REPORT

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL FANS' CONGRESS

BRØNDBY & COPENHAGEN
1-3 JULY 2011

www.FANSEUROPE.org
# Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFFC 2011 Programme – Overview</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Colours Are Beautiful!</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flaming Stands – Presentation from Norway</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening of EFFC 2011 - The Speech of William Gaillard</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFFC Workshops 2011 – Summaries</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- “Fans on tour ...or not?!” &amp; “Good Hosting, Fewer Problems”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Media Hooligans! Fans and the media</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The never-ending “English Disease”?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- A reality check on violence in football</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- EURO 2012 – Expect the Unexpected?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 3rd AGM of Football Supporters Europe</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The FSE Resolution on FIFA</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFFC Social Events – Impressions</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The FSE Committee 2011/2012</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDIX</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- FAQs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- FSE Statutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Legendary Thunderstorm...
or the European Football Fans’ Congress 2011

Denmark in July, Brøndby and Copenhagen, more than 300 registered participants from 31 countries... and the heaviest rainfalls in Denmark in 30 years represented the overall scenery of the 4th European Football Fans’ Congress which took place from 1-3 July 2011.

Still, neither chilly temperatures on Friday night, an improvised swimming pool which was originally intended to be a barbecue at FC Copenhagen’s Parken Stadium on Saturday nor an almost completely drowned public transport network on Sunday prevented us from experiencing another episode of football fans from across the continent uniting for the common cause under the umbrella of Football Supporters Europe (FSE).

The 2011 EFFC saw discussions in six parallel workshops on topics ranging from good hosting to violence, media and fans as well as UEFA EURO 2012. Each of these workshops resulted in subsequent European projects or activities to be organised over the course of the following 12 months. On top of that, the congress for the first time featured a fans’ football tournament under the motto “All Colours Are Beautiful” with an accompanying framework programme of on-topic lectures and presentations.

Despite all the meteorological hurdles, participants experienced a really well-organised event... or an improvised one, where necessary, in view of the circumstances [let’s remember the spontaneous drink donations at Parken on Saturday night!] This was thanks to the commitment of the many Danish supporters involved, in particular from the fanbase of Brøndby IF as well as from FC Copenhagen.

We would therefore like to use this opportunity, once again, to express biiiiiig thanks to the supporters groups Brøndby Support and Alpha who took the initiative of taking the EFFC 2011 to Denmark and provided the greatest number of volunteers and support around the organisation of the event. The stadium of Brøndby IF, as the main venue for the formal parts of the programme and especially the club and its then Supporters Liaison Officer Patrick Vestphael, provided perfect conditions to participants and supported the organisation of their fans wherever needed.

Likewise, we thank our nationally active members from the Danske Fodbold Fanklubber (DFF) and especially the official supporters club of FC Copenhagen for supporting the EFFC and for organising the social event on Saturday night... which certainly required the greatest amount of flexibility in view of the masses of water pouring down from the sky on the originally planned barbecue...

Furthermore, we thank UEFA for once again providing significant financial support to the organisation of this and the previous EFFCs, whilst acknowledging our independence, the Danish FA and the Divisionsoereningen for being represented at the event and for entering into a dialogue with their supporters at a Danish panel discussion.

And, as usual, last but not least, we’d like to thank all participants massively for coming – whether it was their first time or whether they had been at previous events before - it is all of us who were there who make the greatest contribution towards making a change, to make the voice of supporters heard in the game.

In the following, we’ve summarised the results and presentations of the event. We hope you will enjoy it!

If you want to come to the next EFFC in 2012, please check back with our Coordinating Office or on our website www.fanseurope.org where we’ll publish all relevant info as soon as possible!
The 4th EFFC in Brøndby & Copenhagen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Friday, July 1st</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:00</td>
<td>All Colours Are Beautiful!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Fans’ Footy Tournament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11.00 - 16.00 Brøndby IF
Amateur Club Area

13.00 - 14.00 Oded Breda, Israel “LIGA TEREZIN - there was football in the Holocaust - can we take Holocaust out of football?”

15.00 - 15.45
All Queer, All Equal?! Challenging homophobia in Football including film presentation: Brighton Bandits

16.45 - 17.45
Fans’ actions against racism and discrimination in Europe

19.00 - ???
“Flaming Stands” - Fans’ initiatives on pyrotechnics in Norway and Germany

afterwards: party and barbecue in the stadium and at “Hytten”, the club house of Brøndby IF Supporters Club
# Programme Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday, July 2nd</th>
<th>Sunday, July 3rd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>9:00-15:30</strong>&lt;br&gt;EFFC Workshops &amp; EFFC Market&lt;br&gt;at Brøndby Stadion</td>
<td><strong>10:30-14:30</strong>&lt;br&gt;3rd Annual General Meeting of Football Supporters Europe (FSE) network &amp; EFFC Market&lt;br&gt;Closing of the EFFC 2011&lt;br&gt;at Brøndby Stadion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>17:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Guided Tours at Parken Stadion</td>
<td><strong>15:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Final Press Conference&lt;br&gt;at the Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>18:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Handshake or Handcuffs?&lt;br&gt;Panel discussion about the future of fans' dialogue and security in Danish football</td>
<td><strong>16:00-24:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Goodbye Party&lt;br&gt;in Christiania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>19:00 - ???</strong>&lt;br&gt;European Supporters Allnighter&lt;br&gt;with DJs, barbecue and fan films&lt;br&gt;at Prock Bar at Parken Stadion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For the first time and thanks to the great facilities provided at Brøndby Stadium, the EFFC 2011 featured a little fans’ tournament with accompanying presentations to underline the opposition of the FSE membership against discrimination under the motto “All Colours Are Beautiful!” (ACAB).

Due to the unfortunate late cancellation of some of the originally registered participants, the programme on Friday had to start with a delay and a smaller tournament than originally planned. However, as the pictures here show, this didn’t prevent visitors and participants from having fun!

The accompanying framework programme was opened by a presentation from Oded Breda from Israel who spoke impressively about football during the holocaust by taking the example of the football league that existed inside the concentration camp in Terezin/Czech Republic. Out of sheer desperation and to flee the everyday horrors, the people interned in the Ghettos there founded a small football league with very little means. The league consisted of entire clubs which adapted the names of popular European clubs.

The Nazis, however, misused even this activity to propagate it as part of an alleged “nice life” that was provided to the Jews as a gift from Hitler. Oded himself, as a descendent of former players in this league, spent a lot of time putting together an comprehensive exhibition and interviews with contemporary witnesses documenting the different facets of this very sad example and how football was instrumentalised for propaganda purposes, promoting the inhuman and deeply discriminatory ideologies of the Nazi regime. Extracts of the exhibition and the current film project on the topic were shown to the participants.

Following Oded, Chris Vanja presented the UK based “Justin Campaign” against homophobia in football. The Justin Campaign was founded in commemoration of Justin Fashanu, the world’s first openly gay professional footballer. Justin Fashanu took his life back in 1998, after his coming out, partly as a consequence of massive homophobic prejudice and pressure that he encountered as a gay black man in professional football in England.

The activists of the Justin Campaign fight for the abolishment of negative stereotyping and abuse against gay, lesbian, bisexual or transsexual (LGBT) people in football, both off and on the pitch. In line with the respective core principle of FSE, they strive for the creation of an atmosphere where members of LGBT communities can feel comfortable and open about their sexual orientation, as a natural part of the game and as supporters. Once a year, on 19 February, the date of birth of Justin Fashanu, the Justin Campaign organises an international action day “Football v Homophobia” which has already been supported by FSE members in the past, and Chris once again encouraged listening fans to join this day with on-topic activities.

The next session of the ACAB framework programme showed two examples of fans’ actions against discrimination under different conditions. A representative of the fans’ campaign "Elsker Brøndby - Hader Racisme" (Love Brøndby – Hate Racism) at Brøndby IF described how the fans themselves took the initiative and managed successfully to tackle right-wing extremist influences inside the fanbase and hence changed the negative reputation of Brøndby fans in this respect. He underlined the impact of Alpha Brøndby in this process, the local ultra group founded in 2006, which supported the campaign and encouraged the younger generation in the fanbase to establish a sense of unity inside and celebrate their fandom in alternative, non-discriminatory and meaningful ways.

That such positive commitment of football supporters is too often confronted with obstacles and repression, from the institutional or football governing sides of all, was, however, revealed by the subsequent contribution from two members of the anti-fascist ultra group Horda Frénétik from Metz/France. They reported about appalling measures taken against four of their members who had been arrested, kept for more than 20 hours and banned from the stadium for four months for having displayed a “Gegen Nazis” banner (German for “against Nazis”) with a fist smashing a swastika at a home match in October 2010.

And even worse: in January 2011, the four fans even had to defend themselves in court in Metz. FSE members from Germany and Norway attended the trial in solidarity with the fans. Previously, French FARE partner LICRA and FSE had supported the affected fans and addressed the case with the French authorities.
Because according to the accusation of the French police and at first also supported by the head of security of FC Metz, the 4 young men were told to be guilty of having displayed a banner which was punishable under French law for showing "a symbol at a sport event which would reflect a racist or xenophobic ideology".

Furthermore, the local police had argued that the word "GEGEN" (German for "against") on the banner was supposed to be an abbreviation for another fans' group of FC Metz called "Génération Grenard" which is known as right-wing group. At the end of the day, fortunately, the four supporters were cleared of all charges in court and even received a small amount of compensation from the French state.

All presentations available from the speakers at the ACAB Tournament at the EFFC 2011 can be found in full in the "Downloads" section on the FSE website.
Flaming Stands
Pyrotechnics in Football in Norway
Christina Magnussen
FSE Committee Member / Norsk Supporterallianse, Norway

As many of you have heard before, we’ve had an agreement with the FA in Norway to allow the usage of pyrotechnics on the pitch before kick-off. The agreement was initiated by the national fans’ organisation NSA [Norsk SupporterAllianse] back in 2006.

The agreement has led to a more controlled usage of pyro, and the chance to show that we as supporters are willing to take responsibility on the matter. We don’t know of any persons being hurt directly or indirectly by the usage of pyro at Norwegian football matches. Neither does the FA.

As the framework of conditions is pretty strict – the usage is allowed only for home fans and on the pitch before kick-off. A few clubs even [mine for instance] didn’t allow their own fans to use pyro at all. As a consequence, there has been a development over the past years with increasing levels of illegal usage of flares. This included both lighting flares at away games and flares inside the stands – also at home games.

There was also a discussion on the possibility of using so-called electronic flares. As supporters, we were very sceptical with regards to this, as we hadn’t yet seen them: we were afraid that they will be introduced without being good enough and too artificial.

It should be noted that many supporter clubs in Norway bring their own security personnel, who are members of the supporters club. This is in our opinion probably the main reason why there have been so few cases of accidents related to the usage of flares: these supporters that are part of the security personnel simply know that they have to wait until a flare is completely burnt out. The video to be shown here later was produced by the NSA and is a humorous, almost ironic attempt to educate stewards and police on exactly this matter.

Anyway, we as fans still want to have the possibility to use flares in a spontaneous way inside the stands. We want to do this whilst ensuring that we have proper means at our disposal to use pyrotechnics in a safe manner. We want sand buckets inside the stands and the possibility to create a distance and “warn” people around us before flares are lit – without facing a situation where an idiotic steward would try to intervene and touch the guys or girls holding the flares.

Therefore, after a lot of hard work with applications, lobbying, convincing and cooperation with each other and with the relevant agencies, some fans’ groups from Klanen and Kjernen, with the help from other NSA members, finally convinced the Norwegian FA (NFF) to allow a model test for the usage of flares inside the stands. The relevant regulations for this are governed by the NFF and they in fact would allow flaring on all parts of the stadium already – but until now it had been interpreted differently.

In the model test, the areas where the flares were lit on the stadium were marked and separated from the rest of the crowd inside the stand...with the result that it all went very well.

Despite of all this, and also the knowledge that tifo groups in many cases have an extended knowledge on pyrotechnic material, the NFF has shown some reluctance to take these model tests any further and expand them over the country. This, however, has resulted in another increase in illegal (and unsecure) usage of flares.

But we won’t be stopped!! As a next step in the process, a very good proposal how to change definitions and regulations for the usage of flares has been elaborated by NSA members and sent to the NFF. Unfortunately, there are still objections amongst the elderly representatives inside the NFF. Other representatives love it and even have encouraged media coverage whenever pyro has been used legally.

A more recent development in the field of pyro is that Klanen, the supporters club of Valerenga IF, are preparing a flare demonstration for the NFF to take place at the beginning of August. Also, they are considering getting themselves some kind of certificate from the local fire department to show that the persons holding the flares were trained properly and know how to handle the material. Definitely worth a try!
And even though our opinions might differ in many areas [whilst they don’t in some others] from those of the FA, the fact that dialogue is possible, and the first encouraging results of the model tests are keeping up our hope that it can be doable. It also makes the amount of work that we’ve put in so far worthwhile to make our desire to use pyrotechnics legally inside the stands come true. Every year, representatives of the NFF show up at the annual conference of the Norwegian supporter clubs, which is held by the NSA – knowing that they certainly won’t be the most popular people there.

Also, an agreement between the NFF, NTF [clubs’ association] and the NSA was signed, that allows the NSA to be involved on every decision that will affect fans directly (or in some cases indirectly).

Both the current and proposed guidelines will be made available to FSE members on the social network site that is part of the FSE website. I hope to also be able to post some photos from the model test usage of flare organised by the Rosenborg BK supporters groups earlier this year.

Thanks for your attention!
Opening address of William Gaillard, Senior Advisor to the UEFA President Michel Platini

In view of an interest shown by many participants, we’re hereby documenting the speech of William Gaillard at our official opening of the formal programme parts of the EFFC on Saturday, 2 July 2011:

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Just like musicians, football players play for an audience but unlike musicians they are faced with an opposition and an opposite audience with which they interact. This is, at the same time, the essence of sports and the magic of football. The show is on the pitch and in the stands.

The confrontation, at its best, embodies much revered traditions, strong ethical values and boundless passion. At UEFA, we act as the game keepers, the ones whose action determines the conditions under which a 150-year old ritual keeps on taking place, and as such our responsibilities are both light and weighty.

Light because football is a game and as such it is joy, enthusiasm and playfulness. Weighty, because as guardians of the tradition, we must strive towards authenticity and fairness. Many of the issues we are confronted with are tremendously meaningful for supporters.

If one takes pricing for instance: how does one strike the right balance between providing a legitimate return for the clubs and a fair and affordable price to supporters? How does one favour the underprivileged, families in particular, without making life too easy for ticket touts? How does one sell tickets; through the clubs, through internet, through ticket agencies, and to which target groups and of course at which price?

If one takes a look at the issue of violence, both inside and outside the stadium, more burning issues arise. How does one prevent it without stigmatising a huge group of innocent fans through cumbersome bureaucratic procedures? How does one isolate hooligans from the law-abiding supporters? How does one sanction a club whose supporters have created havoc without hurting that club’s peaceful fans who often are the primary victims of hooligan-generated violence?

To all these complex questions, there are obvious simple or simplistic solutions. And, I must confess, that sometimes, unfortunately, we’ve been tempted by their simplicity. I am afraid that on these themes the best I can offer you is a frank, open dialogue. There are no pervasive truths in these matters, otherwise they would be known and we would not be debating these subjects every time we meet.

You are the main stakeholders of our sport. As our President, Michel Platini, often reminds the media, supporters represent the last authentic element of professional football, the rest only amounts to a commercial relationship. The clubs and their owners, the coaches, the players and their agents are involved in labour relations and brand promotion, not in football, the game.

Because you are football’s most important stakeholders, because your voice should be heard and should help shape football’s future, I am often puzzled and disappointed by the bickering and the back biting that takes place more often than not inside supporters’ groups.

You need to get a handle on the strategic issues. I will be frank; you are thoroughly wasting your time and energy in superficial battles involving standing room in stadia or the use of flares while history is bypassing you! Give us your opinion on club ownership; on academy protection; on revenue sharing, on the future or lack of, on small and medium size national leagues. Give us your point of view on the future of national teams, on calendar reform, on resource sharing.

On all these issues we are confronted with a deafening silence and our own solitary thoughts. You are the best representatives of millions of football fans in all their diversity and fragmented interests. You should do your best at mirroring this diversity and at representing these interests and this, without losing track of where, you ultimately want to get.

I shall give you just one example of the diversity you should cherish. Some of the groups represented within FSE involve disabled fans, with their passion and their loyalties, just like other supporters, but they also come to you with their specific problems and their advocacy themes. We, at UEFA, thoroughly support their struggle, just like we sustain supporters’ trusts or the fight against racism and all forms of discrimination. It is our firm belief that disabled supporters must remain in the leadership structure of FSE and that they contribute a different, useful viewpoint which benefits all those involved in this organisation.

I said that I would be frank. I think I was. I hope you won’t resent it or take it harshly. Frankness is an essential ingredient of progress especially at times when burning issues are knocking at the door.

I wish you good luck in your Congress; rest assured that our door will always be open to you and I thank you for your attention.

Mange tak!
EFFC Workshops 2011

Each of the five workshops at the EFFC 2011 was structured in the same way: the first session in the morning featured presentations from input speakers with different backgrounds, expertise and viewpoints on the respective workshop topics with subsequent generic discussions.

The afternoon parts of the workshops sessions after lunch then focused on translating the discussions from the morning into the development of concrete projects or conclusions for the future activities of FSE as a whole.

FSE Committee members were split up over each of the sessions and took responsibility for summarizing the results of the workshops for this report and the audience at the EFFC. Furthermore, they are coordinating future projects and activities over the upcoming 12 months together with the other FSE members and additional volunteer contributors to the working groups created.

The presentations from the different EFFC workshops are available for download in the “Downloads” section on the FSE website www.fanseurope.org

Christina Magnussen & Michal Riecanský
Fans on tour ....or not?!
AND Good Hosting - Fewer Problems

Both workshops were found to be important topics with problems in these fields shared by many fans across the continent. At the same time, they were considered to have many overlapping aspects. This is why it was decided in advance, that both topics (fans’ travel & conditions for fans at the stadium) should be discussed separately in the morning session but that the workshop groups should merge after lunch with the aim to identify potential joint conclusions and subsequent activities:

Fans on tour...or not?!
Chair: Karl Lundén, Svenska Fotboll Supporter Unionen (SFSU), Sweden
Speakers:
Marlene Friis, Danske Statsbaner (DSB - national railway company), Denmark
Loukas Anastasiadis, Aris Member Society, Greece

Good Hosting – Fewer Problems
Chair: Tine Hundahl, Danske Fotbold Fanklubber, Denmark
Speakers:
Bart Coussement, Standing Committee T-RV of the Council of Europe
Jens Volke & Daniel Nowara, Borussia Dortmund - club and supporters department, Germany
Antonia Hagemann & Stuart Dykes, Supporters Direct_Europe
Patrick Vestphael, SLO Brondby IF, Denmark

Countries represented
Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, England, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Wales

Summary of first part of the workshop “Fans on tour ....or not?!
Away day experiences of fans across Europe”

At first, the opening remarks were made by the chair of the workshop, Karl Lundén from the national fans’ association SFSU from Sweden. He told us all about an away travel ban that might be introduced after some recent incidents in Sweden.

Loukas Anastasiadis from the Aris FC Member Society in Greece gave us an overview about the situation with regards to away travel in some European countries, which provided us with a starting point for discussions. Marlene Friis from Danish Railways (DBU), told us some impressive facts and figures on how they managed to reduce vandalism on trains from 1.3 million DKK to 0 within just 3 years and also managed to provide a much better service, as well as a cheaper way of travelling by train for the fans. The secret of how the DBU achieved these improvements? They’ve simply started involving supporters in the consultation process and have taken their views and proposals seriously....
There are lots of different situations in the countries that were represented by the workshop participants – regarding travel bans, the availability of tickets, communication between the police and the fans, and the means of travelling, amongst others. In general, the workshop concluded that fans’ behavior very often turned out to be dependent on policing and whether there was a communicative approach with supporters on the spot.

It was agreed that many problems in this area originate from a lack of knowledge on typical (non-problematic) forms of fans’ behavior and that better training amongst police working in a football context was needed. Furthermore, self-policing amongst fans, as another powerful tool to prevent problems, should be further encouraged.

Summary of first part of the workshop “Good hosting, fewer problems”

The workshop was chaired by Tine Hundahl from Danish Football Fan Clubs Association (DFF)

Firstly, the Council of Europe represented by Bart Coussement (also speaking as a leading Belgian police officer) went through the Recommendations of the Standing Committee on the hospitality principles when organising sports events. Coussement also spoke about how they do it at Kortrijk, where there is much more focus on communication and involving fans in decision making.

They use fewer police officers, and the officers are now in more “plain” clothing and not riot gear – this has had a huge impact on not only the numbers of police officers called in on match days, but more significantly in the numbers of “episodes”, which have dropped. They are now working on removing segregation at the stadium instead of caging people in.

Then it was the turn of the Borussia Dortmund fan and member department, represented by Jens Volke & Daniel Nowara, to give a presentation on the structure in the club regarding membership and voting. They spoke about the history of introducing SLOs in German football, and how it works at Dortmund. Essentially like in Belgium (Coussement at Kortrijk) they have allowed visitors at some point to start on a “clean sheet” allowing fans of visiting teams to bring all the stuff they need for tifos/choreographies/making noise etc. (except from illegal things like fireworks). If the visitors bring anything illegal or behave in anyway badly (violently, racist) they are not allowed to bring anything the next time the teams meet.

Thirdly Stuart Dykes & Antonia Hagemann from Supports Direct Europe presented paragraph 35-2, on the background to the introduction of SLO’s. They also made the point that the SLO should not be the same as the head of security. It is also about the selection of the right people, who can speak to all fan factions and communicate well between club, security, fans, police etc. The §35-2 will have an impact on licensing on higher levels in European football from 2012-13 season.

Conclusion – it is all about communication. Involving fans in decision making, treating visiting fans the way you would like to be treated yourself and as paying, dedicated consumers with rights instead of hostile enemies. The SLO is one of many good tools, and it will be interesting to see it implemented. Other tools, such as having a database where you can report if you have been treated out of the ordinary as a fan (both good and bad experiences – see if there is a pattern at some stadiums, and take a dialogue with the clubs) were suggested. We should also all start looking at how visiting fans are treated at our own stadium – can we help make a change, as perhaps changes for the better can start from home.

Second part: joint session

After lunch, the workshops merged. We had lots of discussions around SLO’s, but surely we know that SLO won’t be the key solution to all challenges supporters are facing around issues of fan hosting at or whilst travelling to/from the stadium.

The points that we all agreed were important, and want to move further with:

- In conflict prevention: reducing direct police participation has proven to help the situation as well as the encouragement of self-policing amongst fans
- Research/Data collection of conditions in away sectors across Europe should be started in order to get an overview of the situation. A database of best practice models should be put together and be accessible online.
- Create some sort of fan guide info regarding the situation for away fans at different stadia in different countries, with input from the home fans.
• FSE should put together a proposal on how to improve the position of the away fans in Europe and make sure that their rights are protected, even in case of matches behind closed doors.

• Self-policing: more dialogue between various fan groups at local, national and international level is needed to get an understanding of common problems, the potential and limitations of self-policing in different situations – supporters should be encouraged to show solidarity when facing common problems.

• In Belgium, a more open co-operation / dialogue from the side of the police has resulted in a significant improvement in conflict prevention. This models should be analyzed and implemented across Europe, if possible.

Further work and actions will be developed via the FSE Social Network. 20-30 workshop participants signed up for further participation in a working group on these issues. Whether it’ll be recommendations for UEFA or an Action Day (or both) – we don’t know yet, what’s going to be the final outcomes, but that will be decided by the further development work in the network.
The workshop on Media was understandably one of the ones that raised a lot of interest amongst the fans. The traditional distance between football fans and press and mostly one-sidedly negative reporting about fans in the mass media, in general, were likely the main factors triggering this curiosity.

The morning session was held in a format where the key speakers made their presentations and made themselves available for questions that arose.

After Michal Karas opening speech, Michael Brunskill, representing the Football Supporters Federation introduced the methodology that should be followed when engaging with media against the background of their experiences with media work at the FSF. Using FSF cases and examples, his explanation was clearly followed by all fans.

The most important and relevant points raised by Michael were:

1. Clearly identify your organisation, either by email or phone when making the contact with the journalist. This should be the first step to close the gap between the media and the fans organisation.

2. There are two types of media work: reactive and proactive.

- **Reactive**
  - When the media wants something from you
  - Represents a good opportunity to get to know the journalist a bit better by establishing clear off-the-record conversation
  - Understand the role you are playing in the story before making any comments
  - Choose wisely your words, considering all the impacts it might have in the community. If not prepared, ask to called later if possible.

- **Proactive**
  - When you want something from the media (e.g.: publish a press release)
  - Understand the media: what makes a story?
  - Choose your media carefully

The use of social media such as twitter, facebook, blogs and internet forums has also turned out to be increasingly important for the FSF to spread their message.

Jeppe Brock, the next speaker, spoke as a journalist working for one of the biggest national newspapers in Denmark called Politiken. He underlined the importance for sports journalists to have access to responsible fans in order to get the story right and to understand fans’ behavior better. This was particular important in view of the time pressure for a journalist as an important factor in the daily work. A journalist simply cannot be an expert in everything and fans can play a crucial role in helping him to understand certain issues better. He explained this with his own experiences as a journalist writing about fans – before he was in touch with fans and after he had established respective contacts.

As a consequence, Brock pointed out how important it is for the press in his opinion, to have direct contact with the fans. He also described the effects such contact and consequently more balanced reporting can have, indirectly, on the public opinion.

There was an active Q&A session following the presentations and subsequent discussions with the fans. It was felt that there is a need to know more about how journalists think and to share own experiences with the media. In the subsequent discussion amongst all participants of the session, the following main conclusions were drawn:

- It is always to be kept in mind that what is a story today might not be of the slightest interest tomorrow. Hence, it is important for supporters as well to always react quickly and to be proactive as much as possible. This means you should try to react fast if there have been problems amongst fans at a game – even if you only can say that you still need to make further enquiries on the potential root-causes of the incident.

- It is important to always remember using the “off-the-record rule” in order to break barriers and create a trustful relationship with the journalist. That said, it is equally important to make crystal clear when the “on-the-record statement” starts.
Make clear agreements with media representatives. Always agree on what is on and off record and if you’re still not sure about the potential outcome say that you want to see the article before it is being submitted to the printer.

Don’t forget to mention the exclusivity of your story, if appropriate, as media are always keen to have the exclusive right to some info. And also try to pick the journalists you trust carefully – unfortunately, there will always be some using the information you give e.g. in a polemic way or putting it out of context.

One more conclusion of a lively exchange amongst the supporters was that fans shall not feel obliged to cooperate with journalists who prove not worth their trust. In fact, having a ‘black list’ of journalists one shall best not work together with is almost inevitable.

After lunch, the workshop group was split into three smaller groups and three potential scenarios were presented so that each small group would debate and present a small media strategy to pass their message on to the public on the respective scenario. Each strategy taken was then discussed amongst all the fans that were attending.

The scenarios presented were:

- Imagine, you are the spokesperson/president of a supporters group/organization and at the local derby, in the away sector where your fans were, there have been some incidents with the police that resulted into 4 fans and one police officer being injured.
- Imagine, you are the spokesperson/president of a supporters group/organisation and your organisation is trying to promote a social project for children, to take them to the stadium to keep them busy and away from drugs.
- Imagine, you are interested in forming a fans organisation at your club.

For each case, the potentially best communication strategy was talked through as well as the activities that could be organised.

The first example, being an example of ‘crisis communication’ example, was considered very sensitive. The fans agreed that it was important not to point fingers at anyone possibly responsible for the incidents, but put out a brief statement emphasizing their will to cooperate in finding a solution to prevent the incident from happening again in the future. Although it was agreed that they should still be open to media after that initial statement, it was underlined that all further comments would have to be consequent and in line with the initial statement.

The group in charge of “resolving” the second scenario decided to develop an own blog/site for the project with the children. Furthermore, it should be actively promoted in social networks and in the local community. One of the important issues to stress in the communication strategy would be to reassure everyone of the safe environment waiting for the participating children inside the stadium.

Those analyzing the third case study wisely noted from the start that the communication/media strategy would have to differ depending on the type of fans’ group/organization they were to establish. An ultra group would mostly prefer to use direct communication and traditional stadium-based media like fanzines, whilst a generic open fans’ association should probably develop a wider range of instruments for their media work.

Overall, it was a very productive workshop with fans attending who all avoided generalising the media. Moreover, they made a clear distinction between good journalists and bad journalists.

One of the follow-up projects from this workshop will be a media guide for fans that can help fans to develop a media strategy, to establish contacts with their local press as well as to give them some insight on how the press operates.

The FSE Fans Media Guide should be released in early 2012 at the latest.
The workshop started with a presentation by 3 speakers, focusing on their specific experience with violence and their strategy towards violence prevention.

Pedro Presa Rodriguez (European Professional Football Leagues - EPFL)
Pedro Presa presented the work of EPLF and the way it is developing a model of a ‘Supporters Charter’. This model will start from the minimum requirements that are written down in the ‘Convention against Violence’. EPFL requires an active involvement from FSE in this process.

Jonas Gabler (scientist and author on ultra culture, Germany)
Jonas gave a brief overview of his study about characteristics of fan (ultra) behavior in the stands. The study shows very clearly that fans and more specifically ultra-groups see the stands as a kind of liberated space, with different rules and moral standards. The common reaction of football clubs and authorities is to control this area very strictly in the name of violence prevention. Not infrequently, this leads to the opposite behaviour and creates alienation between both parties. The most logical solution though would be a form of self-regulation.

Bojan Branisavljevic (White Angels, NK Zagreb, Croatia)
Bojan testified about the situation of the White Angels’ Ultra group in Croatia. White Angels is an Ultra group in the Balkan tradition that rejects any form of violence. Nevertheless it seems extremely difficult for any fan group in Croatia to develop a dynamic fan scene within the European standards of civil rights because of a complete lack of dialogue with police and civil authorities, a historical acceptance of violence, a lack of support of positive fans’ actions or even protection against violence and a very strict legal framework.

Arising out of these presentations there was a long discussion about the need to prevent violence, the right to oppose injustice and the position/acts of all parties involved in football in this matter: supporters, football clubs, police forces and civil authorities. It was a very open and bold discussion that led to following conclusions or recommendations:

**Overall conclusions**
- Rules and regulations about football, fan behavior and violence prevention are not always compatible with the fans’ reality or even with human rights. This might lead to protest and even sometimes to the opposite of what these rules want to prevent.
- There are big differences between local situations. In some countries even the lowest minimum standards of respect for fan culture or human rights are not reached. We need to deal with every single situation from our standards and viewpoint. We also have to pay special attention to those situations where even the minimum is out of reach for the supporters.

**Recommendations**
1. Any solution should start with structural dialogue between all parties, before, during and after a game, and this should and must include fans
2. In order to be efficient, restrictions always have to have a maximum of respect for the fan culture and can only be taken in consideration if there are objective designations of security risks.
3. Clubs and supporters need to have both internal and bilateral contacts about requirements and character of both teams fans’ behaviour
4. Fan culture and self-organization has to be positively valued and seen as an important aspect to empower the responsibility of fans.
5. Fans’ input in police training is required

6. Supporters Liaison Officers could take an important role, as long as they’re in line and accepted by the supporters.

7. In order to see any change in reality, we need a system that works from the grassroots (empowerment of supporters) as well as from above (influence on regulations, understanding of supporters and pressure on the actual system by legislation or football authorities).

8. There must be a faster and better information flow in the FSE network about best practices [input needed from the members!].

9. We need to create tools to empower the FSE network and to empower self-organization of fans at local level.

10. Isolated fan projects need extra support from FSE

11. Governing bodies and football clubs do have the resources to trigger change, more than supporters’ groups. They need to be convinced that it is in the best interest of everyone if they take the first step whilst considering the above principles.

12. We need an integrated approach. Sometimes it needs a change on one (lower or higher) level, before it can change on the other levels.
Introduction to the Workshop
Joanna Laska started with brief summary of the 3rd EFFC in Barcelona Workshop: “EURO 2012 – Emergency Service Needed?!“ conclusions and proposals. What were the challenges then, and what happened within the last 12 months with a focus on fans’ actions.

The workshop was divided into two parts of 1.5 hours each.

The first part included the latest developments for Polish and Ukrainian fans one year before EURO 2012, the preparations for the fans services, in particular the Fans’ Embassy project, and open discussions.

Conclusions:
1. To what extend has EURO 2012 caused positive/negative change for Polish and Ukrainian fans and organized fans’ groups within the last 12 months?

Poland:
A) Negative:
• Repressions from the national government: a new law was introduced about safety and security with mass events – the most restrictive in Europe; it includes the closure of stadiums for political reasons, the possibility to issue away travel bans for fans from every division, stadium bans for behavior such as swearing inside a stadium, standing on stairs, criticizing the government
• Repressions from the police: fines are imposed for nearly everything [eating sunflower seeds, certain prints on T-shirts]; fans are called to hearings or forced to admit offences they didn’t commit; fans are deliberately arrested in front of media cameras and quietly released after a couple of hours in view of no substantial charges against them; there is a high pressure inside the police to produce high figures in football to show progress;
• Media-coverage: Football fans are solely portrayed as dangerous and criminal which creates a one-sidedly negative picture about supporters in the wider public

B) Positive:
• Supporters managed to establish levels of cooperation with the city officials and administration
• The first local fans’ projects were established with the active involvement of local fans
• Supporters are involved in the preparation of stationary fans’ embassies
• Supporters are part of national projects such as “Fans in their city” and “Fans Together” aiming at enhancing knowledge and international exchange about fans’ dialogue and fans’ participation and responsibility.

2. Status of preparations for the provision of Fans’ Embassies at EURO 2012
[updates since Lviv conference of the FSE Fans’ Embassies division in April 2011]

Ukraine:
• A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between FSE and the Ukrainian State Department for Youth and Sport
• An official letter of support was signed by UEFA with the Ukrainian National Agency for EURO 2012
• The Fans’ Embassies Project preparations have officially started
• The National Youth and Sport Department offered their cooperation on the project to the Host Cities and National Agency for EURO 2012
• The locations for the stationary Fan’s Embassies in Donetsk and Kharkiv are determined
• The national coordinating office for the FSE Fans’ Embassy Project in the Ukraine was opened
• A selection of Ukrainian fans is officially involved in the organisational process and in meetings with officials
• Negotiations with partners interested in cooperation were held
• Meetings with potential sponsors have taken place
• Future volunteers of the fans’ embassies received their first training
• Ukrainian fans are involved in the preparations for the Test Fan’s Embassy for the Ukraine – Sweden match in Kharkiv on 10 August 2011
• There was positive media coverage on the FSE Fans Embassy programme and fans’ involvement in the Ukraine
• Problem: lack of funding for the work from the side of the local authorities

Poland:
• The national Fans’ Embassies Project is included in the Safety & Security Programme for UEFA EURO 2012 in Poland
• Fans’ Embassies in Wroclaw, Gdansk and Warszawa will be led by the local fanbase, except for Poznan where the stationary Fans’ Embassy will be led by a local NGO
• Waiting agreement between UEFA and FSE to be signed,
• Staff: Local project coordinators were appointed in January ’11, there are 5 experts in each host city for the Fan’s Embassies since April ’11
• Experts are now involved in recruiting Volunteers
• Local Project Coordinators were trained on seminar in Frankfurt and at the Denmark – England friendly match in February 2011
• A mobile test Fan’s Embassy was organized at the Poland- France friendly match in June 2011
• Stationary and mobile test Fan’s Embassies with a training workshop will take place at Poland – Germany friendly match on 9 Sept 2011
• Locations for stationary Fan’s Embassies are determined in all host cities
• Plans/Proposals for Mobile Fan’s Embassies locations have been made

The second part was dedicated to the development of the FanGuide for EURO2012. After an introduction by Anne-Marie Mockridge and Garreth Cummins from the experienced fans’ embassy for English fans, attendants split up into the following four working groups: content Poland, content Ukraine, overall content, timeline. The aim was to draw up a master plan for the print and online versions of the fan guide at EURO 2012.

Content of Ann-Marie’s and Garreth’s presentation:
• FSF and English Fans’ Embassy background& info
• How to manage to do a Fan Guide
• Putting a team together
• How to double-check information
• Who to contact in each of the venues
• How to plan all deadlines
• Which skills are needed

Conclusions for the next steps in the organization of the overall content of the fan guide for EURO2012:
The first phase of the fan guide will include the overall info on the host countries and cities and some additional info that might be useful. The online fan guide will be available in the languages of all participating nations [translated by fan volunteers] and launched on the day of the EURO 2012 draw which is 2 December 2011. The online fan guide will be further detailed step by step from then on.

The printed version of the fan guide as well as fan guide maps for the host cities will be published in April/May 2012. Mobile fans’ embassy teams from the participating countries will provide additional guide info tailored for the specific needs of the travelling fans from their home country.

Generic content Ukraine – first phase:
1. Survival basics
2. Generic info about host cities and country
3. Fan culture
4. Information about involvement of local fan groups
5. Food, drinking, smoking information
6. Accessibility
7. Specific cultural differences between Ukraine and other countries

Generic content Poland – first phase:
1. Fanculture
2. Local Ground, clubs
3. History of clubs and fan scene
4. What to do between match days
The 3rd AGM
Football Supporters Europe
3 July 2011, Brøndby Stadium

The 3rd Annual General Meeting of Football Supporters Europe (FSE) was challenged by the results of some of the heaviest rainfalls since records began in Denmark. It ended up with many flooded roads and FC Copenhagen’s Parken stadium which served as host venue for the EFFC social event on Saturday night.

What resulted in soaking wet EFFC participants and something like an improvised swimming pool party at Parken Stadium, still caused huge traffic problems on Sunday morning and hence great challenges for FSE members with getting out to Brøndby Stadium. Nevertheless, around 85 members, amongst them 44 individual members, and delegates of 24 locally and 17 nationally active members, made it to the 3rd AGM of FSE.

There, FSE Committee member Kevin Miles was appointed chair of the AGM and Christian Bieberstein keeper of the minutes.

FSE ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL REPORT

The FSE members were firstly presented with the most important details of the overall activities of FSE, as well as for the current on-topic divisions FSE Fans’ Embassies and FSE Disabled Fans’ Rights. In general, FSE has further expanded both its membership and its activities and partnerships. During the season 2010/2011, the FSE membership increased by 26 %, now representing a total of 404 members from 37 countries in Europe, amongst them 126 locally and 35 nationally active members, altogether representing more than 3 million football supporters across Europe.

FSE representatives have represented fans’ interests for the organisation at more events than ever before and have established dialogue with further football governing bodies in particular at European level, such as the European Club Association (ECA) and the European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL).

Also, FSE successfully supported several football supporters and fans’ groups in trouble – e.g. with a trial against fans in France who had been prosecuted for showing an anti-nazi banner inside their stadium; or a fans’ group in Germany who had a fans’ choreography wrongly prohibited by UEFA.

As for the FSE Fans’ Embassies, divisional director Michael Gabriel reported on the great progress made with the preparations for the FSE activities at UEFA EURO2012 in Poland and Ukraine. FSE will for the first time take full responsibility for coordinating the entire fans’ embassy programme under the motto RESPECT FAN CULTURE at this tournament as part of the official social responsibility programme of the event. All activities will be organized by fans for fans and further info is available via the newly launched divisional website link www.fansembassies.org

Regarding the FSE Disabled Fans’ Rights division, director Joyce Cook informed the membership about several activities carried out, also in conjunction with the activities for EURO2012 and FSE partner organisation CAFE. This included calls for greater participation and involvement towards the FSE membership in the divisional activities which unfortunately weren’t met with much feedback from FSE members. A new call for participation will be launched as soon as possible but if it shouldn’t be met with interest from FSE members either, the future of the division would have to be discussed. The close cooperation between FSE and CAFE is intended to continue either way.

FSE Coordinator and CEO Daniela Wurbs then presented details on the financial situation of FSE. Generally speaking, the funding received from UEFA for FSE’s core activities could be slightly increased and stabilized. At the same time, UEFA agreed to provide significant additional funding for the organisation to the FSE Fans’ Embassy project for UEFA EURO 2012.

For diversity activities around the FSE Fans’ Embassies in Poland, further EU funding could be secured through the participation in the EU Project “Football For Equality II”, organized by FSE partners FairPlay from Austria.

The submission of or involvement in EU project applications is intended to be further expanded over the upcoming 12 months to further diversify the funding sources of FSE. Also, members should be further encouraged to contribute more voluntary membership fees.

As a consequence of the reports presented, the FSE Committee received a lot of applause for the work carried out over the past year and was unanimously discharged for its work by the membership present at the AGM.

AMENDMENTS TO THE FSE STATUTES

After a lot of fine-tuning at past meetings of the membership of FSE, only two amendments to the statutes were put forward for discussion at the 3rd AGM of FSE by the statutes commission formed by the FSE Committee following the adoption of a respective resolution at the previous AGM of FSE in 2010. This is probably to be considered a sign for the further establishment of FSE and the quality of its statutes and the approval of them within the FSE membership.

Following the respective voting, it was decided to expand Article 4 of the FSE Statutes by definitions to determine the geographical limitations of the FSE membership as a European fans’ network more clearly and hence facilitate the administration and processing of membership applications.

The further proposal to add a fourth membership category for locally active umbrella fans’ groups to article 8 of the FSE Statutes was rejected but it was decided to take up and discuss the proposal again at the next AGM in 2012.

RESOLUTIONS OF FSE MEMBERS

In accordance with the FSE Statutes and the agenda for the 3rd AGM, FSE members were given the right to come forward to ask the AGM of FSE to adopt resolutions as directives for the work of the future FSE Committee.

The 3rd AGM of FSE then saw speeches of 10 candidates who stood for election for eight vacant posts in the FSE Committee, the executive board of the European fans’ network. Four candidates of the previous FSE Committee had decided not to stand for re-election anymore, all for different personal reasons. Daniela Wurbs and Kevin Miles thanked them greatly for their important contributions to FSE’s works and made FSE members once again aware of the farewell messages of all four candidates who were available at the FSE info stall at the stadium.

The election was carried out in a voting by ballot whilst votes were counted by three members with experience in this area who represented neither of the countries represented by the candidates. FSE Fans’ Embassies project coordinator Thomas Gassler supervised the counting of the votes to ensure as much transparency and neutrality as possible for this process.

At the end of the day, the following eight candidates were elected onto the FSE Committee for a one year term (in alphabetical order by their home countries):

- Mr. Dirk Vos, Supportersfederatie Proclubs [SFP-FSP], Belgium
- Mr. Medhi Tazraret, individual member and Fans’ Embassy France, France
- Ms. Christina Magnussen, Norsk Supporterallianse [NSA], Norway
- Ms. Joanna Laska, individual member and Kibice Razem Wroclaw, Poland
- Mr. Riccardo Bertolin, MyRoma, AS Rome, Italy
- Mr. Martin Endemann, Bündnis Aktive Fußballfans [BAFF], Germany
- Mr. JoAnna Laska, individual member and Kibice Razem Wroclaw, Poland
- Mr. Michal Riecanský, The Stands Are Ours!, Slovakia

All eight candidates accepted the result and will, for the next 12 months and together with the FSE Coordination and the directors of all on-topic divisions of FSE, be responsible for the overall management of FSE and the representation and further development of the results and projects developed in the different workshops at this year’s EFFC.

Self-Portrayals of the FSE Committee members can be found on page 24
The FSE Resolution on FIFA

As outlined in the previous chapter, the members of Football Supporters Europe [FSE] at their AGM 2011 unanimously adopted a resolution dealing with the ongoing scandals at FIFA. With the adoption of this resolution, the newly elected FSE Committee is committed to strive for the realisation of the positions and tasks outlined in there:

This Congress notes the continued financial and corruption scandals at the highest levels of FIFA.

This Congress believes:

1) That the game’s world governing body must adopt procedures and policies of transparency and accountability that will withstand the most searching examination;

2) That all members of the FIFA executive committee and senior staff must place their personal financial affairs in the public domain to avoid any actual or perceived corrupt gain;

3) That money raised by FIFA through broadcasting and sponsorship should and must be used to build our game in those nations that have the least resources;

4) That all future votes for host nation rights to the World Cup must be open and recorded and be judged against pre-determined objective criteria;

5) That an international sports anti-corruption and match-fixing agency similar in power and scope to the World Anti-Doping Agency with powers and resources to independently investigate allegations of corruption and/or ethics breaches by international sporting governing bodies such as FIFA.

The Congress calls on FIFA’s broadcasting partners and sponsors to maintain the pressure for essential reforms.

The Congress instructs the FSE committee to report to the 2012 European Football Fans’ Congress on progress on this issue.
The EFFC Social Events 2011 Impressions
The FSE Committee 2011 / 2012
Self-Portrayals

The following portrayals were put together by the FSE Committee members themselves.

The newly-elected members of the FSE Committee

Dirk Vos (Belgium) was one of the founding members of the Supportersfederatie Proclubs SfP-FSP, a national grassroots supporters federation in Belgium. Now he’s responsible for SFP’s international connections and security issues. During his non-football time, he teaches intercultural communication and emancipational skills and puts theory into practice when it concerns fans’ positions. Dirk has 5 children and is 48 years young.

Kevin Miles (England), 51, is the Director of International Affairs for the Football Supporters Federation FSF [England and Wales). He has organised the Fans’ Embassy for supporters of the England national team since World Cup in France, 1998. A fan of Newcastle United and England for over 40 years, Kevin has wide experience as a football supporter home and away, domestically and abroad, of two teams who both enjoy a large and passionate following year after year, without having seen either of them win a trophy.

Medhi Tazraret (France), aged 30, is from Marseille/France. He has been living in Vienna/Austria for 7 years now. As one can imagine, he is still a fan of Olympique Marseille and has been a member of a local fans group there for more than 15 years now. He has a lot experience as fan worker due to his experience as active football fan and his work. He has organised the Fans’ Embassy of the French national team since World Cup 2006 in Germany and also active in the framework of different project with the FARE network (Football Against Racism in Europe).

Martin Endemann (Germany), has been a spokesperson for BAFF [Alliance of Active Football Fans] for more than 10 years. BAFF is one of Germany’s three main national fans’ organisations and was also member of the FARE core group for a couple of years. His main interests within FSE are the fight against racism and to help supporters with gaining more influence within their clubs. He supports Tennis Borussia Berlin (long story), a club which dropped with the help of mismanagement and dubious sponsors within 10 years from the 2nd to the 6th league. He also has a place in his heart for his hometown team Karlsruher SC.

Riccardo Bertolin (Italy), 38, is one of the founding members of MyROMA (the first supporters trust in the Italian Serie A) and responsible for international relations there. He is a passionate fan of AS ROMA and has always supported the concept of positive values that fan culture can bring into the stadia and into the community. His topics in football are club ownership and good governance. He has a daughter of 5 and a son of 3, he likes doing sport, watching good movies, reading, and has a great passion for the aeronautical world, where is employed as an air traffic controller.

Christina Magnussen (Norway), usually supports IK Start from Kristiansand, is part of the committee for the local supporters club Menigheden, and is also representing the Norwegian Supporters Alliance NSA in Europe and has been an active football fan in different local and/or national fans’ groups for more than 10 years now. Christina is aged 30 and has a 5 year old daughter. Beyond her club and family, Christina’s major football topics are safe standing and the legal use of pyrotechnics, as well as Mexikaner and Nøgne Ø … and you can be sure that she’ll introduce you to all of that when you meet her!

Joanna Laska (Poland), finds the hardest thing is to write about yourself in couple of sentences. Firstly, and most importantly, she is of course a football fan. She’s been a fan since she was born, because her dad used to be a player, and she had her first time at stadium when she was about one month old. Since then she has been a “regular” at football matches, loves the atmosphere at the stadium, loves the people around and of course the game. On top of that, she’s now also become a coordinator of one of the first fans projects in Poland, in Wroclaw, and she is happy to be the head of the stationery fans’ embassy in Wroclaw during EURO 2012. And finally, as Joanna puts it; “I’m not good in talking, but definitely I’m good in working, so let me finish here with my description, and invite you all to Wroclaw during EURO 2012, so we can all meet and have an amazing tournament together!”

Michael Riecanský (Slovakia), 23 is one of the founders of The Stands Are Ours!, a fan initiative started by a group of Slovak anti-racist fans, where he is responsible for campaigns and events and their magazine. His team is a local amateur club – SKP Dubravka, stuck way low in the 4th division in football in Slovakia, so definitely no European matches for him this year...or anytime soon.
The appointed members of the FSE Committee

**FSE Coordination**

Daniela Wurbs (Germany), at some stage, and more or less by accident, got involved in professional football supporters work at national level in Germany and has ended up continuing the work afterwards at local level in the field of fans’ project work. Her main areas of responsibility were anti-racist campaigning, European fans’ exchange programmes, lobbying and the management of various projects and integrative community football initiatives. Finally, and again it was rather a coincidence, she was offered to take the coordinating role for building what has now become FSE in 2007. Daniela is still confident that fans will reclaim the game…one day. And in her dreams, her club FC St. Pauli has of course long won the Champions League.

**Director on-topic division: Fans’ Embassies**

Michael Gabriel, 49 (Germany) is the Head of the Coordination Office for German Fanprojects and was appointed Director of the Fans’ Embassy Division of FSE only in May 2010. He has been involved in the domestic social work for and with young football fans in Germany since 1990 and has organised Fans’ Embassies at international tournaments since EURO 1992 in Sweden. He follows Eintracht Frankfurt regularly home and away and can still not believe that his club didn’t win the Championship in 1992. At a younger age he was quite a good footballer, playing for Eintracht Frankfurt and winning two times the Championship at youth level in Germany. As an Austrian national he was selected three times for the Austrian U-20 national team.

**Director on-topic division: Disabled Fans’ Rights**

Joyce Cook (Wales) is the chair of the national association of disabled supporters Level Playing Field, a UK registered charity representing disabled football supporters and providing guidance to other sports such as cricket, rugby and Olympics 2012. Joyce who is herself disabled is a founder director of the Charity – the Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE) which is extending NADS works for disabled supporters across Europe. She travels extensively to matches across Europe with a resultant hands-on understanding of the many challenges for disabled supporters.

UPDATE: Joyce stepped down from her role as director of the Disabled Fans Rights Division in autumn 2011, due to her workload with CAFE. It was agreed and mutually desired though, that FSE and CAFE will continue to work closely together on all issues related to disabled supporters and accessibility in football. That’s why FSE has also joined CLUB CAFE in the meantime.
APPENDIX

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
on Football Supporters Europe

1. Membership
Who can become a member?
Every individual supporter (natural and legal person, 14 years of age), formally and informally organised football fans groups, as well as local and national fan-related initiatives and organisations who are active in Europe can become a member of the FSE network. Europe is defined as the territory covered by UEFA member associations. Membership with FSE for under 18 year olds is subject to consent of the parents/legal guardians.

How can you become a member of FSE?
Simply fill out the membership form online from the website www.footballsupporterseurope.org. Alternatively, download the pdf-file from there, fill it in and send it to the postal address: Football Supporters Europe eV, Coordinating Office, P.O. Box 50 04 03, 22704 Hamburg.

What are the benefits / responsibilities as a member?
As an FSE member, you have the right to participate [e.g. vote] in the AGM and in the online membership section with our own forum and social network for FSE members only where you can exchange and experience with fans from all across Europe. Furthermore, you can actively decide on the direction of FSE and you can also stand for elections if you are 18 years of age. You can participate in events organised by FSE and make free use of its services, unless stated otherwise. For the duties of the AGM see 2.

When does the membership start?
The membership starts after the confirmation by the FSE Coordination. Membership can end at any time for the end of the financial year with the submission of a written request to the FSE Coordination.

Does it cost anything to become a member?
There is no obligation to pay a membership fee for FSE at the moment, but voluntary contributions are very welcome as it supports our financial independence.

Any other conditions?
YES! By becoming a member of FSE you officially declare that you recognise the statutes of the network and support its principles:
• do not tolerate discrimination of any individuals on any groups including the following : ethnic origin, ability, religion, gender, sexual orientation and age
• reject violence, both verbal and physical
• stand up for the empowerment of grassroots football supporters
• promote a positive football supporters’ culture, including values such as fair play and good governance

2. Structure of FSE: Who is Who + Who does What?
FSE has been incorporated into a members association according to German law. Member associations are owned by their members and democratically structured.

The Structure of Football Supporters Europe (FSE) - Overview
AGM (Annual General Meeting)
The AGM is the highest body, the ‘Parliament’, of the FSE. The AGM is held once a year and it is here that all FSE members decide about the aims, objectives and future actions of the FSE, approve changes to its statutes and elect the members of the FSE Committee for the following year.

Duties:
- Examination and approval of reports submitted by the FSE Committee and FSE Coordination
- Ratification of the actions of the managing boards
- Election of members of the FSE Committee [simple majority]
- Decisions on resolutions submitted
- Decisions on all proposed changes to the statutes

EGMs (Emergency general meetings) / General Meetings
Emergency AGMs can be called either by the FSE Committee or the FSE Coordination, or by at least ¼ of the total number of votes of the FSE members.

The FSE Committee
The FSE Committee is the management board of the organisation, consisting of the FSE Coordination, the directors of the on-topic divisions and the elected members.

Structure:
The FSE Committee consists of:
- Two thirds of the total FSE Committee positions
- One third of the total number of permanent seats within the FSE Committee

Elected members are elected with a simple majority for one year. To avoid overrepresentation of one particular country within the Committee, there can’t be more than one third of the elected committee members representing the same country.

Examples:
- 2 On-topic Divisions = 2 seats
- FSE Coordination = 1 seat
- 1/3 of permanent seats = 1 seat
- Elected members = 8 seats (max two from one country)
- 3 On-topic Divisions = 3 seats
- FSE Coordination = 1 seat
- 1/3 of permanent seats = 1 seat
- Elected members = 10 seats (max three from one country)

Duties:
- Overall running of FSE together with FSE Coordination
- Development of annual budget plan
- Implementing decisions made at the AGM
- Directing the FSE Coordination
- Appointing and dismissing the chief executive/FSE Coordinator
- Appointing and dismissing On-topic divisions
- Preparation of the annual financial statement and report on activities for the AGM

FSE Coordination
The FSE Coordination is the executive body of the FSE handling the day-to-day business of the organisation including all legal transactions. The FSE Coordination is appointed by and has to report to the FSE Committee and works closely with the On-topic divisions.
On-Topic Divisions

Fan culture is diverse. Hence, organisations or networks providing particular services relevant for football fans (e.g. fans’ embassies services, disabled fans’ rights, etc) can develop their work under the umbrella of FSE as “on-topic divisions.” On-topic divisions would cover for example campaigning and lobbying, consultancy services and/or networking, etc and are ideally financially independent from the core funds of the network.

The FSE Committee approves the creation or dissolution of an FSE on-topic division with a two-thirds majority. Currently there are two on-topic divisions: FSE Fans’ Embassies & FSE Disabled Fans’ Rights.

How is FSE Financed?

FSE secured core funding with UEFA until after the Congress and hopes to secure follow-up funding from UEFA, which will enable us to plan for the next two seasons. It’s been clearly acknowledged by both sides though, that any funding from UEFA can only happen under the condition that FSE can remain independent with its activities. On top of that, we will also look for other sources in the near future to reduce the reliability one source of funding and to retain/further strengthen our independence.

3. Voting and election procedures

How can I vote?

You have to be registered and admitted as a member of the FSE. Also, the weight your vote depend on your status: are you an individual member, do you represent a local fan group or initiative, or a national fan organisation?

>>Individual members

Your vote is restricted to one vote. You vote with a white voting card, which you will also use for the election.

>>Locally active groups / organisations

Formally or informally organised groups or initiatives active on local level should be represented by an appointed delegate for FSE at the AGM. The group’s vote is restricted to three votes. Local groups vote with a yellow voting card, which they will also use for the election.

>>Fans groups / fans’ organisations active at national/pan-European level

Formally and informally organised groups and initiatives active on national / pan-European level should be represented by an appointed delegate for FSE at the AGM. The group’s vote is restricted to ten votes. National groups vote with a red voting card, which they will also use for the election.

NOTE: appointed delegates can represent a maximum of one locally active member and one nationally/transnationally active member at the AGM of FSE.

Standing for election – how do I do it?

You have to be 18 years of age and register and be admitted as a member first before you register as a candidate. You can register as a candidate via email at info@fanseurope.org or directly at the European Football Fans’ Congress (please check our website for further information).
Preamble
The work of FSE is based upon the understanding that the success of football as a global spectator sport rests on the participation and contribution of its supporters, and that it is crucial that these supporters have a collective voice and influence within the game. Football is considered part of culture, and often in particular of youth culture. The changing nature of modern football, including its continuing commercialisation, has given rise to some tension between supporters on the one hand, and clubs and football authorities on the other. Some communities and social groups feel increasing alienation and exclusion from football, and there remain significant problems with racism and violence.

Conversely, where there is a decent level of self-organisation among football fans, and where there are opportunities for supporters to take part as equal partners in genuine dialogue; where supporters’ concerns and interests are taken seriously; and where supporters are involved in decision-making processes – then there can be a perceptible improvement in atmosphere, an increase in community involvement, and a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

The activities of FSE are therefore based upon the following principles:

- An opposition to all forms of discrimination of any individuals on any grounds including: origin, ability, religion and belief, gender, sexual orientation and age
- The rejection of violence, both verbal and physical
- The empowerment of grass roots football fans
- Fostering a positive fan and football culture including values such as fair play and good governance

The success of football crosses national boundaries, as indeed do its problems. The existence of an European organisation of football supporters, enabling transnational exchanges of experience, networking and democratic representation, will have a real impact in addressing the social problems affecting the game, and in promoting positive values of sport and social inclusion.

With this in mind, FSE adopts the following statutes:

§ 1 Name, Place of Residence, Financial Year
1. The member association will be named „Football Supporters Europe e.V.“, with the abbreviation “FSE”
2. Its place of residence is Hamburg and it is registered under the number VR 20279 with the official register of member associations
3. The financial year is the calendar year.

§ 2 Tax Shelter
1. Football Supporters Europe pursues only and directly non-profit-making and beneficant purposes according to the section „Tax Shelter Purposes“ of the (German) Tax Code. The purpose of the member association is to foster international goodwill and understanding, tolerance, equal opportunities of women and men and democratic principles. The member association is acting selflessly; it doesn’t pursue profitable interests in the first place.

2. Funds of the member association must be used for purposes related to its statutes only. Members of the member association in their role as members should not be granted benefits out of the funds of the member association. They are not entitled to benefits out of the funds of the member association when they quit. Nobody must benefit from expenditures, which aren’t related to the purposes of the member association, or disproportionately high salaries.

§ 3 Aims and Responsibilities of the member association
The purpose of the statutes is accomplished by
1. Fostering democratic principles and international understanding by organising an independent, representative network for football fans in Europe, organised according to democratic principles, which provides both a platform for an exchange about their culture, in particular in the field of sport and the representation and determination of interests, based on the core principles of FSE, especially in dialogue with institutions that deal with football fans at European level. (for instance, by organising meetings of the network members, where different (fan) cultural customs and initiatives are presented; by informing and
campaigning on [fan]cultural customs and interests in different countries; by organising mediation and info events between representatives of football authorities and network members from different countries)

2. Encouraging responsible self-organisation at the grass roots, especially amongst younger football fans, as part of overall democratic education and conveying of core values such as international goodwill, anti-discrimination and the rejection of violence.

3. The organisation of international workshops, presentations, seminars and networking events for football fans and institutional representatives in football on a regular basis, dealing with issues such as the organisation of sport as well as the presentation of and the exchange on [fan] culture, customs and successful initiatives in the field of sport/football in different countries across Europe (for instance, on issues of the organizational structure of football clubs and associations, fans’ groups or ownership structures in clubs in different countries)

4. Providing preventive information and support services for football supporters at international matches, especially so-called “fans’ embassy services” as recognized method in the field of prevention of violent and discriminatory spectator behaviour.

5. Supporting and giving advice to fans’ groups, fans’ organisations and fan-related initiatives especially in Europe and provide assistance with the establishment of projects, such as intercultural exchange programs to exchange culture and customs, in particular between [young] football fans in different countries, e.g. with fans’ projects and integrative community football projects.

6. Public relations and campaigning by using football as a platform to convey values such as democracy, opposition to all forms of discrimination (e.g. exclusion, racism, anti-semitism, sexism, homophobia etc), fair play and gender equality.

7. The provision of publications and newsletters on activities of the member association and activities and campaigns of football fans in other countries

8. The provision of a database on legal aspects, guidelines, regulations and core articles on fan-related issues and the organisation of sport (e.g. on issues of the organizational structure of clubs and associations, ownership structures in clubs and cultural forms of expression of [fans'] groups in different countries)

The member association can employ full-time or part-time employees for the implementation of its tasks

§ 4 Membership
1. Every natural and legal person as well as informally organised groups with a named delegate for FSE can become members of the member association, given that they are predominantly active in the fans’ sector in Europe and actively supporting the overall objectives of the member association, consenting to the core principles of the member association and actively support these values. Europe is defined as the sum of all national football associations that are members of the European football association UEFA. Countries are defined as all nations where there is a national football association.

2. The acceptance as a member is dependent on the submission of an application (also possible via e-mail or online) with the representation of the FSE-Committee according to the statutes, which is the FSE Coordination.

3. The membership terminates with the death of the member, the lapse of their legal personality, their voluntary resignation, with the expulsion from the member association as well as with the dissolution of FSE.

4. The voluntary resignation of a member can be carried out by this member at any time without notice for the end of the financial year by submitting a written statement to the FSE Committee respectively the FSE Coordination.

5. A member can be expelled or prevented from joining the organisation by a decision of the FSE Committee or the FSE Coordination, if they act counter to the objectives and core principles of the member association, or if they don’t fulfill their obligations towards the member association. The member can launch an appeal against this decision with the ordinary AGM. The AGM makes the final decision. The member in question must be invited to this assembly and should be heard. The principle of a two-thirds majority of the members present applies in these cases.

§ 5 Rights and Obligations of members
1. Football Supporters Europe e.V. can collect membership fees. The sort and amount of the membership fees have to be determined and adopted by the AGM in form of membership fee regulations, following a respective proposal of the FSE-Committee.
2. Members have the right to participate in the assemblies and events of the club as well as to make free use of the services (e.g. consultancy, information) and publications provided, unless stated otherwise.

3. Members are obligated to
   a. act according to the core principles of FSE, support them and encourage other members to do the same.
   b. fulfill and support the objectives and tasks of the member association
   c. to pay membership fees when due and where required and fulfill their obligations as decided.

§ 6 Entities of the member association
The entities of the member association are:
1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM)
2. FSE-Committee
3. FSE-Coordination / Geschäftsleitung
4. On-topic divisions

§ 7 Annual General Meeting
1. The ordinary AGM must be held at least once a year and must be convened by the FSE-Committee respectively the FSE Coordination.
2. The FSE-Committee and the FSE-Coordination must present an annual report and a financial report at the AGM. After that, the AGM decides about discharging the FSE-Committee.
3. AGMs have to be convened in writing by the FSE-Committee or the FSE-Coordination at least eight weeks before the assembly.
4. Extraordinary AGMs must be convened in writing by the FSE-Committee or the FSE-Coordination, if required in the interest of the member association or demanded by at least ¼ of the total number of votes of all members.
5. After the end of the term of office of the FSE-Committee, the new FSE-Committee is to be elected by the AGM.
6. The AGM is the highest entity of the member association and entitled to give directives to the FSE-Committee.

§ 8 Voting System
1. All properly admitted members present who have reached the age of 14 years, have the right to vote at the AGM. The weight of each vote depends primarily on the geographic sphere of activities of the respective members.
   a. With natural persons, the vote is restricted to one vote per member
   b. Legal entities, informally organized fans’ groups and fan-related organisations and initiatives which are primarily active at local level, should be represented by an appointed delegate in the AGM, or a substitute, if the delegate appointed is prevented for any reason. The vote for delegates of locally active members is restricted to three votes per member at the AGM.
   c. Legal entities, informally organized fans’ federations and fan-related organisations and initiatives which are primarily active at national/cross-European level, should be represented by an appointed delegate in the AGM, or a substitute if the delegate appointed is prevented for any reason. The vote for delegates of members active at national/cross-European level is restricted to 10 votes per member at the AGM.

The FSE-Coordination determines the final classification of each member by taking the statements made in the membership application form into account.

2. Delegates of local, national/cross-European members, or their substitutes, can represent at maximum one national/cross-European and one locally active member each as delegates with voting rights at the AGM of FSE.

§ 9 FSE-Committee
1. The FSE-Committee consists of
   - a number of members elected by the AGM. The number of elected members is determined according to the conditions stated in §9 paragraph 2.
   - the FSE-Coordination/executive board
   - the directors of each on-topic division
2. The FSE-Coordination and the directors of each on-topic division are represented within the FSE-Committee, each with one permanent seat per entity. The final size of the FSE-Committee should always provide at least a two-thirds majority of elected representatives. The number of FSE-Committee members to be elected by the AGM is determined by the number of permanent seats at the time of elections whereby the percentage of 1/3 needs to be added to this number.

3. The number of elected members from one country in the FSE-Committee is restricted to the maximum number equaling one third of the total number of elected representatives within the FSE-Committee

4. The posts within the FSE-Coordination and the directing posts in the on-topic divisions can be exercised in form of a full-time employment.

5. The elected members of the FSE-Committee are elected by the AGM with a simple majority for a period of one year. They remain in office until a new FSE-Committee is elected.

6. The re-election of representatives is possible.

7. Every member of the FSE-Committee must be a member of the member association that has reached the age of 18 years or an appointed representative according to the statutes and §30 BGB (=German Civil Law Code).

8. The FSE-Committee respectively the representatives appointed according to the statutes have the following responsibilities above all:
   a. development of an annual budget plan, a potential action plan as well as an annual report and a financial report
   b. Convocation of the AGM
   c. Preparing and implementing the AGM decisions.
   d. In between the AGMs, the FSE-Committee respectively the representatives appointed according to the statutes have to take up the interests of the member association and make decisions that can’t be postponed until the AGM.

9. Each member of the FSE-Committee has one vote. Unless stated otherwise in the statutes, decisions of the FSE-Committee are made with a simple majority of the eligible votes counted. With decisions concerning on-topic divisions or the executive board (FSE-Coordination), the respective representatives according to the statutes are not entitled to vote regarding issues of - the dismissal of the respective person
   - the dissolution of their on-topic division
   - the existence, nature or dimensions of their full-time employment

§ 10 FSE-Coordination/ Geschäftsleitung
1. The FSE-Committee appoints and has the right to dismiss a chief executive/Geschäftsleitung, resident at the FSE-Coordination Office as legal representative according to the statutes and §30 BGB (German Civil Law Code)

2. In case of doubt, the actual authority of the FSE-Coordination/chief executive according to §30 BGB (German Civil Law Code) concerns all legal transactions, which are involved in the sphere of duties allocated to the executive board by the FSE-Committee.

3. The FSE-Coordination is represented with a permanent seat within the FSE-Committee

4. The FSE-Committee as a superordinated entity is entitled to giving directives to the FSE-Coordination and to control its work on a regular basis.

5. On a regular basis, but at least once every three months, the FSE-Coordination must inform the FSE-Committee of the current situation of the member association.

§11 On-topic Divisions
1. An on-topic division serves the more efficient organisation and further development of specific areas in the framework of the objectives and responsibilities of FSE, which require a certain level of expertise.

2. The establishment or dissolution of a on-topic division depends on a two-thirds majority decision of the FSE-Committee.

3. The structure of a on-topic division can adopt various forms of possible shapes. Internally, it can be structured both membership-based and like a loose network or with a committee structure or like a consultancy service.
4. Every on-topic division appoints a director/coordinator who represents the division within the FSE-Committee with a permanent seat. The directors/coordinators of the divisions are to be considered legal representatives of the FSE-Committee according to the statutes. In case of doubt, their actual authority involves all legal transactions occurring in the ordinary course of business of their respective division.

5. The annual and financial reports for the budget of each on-topic division have to be submitted with the FSE-Committee at the end of each financial year and as interim report in good time before the AGM, to allow them to be included in the overall reports.

6. The FSE-Committee is entitled to giving directives to the on-topic divisions.

§ 12 Recording of Decisions
All decisions made in meetings of the FSE-Committee or at the AGM must be put down in writing and be signed by the individually appointed recorder.

§ 13 Change of Statutes and Liquidation
1. The AGM decides about all questions regarding the statutes. Changes of statutes require a two-thirds majority decision of all members present.

2. Suggestions for amendments to the statutes must be sent in writing to the FSE Coordination at least 30 days prior to the AGM. Suggestions for amendments to the statutes need to be published seven days prior to the AGM.

3. The liquidation of the member association can only be decided at a special AGM convened for this purpose at least one month in advance, with a two-thirds majority of all members present.

4. In case of a liquidation or the closing of the member association or in case of a lapse of the tax shelter, all assets have to be transferred to a public body or another tax-privileged body for the purpose of fostering international understanding and sport.

5. Choosing the public body or another tax-privileged body in case of a liquidation or the closing of the member association or in case of a lapse of the tax shelter according to the conditions outlined in §14 section 4, resides with the FSE Committee with a two-thirds majority decision of all members of the Committee at the time of the liquidation or the closing of the member association or in case of a lapse of the tax shelter.

§ 14 Commencement of the statutes and preliminary regulations
1. These statutes will come into effect on the day of their registration with the official register for member associations.

2. The entities of the member association can make decisions based upon the statutes already before the registration which will come into effect with the registration.

3. The entities and representatives in charge at the time when these statutes were decided, continue their work until the AGM elects other legal successors.
IMAGINE FOOTBALL...  
WITHOUT FANS?!  
FORESTIL DIG FODBOLD...  
UDEN FANS?!