what we've gathered from this two-day conference is that there is something missing. And what is actually missing is for people who represent the state being and acting in the framework of the FC or the association of fans.

There is always a sport or a coordinator who has undertaken the relationships with the associations of fans and who is the intermediary between the state and the police forces and the FC and the associations of fans.

Denmark showed us a completely different approach trying to organize the associations of fans into a co-federation that assumes the responsibility of keeping things quiet and normal. This is a novelty; this is an innovation.

They even have reached the point of making recommendations through visits at home. Policemen visit people at home and inform them that what they did was bad. And another approach is the approach of sanctions, fines, penalties etc.

What we also found out is that within these pockets of hard core hooligans there are racists elements, Nazi elements etc. And of course games are classified as low risk or high risk. It's not easy for us to get data from the other countries with regard to injuries, bodily harms etc.

However there is this myth that violence has been eradicated. And as we found out violence has not been eradicated; there have been arrests; there have been casualties; even one casualty actually in France a few years ago.

So what is missing is the time to implement the measures, to apply them. There is the need for the athletic justice to display its equality face. And there is need for a real true consensus. We must mean what we say. And we also need the support from the press and the media. The media must not be lenient in its judging certain incidents etc.

So this was in general the outcome of the conference up until now. And now Mr. Vasilakis will take the floor who is the Chairman of the Continuous Committee on Combating Violence.

Mr. Vasilakis:

Thank you very much chairman. Minister, dear guests, distinguished friends from abroad I also welcome this initiative that will help us to my belief to draw useful conclusions in the interests of sport that will lead to the restriction of violence.

The phenomenon of violence in the sport venues in Greece- in this we also include aside from football stadia other facilities- has a history of many years. These are also the years of the decline of the Greek football championship from 65000 tickets in the derbies, in the Olympic stadium etc in the mid '80s.

When I had the honor to play- and I see veteran players Vasilis Chantzipanayis and other famous players- I used to see as a referee a different behavior of fans and supporters and the different behavior from the players.

So this has brought us today to a few thousand of tickets in the first league matches. So it is obvious that the gradual increase of tension, aggressiveness and incidents in the stadium has led many people to their homes and has turned the stadia into ghettos that have been delivered to the appetites of the very few who have made a religion out of their support.

Now from times on we have repeated incidents. There were increased incidents. And these acts of violence became a routine. Almost 15 years ago the death of Charalabos Vriona in Alcazara Stadium had shocked an entire society. And everyone was astonished by the causeless death of a young man. Today most of us are anticipating that something bad will take place.

How did we reach this point? Who is responsible for the decline of the principles of the football stadium? It is everyone's fault. This is the easiest answer. We must all work towards the interests of Greek football; we should all exchange wishes and continue along the same path hoping that miraculously things will change.

This was the situation up to date and the results unfortunately and deplorably are visible. However there is a difficult answer to this question that calls for the assumption of responsibility. Violence that plagues football stadia is something that interests football and all the actors involved.

Up to date the institutional groups of football- that is the Football SAs Association, the Greek Football Federation, the supreme instrument expressing the wishes of football fans and FCs in Greece- have done very few to improve the outcome of the sport. They usually opt for hiding.

The Football SAs Association claim that the state is responsible and the Greek Football Federation claims that the Associations organize the championship.

Now professional FCs choose to maintain this sick situation nurturing associations of fans that frequently present delinquent behavior using these associations of fans as private armies. The size and the form of incidents on the time of their manifestation or the timing in general convince us that we have a phenomenon reminding us the dogs of Pavlov: suffices for the bell to ring and we have an immediate reaction.

Where does the state stand among all this? Is the state irresponsible? Of course they have their own share of responsibility both for their omissions as well as for their doing.

And their greatest error is that they haven't brought professional football before its responsibilities, the responsibilities that arise from professionalism. Law 2725 of '99 following its amendments through 3057/2002 has a plethora of stipulations and provisions as the first armamentarium in order to combat violence in professional sports.

The presence of the Professional Sports Committee directly influences our way of combating violence. It's imposed the change of the ownership in PAOK FC and there was a whole nexus of provisions that pertain to the associations of fans and their organization.

These all are necessary elements that will help professional football resurrect. The Committee that I chair consists of 13 members. Two members are appointed by the competent Minister of Culture, one member by the Hellenic Police, one member from the Greek Olympic Committee, three members from the Greek Football Federation, the Associations of Football SAs and also frometc.

This Committee meets at least once a week. Now aside from the reports reading there is also an evaluation, an assessment of the risk level to be played on Sunday. At that point we also discuss current issues regarding problems that have not been solved and that are unpredictable.

So this Committee gained more competencies according to the law but let us not forget that it does not have power. And as Mr. Papalakis put it earlier it is a committee that is simply there to

provide its opinion; it does not have a punitive function nor does it have any powers similar to the Professional Sports Committee.

Our role and our operational let's say capacity is to receive the trends that are observed and to inform the other competent authorities. We need to have an opinion and express it.

Obviously our own margins of operations are much greater. The life of this Committee is extremely short and its steps aren't sure yet. We are talking about baby steps. However the evolution is continuous and we will evolve towards the correct direction.

As the Permanent Committee for Combating Violence we believe that the solution of the football problems in our country is a long procedure that requires a change of mentalities and very strict solutions that must originate in football itself.

The state in its turn tries to create the appropriate institutional framework. However it doesn't have the...want. The changes that will come about in the next few years render necessary the initiatives that will safeguard the image and the face of Greek football and keep it among the top football fields in Europe.

As we will soon find out in Portugal next summer where the presence of our national team will give one further example of what actually takes place.

In essence I would like to point out that there is something like the 10 Commandments for those who are involved in the area of football and who are responsible and might contribute towards a positive or a negative outcome. I will insist of the role of the FCs and the executives.

Their contribution is extremely important when they wish to contribute and only when they wish to contribute. I believe that the FCs and their executive are the ones who with their behavior will indicate whether a game or a match be without violence or with violence.

Thus the FCs and the executives have a very important part to play in what is called prevention of violence.

Now I will mention the players. The players are protagonists. And particularly in the last few years they have shown with their excellent behavior that their part is the smallest in instigating violence. They try to appease the fans and spectators and they are the ones, they have the power to prevent the instigation of acts of violence.

Thirdly the coaches: coaches in turn with their behavior will indicate whether the fans will remain calm or not. So the coaches too are involved in violence prevention. And in their majority they are excellent both inside and outside the stadium.

Referees: in the last few years there has been a change of landscape. The referees with their mistakes- I have lived in the stadium many years as a referee and then after that I try to teach the next generation- so referees do have a share and a responsibility.

Lately we see that the mistakes have been decreased and I believe that they too have given a positive sample of prevention of violence.

Another factor is the police. The police try to prevent violence but in no case do they need to challenge the fans. Of course we would expect them to proceed to more arrests. Of course we have all a share

of experience here; we would like to see them apply the law in more strict way.

Now sport justice sometimes gives us some examples of unfair treatment. Ordinary justice when people are arrested and are taken into courts sometimes they are not punished so there is impunity.

The press.

The press must help us towards a positive direction to prevent violence. They must not accept the statements of the owners of FCs, the usual statements, and they should at least convey the appropriate messages.

Organized fans as I have already mentioned must be trained and ultimately the Greek Football Federation and the Football SAs Association in conjunction with the state of the facilities and the venues must be improved.

I will conclude with the thought that we need to be strict. This law is very strict and we should all be even stricter. I thank you for your attention and I hope that with what we've heard from our foreign guests as well as from our own people here we will reach a better outcome in our fight against violence in the sport venues. Thank you.

Mr. _____ :

Mr. Secretary General please allow me to say a few words. Following the permission of the Minister of Interior in Spain I took part in a meeting of the Permanent Committee for Combating Violence and I can tell you the following.

Mr. Lorenzo Rodriguez would suggest we make suggestions and the Committee would agree to minimize the penalties and sanctions imposed on certain people. Thank you.

We will now hear Mr. Chris Whalley who is responsible for security in the stadium from the British Federation.

Mr. Chris Whalley:

Minister, Secretary General, ladies and gentlemen. Sadly England has a longer experience of dealing with violence. We've had to deal with violence in domestic matches between clubs, when our clubs have traveled abroad in Europe and also when the national team plays its matches in other countries.

We've taken a great deal of measures to combat this problem and I'd like to take you through today some of those measures which hopefully will perhaps show you some thoughts which you might be able to use here in Greece.

The most important thing as we've heard through these last two days it has to be a partnership approach: the football clubs, the football association, the government and the police have to work together to combat this problem.

The real problems in England started in the 1970s and here you see a typical stadium from the '70s; actually this photograph was taken in the late 1960s but this is the situation that football fans would have experienced in the 1970s.

The typical stadium would have large areas behind the goals which are standing and you can see here very few fences to stop movement of the supporters.

So the trouble makers have room to move within the stadium and this is something that we've changed today. Fighting among the supporters was difficult to contain. Large numbers of police were required to prevent the problems. The clubs had to pay very large police bills, high police costs.

So to stop the problems we brought in fences. Here you can see the fences which run down to stop the fans reaching each other and also fences and here in this area you see barbed wire.

The football fans were treated a little bit like animals; they were put in cages. Football was not a pleasant experience. The supporters had to be segregated of course; this is now the normal situation in most countries.

1985 was a terrible year for English football. This was a disaster which occurred at Bradford City Football Club: the main grandstand caught fire because a spectator dropped a cigarette; the stand was wooden and you see the result.

A lot of people died in this; you can see here the people around the football field; they've managed to escape but sadly a lot of people didn't escape. I should make it clear that this wasn't caused by violence; this was an accident. But this is the start of a series of consequences that England had to address.

Later this year we had a fan who was killed in England at a football match because of violence. And then in the same year we had the Hazel stadium disaster in Brussels when sadly some English fans attacked some Italian fans in the stadium and there were a lot of deaths as a result.

As a consequence of this English football clubs were banned from European competition. It lasted for four or five years but it was a very serious situation.

Can you imagine the situation today if Manchester United were not able to play in Europe? They wouldn't be able to compete with Real Madrid or anybody else. It would be a disastrous situation for English football. And this was the situation we faced in the 1980s.

Attendances- you have to remember that in England we have 92 professional clubs with 20-30 full time players even in the smaller clubs- attendances which in the 1950s would have been 50000000 spectators a year in 1985 they reached the lowest level ever when we had 16000000 spectators attending football in England. Football was not a safe place to go; it was a dangerous place to go; people didn't go to the matches.

The government started to make demands. They asked for a 100% membership scheme; this means that every football fan would have to have an ID card. It didn't come in but this was the proposal from the government and we started talking about this in 1985.

So it was a bad situation. It couldn't get much worse, could it? I'm afraid it could. Here you see- the photograph is out of focus for a very good reason: this is the Hillsborough stadium disaster in 1989.

And to briefly explain: this is the stand behind the goal; on the bottom you have a standing terrace. So here is a standing terrace; above you see a seated stand which starts there, it goes higher. At the front of the pitch we have a fence here and this is before the match.

So many people were outside trying to get in that they pushed their way in and unfortunately we had introduced these cages so the

fans couldn't escape on to the pitch. And here you see some people trying to climb over the fence; here you see people being lifted to safety.

The sad truth from this disaster is that 96 people died in this crush. Imagine if on the morning of the match you said goodbye to your son and daughter and they went to a football game and they didn't come home.

So imagine the feeling in England. Something had to change. There was a major government enquiry which lasted over a year and a large number of recommendations which were made to change English football. The people who died were from Liverpool Football Club and this is the memorial to the people who died which is at Anfield at Liverpool

The government report made several major proposals. The first one is that all stadiums in the top two divisions, which is the premier league and the league immediately below, they have now to be all seated stadia. The fences have to come down; if there is a disaster the fans have to be able to escape.

As a result of this we've seen a massive stadium development. In England now we've built 16 new stadiums, we build more than 100 new grandstands. And the facilities now are fantastic.

This is just one of the new stadiums which has been built. Here you can see it's quite a functional stadium; it's not the most beautiful stadium in the world but it's a very welcoming safe stadium.

You can see there are no fences anywhere around the pitch; there are no fences or cages in the stadium. Segregation is achieved by the design of the stadium. And the physical segregation is achieved by,

there are some seats which are covered over by netting and there are some police officers and stewards to prevent the supporters reaching each other. This is another example of a new stadium just to show you some few examples.

So how was it founded? We spent an awful lot of money in building new stadiums, new stands in England. Well the government helped. We have in England a system of football pools where people predict the scores of the football matches.

The pools are run by private companies but the government takes tax from the pools. It was around 40%- 40% tax. So the government reduced the tax to 20% and they gave the money which was over to a special fund; and the special fund was used to improve the stadiums. Obviously the clubs had to pay some money as well.

The significance of the tragedies that we have seen the clubs changed their attitudes. They would have said before the Hillsborough disaster they would have said “it can’t happen here”. But it did happen and so the clubs actually believed “yes, we do have some responsibility; yes, we do have to pay some money”. But also the government made a significant contribution.

So what has been the result? Well you now see the fabulous stadiums that we have. What has happened is the behavior of the supporters has increased; we’ve attracted a lot more women to come to watch football; children come to watch football in safety.

The attitudes of the supporters have changed. The supporters themselves have realized that by behaving badly they could cause death and there was a mental change in the approach of supporters. We

still have some violent supporters but it's nowhere near as serious as it was earlier.

So I think the answer here is if you give the supporters better stadiums you treat them like human beings one result is you should get better behavior from the supporters. We still have a few problems but the problems are away from the stadiums.

Our clubs have now been allowed back into Europe and we've had very few problems playing. I know that in Athens you've welcomed Manchester United on several occasions with very few problems. We still do have sadly a problem with the national team. Our supporters when they gather together they do tend to cause some problems but again with the police and government measures are been taken to stop this.

I mentioned that attendances in 1985 went down to 16000000. Last season they were up to 28300000. In the premier league alone attendances were 13000000. So football once again is very popular, it's very safe and there is an important side effect of the success: most clubs in the premier league now play to full houses.

There have a large number of season ticket holders. To get a ticket for Manchester United is nearly impossible; 65000 people go every week; it's impossible for me to buy a ticket. The result of this if I go to the ground and misbehave the police or the club take away my season ticket; the last thing a supporter wants to loose is his chance to watch the football.

And so the behavior is improving because the supporters can't risk loosing the right to attend. If you have an empty stadium the

clubs need the people but if you have a full stadium somebody else is waiting to take their place.

Yesterday the Secretary General asked for some data about problems and even though we have this great improvement here in England I can tell you that last season and most seasons we have over 4000 arrests at football.

This is primarily because we have a lot of laws; over the last 20 years we've introduced a lot of laws to combat violence. And if people misbehave they get arrested; if they get arrested they get banned from attending football. We have currently 1500 people who are banned from attending football matches. We haven't had any problems inside the stadiums. If we have problems they are very, very minor problems.

We do have problems away from the stadium. Last season I know of two incidents which resulted in death of a supporter. Amazingly they both happened in the same bar on separate days. A small town there was an incident in a bar and one supporter attacked another supporter with a beer glass. And sadly the young boy died.

A month later in the same bar it was near the summertime and the fans were drinking outside. Because of the previous problem the police had banned beer glasses; so the fans had to drink out of plastic glasses.

They made one mistake which proved to be fatal: they didn't take away the glass ashtrays; and sadly an old lady was walking passed the pub and a supporter threw the glass ashtray not at the old lady, he saw a yellow coat he thought it was a police officer. And sadly the lady was hit on the head and she sadly died.

Two years ago there was a serious riot after a football match-again outside the stadium. And the home fans who had lost the game went to attack the visiting fans who had won the game. They couldn't reach the fans because of the segregation, because of the policing operation which was very successful.

So they turned on the police and the fans attacked the police. And there were a lot of police officers who were injured on that occasion. The police have had a successful operation and they have arrested 50 people from that incident and that club who had a great deal of problems now there has a big improvement because 50 people were arrested.

I'd like just to go through some of the many measures that we've brought in in England to help combat the problems that we've experienced. I'm going to talk about the football elements because that's my background.

My colleague Superintendent Brian Drew from the English Police is going to follow me and he is going to talk about the policing measures and the legislation that we've brought in in a little more detail.

Segregation of supporters is now widely accepted as the first rule of controlling supporters and I don't need to go into too much detail I'm sure.

But safe to say from the visiting supporters leaving their town to arriving in the host venue they are monitored, tracked by police; the police have information before they leave the town: they know how many, they know which routs they are going to take and the can monitor them all the way along their journey.

When they arrive at the venue they will be met by the police and basically the tactic is to keep the home fans and the away fans apart.

We have a very effective, very efficient policing system in England; it is developed from years of experience. We have police match commanders who are very greatly experienced; we have intelligence officers for every football club; we have a network of intelligence information which Superintendent Drew is going to tell you about later on.

In terms of legislation we've made it a criminal offence to bring alcohol into a stadium, to enter a stadium under the influence of alcohol. In England alcohol is a serious problem for young men and they tend to want to drink when they go to football matches.

So we had to deal with that problem. We've made it a criminal offence to throw anything towards the pitch. We've made it a criminal offence to enter the pitch. We've made it an offence to shout racist language. And anyone who is arrested receives a banning order from the court; and the banning order means he or she cannot go to a football match for three years.

When the England team plays abroad these people have to take their passport to a police station; they can't go to watch the team play abroad. We need to have some way to stop the offenders going to football matches.

And this is what we've come up in England: we've introduced banning orders. In terms of the stadiums you see in the new stadium that we've introduced- this is the new city of Manchester stadium where Manchester City plays; it was used for the Commonwealth Games and then converted to a football stadium.

This is our latest stadium in England. In every stadium we have a control room. From this room the police and the club will control the safety of the event. And remember we have 92 football clubs in England; everyone one of the 92 clubs has a control room.

They all have CCTV cameras; many clubs have 40-50 cameras watching every part of the stadium. This is a real deterrent; it's probably the most successful thing to stop problems inside the stadiums.

The images from the cameras as you can see here -this is the control room- the images can be used in a court of law as evidence against anyone misbehaving. If you know the cameras are watching you, you don't misbehave. And this has been a real success.

One important change since the Hillsborough disaster: before Hillsborough we had really the police were in control of safety and security inside the stadium.

Since Hillsborough we've made it the club responsibility for safety, the safety of people attending. If there is a public order problem the police will take control but the club has primary responsibility inside the stadium.

The gentleman you see in the blazer here is the safety officer or the safety director. And he has responsibility for recruiting the stewards, training the stewards and making sure that everything operates perfectly on the match day.

He is the person in charge in the control room but he will sit alongside the police match commander and the two of them will actually work very closely together. In most cases the safety officer is

a former senior police officer who is retired and now working for the club.

Before every match the safety officer will brief the senior stewards; and here you see the senior stewards who are receiving the instructions. They will then go and meet their team of stewards and they will give them the instructions for the day.

Why have we taken such an interest in stewards? Well for the first thing it comes down to cost. Also it's an effective safety mechanism but to be quite honest there is a cost factor.

In England the clubs are responsible for paying the policing costs inside the stadium. For a police officer to attend a football match in England inside a stadium a club would have to pay 150£ for the day; that's maybe 200-250€.

For a steward they have to pay 25£ for the day. So it's a lot more economical and it's effective. You need police but do you need 100 police, 200 police, and 300 police or can you use stewards who are easily identified to do the job? They can't do the job of the police 100% but they can take some of the duties of the police.

We've taken great steps to train the stewards. The football authorities in England have produced a training program which has 7 modules. And the stewards are professionally trained. Here we see the stewards taking over some of the police duties. So they are trained to search the supporters; they are searching them on the way in for any objects that should be banned.

There are also other methods for reducing violence. One of them is social programs. Here we see a group of children who are being

coached by the football club. Every football club has a community officer.

This is a program which is sponsored by the Professional Footballers Association and one condition is that the community officer must be a former footballer. The community officer is a full time post and he will liaise with the local community, coach children, go into schools, he will take players from the team into schools, building bridges with the local community.

In school you have the opportunity to talk to children and if the players are talking to the children it's a role model telling the young children how they should behave. It's a very successful program.

It's been going on since 1997 in England and again it shows the parents that the football club is a safe place for their children to go to. Many of the programs take place insider the stadium. We even have classrooms insider the stadium where school children go and spend a week in the classroom and they learn their lessons with subjects faced on football.

Some other issues that we've done to reduce violence. Football is normally played at 3 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon. There is a chance for supporters to drink alcohol before that time so one obvious method is to bring the kick off time to an earlier point in the day when they can't drink. So a high risk match would be brought forward to 12 o'clock.

We've introduced travel clubs for away supporters. If the away fans misbehave they loose their membership; so to buy a ticket for the away match they have to be a member of the away travel club; if they misbehave they loose their right and they can't go anymore.

This can have implications because if the away fans can't travel or if they are banned from traveling they could of course enter the home areas of the stadium. So in such a situation the police or the club would suggest entry to home areas must be by ticket only. It may even be a membership only. So the entry of fans into the stadium is controlled for high risk matches.

There are one or two matches which we would describe as world war 3 in England. These are the very, very high risk matches between two teams where the rivalry is so intense that the police expect real problems.

For such matches we've recently experienced a new tactic: that is to ensure that all the supporters traveling from the away team get into a bus or several buses. They travel only on a bus with a police escort straight to the stadium; they go straight from the car park into the ground, they come out of the ground into the buses and they go back.

It's a perfect policing operation; it's not the best way to go to a football match but it's successful for the very high risk games.

Ladies and gentlemen I hope I've given you some food for thought today. I honestly believe that England now has the best club stadiums in the world. Going to a match is a safe and comfortable experience. Sadly it took a major tragedy for us to change in England. Thank you for your attention.

Mr. Alexis Kostalas:

Ladies and gentlemen this brings us to our last speaker in this international conference. It's Mr. Brian Drew who is heading the

National Criminal Intelligence Service. The National Criminal Intelligence Service cooperates closely with six other agencies in combating hooliganism.

It must be pointed out that Mr. Drew's agency as well as the other agencies cooperate with it might not have eradicated hooliganism but they have kept the hooliganism away from the stadium at least inside the country despite the fact that the problem still remains for international games.

Mr. Drew is particularly sensitive as far as hooliganism is concerned...thankful I am not a hooligan yet.

Mr. Brian Drew:

Thank you for that introduction. Mr. Secretary General, Minister, distinguished colleagues and in particular those colleagues representing the Greek police service. It's a great honor to have an opportunity to share my experiences with you today. I'm very grateful for the invitation to attend. I am keen to learn from the other speakers that we've heard today and from you also during the rest of day about your experience.

What justifies me standing here talking to you about combating sport related violence I am a senior police officer in England. I have been policing football operationally and from an intelligence perspective for over 30 years.

I spend my first 15 years policing in the type of grounds the old style grounds that you saw on my colleagues slides. And I still have some scars and wounds on my body from some of the incidents that I became involved in as a young police officer.

I am conscious that this is the last presentation of this seminar and that I stand between you and lunch. So I intend to, I hope to make this seminar only informative but challenging and provocative in places.

Knowing that I probably would be the last speaker it's my intention and I had designed this presentation in such a way that I'm going to try and encapsulate or summarize some of the issues that we've been hearing about in the last couple of days as well as giving you an overview of what the role of my organization is and the problems the police have in my country. In general terms my role is very similar to my German and Dutch colleague that you've already heard about.

I think that you will recognize here that the day the age that we live in we are policing sport events- not just football, for you later on this year the Olympic Games- in turbulent times. Turbulent in as much as we don't exactly know what is going to happen; turbulent in terms of the fact that whether we are talking about policing football or the Olympic

Games we are talking about or considering issues such as terrorism, extremism, hooliganism and serious organized crime because all of those issues form part of the control strategy when we are talking about international football matches or domestic football matches. And I will for those of you involved in setting and planning the Olympic Games later this year.

I thought of this term very strongly yesterday afternoon when I share a plane with Mr. Vassilakis and Mr. Groenvelt when we were traveling from Strasburg to Athens and the plane was like this through

the air and we were bouncing around and the phrase “turbulent” came very prominently into my mind thinking about what I was going to say today.

Let me just start this presentation also by showing some words that Nelson Mandela once said which I think are very powerful and actually have an impact on what we are talking about; he said “sport has the power to change the world, the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else can”.

And I don’t think anybody would disagree with that. The problem is and some of the issues we’ve been talking about that I’m going to highlight it’s the wrong type of issue; it’s the wrong type of publicity that people see and in some cases it’s that wrong type of activity that inspires people. It’s not the sport it’s the criminality that can inspire some people.

We have recognized, you have heard the last few days, you probably knew already that sports violence football violence in particular there is a wider association.

I am aware that in some countries basketball, ice hockey, boxing also attracts the same sort of disorder and criminality that football does. We are focusing on football violence. It’s an international global problem. No one has all the answers, no single individual neither does anyone country; if we did it would be solved.

If you go out of here and you look on the internet and you do some research on football related disorder you can find plenty of examples of it in every continent of the world. You can find it in Africa; you can find it in Asia, China in particular; you can find it in Europe and we’ve had other colleagues from European countries

standing here telling you about their problems and what there are doing. And you can find it in South America. So it is a global problem.

And this is the sort of image we see. This is the image that can inspire some people unfortunately. It's not the image of the fantastic football although that does inspire, this type of behavior unfortunately also inspires.

This is the sort of image that is often displayed in my country on the front page of the newspaper and it detracts from the fantastic football that is on the rear sporting pages of the newspaper.

This is the image I think that we would all wish to see- this is the most recent of course because it depicts what happened in the World Cup in Japan just two years ago- where there was a major sport tournament, a football tournament that took place in a safe and peaceful environment.

If we are going to achieve that level of safety and security it means as countries and as individuals within those countries we need to use the football term, we need to play together to combat it effectively.

There's a number of key things what I'm going to talk about now. And some of these things have been touched on in presentations today.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to join you yesterday because again with some of your colleagues and some of my own international colleagues we were at a meeting of the Council of Europe in Strasburg that was talking about the planning for the European championships in Portugal bringing together colleagues from all the different countries

to ensure that collectively we are cooperating, coordinating and communicating to make sure that Euro 2004 can and does take place in a safe and peaceful environment.

Manuel Comeron this morning one of the words he used: cooperation. Another speaker has used those words. And I'm going to use them all again.

Tackling football related criminality to me and violence is like putting together a child's jigsaw, a puzzle. There it is in the middle: we are the yellow piece; that's us trying to put that jigsaw together to understand all the issues. And if we can put that jigsaw together we have and we can develop an effective strategy to combat the problem.

One of the first things we need to do though is to identify who the key partners are who hold the pieces of that jigsaw or that puzzle. Within each country there are broadly similar: it's the government; it's the football authorities; it's the police or the law enforcement services; and it is the researchers and we've heard from Clifford Stott, Manuel Comeron.

So there is a whole range of partners within each country who hold a little piece of that jigsaw. If those partners don't work to a shared vision that strategy is never going to become effective or whole; it will be diverse because people will pursue their own agenda.

So to get the other pieces of that jigsaw in place those partners need to have commitment to work together: the government, the police, the football authorities, commitment to work together, effective cooperation between them. You heard my Dutch colleague say he has an open line to senior officials in this ministry to discuss those issues.

So do I; if I have an issue about what's happening in football and so does Chris the previous speaker; if we have an issue in England and I want to inform a minister or I want to challenge or discuss that view with senior officials I have a direct line to do it. So we have that cooperation and that commitment. And all of those things need to be coordinated so that the event takes place and the strategy develops in the right place in the right way.

So broadly speaking what are the roles of these partners? Government: what's the role of government in tackling and preventing football related disorder?

Well I've put some of my thoughts on the slide there; they are not in any particular order: provide a framework for the judiciary; provide appropriate legislation- you can turn those two around. So in my country Chris Whalley explained to you we have a wide range of legislation that allows us to tackle and prevent football related disorder. Some of that legislation started in 1986.

So we've had 18 years where we have built successively on legislation focusing specifically on football related issues. That legislation deals with drunkenness on football grounds; it deals with throwing of missiles inside a football ground; it deals withto the playing area of the football ground; it deals with racist chanting in the football ground; and now gives us the power if people commit those type of offences as Chris said to ban them.

I think we have the most radical legislation certainly in Europe if not the world in terms of banning people from attending football matches.

If I go to a football match in England and I get arrested for a criminal offence or drunkenness not only will the court deal me for that offence and sentence me or fine me or send me to prison but they have to, it's mandatory; they must ban me from attending football matches in England, in Wales and abroad for a specified period of time.

And that can be up to 10 years. So if I stalked someone at a football match the police arrest me, I go to prison, I come out of prison I cannot go to a football match in England or Wales or abroad potentially for 10 years. That's powerful legislation.

But that's not all of it. Even more importantly I can seize the passport of a convicted football hooligan and prevent them traveling abroad.

So, when England play abroad or Manchester United play abroad people subject to the football banning order must report to the local police and surrender the passport five days before the match.

If they don't the police can visit them, seize the passport and arrest them and lock them up. I can't do that in my country for drug traffickers, human traffickers; I can't seize the passport of those types of criminals but I can do it for football hooligans; that's the power of that piece of legislation; that shows you the impact of what our government are seeking to achieve and how they view this particular problem.

It's one thing having the legislation. So what you then do is you are empowering the police as well; you are saying yes I hear the problem, here is a power for you: you can arrest people and convict

them. You are then empowering the courts. So we are starting to get that strategy into place.

Mr. Papalakis earlier on spoke about CCTV, closed circuit television. Mr. Whalley echoed that and showed you the closed circuit television that we have.

That's all well and good and it's a powerful tool for safety in the football stadiums. In our country it also serves another purpose because if that camera catches you committing a criminal offence the police can use that image before a court to convict you of that offence.

So again its empowerment: we have the tool we can use the product of that image. The police can take that image of that criminal behavior and show it to the court to secure that conviction, to remove that person or those individuals from football.

So the government has a key role in providing us the police and the football authorities with some of the tools we need to do our job effectively.

Chris Whalley mentioned earlier that there were 1500 people currently banned. In fact that number has gone up; it goes up every single day. There are people being arrested and put before the court in our country.

And yesterday there were almost 2000, 1965 people who can no longer go to football for a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 10 years; the average is 3 years. That's powerful because they can't go; they are removed. And I also can put a territorial condition on them.

So not only can I prevent them go to football; I can actually go to the court, to the judge and say but he'll still travel to another city

or he'll still travel to another football ground; I want a territorial curfew as well.

So not only do I ban the person from going to football I say he can't even leave his house between certain hours or he can't go within a certain distance of the town center between certain hours; or he can't travel to another city on a match day.

So I have the power to apply to the court for territorial curfews and conditions as well as the football ban. It's powerful stuff.

My government is very tough on known trouble makers. They are supportive of what the football authorities and the police are seeking to do. They are keen to empower us.

They are also keen- and Chris Whalley made that point- to empower and encourage the supporters: self policing. You heard Chris say that in many of our big stadiums you can only get in if you are a member and if you misbehave that membership is removed.

So there is an element of self policing there and we notice a growing trend among supporters now willing to provide information to the police and stewards about the misbehavior of individuals in the crowd that will enable them to be removed from that crowd. Particularly in terms of racist behavior; people who don't like they don't want to see it they're now willing to identify the people to the police and the stewards.

So British government view and it's here on the screen; this is their words that they've asked me to use: "tough application of criminal law and public order policing are crucial, crucial. They help to minimize the immediate impact of disorder, the risk of disorder".

That and you've heard this from Manuel Comeron and Clifford Stott yesterday as well.

In isolation strong policing is not the answer. That deals with the here and now. But what it doesn't do is deal with the underlining causes. So there is a bigger problem. I can deal with the here now; my intelligence tells me what's going to happen, I can prevent it, I can arrest the people involved. But there's underlining issues and both Manuel and John and Chris spoke about some of those.

I'm not going to go into details on this slide but Chris spoke about what the role of the football authorities were. But they are a key partner.

What is hooliganism? Everyone is talking about; I haven't yet seen a definition on a screen of what it is. So I'm going to give you Brian Drew's definition based on 30 years of policing it: it's violence, it's disorder, it's anti-social behavior.

It's either premeditated, and a lot of the disorder in my country and when English hooligans go abroad is planned, is premeditated, is organized, or it's spontaneous and caused by certain factors. A local match, a local derby, two teams in the same city; relegation, promotion, player behavior can actually inflame and can be a cause of spontaneous disorder.

In my country a great deal of hooliganism is associated with excessive drinking of alcohol, not a factor in every country but it is in mine. And this is a new trend now more recently associated with the taking of drugs, hard drugs, serious drugs.

I noted an article in the newspaper last week, now this month in England it's cheaper to buy an ecstasy tablet than a pint of beer. That's a fact of life.

Now, more criminal elements are taking drugs before they will engage in disorder whereas before it was mainly drink related.

What does that say? It says we need to look football disorder in its wider social context I think. In my country many towns and cities have problems with the young people drinking too much on a Friday and a Saturday in particular and then seeking to confront each other or to confront authority.

In some parts of Greece you experience it when young English people go on holiday in the summer. It's the same type of phenomena; you can't divorce it from what we are talking about in the football context.

And a number of speakers I have identified and I'm going to summarize this. There is a wider social and economic impact of hooliganism. It's criminality; that's what we talk about: criminals, criminal behavior. That's why I come back to the fact that government, police; football authorities need a common theme, a common basis.

It's no good collaborating if you don't share the same vision in my view. And an effective strategy is going to involve lots of different organizations. It's going to involve the general police who police football, the specialist police whose responsibility is to make sure they have the right information; it's going to involve education and social work. All of that comes together when we are talking about devising a strategy.

It's also in my view absolutely crucial to have clear guidelines about the exchange of information. If I as a police officer gather personal data on someone can I share it with the government or other government departments? Can I share it with the football authorities? There is clarity required around who can share what information.

If we are also seeking to achieve the same objective it's absolutely crucial that we can exchange relevant information between agencies with each country and between countries. If we do that we work towards standardizing the intelligence processes, the command and the control for the operation of police officers amongst you.

And we are working towards reducing harm, the harm caused to our social and economic capability by criminal behavior at football.

All of this there's lots of words about this but what it says is if we go down that road, if we understand then we work together. We get a better understanding of how local problems link to national problems.

You've have already heard: domestically we have a good picture of what happens at football in terms of disorder in my country. And hence many of the hooligans have focused on traveling abroad because they think they can escape vision and air view and that you won't know them.

Let me use this example here. One of your teams Panathinaikos, Olympiakos is involved in a European competition- and in fact you have three qualifying matches or three friendly matches before Euro 2004 to play.

Everything I've said applies to that. I think that your last qualifying match before your last friendly match before Portugal is

against the Netherlands. Mr. Groenvelt who stood here earlier is going to expect certain information from Greece in advance of that match. He is going to expect commitment from you to help him police that match in Holland.

He is going to expect cooperation and coordination through your police service to help him put that jigsaw together so that that match takes place in a safe and peaceful environment. And you would expect no less if one of our teams was coming to play here in Athens.

So the same diagram applies when we are talking about international football matches and local football matches as it does about who the partners are in the strategy at a national level.

I know your football coordinator. I'm not going to embarrass myself or him by trying to pronounce his surname; I'm sure the interpreters can. We know him as John. He is held in high regard by my colleagues in the UK and Mr. Groenvelt said the same thing.

He knows what he is doing; we know who he is; we know how to contact him. What I don't know is what infrastructure do you give him to do his job? In my country in my unit I have over a 100 police officers specializing in collecting football intelligence around the country.

So I sit at the center of a web of specialist police officers; and if you won't know how many Manchester United supporters are coming to Athens I can tell you through liaison with my local police. Does John have the same infrastructure to support him here in your country? I don't know; it's a question I ask.

We all know that recently supporters from a number of countries my own included were involved in disorder that was seen around the

world, the World Cup 1998, Euro 2000. And you get this type of image.

This is what I think we've been talking about. No one wants to see that: police lined up across the street with weapons; they want to see the football. These are English supporters naturally being led away causing disorder in Holland and Belgium. We didn't see those two years ago in Japan and Korea. Ok long way away, more expensive but I think we are also getting better and more sophisticated about working together and sharing information.

Portugal are currently asking the same question; they've spent two days in Strasburg asking the same question of us: can I, can you provide that commitment and support to them to ensure that their policing operation takes place in a safe and peaceful environment.

Likewise you are saying to us can we help you to ensure that the Olympics take place in a safe and peaceful environment. Working together can't do it on our own.

When we finish here today and we'll go away there's a huge databank of knowledge and experience around the world that individually and collectively we can call on. Because all of those countries my one included have hosted a major football championship.

So there is a developing database, a databank of knowledge that's held not just by individuals but by the countries.

Let me just give you a very brief summary to finish with the way we are in my own country. Chris mentioned the history of football disorder in England and you saw some pictures of it. We have not solved the problem in England; it is still a threat domestically and it's even more of a threat internationally.

You will know England is under threat of expulsion from international competition by UEFA if our supporters misbehave in Portugal. That's a powerful incentive for us to do everything that I've spoken about; if we don't get it right England and English teams may not be playing in European competitions after this summer. That is a very powerful incentive.

Chris mentioned the number of arrests. Our number of arrests over the last few years had been declining. Unfortunately last season it started to rise again and you see there we had 4700- quite a lot, 4700- small minority against nearly 30000000 people going. The key is for the police to know who those people are and to focus on them.

What is slightly more disappointing is that we've have had a rise in the number of serious incidents reported by the police services around my country where weapons have been used, police have been attacked, where there has been serious disorder.

Often this is not captured by the media because the hooligans now are using what you are using the mobile phones, the technology; they want to meet and fight where there is less risk for them. So they don't want to do it in the football grounds because they know that I'm going to identify them and arrest them.

So they want to do it somewhere else. And they are; they are moving away from the football grounds and they are following England.

We have had 100 years of domestic disorder which Chris said. The catalyst for us really was Euro 2000 where we saw that. That was when the British government said draws a line; enough is enough; we have to do more.

And that's when we got that effective legislation, that banning order legislation which is an extremely powerful tool. We still have some issues. You go back several months to Slovakia and we still had some problems there; you see the Slovakian police gently encouraging an English supporter back into a certain part of the stadium. So we haven't won that battle yet; we have to keep working at it.

Right how we've done it? Last few years police not interested anymore in reacting to problems they are saying to me, my police associates are saying to me you tell us when there's going to be a problem and who is going to cause it; let us focus on the real people because all the supporters are not hooligans; it's the minority.

What the police want to know is who are the people they should be focusing on; and the rest of the supporters can then be treated as crusaders, decent human beings and the police know they are not going to cause a problem.

So we are now moving forward to specific development of intelligence on known criminal hooligans so that we know who they are, where they are, what they are planning to do and that we can disrupt it, prevent it, arrest them, jail them, ban them. That's our strategy.

We've had an intelligence structure in our country since 1988. We have a national unit similar to my colleagues in Germany and Holland. We are the National Football Information Point; my Dutch colleague said every EU member state is mandated now to have a national police information point.

Henk said he had six police officers; I had seven. I also had seven staff dealing with football banning order issues. So when the

court makes a ban we know who they are, where they live, we've got a photo of them and we can enforce that legislation. So I have 14 staff working for me dealing with football disorder related issues. What does John have to support him? I don't know.

Another key issue here National Criminal Intelligence Service. My portfolio is dealing with serious and organized crime. And in our country we consider football related criminality serious and organized crime.

So the information on football hooligans is shared with other parts of our service dealing with drug traffickers, human traffickers, any other form of major criminal because there was a clear link, a clear link between many people involved in football related criminality and other forms of crime.

How do we encourage cooperation from the public? We have a national telephone number that a member of the public can ring to report a crime or to say who has been involved. We've now put that into focus for football.

So this is a poster you see that's gone on display throughout our country encourages people to say that type of behavior has nothing to do with football. If you see it or you know people involved you can ring confidentially and claim a reward.

And again cooperation you see at the bottom all of the major organizations: government, police have signed up to the same message. And we've done an international one.

This poster has just been circulated in our country and it's designed to try and focus the members of the public on the fact that we need to identify people who maybe seeking to go to Portugal to

engage in criminal activity. Because if we don't stop them and they get away with what they are seeking to do, the country may suffer as a result.

And if you think I'm joking about the relationship between serious and organized crime and football have a look- this is my final slide. This is from an English newspaper one month ago.

One of Britain's most feared football hooligans was jailed for six years for selling cocaine rapped in lottery tickets. He used his mobile phone to organize fights against other hooligans and had the ability to call on action 400 other hooligans for a battle.

He also enjoyed a champagne lifestyle renting a very luxurious flat, driving a top class car, he was socializing with some of the footballers and he wore the latest clothes.

The police knew who he was. The difficulty they had was actually trying to make that link, it's still an issue we haven't got quite right, is to make that link between football related criminality and other forms of criminality.

The police officer who dealt that case said if there was a fight between Tottenham- and this was a Tottenham hooligan- you would see this person in the background not at the front fighting cause he's a big guy, he weights 30 stone, you would see him at the background with his phone pressed against his ear directing an organizing.

There is a link. And that's why in our service we are treating football related disorder and criminality in the same way that we treat other forms of serious and organized crime.

Colleagues have realized I've probably gone longer than I should; I'm going to draw a line in my presentation there. Thank you very much for your attention. It's been a pleasure.

Mr. EXARCHOS:

Thank you very much. We will now invite the Minister to take the floor and in this way we will call this conference closed. We will prepare the proceedings and we will ...the results and outcome of this two-day conference which will be distributed to all the agencies and the interested parties. Minister, you have the floor.

Mr. LIANIS:

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen I simply want to close this conference expressing my deep gratitude to certain people. I consider myself very unlucky since yesterday I wasn't able to attend this seminar since from the three presentations I heard today I was totally surprised and amazed. I image to us all this is a simple lesson or rather what we've had ranges from a simple lesson to an academic course.

So I'd like to express my gratitude to all of our foreign guests and my personal satisfaction. I think that not only did they offer us the opportunity to get more information and better information but they also provided us with something that was missing.

Of course, we are aiming at knowing ourselves but now we are more certain that whatever we dare to do is quite correct and we shouldn't have any reservations if we wish to proceed in an effective way.

Another element that really impressed me was the title of a magnificent book by Ernest Hemingway “For whom the bell tolls”. Nowadays the bell tolls for everyone. And as I understood it we are part of violence; as ...violence belongs to us. And this is a conclusion I drew from the presentations that our foreign guests made. I think that it is useful conclusion.

And a second element is the phase of our foreign guest: “imagine if you had kissed you son or daughter goodbye in the morning and they never came back home”. Now this was the cause of the taking of strict measures by the state. We share this responsibility; it’s a huge responsibility.

I was also tremendously satisfied by what I heard that no one has a complete answer. This is a great truth and it is obvious that whatever measure has been taken throughout this period is in a sense a test. Sometimes we need to fail to reach a positive outcome.

And I was also impressed by the notion that this too is a group game, a team play with involvement of the state, the police, the fans, the FCs, the press, the media. It is a game where we all participate. Thus we are all to be held responsible.

And the proceedings of this conference will be distributed everywhere throughout Greece. There will be some things that will not function, will not have a result and this was the last case that our foreign friend presented to us. I don’t think it is possible for a citizen to call an agency to give a name of someone who organizes violent incident etc. It’s difficult since we are a Mediterranean people.

Sometimes here in Greece we also talk of organized crime. And I want to conclude with the thought that I understood that yes of course the legislative framework is necessary.

However from one point onwards measures are so the size of that reach certain limits of restriction that are unthinkable. You heard what the restrictions are: the magistrate or the prosecutors might even ban a person leave his or her town or city; you can imagine what will happen if we imposed that here.

Finally I'd like to thank the panel, the Secretary General, Mr. Exarhos, together with his colleagues and all those who have helped us realize this conference in these two days.

Furthermore, I'd like to say that our foreign friends found it difficult to come here because yesterday we had a very bad weather. I'd like to apologize for my absence yesterday but I had to attend a meeting on the status of preparations for the Olympic Games. And today in the Parliament there was a debate concerning this same issue; this is why I was unable to attend the morning session.

I'd also like to thank my old colleague George Mavros who has played a very important part in this organization; who traveled abroad and convinced and persuaded people to come here in this conference. And I would also like to thank Alexis Kostalas who has been identified with the great cultural events in Greece for his voice.

And I'd like to close with a thought in my mind. Seferis, a Greek poet, said that at the end of each coal mine we find a white horse; we must always seek for the white horse. Now the white horse in our case is the joint responsibility, the responsibility does not belong to a one unique person or individual.

Concluding I'd like to tell our foreign friends that Greece despite violence in football stadia and sport venues will prepare very safe Olympic Games because we brought a lot of weight on this for an event that will return to its birthplace after so many years. It is a sport event that has survived from the ancient years and it returns back home.

Our country will be very careful in organizing these games and will combine them with their ideals, the idea of the Olympic Games. And since I have the signature when we had our bid for the Olympic Games I feel responsible for that.

I think that these games will be linked once again with their ideals. And what plays a very important part in the organization of these Olympic Games is safety and security something that has been undertaken by everyone.

We had all parties involved or interested parties and this will bring us to the point where in August we will have the safest ever Olympic Games, the Olympic Games in their birthplace. I'd like to ensure you my dear friends that the Olympic Games will be excellent. They will be celebrated in an atmosphere of peace, celebration, joy.

So, I'd like to thank you for this great help in these two days of the conference on violence in the sport venues. We will keep the conclusions in mind and we will meet once again in August for the great celebration of the Olympic Games in Athens 2004.

Thank you very much.

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