



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**NOTE**

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from: Italian Presidency

to: Police Cooperation Working Party

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Nos. prev. docs.: OJ C 193, 24.6.1997, p. 1; OJ L 121, 8.5.2002, 10966/1/03 ENFOPOL 64 REV 1

Subject: Draft Council Resolution on the use by Member States of bans on access to venues of football matches with an international dimension

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Cooperation between Member States' police forces for football matches or competitions with a European dimension is very well developed. Intelligence on violent supporters' movements is promptly and systematically shared between European countries, with such cooperation being made even more effective by the stationing of police officers in the host country, where necessary, for the purpose of watching over travelling supporters from their own country, so as to provide the local authorities with suitable assistance.

The countries which gradually become integrated with the European Union, on joining it, will discover tried and tested Community cooperation proving very effective.

The provisions on international cooperation in this area were consolidated in a handbook updated in 2001, as a result of experience gained at the 2000 European Championship in Belgium and the Netherlands.

An important Council Decision of 25 April 2002 then made provision for the establishment in Member States of national offices for exchanging information on football violence and for other types of cooperation.

The progress made and the results achieved should lend encouragement for the pursuit of new objectives, in order to make police cooperation in this area even more effective, with important future footballing events, such as the 2004 European Championship in Portugal and the 2006 World Cup in Germany, in prospect. In some Member States, bans from stadiums staging football matches, as imposed on individuals previously guilty of violent conduct, play a highly effective preventive role domestically.

The possibility of adopting a similar system at European level has in the past been carefully considered, including at meetings of national experts.

Drawing on the outcome of exploration of the issue in appropriate international forums as well, the Italian Presidency prepared a draft Council Decision in order to have Member States take steps to ban those previously guilty of violent conduct from stadiums staging matches with an international dimension.

After discussions within the Police Cooperation Working Party following submission of the document, it was felt that a Resolution would be a more appropriate instrument for the adoption of these measures.

The Presidency has therefore prepared the attached draft Resolution with the same object.

**DRAFT COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON THE USE BY MEMBER STATES OF  
BANS ON ACCESS TO VENUES OF FOOTBALL MATCHES  
WITH AN INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION**

**THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,**

Recalling the Council Decision of 25 April 2002 concerning security in connection with football matches with an international dimension <sup>1</sup>,

Taking account of the Council Resolutions of 6 December 2001 <sup>2</sup> and 9 June 1997 <sup>3</sup> on preventing and restraining football hooliganism,

**Whereas:**

- under Article 29 of the Treaty, the Union's objective is to provide citizens with a high level of safety within an area of freedom, security and justice, in particular by developing common action among the Member States in the field of police cooperation.
- there is a steady increase in the number of people who routinely travel around Europe, on organised trips or individually, attending football matches or competitions in other countries.
- incidents have occurred in which sporting passions have degenerated into disturbances and violent conduct preventing people from freely enjoying sporting events in peace, thus bringing out particularly clearly the need to reassert the European Union as an area of freedom, justice and especially security.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 121, 8.5.2002, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 22, 24.1.2002, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 193, 24.6.1997, p. 1.

- in recent years, Member States have devised coordinated policing measures to be taken for sporting events with a transnational dimension; those measures have proved effective and it is thus pleasing to see that cooperation between European Union countries' police forces in maintaining law and order at international football matches or matches with an international dimension is very well developed.
- information on supporters, on their movements to or through other countries and on their peaceful or violent nature is now promptly and systematically exchanged between European countries; in some cases, such cooperation is made even more effective by the stationing of police officers in countries staging international matches, for the purpose of watching over travelling supporters from their own country, so as to provide the local authorities with the necessary intelligence and operational support, under existing agreements and practices.
- international meetings of experts have brought a profitable sharing of operational experience, making for the devising, under individual countries' own circumstances, of similar strategies for tackling disturbances, as well as the achievement of a minimum standard of preventive measures applicable in all countries.
- as a result of that body of experience built up at European level, the security arrangements for major sporting events, such as the Olympic Games, European Football Championships and Football World Cups, follow patterns already tried out on previous such occasions, as refined in the light of subsequent experiences.
- in 1999 the relevant provisions were brought together, spelt out and updated in a handbook, with the prime aim of consolidating in a single text the cooperation already under way in this area.
- the handbook was updated and extensively expanded by the Resolution of 6 December 2001 and now includes provisions on types of police cooperation, on the security arrangements to be ensured, on police-media relations, on cooperation with those escorting supporters ("stewards") and with event organisers, on stadium admission policy and on ticketing.

- an important Council Decision of 25 April 2002 then made provision for the establishment in all Member States of national offices for exchanging information on football violence, i.e. specially set up national units, whose aims and responsibilities were laid down in the Decision.
- effective handling of domestic and international football matches calls for a comprehensive approach involving all parties with an interest in them; smooth cooperation between organisers, sports bodies, authorities and police forces is therefore to be desired.
- the progress made and the results achieved should lend encouragement for the pursuit of new objectives, in order to make police cooperation in this area even more effective.
- bans from stadiums staging football matches, as imposed under some Member States' national law and imposed on persons previously guilty of violent conduct, have proved particularly effective.
- the possibility of introducing a similar system at European level has been closely studied on past occasions, including meetings of national experts.
- the arrangements adopted by the organisers for ticket allocation can also contribute effectively to the security of football matches, with the particular aim of separating rival supporters, preventing overcrowding and keeping visitor flows under control, as well as enforcing stadiums bans imposed by sports bodies or other competent organisations.

**HEREBY ADOPTS THIS RESOLUTION:**

1. The Member States are asked to take the steps considered necessary within the limits laid down in its laws to introduce into their legislation, where not already included, provisions establishing a means of banning individuals previously guilty of violent conduct at sporting events from stadiums at which football matches are to be held.
2. In order to ensure compliance with their orders imposing stadium bans, Member States should supplement them with provision for penalties in the event of non-compliance.
3. Each Member State in which stadium bans as referred to in paragraph 1 are available is furthermore asked to take appropriate steps to ensure that orders imposing them issued domestically may also include penalties for offences committed at football matches to be held in other Member States.
4. Concerning stadium bans imposed by sports organisations, the competent authorities of the Member States should contact the organisations to ensure that such stadium bans issued domestically also apply to football matches which are to be held in other countries.
5. With regard to the provisions of preceding paragraphs, details of orders imposing stadium bans issued domestically should be transmitted to countries staging football matches with an international dimension via the national football information points established by the Decision of 25 April 2002 concerning security in connection with football matches with an international dimension, in the manner laid down in Articles 3, 4 and 5 thereof.

6. Exchange of personal data for the purposes of this Resolution shall comply with the relevant national and international legislation, bearing in mind the principles in Council of Europe Convention No 108 of 28 January 1981 for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data as well as, where appropriate, in Recommendation No R(87) 15 of 17 September 1987 of the Committee of Ministers regulating the Use of Personal Data in the Police Sector.
7. Any Member State staging a football match with an international dimension may use details of those covered by banning orders issued in other countries, as received under Article 5, solely in order to deny them access to stadiums staging matches, where denial of access is possible under national law, or to take other appropriate measures to maintain law and order. The use and storage of personal data shall be restricted to the sports event in relation to which the details were transmitted.
8. Police forces in any Member State staging a football match with an international dimension are recommended to establish the necessary contacts with the event's organisers and with the sports bodies and other authorities having an interest in it, for the purposes of coordinated cooperation under this Resolution, within their respective spheres of responsibility.

