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NOTE

from : Presidency

to : ~~Police Cooperation Working Group~~

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Subject: **Control of football hooliganism**
– Recommendations of expert meeting, Amsterdam, 19 and 20 March 1997

I. EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE

1. The decision to set up national centres concerned with monitoring violence in sport requires ratification and implementation by all Member States.
2. In the second half of each year the list of national correspondents on football hooliganism is updated by the Presidency.
3. It is very important that in the second half of each year an expert meeting of police specialists is organized for the assessment and exchange of experience by the national centres monitoring violence in sport. They also give consideration to what can be expected from other parties and draw up an annual European overview of the situation with regard to the current state of football hooliganism.
4. The national centres monitoring violence in sport evaluate police cooperation between the countries affected after each international match.

5. Information exchange between the national centres monitoring violence in sport has a special character. The provider of information also indicates its quality. The receiver of the information has its own responsibility for the information received and for how it deals with the information.
6. To encourage the development of professional expertise, the national centres monitoring violence in sport promote exchanges of police officers between centres.
7. The Police Cooperation Working Group is the international policy forum for the national centres monitoring violence in sport.
8. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe are involved in international police cooperation in the control of violence in sport, in particular in football championships.

More information is needed on what cooperation requirements these countries have.

II. EXCLUSION FROM STADIUMS

Considerations

1. The imposition of stadium exclusions is a useful instrument for the control of football hooliganism.
2. Depending on national legislation, stadium exclusions are imposed by football organizations through the civil law and/or by the authorities by means of a court ruling. The two systems can be complementary. The necessity for legislation in the various Member States is dependent on the national need for stadium exclusions.
3. It is necessary to achieve a situation whereby a person subject to a national stadium exclusion is not admitted to large European championship matches in other countries.

Recommendations

1. For the peaceful conduct of a championship, keeping unruly supporters out of stadiums through the imposition of stadium exclusions is to be recommended. Where a stadium exclusion is imposed under civil law, stadium exclusions for home matches should be extended to a national stadium exclusion by the national federation.
2. It is advisable to approach the national football organizations as hosts to act on their own responsibility through application of the instrument of imposing stadium exclusions. This should be done in pursuance of the Binding Instructions of UEFA and the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches (1985).
3. It is to be recommended that the national federations report national stadium exclusions to UEFA for conversion into an international stadium exclusion. Just as within a Member State the national federation passes on the information on national stadium exclusions to the clubs concerned, so UEFA must pass on the information on international stadium exclusions to the national federation of the country where the championships are being played. Further discussion is needed between the national football federations from the Member States and UEFA on the scaling up of national stadium exclusions to the European level. It is necessary to achieve a situation whereby UEFA incorporates nationally imposed stadium exclusions into its regulations. The European Union supports this initiative.
4. The national football federations should align their own regulations on the UEFA Binding Instructions with a view to international stadium exclusions.
5. It is to be recommended, where national legislation so permits, that information be exchanged between the governments of the Member States and between the national governments and the national football federations regarding stadium exclusions imposed under the criminal law.
6. The enforcement of stadium exclusions under the civil and criminal law is, depending on national legislation, the responsibility of the football organizations or the government.

7. For the enforcement of stadium exclusions, the use of video apparatus, good control of access to the stadium and the deployment of stewards are to be recommended.
8. It is also to be recommended that a national duty to report be imposed on people subject to a national stadium exclusion. As well as the police, social-pedagogical care institutions, judicial institutions, supporters' clubs etc. are also valid as report addresses. Failure to comply with the duty to report should result in an extension of the stadium exclusion.

III. SUPPORTERS' NETWORKS

1. For good management of supporters' movements, it is to be recommended that police services cooperate internationally and carry out structural investigations into the existence of supporters' networks among friendly foreign supporters who pose a risk. Frequently updated inventories of supporters' networks should be compiled into a report as part of the annual European overview of the situation. (See I, exchange of experience, 3.) The national contact points in the Member States should be responsible for information collection. Among supporters' networks, a distinction should be made between general friendship groups, individual contacts, the formation of mutual support coalitions and contacts with a political bias.
2. It is to be recommended that police forces in countries where a large championship is being organized investigate well in advance whether the matches are likely to be an occasion for friendly supporters' networks to mobilize internationally, for example for the procurement of entry tickets or to commit crimes.
3. International police work in regard to supporters' networks demands an interdisciplinary approach within the police organizations focusing on:
 - political information
 - criminal information
 - sociological information, and
 - public order information.

4. The information collected needs to be translated into information that is usable for operational police work.
5. Representatives of the German, Belgian, United Kingdom and Netherlands delegations are prepared to draw up a first report as part of the European situation overview, to set a standard for this and to translate the information gathered onto the operational (police) level. The Netherlands will take the initiative.

IV. MEDIA POLICY

1. It is to be recommended that prior to a large championship the police develop a media strategy which is carried out not only by the police but also by the other policy partners. The police should appoint a well qualified press agent for contacts with the media.
2. Media policy must be directed towards the formulation of achievable goals, namely:
 - the construction of a positive image of the policy carried out and of the agencies involved in public opinion;
 - improving the attitude of sports spectators;
 - informing football hooligans that football hooliganism is not worthwhile;
 - the communication of safety;
 - making it clear that the police are well prepared and what will be done in the case of disturbances;
 - not giving the impression that nothing can happen, but without creating panic.
3. The police media policy must avoid making reference to the policy deficiencies of others. References to policy deficiencies rebound on the police.
4. The media strategy should neutralize the emotional content of media information. Information should be businesslike and factual.

5. Along with the media strategy, a communication strategy should be developed. This involves a public relations "plan of attack" aimed at:
 - a. target groups at whom the information is directed (public opinion, spectators and football hooligans)
 - b. core messages aimed at the target groups
 - c. the organization of public relations (for example, press releases or press conferences; frequency of releases; a mix with other release of information or not)
6. A media policy checklist should be established; Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France and the Netherlands will prepare this. The Netherlands will take the initiative.