



14th IASL CONGRESS
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
Newsletter

Athens, December 13th 2008

The 14th Congress of Sports Law of the International Association of Sports Law, was held in Athens, 27th- 29th November, under the Auspices of the President of the Greek Republic, Mr Karolos Papoulias. The organizing conveyor was the Hellenic Centre of Research on Sports Law (HCRSL), with the co-operation of the University of Athens. The Congress was also organized with the contribution of the Law Faculties of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, the Aristotle University of Thessalonica and the Demokritus University of Thrace, as well as the Institute of Sports Law of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports Science (National & Kapodistrian University of Athens), the Department of Sports Organization & Management (University of Peloponnese) and the support of the Athens Bar Association.

The main theme of the Congress was:

**“SPORTS LAW: AN EMERGING LEGAL ORDER -
HUMAN RIGHTS OF ATHLETES”**

The Congress met a total success, after the participation of 165 participants from 80 different countries. All 60 lectures came from each corner of our planet and were held by distinguished Professors and special researchers in matters of Sports Law, lawyers and sports scientists, occupied with the implementation of Sports Law.

The Congress's greater achievement was the to examine the issue of a borderline for the jurisdiction of both National and International Federations and of the IOC, as well as to investigate the nature of the sporting legal order (Lex Sportiva) and its function within the framework of the interrelating traditional legal orders and the problems emerging from the implementation of those various regimes, on a national and international level.

The Congress concluded that it is necessary for the Lex Sportiva rules to have a legalization basis globally, so that the autonomy of the sporting institutions is protected and there is no room for irrational decisions, out of the scope of Lex Sportiva, by issuing regulations or awards that restrict the personal and financial freedom of people or institutions involved. The Congress also came to the conclusion that a similar legalization is necessary for the CAS, in order not to just implement the Lex Sportiva system, but also to ensure that those

involved to the sports activity will enjoy legal certainty and protection of their fundamental rights, along with the necessary procedural guarantees and executability of its decisions.

As far as the national legal orders are concerned, the view of an “Athlodikeion” (sports court) was proposed as the prevalent form of jurisdictional “tool” in sports. Athlodikeion is supposed to consist of special departments, depending on the nature of the dispute, with an analogous procedural system and implementation of the principles of justice, in order to ensure both the necessary rapidity of these disputes’ solution and the satisfaction of the sense of justice in sports, always implementing the principle of fair trial.

After the completion of the Congress, the members of IASL were assembled and elected the new BoD, consisting of the following 15 members:

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Finally, the Organizing Committee would like to thank everyone that contributed to the successful holding of this Congress, both morally and materially.

For the Organizing Committee
The Secretary General

IOANNIS MOURNIANAKIS, LL.M. (Heidelberg)
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Secretary General of IASL