

CONFERENCE "WOMEN AND SPORTS"
Old and New Stereotypes

The Greek Presidency of European Union

DECLARATION OF THESSALONIKI

Of the conference "Women and Sports: Old and New Stereotypes", which took place in Thessaloniki on 7-8 March 2003, under the auspices of the Greek Presidency of the European Union and during the preparations for the Olympic Games, an event, on the duration of which Greece will seek human measure and pursuit the revival of the Olympic Spirit.

The participants, conferring for the first time under the framework of the European Union, recognising the important contribution of women in sports, culture, education, intercultural approach, ethics, fair-play, personal fulfilment, social solidarity and integration, the opposition to any form of violence, bias and exclusion, the pursuit of world peace, the fight for the common good, health and physical fitness.

Declared

The need to raise a "wall" against war. To this effect, the Minister of Culture and the Deputy Minister of Culture with responsibilities for Sport, as well as all eighteen Olympic winners, signed a painting, symbolising the Olympic Truce, which they will send to the Secretary General of the United Nations, in order to become a symbolic testimony of their belief in safeguarding peace.

Their decision to remain committed towards achieving their goal, the transition of women from total exclusion to total participation, through the continuation of the efforts to achieve their rightful place on all levels of sporting, social and political life and faith for the possibility of obtaining the necessary legal framework, within the European Union, especially on the occasion of its expansion, having full knowledge that, above all, women have abilities, such as faith, persistence and clear focus, that help them achieve this goal.

Recommend:

1. The implementation of the principles described in the Declaration of Brighton (1994), the call for action of Windhawk (1998), the World Conference of the International Olympic Committee on Women and Sports (2000) and the Declaration of Athens, under the auspices of UNESCO (2001),
2. The Continuous and constant promotion of positioning women on all sectors of sports, especially within the decision centers, recognising the women's indisputable contribution to culture-especially through sports, which are more than anything a cultural activity-, human rights and democracy,
3. The search for the appropriate methods, systems, intercultural, social and political networks, that are capable to secure women's equal access and participation to Sports' management and decision centers,
4. The creation of educational institutions capable of ensuring conditions of equal participation for both sexes in physical education and sports, especially on the occasion of "2004, the European year of Education through Sport",
5. The pursuit of establishing a framework of co-operation and communication, on European and Global level, for the promotion of events considering women and sports,

Have agreed:

- To continue their efforts within the framework of already existing institutions concerned with women and sports in Europe and to expand international Cupertino on this matter

- To work for the legal protection of sports, through the, under development, new Constitution of the European Union, which will be set to effect in 2004.

Wish for:

- The reinforcement of the existing solidarity between the women of the European Union, the preservation of the Cupertino between Women's Sports Institutions on a global level
- The manifestation, using ail available means, of their faith in the Olympic Spirit, the Olympic Cease-fire and the safeguarding of peace
- The inclusion of a special provision on sports in the new Constitution of the European Union, with the certainty that it will greatly contribute to the permanent and proper handling of ail matters related to women and sport, and the creation of a unit on women and sports, within the framework of the European Union Commission. The aforementioned Unit will be the necessary lever for securing the effective promotion of women in sport. The Greek Presidency of the European Union salutes the report of the Women's Commission of the European Parliament on women and sports.