

Sport Department of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia

Sports Administration of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic  
of Latvia

Department of Physical Education and Sports under the Government of the  
Republic of Lithuania

### **Statement of Intent on Co-operation**

The Sport Department of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia, the Sports Administration of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia and the Department of Physical Education and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania hereinafter referred to as the States.

*Having regard* that the Baltic countries – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – have been geographically and historically tied together, and sport has showed itself as an integral part of all the three nations' society and culture;

*Noting* with satisfaction that the sport GO's and NGO's of all the three Baltic countries have been working in close co-operation since 1989, when the Baltic Sports Council was established;

*Acknowledging* the steadily growing contribution of physical education and sport towards the economic and social development;

*Considering* the European Sports Charter, Code of Sports Ethics, Antidoping Convention, Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches and other relevant documents regarding sport that the States are adhered to;

*Having regard* to the Decision no. 291/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6/2/2003 establishing the European Year of Education through Sport 2004 and the Resolution no. 58/5 of the United Nations' General Assembly of 17/11/2003 proclaiming 2005 as the International Year for Sport and Physical Education;

*Acknowledging* the important role of the Council of Europe and the European Union, their funds and programmes, in promoting education, health, social and human development through physical education and sport in the Baltic States;

*Recognizing* the need for greater co-ordination and co-operation of efforts at the Baltic States' level to facilitate the States' work in achieving commonly agreed strategical physical education and sport development goals;

Intend:

1. To identify the fields of common interests and establish priorities for cooperation in accordance with the current priorities of sport and physical education development in the European Union;
2. To promote the aims and objectives of the European Year of Education through Sport 2004 (EYES 2004) throughout the Baltic States and implement a Baltic EYES 2004 project;
3. To publish annual corporate reports on the developments in the following areas of sport:
  - building and reconstruction of sport facilities;
  - sport legislation;
  - relations with European Union authorities;
  - participation in the programmes and activities of Committee for the Development of Sport (CDDS) of the Council of Europe;
  - funding of sport e.g. sponsorship; state budget, available funds, projects and programmes;
4. To encourage and assist regional and local sport bodies in establishing international relations;
5. To support cooperation and exchange of experience among volunteers, sport experts and employees;
6. To develop common international projects and programmes, and implement them;
7. To support the bids of the States for international events, such as European championships or conferences, to be held in the Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania;
8. To draft an Agreement on Co-operation among the States and sign it by 20 January 2006;
9. To set up working groups, hold meetings and seminars in order to enforce the intentions listed above;

10. To finance the meetings of the States's representatives according to the following conditions:

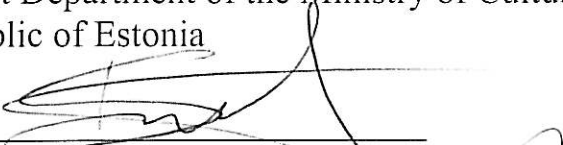
(a) The hosting country shall be responsible for all costs involved in the organisation of the meetings. The participants shall be responsible for the costs of their travel and accommodation.

(b) In the working group sessions the hosting country shall be responsible for organisational costs and the members of the Group shall be responsible for their own travel and accommodation.

This Statement of Intent comes into force on the date of its signature and shall be valid until an Agreement on Co-operation among the States is signed, but not longer than for 2 years. Should an Agreement on Co-operation among the States be not signed by 20 January 2006, this Statement of Intent will automatically remain in force for another period of two years, unless one of the States notifies the others in writing three months prior to the termination of this Statement of Intent.

Signed in Riga, Latvia, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, year 2004 in three originals in English.

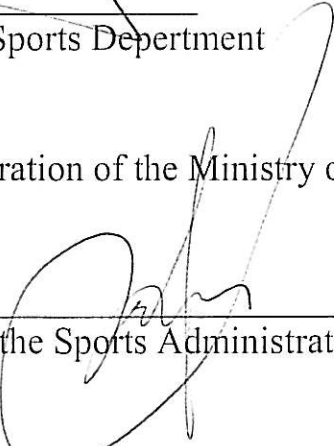
For the Sport Department of the Ministry of Culture  
of the Republic of Estonia



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Mr Tõnu Seil, Head of the Sports Department

For the the Sports Administration of the Ministry of Education and Science  
of the Republic of Latvia



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Mr Einars Fogelis, Head of the Sports Administration

For the Department of Physical Education and Sports under the  
Government of the Republic of Lithuania



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Mr Evaldas Skyrius, Deputy Director General