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TARAFTAR KÜLTÜRÜNÜ KURTARIN!

....OR HOW OUR VISION OF FOOTBALL WENT TO TURKEY

When our members from the fans’ group ÜNIFEB at Fenerbahce first proposed to host the European Football Fans Congress (EFFC) in Istanbul, the reaction with everybody else within FSE was along the lines of “Istanbul....GREAT!”, and seconds later “....wooooh, bloody hell, how are we gonna do that???”

Stereotypical images popped up about violence and rivalries amongst supporters in Turkish football, in particular between those of the big clubs in Istanbul, the dimension of which said to be not comparable to what is known elsewhere in Europe... we thought of rumours about criminal deals between club boards and the leadership of most fans groups, combined with an image of stadia with hardly any women inside the stands in view of the fact that Turkey is a country where Islam is the predominant religion. So much for the obvious stereotypes.

On top of these aspects, there were reports and stories about very repressive police interventions in football and we knew that there is no national networking amongst active football supporters on a regular basis to stand up for their interests together, let alone any dialogue between football supporters and the football governing bodies.

Even the opposite was the case: a match-fixing scandal and a new piece of legislation, aiming at combating violence and match-fixing had just been passed by the Turkish government, the zero-tolerance character of which had given rise to an increased level of tension on the side of great parts of football supporters, and a feeling of being collectively stigmatised as potential criminals.

Hence, the challenge of the undertaking was obvious from the start, even without the logistical and financial struggles that had to be overcome with organising our biggest European event in a city with 16 Million inhabitants in a country at the edge of the European map.

Now, after the event, we are still thrilled about the result which is illustrated in further detail in this EFFC report. The figure of more than 500 registered participants from 32 countries speaks for itself already. Moreover though, our Turkish members didn’t only achieve to unite active football supporters from clubs across the country beyond rivalries for discussion on common issues, we also managed to encourage the Turkish Football Federation and institutions in Turkey to join the event and enter into a dialogue with football fans for the first time ever.

Furthermore, at European level, more representatives from various institutions and bodies in football from outside the fans’ movement than ever before joined the event, thereby demonstrating an increasing interest in the work of FSE and the viewpoints of football fans as major stakeholder of the game.

Certainly, there is still a long way to go until this can translate into substantial and wide-spread improvements in the involvement of football fans as partners on equal footing in the game at local and national level. But we think, we can be self-confident and say that this can be considered a next step and a positive effect of the ongoing efforts undertaken by FSE and its members in establishing fans’ dialogue with football governing bodies and institutions and networking amongst supporters across the continent.
Ultimately, we would therefore like to issue a particular thanks to the fantastic hospitality provided by our members from UNIFEB, UNI BJK and Ultraslan UNI without the dedication and courage of which this event wouldn’t have become a reality and a true event by fans for fans!

Likewise, we’d like to express our gratitude to municipal sports agency Spor A.S. as well as the Turkish Football Federation for providing substantial financial and logistical support to the organisation of our event through the provision of simultaneous translation facilities or shuttle busses.

This backing at local level enabled us to free up resources for our members who wanted to join this event at the other side of the continent and helped them greatly to overcome financial constraints to do so.

And finally, as usual, we’d like to thank every single participant for coming and for supporting the efforts to make our vision of football a more likely reality with your contributions! We won’t let up!

Now, enough of introductory remarks, we hope you’ll enjoy the read!
As for the participants amongst the readers, we hope you’ll be able to revive all the memorable moments!
**FRIDAY 13 JULY 2012**

**KADIKÖY-ISTANBUL**

**ŞÜKRÜ SARACOĞLU STADIUM**

13.00hrs – 19.00hrs

**PRE-OPENING**
- Choreo Workshop
- Guided Stadium Tours
- Meeting of fans' kick-off times campaigns from across Europe
- Meeting of fan lawyer network

Drinks and music all day

19.00hrs

Opening Panel Discussion

“OUR VISION OF FOOTBALL”

**ŞÜKRÜ SARACOĞLU STADIUM**

From around 20.30hrs

**BARBECUE & WELCOME PARTY**

at a park next to the stadium
SATURDAY, 14 JULY 2012

HALIC/SÜTLÜCE-Istanbul
HALIC CONGRESS CENTER
9.00hrs-16.00hrs
EFFC Workshops & EFFC Market

16.00hrs – 17:30hrs
Panel Discussion - Football’s Real Disease: Match-Fixing

BJK İNÖNÜ STADIUM
18.15hrs
Guided Stadium Tours & Fan March

KABATAŞ FERRYBOAT STATION
20.00hrs-24.00hrs
Cruising EFFC Party & Barbecue on the Bosphorus River

Boat stopping every hour

SUNDAY, 15 July 2012

HALIC/SÜTLÜCE-Istanbul
HALIC CONGRESS CENTER
10.00hrs- approx 14.30hrs
Annual General Meeting of FSE
First national network meeting of Turkish football supporters

15.00hrs
EFFC Press Conference

IN TURKISH ONLY - from approx
15.15hrs: Panel Discussion - Fans’ dialogue and safety & security issues in Turkey

ASLANTEPE STADIUM & NEVİZADE / TAKSIM
17.00hrs
Guided stadium tours & Dinner at the Galatasaray stadium

20.30hrs - ???
EFFC Farewell Party at Nevizade
OVERVIEW
"OUR VISION OF FOOTBALL" – PANEL DISCUSSION

Chair: Reinhard Krennhuber, Ballesterer Football Magazine, Austria

Panelists:
Sefton Perry, Coordinator Supporters Liaison Officer Project, UEFA
Tony Higgins, board member of FIFPro
David Bohannan, Chair of the EU Football Experts Think Tank
Ebru Köksal, former board member of the European Club Association
Antonia Hagemann, Supporters Direct, UK
Martin Endemann, BAFF & FSE executive Committee

What do we want our football and fan culture to be like? Which hurdles need to be overcome to achieve that? What should be the role of fans in an ideal football world? Do we as fans actually agree in our vision with other institutions or governing bodies in football or not; if so, in which areas?

These were the challenging questions to posed to a high-profile panel in the pre-opening of the EFFC 2012 on Friday night to set the tone for the course of the rest of the weekend. The location of the panel behind the goal, with its audience sitting right inside the heart of the stand of Fenerbahce’s stadium also provided nicely symbolic visual preconditions for the desired nature of the debate.

In front of an audience of around 500 football supporters, our panelists had to answer to questions of the well-prepared chair Reinhard Krennhuber, focussed on their respective field of expertise. It very quickly became apparent that the common ground of all parties was the desire to have a football without violence or discrimination. How to best get there and where the main problems are, however, remain the actual, much bigger items of discussion. As for the role of fans in this though, surprising positive viewpoints were presented also by the representatives of organisations considered to be firstly hostile towards fans’ interests.

SUPPORTERS LIAISON OFFICERS
Sefton Perry, for instance, provided insights on the introduction of Article 35 in the UEFA licencing requirements, according to which all clubs with a UEFA licence have to appoint a Supporters Liaison Officer (SLO) from the beginning of the 2012/2013 season across Europe. An SLO, in brief, should act as a contact hub for fans who establishes a permanent dialogue with the fans and voices their opinions towards the relevant decision-making entities inside the club and vice versa.

The introduction of the UEFA SLO licencing requirement was initiated amongst others by the results of an on-topic workshop organised at the European Football Fans’ Congress 2009. FSE members and partners from Supporters Direct (SD) were at the forefront of this workshop and subsequently commissioned by UEFA to look after the implementation of the SLO project. SD Representative and panellist Antonia Hagemann therefore subsequently explained how SD organises training and meetings for SLOs in consultation with FAs and fans groups.

FAN OWNERSHIP AND GOOD GOVERNANCE – THE WORK OF SD
From an SD perspective, incorporating fans’ viewpoints in decision-making of clubs is an integral matter of good governance and hence a core area of SDs work. Against this background, Antonia Hagemann also outlined the overall work of SD, a UK based organisation with a European arm and member of FSE from day one, that strives for the involvement of supporters in club governance and helps fans to get organised to achieve that in their countries.

SUMMARIES OF DISCUSSIONS AND WORKSHOPS
The backing of UEFA and bodies like the European Commission for the overall vision behind SDs and FSEs work certainly represents a positive sign for a changing mindset in European institutions on the role and involvement of fans in the game.

Of course, that doesn’t make up for all of UEFA’s actions that are seen as harming the fans’ experience (e.g. through the ban of standing areas or the ongoingly expanding commercial exploitation of the game), but it can certainly be considered a positive step into a different direction.

SAFETY AND SECURITY IN TURKEY

However, where both the job of an SLO and the debate between fans and football governing bodies or other stakeholders gets... let’s say, more delicate, is the area of safety and security in football. When it comes to taking concrete action to prevent, address or sanction violence and/or incidents of discrimination, match-going supporters often face situations where they are treated collectively as a problem or as potential threat. Fans’ efforts to self-regulate or to play an active role in solving problems are usually ignored.

Ebru Köksal, former board member of the European Club Association (ECA) and Consultant at Galatasaray, underlined this perspective with her intervention on the situation in football in Turkey. Whilst stressing the importance of dialogue with supporters, she also drew the expected gloomy picture re levels of violence inside Turkish stadia. With the argument that security had to be enhanced for the benefit of making the game more attractive for children and women, she praised the new piece of football legislation recently adopted by the Turkish government with the aim to tackle violence and match-fixing.

Turkish fans met this view rather very critically, in view of their rejection of the overtly repressive and negative character of the new law and measures included that are considered to restrict the positive commitment of the majority of football supporters for the actions of a tiny minority.

MORE ROOM IS REQUIRED FOR SELF-REGULATION OF FANS – THE FSE VISION OF FOOTBALL

But what is the alternative? In this context, Martin Endemann talked about the work of FSE in this field, particularly for the "ProSupporters" Project. As part of this EU-funded project, FSE will facilitate the organisation of up to six events with different fans groups in Europe to help them with underlining the willingness of fans to take responsibility for a positive atmosphere inside their stands and towards the wider public.

Other than that, FSE will put together a handbook on their definition of so-called Supporters Charters as part of their project activities. Supporters Charters, in brief, are to be considered bilateral agreements between fans and clubs where both parties outline joint beliefs as well as rights, procedures and/or commitments towards each other, all elaborated in a joint negotiation process on equal footing. The handbook will be written and published in 5 languages by FSE, but in consultation with the wider fanbase and representatives of football governing bodies and institutions (such as UEFA, ECA, EPFL, the Council of Europe, the European Commission and FIFPro).

The ProSupporters activities and other projects are a direct result of the conclusions and positions outlined in the FSE Vision of Football. In this document published in January 2012, FSE illustrates the shared viewpoints of football supporters in its membership and beyond from across Europe on all sorts of issues affecting football supporters. It forms the basis of a longer-term work programme for FSE in the coming years.

GOOD HOSTING – FEWER PROBLEMS, THE POLICE PERSPECTIVE

Interestingly, topics such as good hosting and policing of football supporters are primary areas in which the fan perspective is increasingly shared by institutions and practitioners in the field of safety and security at European level. This at least was expressed by David Bohannan, chair of the EU Football Experts Think Tank, former police officer and head of the Football Police Unit at the Home Office in the UK. The EU Football Experts Think Tank is a group of safety and security experts in football from different countries who want to improve standards and work quality in the area of football policing in cooperation with different stakeholders.
That’s why they were keen to involve the fans when they launched a Pan-European Football Police Training with highest political support and the objective to promote an idea of policing in football that is turning away from the idea of controlling supporters and from enemy stereotyping....believe it or not. Instead, on the basis of proven best practice models of police tactics in football, the training course aims at establishing policing of fans focussed on the provision of conditions and security concepts that facilitate a positive experience for supporters. If police actions are aiming at a low-profile presence, de-escalation, with a friendly and communicative attitude towards the fans, evidence shows that fans then usually perceive policing as legitimate and are more likely to pay it back with positive behavior.

David Bohannans was visibly soothing the souls of many fans present with his words. But he made it equally clear, that they are only at the beginning with this first European training course and the greatest challenge will be to take this down to the actual fans’ experience at national and local level to make a real change in the future. Up until then, there are still many hurdles to overcome, both politically and in the mindsets of some parts of their target group....and surely, notwithstanding the fact that there evidently is loads of examples of disproportionate police actions against fans, there equally is serious incidents initiated by proactively violent or discriminatory fan behaviour.

PLAYERS CALL FOR FANS SUPPORT
But not only police or other fans, football players can also be targets of violent, discriminatory or threatening (re)actions, both of some supporters and.... even of club officials. More than that, just like the fans, football players can equally become victims of bad governance, mismanagement and commercial exploitation of modern football, the sometimes reckless financial demands of which, however, are usually seen as one of the main root-causes for exactly these problems.

Tony Higgins, board member of the European branch of the international player’s union FIFPro quickly managed to give reasons to doubt this when he presented impressive findings of a survey conducted amongst thousands of players across the globe, but mainly in Europe. These findings were published in the FIFPro Black Book this spring and partially paint a very gloomy picture of player’s realities in certain countries, far beyond the shiny and luxurious scenarios of the few billionaire star players that there are in divisions such as the English Premier League or in the Primera División in Spain.

The anonymous survey results tell about unacceptably high percentages amongst players with outstanding payments of wages over many months, experiences of discriminatory abuse by fans against players but also severe physical threats against players via club officials if they wouldn’t accept certain contractual conditions or participate in match-fixing, for instance. Especially match-fixing poses one of the greatest threats to football also from FIFPro’s point of view.

Tony ultimately wrapped this part up nicely when he made clear, that any sustainable solution to all existing problems can only be achieved together with the supporters as major stakeholder for the success of the game, alongside the players. That’s why FIFPro participates in the activities of the ProSupporters project.

Certainly, there still remained many controversial issues and items uncovered also at the end of the more than two hour panel discussion with subsequent Q&A session that night. But it was still really positive to learn that apparently there is a growing awareness and level of activity on all sides fostering the integral role that fans actions can have for the greater good of the game and with the development of solutions to existing problems. With this, the panel debate definitely managed to set an overall interesting and encouraging scenery for the discussions for the workshops and in depth discussions European Football Fans’ Congress over the following days.
The meeting saw participants from fans’ campaigns on kick-off times from Belgium, England, Norway & Switzerland. Different countries mean different experiences with how and why matches are moved, but throughout our discussion, it always came down to two basic points: TV and money. Changes of kick-off times and fixture lists of matches happen because the matches are being shown on TV. The reason for this is TV companies paying huge sums to the clubs and the leagues.

Various countries have different levels of payment. If you are relegated from the Premier League (England) you will be given a compensation for the loss of TV-money of millions of pounds over the next four years. In England there is TV football on the five highest levels of league football, thus all teams in these divisions are affected. The football economies of the other countries with participating supporters in our discussion were much smaller, but the problem remained the same: matches are moved because of TV and money.

Norway’s “Fotball skal spilles i helgen” (Football should be played on the weekend) fans’ campaign has led to a stop of Monday matches, and starting in 2013, football matches in the first division will be played Fridays, Saturday and Sundays only. That us putting pressure on decision-makers in football worked, was partly also connected with a dramatic decline in attendance figures at matches in Norway over the past few years.

During the discussion on this, we also touched upon the points of communication between us supporters and the FA’s, the role of TV in football, how stadium bans are happening because of TV (6-8000 people are banned from stadiums in Belgium because of being caught on camera giving the finger) - these things were all seen as being connected.

Because of the difference in experiences (smaller countries being closer to their FA’s, bigger countries having stronger supporters organisations, the bigger clubs in English football having waiting lists for season card holders, other countries having decreasing numbers of people watching football) and the extreme differences in the money involved, we found it difficult to transfer one campaign or one way of working from one country to another.

Still: We decided that the Norwegian logo and the FSE slogan would be a terrific combination for a European campaigning motto that could unite all our different activities:

OUR GAME – OUR TIME!
MARTIN ENDEMANN  
Bündnis Aktiver Fußballfans (BAFF), FSE Committee, Germany

Just before the official opening of this years FSE congress in Istanbul, the first meeting of the European Fans Lawyer Network took place in Fenerbahces Şükrü-Saracoğlu Stadium.

The European Fans Lawyer Network is a working group established by FSE, which was set up in the aftermath of the 2011 European Fans’ Congress in Copenhagen & Brondby. At the moment, the network consists of 24 fan lawyers from 10 different countries, while lawyers from five different countries attended the first physical meeting of the network.

At the meeting, the lawyers exchanged their experiences in their field of work and discussed the developments in the respective national legislation. During this exchange of expertise, it turned out that while the legislation (on topics like stadium bans, the use of pyrotechnics, penalty scales) not only varies from country to country but also sometimes from state to state, the situation and problems are often similar and there are loads of possibilities for the network to work together and find a common strategy.

Some topics the network members agreed to work on in the future:

- Expanding the network: The network is still looking for more lawyers, which are involved in issues involving football fans in their specific countries. So if you know any lawyer who is experienced in the work with and for fans, get in touch and send us their details through info@fanseurope.org

- Section on the FSE – website: there will be a section on our website with contact details to the different fan lawyers in the network. It is our aim to have a reliable contacts in every European country. Especially for football fans traveling abroad in Europe, a legal contact in the respective country could prove invaluable. This, of course, is all work in progress and needs the participation of all FSE members to expand the network of legal aid.

- Production of a guide: during the meeting, the idea emerged to produce a guide with legal tips and tricks for the respective countries, not only for fans living in these countries, but also to assist fans travelling abroad. If you have any experience in this or know of something similar which was produced in your country, we’re looking forward to hearing from you!

- Cooperation with the penalty scales workshop: in the workshop on penalty scales (see also the report on this workshop in this reader), there was a lengthy discussion about possibilities to tackle some of the “anti-fan legislation” existing in several countries as well as against imbalanced and unfair sanctions imposed by many FAs. This is something, the network will look into in the future.
Money can’t buy passion, that’s for sure and even in times of financial crisis supporters want to support their team. Maybe even more than in times of financial prosperity because the love for the game and their team is unconditional.

While football clubs need to generate more and more money to make profits and compete at all levels, the question is how strong is the fans’s loyalty when it is overstretched in a financial way? And, can the love for the game compete with mortgage payments and educational costs? Sponsors are made important but are they on a short term. Fans are the foundation of the game and should be kept involved by the clubs. The sponsors can provide the financial extras needed.

In this workshop five speakers told about their experiences on different ticket issues. Complaining about things that are not good but also how to work things out with the clubs and contribute to a solution. It was interesting to see how a club approaches ticketing issues, and although it’s not the general approach, the way FCUM deals with ticketing issues and his fans can be used as a good example for everyone.

FC United of Manchester sees the need to keep the fans involved as the foundation of the club and wants to keep the game accesible for all of them without losing sight of the financial side.

In times of economical recession, they set a minimum price per seasonticket, enough to keep the club running, and let the fans decide whether they wanted to spend extra money in their commitment to the club or use the money for something else, as CEO Andy Walsh explained. Result; the revenue per seasonticket increased by 20% and and there was an increase of over 20% on the number of season tickets sold.

In Belgium, the Supportersfederatie Profclubs succesfully propsed a maximum price on tickets during the Belgium play off system last year and is working on a fixed price for the away stand during normal league games to keep travelling affordable and stadiums full.

Clubs need to see the importance of a good ticketing system for both themselves as the fans. With a solid infrastructure for ticket distribution, the average number of fans inside the ground will go up and black market tickets will drop because ticket are available for everyone says, Eray Sen from 1907 UNIFEB. Also prices need to be in relation with the income in order to prevent fans being pushed out of the stands because of finances.

Likewise, standards of the stadiums in Turkey (and other countries) also need to go up and play a role in making the game attractive and and accessible for the disabled, women and kids.

A great example of creative self-policing to solve the problem of black market ticketing was presented by Martin Wolter. In Hamburg at FC St. Pauli, fans decided to make black market dealers visible without using any violence. Black market dealers were embarrased by the fans in front of the stadium in public via following them in a loud, funny demonstration. Touts didn’t get any help from the police while fleeing “the problem” around the stadium... and the problem was solved.

The club ultimately supported the fans’ campaign and hunted down black market sellers online with the help of the fans. Fans passed on photos to the ticket centre and the club worked on better information on ticket sales and imposed stadium bans on ticket touts.
Although Europe wants to be one, there are still countries on UEFA territory who require a visa when visited. For fans travelling there, there is often too little time between the draw and the actual matchday to get the required documents through the embassy.

**Overall conclusion**
Although the general conclusion is that FSE's vision is on ticketing is formulated clearly, there is still need to take action regarding ticket issues. On a local level as well as on European level. Sharing information on different issues is vital! We can all learn from the experiences on pricing, ticket distribution, and allocation and there is no need to reinvent things.

**Recommendations**
- Help to get the info out by posting the experiences at the ticketpage on the FSE Forum, for example the Belgian and Swedish models on set prices for the awaystand.
- Find out in what way visa requirements can be speeded up and see if there's a possibility to create short term 'sporting event' visa. Help from EU needed because it’s bigger than just football, it involves serious politics.
- Make a proposition to (re)install lower prices for kids and elderly to make sure they won’t get excluded.
- Call for transparency on numbers. Sports organisations should be treated the same as government bodies to get complete transparency on the number of tickets going to sponsors and fans. Propose a maximum % for sponsors since black market problems are also created by sponsors who aren’t interested.
- Demand for integration of regulatory provision of mandatory compensation for fans if overpricing is proved.
- Raise awareness for the need of fair pricing in football.
- Propose set prices for away fans so fans of popular clubs won't be punished for following their team.
- Ask for a percentage of the stadium capacity to always be available and won't be sold as a season ticket. Tickets should be available in all sections of the stadium.
- Make pricing part of the agenda at Uefa’s site visits / club meetings.
OVERVIEW:
In this workshop, experts and fans from several European countries described the situation in their countries and how institutional bodies try to deal with incidents happening inside the stadiums. It was obvious that punishments imposed are very often considered imbalanced and not fair. So-called “collective punishments” (travel bans, matches behind closed doors, expulsions of entire fans’ groups) affecting football fans collectively, just because of the misbehaviour of a few, are increasing in quantity from year to year. Not only at national, but also at international level.

Sven Brux gave an overview on the German situation and made it pretty clear on the basis of last years penalties, that most of the fines given out in Germany are because of the use of pyrotechnics. Still, the public impression was that the situation in terms of violence inside stadia had gotten worse, simply there have been that many fines during last season.

Dominik Antonowicz told the workshop about amendments to the Act on Safety of Public Events, which were adopted in Poland in the run-up to Euro 2012 and contain loads of points which are aimed against football fans collectively. He also gave some examples of collective punishments like the case of Śląsk Wrocław fans who received a 12-match away travel ban. The case was based on a letter of an individual angry passenger that was sent to the local newspaper with complaints about the misbehaviour of fans.

Manuela Schiller told us about her experience in defending the rights of football fans in Switzerland and the increasing criminalisation of football fans there on many levels, especially through measures like “hooligan”-databases and exclusion orders.

Finally fans representatives from Turkey gave the workshop participants an impression of the collective punishments in Turkey and especially the one against a whole groups based on gender. During last season, male football supporters weren’t allowed to some games, only females and kids were allowed in.

This was condemned by the participants as sexist practice, not only because it implies that only men would cause trouble in the stadiums but also that woman would be less passionate in their enthusiasm for the game. All speakers also criticized that UEFA and also national FAs are deciding about fines without explaining exactly what the fine was for and why some comparable incidents are sanctioned so differently.

DISCUSSIONS:
In the following discussion, even more example of punishments were presented from the floor and were seen by fans as intransparent, imbalanced, disproportionate and unjust. Fans also reported that in more and more countries, clubs and associations are trying to get the fines imposed on them back from individual supporters who were considered as being involved in incidents inside the stadium.

There was wide agreement in the room that the main purpose of disciplinary measures cannot and should not be to punish individuals, but to get the clubs to take action and to work with fans that they take responsibility for their behavior and to established a constructive and trustful relationship with their supporters to prevent such incidents from happening again. This led to another issue: the question about who gets the money that clubs have to pay when they are sanctioned to pay a fine. All participants agreed that the money from fines should be used for educational measures and work with fan groups, in order to create an atmosphere where further incidents can be avoided.
There were also several examples that disciplinary measures, like the exclusion of fan groups at specific games by not giving any tickets to away fans, often just don’t work, as there is a great level of solidarity between different fan groups, which suffered from similar away travel bans. In some places, this lead to a situation where fans from the home team bought tickets for their own stand for the away fans (several examples from Germany and Poland were brought up). From a safety and security point of view, this creates an even more dangerous situation, by the way.

Against the background of the examples given in the workshop, it was obvious that basic rights like the right of free movement of individuals and equality are threatened by disciplinary measures. In various cases, entire groups of supporters are punished, although the wrongdoing was committed by a few individuals.

The majority of participants also agreed that media has a great responsibility in this area. Especially the yellow press seems to put stakeholders in football under pressure, and this ultimately often provokes reactions, new regulations and punishments, which are put into effect without any objectivity. The perspective of football supporters doesn’t seem count and has been missing very often in discussions about the different interpretations of what is called “incidents”.

In the public opinion, violence and discrimination in football seem to be major problems. But when looking at the respective situation in different European societies, it gets obvious that football is only reflecting problems prevalent in society. And, of course, in some countries, there is fewer incidents in football then in the daily, “real” life, last but not least thanks to functioning fan work inside the terraces!

CONCLUSIONS AND DUTIES
Participants all agreed that the differences and problematic aspects of regulations, laws and punishments affecting football supporters have to be solved. The following positions and action points can form a first integral basis for this:

- A constructive dialogue between clubs and fans is the base for creating an atmosphere inside football stadiums, which can avoid avoid fines and punishments.
- Self-regulation inside the stands is an important measure to reduce violence and/ or discrimination. The experiences of the last decades show the positive development in a lot of football stadiums.
- Solidarity between different fan groups has to be practiced if undesired decisions by institutional bodies are taken.
- Fan groups and networks have to enforce the work with media to voice their own opinions, which could lead to more objective reports, as well as to a better understanding of fan behavior in public.
- FSE has to discuss with UEFA and Football federations about fines, with the aim to stop harsh punishments against individuals and to make fines more “useful” (fines have to be used to work on a problem).
- Some participants from the workshop volunteered to draft an letter to the FAs in their respective countries, which can be sent out by FSE, asking them to provide greater transparency on their disciplinary systems. This maybe could help fans to understand why fines on comparable cases can vary greatly but also it can put some pressure on the FA to unveil their system and make it more transparent.
- The new FSE fans lawyer network will start to check the different regulations and punishments in specific European countries and will look for possibilities to tackle some of these regulations at civil courts. This has to be looked into and decided by the FSE lawyer network.
First of all, it's important to say that there was a silent consensus to agree on the principle written down in the FSE statutes, to stand up against any form of discrimination. But the workshop proved to be unable to clearly define 'offensive behaviour' and 'threatening communication'. Different circumstances and languages in Europe can always develop new forms of behaviour that one could find 'offensive' or communication that one could perceive as 'threatening'. It also made clear that you easily run into issues of subjectivity: the individual history of a person basically decides if someone finds something offensive or not.

It was often referred to the new part of the Scottish legislation, that explicitly targets football fans. This law refers to offensive behaviour as any behaviour "which a reasonable person might consider offensive". Corinna Ferguson, a lawyer from the Human Rights Organisations Liberty (UK) pointed out that "no proof of intent is required". She considered this a "very broad and vague definition. The law carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment." Michal Karas (journalist and fan) remarked: "Some institutional reactions against football fans are against the 'Convention of Human Rights'."

The detailed workshop discussion on valuations of where to draw the line, differed in many ways. Also UEFA isn't able to clearly tell ticket holders in advance what is forbidden and what isn't. But shouldn't ticket-holding fans know what is allowed and what isn't? Marc Timmer (UEFA) made clear that UEFA is not interested in accepting any kind of "right to offend other people". In general, UEFA can't understand why people need swearing.

Some participants of the panel and many of the workshop opened up some ways of explanation. "Wherever there's competition, there's offensive language", one said. "If you want to get rid of that, then get rid of confrontation between teams." Another participant defined: "Fans are primarily interested in competing with each other – it's a form of tribalism. Sometimes I feel offended – I take it, and give it back." Football always invents the situation of "we" and "the others" anew: "Football", as one participant pointed out, "is a substitute for a real conflict". The majority of the participants agreed that therefore a certain hostile atmosphere cannot be stopped. The majority agreed to somehow preserve hostility as a key issue of fan cultures. Here was a clear line of demarcation to UEFA.

Nicole Selmer (F_IN) summed it up: "It is now out in the open that UEFA and FSE have very different conceptions of what a football ground should be." Moreover, the majority of participants made clear that there is a general feeling of concern about collective punishments.

Some participants referred to the idea that 'swear words' can offend in some circumstances and not others. "Football", as one participant pointed out, "has historically become a very important tool to let off steam that evolves during the work days. The discipline of society builds up aggression and this aggression can symbolically be shown in the crowd on the terraces. Where else should one do that?" This was a reminder of the perception that "you have to expect different practices at different locations".

Timmer's statement pro self-regulation amongst fans became a key here. He said: "Self-policing is the most powerful first line of defence against unacceptable behaviour. [...] Once you start to involve lawyers, the police and politicians, you can be sure the situation won't get any better." All workshop participants including the panel found a consensus to widen ways of self-regulation.
Piara Powar (FARE) reminded: “Where most people aren’t offended is where self-policing fails”. Another participant said that more and new options to meet and should be developed instead of a segregation of fans.

To promote self regulation, the workshop suggests asking all FSE members and other interested (fan) groups to discuss and write down their own statement of intent on what behaviour should and should not be accepted in their stadia. Where do we draw our line?

Or even further: Is it possible to draw a line here or do individual opinions make it even impossible to draw a line within a single fan group? FSE should collect those statements and also regard them as a kind of research to get closer to such a “line”. It would also be a survey on where European fan cultures reflect themselves according to differences between discrimination and ‘offensive behaviour’ or ‘threatening communication’. The workshop participants expect a huge variety of responses. The results could be represented to UEFA. It wasn’t mentioned that a collection of such statements of intent should lead to an agenda of political correctness or a kind of respect campaign from bottom-up. The idea is more to initiate and promote (self-)reflection.

Powar asked an open question here: “Can we keep something of the dynamism of fan culture and still be clear that some things are off limits?” Timmer said: “Just treat people with respect. This shouldn’t start with the repressive side, but with self-policing and our own behaviour.”

At the end of the workshop Gerd Dembowski (KoFaS) who chaired the meeting mentioned that such a self-reflection must not only include the view of current fans but also the “unheard voices”, of potential fans who don’t go to games. It could also be asked why people might find the stadium an uncomfortable place and therefore decide not to go there.

These ideas could be taken into consideration to extend the ongoing FSE project on self-regulation. It was mentioned that ‘good fan behaviour’ could be focussed and rewarded instead of negative headlines only.

Reflecting the workshop discussion while writing this report already opens up some more first ideas to promote self-regulation (through a Best Practice Guide, e.g.). Also, a brochure to raise discussions of “where to draw the line” to what is offensive could be helpful to kick start people thinking about it more and deepening the related discourse.

The workshop agreed that Kevin Miles and Gerd Dembowski would take the discussion and look at suggestions to be made to the FSE committee about next steps.
This workshop was set up to take the temperature on the current situation on Safe Standing in Europe. The topic has been relevant for years and years, and finally got it’s own spot in the official program of the European Football Fans Congress.

The starting point, was for the chairs to give us an overview of the current situation and previous work on the topic:

England – there is a ban on standing, even by law. There have been various campaigns, and FSF has been working closely on the issue, also trying to change this without passing a change in the law (which could be very difficult due to politicians that don’t want to play Russian roulette, as they see it). The debate on Safe Standing has now escalated, as Aston Villa recently declared a wish to allow standing in the terraces, which was also followed by Derby County. The introduction of Safe Standing in Scotland is seen as a possibility to find good practice examples to be more easily installed than in England.

Germany – the German authorities seem to be looking for any excuse to “move towards the English model” (ie. jack prices up and get rid of the alleged low-income trouble-makers), including mass hysteria played out through the media every time there’s a flare/pitch invasion etc. Nevertheless, the rules as they stand remain that standing is allowed and that a 10% mirror must be in effect for home and away fans (if there are 10k standing areas and 20k seats for home fans, the team must provide 1k standing and 2k seating for away supporters).

Norway – the Norwegian FA has just finished a long consultation with supporters that has resulted in an increase in the maximum proportion of safe standing accommodation from 20% to 40%, which is positive, but comes with all sorts of conditions (2.2m barriers separating maximum pen sizes of 1k fans etc.). We think these might be very useful for the English SGSA to see, so, the NSA will provide a translated copy of this list of regulations for standing areas in Norway.

Sweden – are permitted to have up to 20% of each stadium designed as standing area, which is a new rule, and many clubs actually have greater standing capacities than this at the moment. Nevertheless, the Swedish FA are pursuing a gradual and tapered implementation of this, and the feeling is they would rather follow the English model, too. As in Germany and Norway, the fact that Swedish clubs are membership organisations to a great extent really helps to prevent this.

Denmark – there are no rules on proportions of Safe Standing areas in Denmark, just that each stadium needs to accommodate a minimum of 10k supporters and 6k of them need to be under a roof. Safe Standing areas must be either fully open to the elements or fully covered, but not partially covered (to avoid issues of migration if it rains).

Not surprisingly, the overall starting point of the session, was not whether standing is safe or not: the angle of discussion was solely around how to make it safe enough and how to convince football authorities that standing isn’t dangerous in itself. There are already workable regulations in place in some countries, that can be used as a base to further develop Safe Standing in this regard also in other countries.
The more the discussions developed, driven by lively input from participants in the workshop, the more the frustration of the “marry-go-round” of the blaming grew: UEFA blame the larger FAs, the FAs blame UEFA, everybody blames politicians (who say they take advice from the footballing authorities) and suddenly it’s nobody’s fault.

Even though there was no projected outcome for the workshop, other than gathering information – and by that helping current campaigns on the topic, the already high temperature on the topic increased even more.

The dedicated speakers instantly decided to start on an awareness campaign, "Europe Loves to Stand". The idea is to make it visible to all parties WHY and HOW we want to stand – and eventually also gather support statements from different parties on the matter. The campaign is already being scetched, waiting for approval and would love to get support from the wider membership of FSE.
EFFC WORKSHOPS - SUMMARIES
ULTRA IS NOT DEAD! ULTRA CULTURE IN EUROPE

MICHAL RIECANSKY (FSE Committee member, Tribuny Su Nase, Slovakia)
MEDHI TAZRARET (FSE Committee member, France)

SPEAKERS:
Thomas Gasser, Founding Member of Verrückte Köpfe (Austria)
Phillip Markhardt, Chosen Few & ProFans (Germany)
Nicolas Hourcadec, Sociologist (France)
Erden Kosovac, Vamos Bien (Turkey)

SESSION OVERVIEW:
The “ultras workshop” was planned as a closed session for (ex-)members of ultras groups, with the intention of bringing together active ultras in and around the FSE network. The aim was to bring together ultra groups and to discuss the situation of the Ultra movement in Europe, the common problems and issues and to look towards furthering cooperation between groups.

The session was opened by input from the speakers, all of which are either active members of groups or have been active in the past. The first speaker, Thomas – founding member of the Verrückte Köpfe (Wacker Innsbruck) who explained the genesis of their group, their struggles, especially against the wave of commercialization which swept over the club, changed its name, kit and logo several times. Yet the experiences from Innsbruck were largely positive.

After a lengthy struggle, the ultras managed to secure a deep cooperation with club on various levels, which in the end proved fruitful. The campaign to bring back the original club name, kit and logo was successful, the ultras achieved to have the use of pyrotechnics permitted at club level – also thanks to the specific Austrian laws and regulations. The fans currently run the club media platforms such as the website and the magazine and members of the ultras are also responsible for the concepts and design of the official Wacker merchandising. All in all, the experiences from Innsbruck showed that if an in depth and honest relationship between ultras and club can be established, it can prove to be fruitful.

Phillip from Chosen Few (HSV), then brought light to a different subject which is the link between commercialization and repression in modern football. He explained the current repressive politics of the German state and FA towards ultras and active fans. The German ultras had up to 2010 achieved a certain level of dialog with the FA, which even led to several positive accomplishments for the fans.

But after 2010, the situation began to change as the state and FA started to crack down on ultras, thanks to a heated media campaign which led public opinion to support and therefore justify stronger repression against “dangerous and violent fans” - in other words – the active fanbase and ultras.

The pretexts for the repression were several incidents involving pyrotechnics. What followed, was a wave of crackdowns on fans, by the police and FA, which even rolled back some of the previous achievements – such as the shortened maximum stadium ban length. Still, Phillip showed that the German ultras and fans moved forward from this and after organising the first national fans congress, only for fans and a few selected media, the groups are trying to work in a more united and organised manner to confront the policies of the state and the FA and the Bundesliga.

The experiences from Turkey shed light again on the issue of repression mostly from the side of the state but also football governing bodies such as the FA or UEFA. The fans at Fenerbahce, as Erdan from Vamos Bien explained, are often the targets of police violence or even planned attacks or “trainings” at their matches – the current example could be the match behind closed doors between Fenerbahce and Galatasaray as the police and state prefer to test their crowd control methods first of all on football fans.
As it is the case in many countries, this is all done with the applause of large parts of the wider public, thanks to the media campaign and negative portrait of ultras and active fans in general. Yet the ultras at Fenerbahce try to maintain a level of organisation within their fanbase, providing support and solidarity to other fans.

Nicolas, spoke of his own reflection of the situation in the movement. The main points were the need for further self-reflection and regulation within the movement and groups and the need for the ultras to organise themselves as a social movement, points which were also stressed by the chairs of the session.

The second part of the session, concentrated on collecting common experiences and input from the participants. The first part of the discussion was centered on the issue of media, media use and media image of ultras – as this was an issue that many felt strongly about and in fact the media image, as has been shown, is often used to justify further repression and criminalization.

On one hand the issue of working with “normal” or mainstream media was discussed, but it was understood as a very unlikely option, or one rather hard to achieve, due to the shock-seeking nature of most media. Yet if positive contacts can be established with “normal” sports media, it can be beneficial in changing public opinion, influencing a part of the non-active fan base or general public.

Afterwards, ideas on how to improve the use of already existing media means which most groups use, such as fanzines or websites, to reach the members of groups and the fanbase within local clubs. Through this point and the ever-growing number of “internet-active” groups, the discussion focused on the nature of groups and their need to remain organised and independent and active on the local level first and foremost.

The participants from Macedonia informed about the very complicated situation in their scene and club, while the Fenerbahce group informed in more depth about the persecution of their fan scene. With time, unfortunately, ticking away, the workshop group focused on possible outcomes of this, generally fruitful session and agreed on the following:

- To work to establish network of active groups in order to share information and current issues
- The aim of the group is to strengthen international organisation, by common actions – for example solidarity events
- To create an independent internet media platform to share news, articles, current events from locally active groups, with other, yet un-involved groups, fans and public
- To further improve and extend the group to active, organised groups at other events, and via the FSE network
EFFC WORKSHOP - SUMMARIES
FOOTBALL’S REAL DISEASE – MATCH FIXING

DR. VANDA WILCOX
Blogger and football supporter, Italy

The closing session on Saturday afternoon brought six speakers together to discuss the pressing issue of match-fixing in football and to offer a variety of different perspectives.

Declan Hill, journalist, sociologist and author of The Fix, an acclaimed investigation into match-fixing, was the first speaker. He introduced the subject of match-fixing in football, briefly explaining how gambling rings in Asia successfully infiltrated Asian leagues and are now turning their attention to football in Europe and other parts of the world. He emphasised both the global nature of the problem and why it matters, as well as dispelling some myths, such as the idea that match-fixing only affects “minor” leagues or small clubs. He also proposed some solutions including tougher police action and the creation of an independent global anti-fixing body with supporter participation.

The second panellist, Sylvia Schenk from Transparency International, explained the work of her organisation in combating corruption within sport. After highlighting the damage that fixing causes the sport and its credibility with fans, she spoke about the complexity of the problem and the impossibility of finding a single simple solution. Games might be fixed for sporting reasons – to avoid relegation, for example – or in order to manipulate gambling markets, but the distinction is not as clear-cut as it might be, since the first kind of fixing may well lead to and legitimise the second. She therefore argued that it is vital to create a new culture among fans and the media which denounces all forms of match-fixing, while also working to encourage and protect whistle-blowers.

Gianluca Monte, policy officer from the Sport Unit at the European Commission spoke next, explaining the role of the Commission and the other European institutions in helping to fight corruption in sport. He emphasised the need for effective communication between different international governing bodies both within sport and without – such as the Council of Europe – which are vital in creating a truly united, transnational approach to the problem. Sharing information, ideas and best practice through dialogue is the only way to begin to fight such a complex form of corruption.

After this, delegates heard from FIFPro representative Tony Higgins about a side of the story which is often ignored or misunderstood: the players’. Tony described the research carried out in Eastern Europe, published as the FIFPro Black Book Eastern Europe, highlighting the fact that there is a very clear link between match-fixing and players going unpaid by their clubs. Where clubs are in financial crisis and unable to pay salaries on time, players are much more susceptible to bribery. Shockingly, 11.9% of players surveyed admitted they had been approached to fix games, so any anti-match-fixing strategy needs to consider this issue.

A similar approach was offered by Loukas Anastasiadis from the Aris Members Society, who emphasised the role which good governance and transparency at club level can have in the fight against match-fixing. Clubs in financial trouble or where there is no accountability are more likely to be vulnerable to involvement in corruption. Active fan involvement and public scrutiny can help to diminish the problem.

Last but certainly not least, fan and author Stefano Faccendini offered some thought-provoking reflections on the problem from a fan’s perspective. Citing Italy as an example of what not to do, Stefano showed how a culture of impunity within institutions, along with a general acceptance or resignation among fans and the public, have created a climate in which match-fixing and other forms of corruption have flourished. Creating a new culture among the football public that unflinchingly and consistently condemns match-fixing under all circumstances will be vital.

After these short initial presentations by the speakers a lively debate followed: it was clear that the audience was both shocked and interested in what they had heard and were keen to ask questions, elicit more information and discuss concrete proposals for fighting this devastating corruption. Unfortunately time ran out and discussion had to be cut short, but it was clear that feelings ran high.
CONCLUSIONS
Panel chair Vanda Wilcox concluded by summarising the session: drawing on the speakers’ responses to one another and questions from the floor, a number of key shared positions emerged with regards to what fans can do.

First and foremost it seems clear that awareness-raising is vital: since many FSE members were unaware of the scale of the problem then clearly there is a lot of work to do in educating the wider community of fans about the realities of match-fixing and how it threatens the game all over Europe and at every level.

Secondly, creating a climate in which those who commit misdeeds are held to account, which denounces all forms of fixing and calls for a zero-tolerance approach will encourage institutions to take the problem seriously. Contrary to the assumption that fans are powerless to fight match-fixing it was clear from the panel discussion that there is a lot that can be done, and that this is a problem which FSE members take very seriously. The possibility of creating an on-topic division in the FSE to pursue these actions in the next twelve months was also welcomed by the audience.
Whilst the international members of FSE came together for their Annual General Meeting (AGM), the Turkish supporters participating in the EFFC 2013, upon initiative of Turkish members of FSE, organised the first ever open national meeting for all supporters groups in Turkey, with the aim to establish networking amongst Turkish fans across the country on shared issues and to initiate a structured dialogue between football supporters and the Turkish football governing bodies.

Panelists
Cenk Cem, Head of Stadium Safety and Security, Turkish Football Federation
Erkin Bayrakçı, 1907 ÜNIFEB
Abdullah Zeybek, UltrAslan-Uni
Gülce İnci, UNIBJK

Agenda Items
Current Problems at Home and Away Matches for Supporters
Current Problems between Supporters and Police
Black Market and Expensive Tickets
International Networking (between Turkish Supporters and FSE)
Conclusions

There were fans’ representatives from fans’ groups of many different smaller and bigger clubs across the country who took part in the meeting, such as from Fenerbahçe, Besiktas, Galatasaray, Kasimpasa, Altay, Bucaspor, Göztepe, İzmirspor, Bursaspor, Gençlerbirliği, Ankaragücü, Adanademirspor, Adanaspor, Urfaspor, Canakkalespor and Trabzonspor. On top of that, the chair of the just newly founded national association of official supporters clubs from Ankara also came with a delegation to participate in the discussions.

In the morning, Turkish football supporters firstly discussed amongst themselves, in the afternoon, they were joined by representatives from the Turkish Football Federation (TFF) and the Sport Agency of Istanbul. Police representatives from the City of Istanbul were also supposed to take part but cancelled their participation in the last minute.

It was the first time that such meetings both amongst supporters and in dialogue with football governing bodies took place in Turkey. Up until now, all fans’ groups worked for themselves only. When they had problems, e.g. with the police, they usually solve it via their club board members, if possible. For instance, the club president rang the police headquarter and sorted things out somehow.

Against this background, there was great desire amongst the fans’ representatives present to discuss things for the first time which each other and seek joint solutions. There is a great diversity regarding the compilation of the organised parts of the fanbase between the different clubs. At some clubs, there is only one or two major groups, whilst at others, especially at the major clubs in Istanbul, there is 6-7 different major groups which also sometimes creates difficulties inside the fanbase.

This situation naturally resulted in comprehensive talks held with each other at the meeting but also in the understanding, that there is wide consensus and similar experiences between the supporters on a great range of topics discussed. As a consequence, the audience unanimously called for change and demanded concrete action to be taken by the government and the TFF re a number of issues.

Generally, supporters are very dissatisfied with the way restrictions are imposed on them or the existing, total travel bans for away matches with the major clubs in Turkey. They consider it collective punishment of all supporters and a condemnation of all football fans as a problem, for the actions of a minority.
The representatives from the TFF present confirmed the travel ban and said that for a long time, supporters hadn’t been allowed to travel. If people still want to go to away matches, they allegedly take no responsibility or are sent back by the police anyway. Parties present at least agreed that these travel bans cannot be an ultimate solution to the problem. However, opinions almost naturally differed between supporters and the football association on what would be the best solutions to existing problems.

One of these solutions from the governmental side, via the introduction of a new piece of legislation, is the introduction of a system of e-tickets and a fan ID card. The TFF is in charge of introducing this system and presented their concept to the supporters present. According to the perspective of the TFF, the new system could also help to overcome issues such as black market tickets. Just like in other countries, many of the fans’ representatives in the room disagreed with the overall principle of the personalised fan ID card as they saw it firstly as means of repression. Hence, many discussions arose between the supporters and the TFF representative in charge of developing this system.

Other issues discussed were overpriced tickets at major matches (e.g. Fenerbahce – Galatasaray) and the fans’ perspective on the lack of financial transparency and sporting success of clubs.

Many teams have big but intransparent budgets, at the same time, some of these teams still have bad results. This mismanagement and lack of sporting success results in a bad atmosphere amongst the supporters. Because supporters in Turkey are quite focussed on the sporting success of their team and every football fan wants his/her team to be the only successful one. But that’s not possible.

All in all, the 5th European Football Fans’ Congress of FSE has definitely made a great contribution to stimulate a unification process within the Turkish fans’ movement. Likewise, the government and the TFF have visibly demonstrated support and interest in fans’ dialogue and models such as fans’ projects for the first time.

All fans representatives present at the meeting underlined their willingness to kick-off national networking across Turkey but they also need a concrete positive signal and statement of intent from TFF. The TFF, however, is just in the process of developing a proper strategy in this area. Whilst their overall response towards fans’ dialogue has been positive in view of calls from the various participants, concrete action has yet to be taken by the TFF on this.
On Sunday, 98 properly accepted members attended the 4th Annual General Meeting of the FSE membership in total, 56 of which were individual members, plus delegates of 24 locally active and 18 nationally active members.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF ACTIVITY FOR THE SEASON 2011/2012
AND THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2011
Daniela Wurbs, Coordinator of FSE, gave an overview over the activities over the past 12 months. She pointed out the range of activities of the FSE network.

All in all, the FSE network can look back at its busiest year since its foundation, with various projects and developments organised. Apart from the launch of an own FSE fanzine with the title REVIVE THE ROAR! and the relaunch of the multilingual FSE Website with a comprehensive members section, FSE successfully established a European network of fan lawyers which already comprises members from 10 countries across Europe. Furthermore, FSE supported the international part a national fans’ congress, organized by a national network of ultra groups in Berlin and various other fans’ events and initiatives.

As for institutions and football governing bodies, more and more national and European institutions requested the expertise of FSE on the fans’ perspective with European sport policies and events on safety and security matters, such as the French Senate or the EU Football Experts Think Tank or UEFA.

Beyond that, FSE became a major partner in an EU-funded project ProSupporters, coordinated by FSE partners from FairPlay in Austria. The ProSupporters Project is set to foster empowerment of the wider fans’ movement via various activities. As part of the project, FSE will organise up to eight awareness raising events across Europe until June 2013, via which supporters promote the self-regulatory power of football supporters with problem-solving and will draw up a European Handbook on Supporters Charters in consultation with members and football governing bodies from across the continent.

That said, the highlight in 2012 certainly was the provision of the biggest ever fans’ embassy programme by fans for fans at EURO2012 in Poland and Ukraine via the FSE Fans’ Embassies Division. The very intense project was prepared over more than three years and involved more than 200 FSE members and fans’ initiatives from 14 countries who provided info and support services for travelling fans over the entire tournament period.

As for the Disabled Fans’ Rights Division, Daniela Wurbs informed the membership that the division was dissolved due to a lack of activity despite several requests to the members. However, upon request from the membership, a new on-topic division on Anti-Discrimination was set up by the FSE Committee, with Goran Grosman from Croatia as appointed interim director and consequently new appointed member to the FSE Committee. Goran’s task will be to set up the division properly until the AGM 2013 and report on the progress made.

Other than that, membership further increased. FSE can now look at a rise in membership figures of around 30% and an overall membership of football supporters in 42 countries.

Whilst finances further stabilized and funding sources could be diversified at the same time, the growth in membership figures and activities and also enquiries from the outside towards FSE reaches a limit where resources are overstretched and the office struggles with fitting the administrative necessities into the daily workflow.

FSE members acknowledged the reports presented and requested financial reports presented to the membership to be further simplified so that they would be easier to understand.

As a result of the reports presented, the FSE Committee was unanimously discharged by the FSE membership.
DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

The amendment to the statutes adopted by the FSE membership will require FSE members to confirm their membership details as an obligation of their membership with FSE once a year from now on. This amendment was proposed by FSE Coordinator Daniela Wurbs and seconded by other members with the aim to keep the membership database of FSE up-to-date and help with efficiency, costs, communication with members and allow for a more accurate picture of FSE membership (removing ‘dead’ accounts from the database).

The amendment was adopted and hence integrated into §5 (see current version of the FSE Statutes in the Appendix)

DISCUSSION AND VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY FSE MEMBERS

Three resolutions were submitted and adopted by FSE members:

“This congress notes the suggestion by Michel Platini that the Euro 2020 championships could be based on a different hosting format, across a number of cities not necessarily located in one or two ‘host countries’. We call upon UEFA to ensure that there is the maximum possible consultation on this issue with supporters across Europe through FSE.”

“We, as the FSE Congress, strongly condemn the decision taken by the German FA to not allow summer friendlies of Turkish clubs in Germany at all, or to have these matches played behind closed doors. We think that Turkish clubs and their fans are being prejudged by this without a factual base for the alleged “security risks” stated by the German FA as reason for this measure. We urge the German FA to reconsider its decision and allow Turkish and other fans to support their clubs at friendly matches in Germany.”

“In the light of his recent admission of awareness of bribe-taking by Joao Havelange this congress demands the immediate resignation of Sepp Blatter”

The new FSE Committee was commissioned by the FSE membership to take respective action on each of the resolutions adopted.

ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE FSE COMMITTEE FOR THE SEASON 2012/13

The following members were elected to the FSE Committee for season 2012/2013

Kevin Miles, Newcastle/England
Martin Endemann, Berlin/Germany
Medhi Tazraret, Vienna/Austria
Joanna Laska, Breslau/Poland
Riccardo Bertolin, Rome/Italy
Michal Riecansky, Bratislava/Slovakia
Linda Hadorn, Bern/Switzerland
Igor Gomonai, Kyiv/Ukraine

Together with the appointed members to the Committee Daniela Wurbs (FSE Coordinator), Michael Gabriel (Director FSE Fans’ Embassies Division) and Goran Grosman (Interim Director FSE Anti-Discrimination Division), they will be responsible for the overall organization of FSE as a network.

FAREWELL OF THOMAS GASSLER AND CHRISTINA MAGNUSSEN

Former Committee Member Christina Magnussen from Norway didn’t stand for re-election to the FSE Committee for personal reasons. Likewise, former Fans’ Embassies Project Coordinator Thomas Gassler has moved on to take a new challenge as head of a coordinating center for football supporters work in his home country Austria, after successfully managing the EURO2012 fans’ embassy activities.

The FSE Committee thanked both members wholeheartedly for their commitment as football supporters for FSE on behalf of the entire membership.
EFFC 2013 IN PICTURES – some of them…
The following self-portrayals were compiled by the FSE Committee members themselves.

THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE FSE COMMITTEE:

Kevin Miles (England), 53, 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 31, 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), 40, 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.

Joanna Laska (Poland), is the coordinator of one of the first fan projects in Poland and a member of Disabled Fans Club Association, and was the coordinator of the Stationary Fans Embassy in Wroclaw during EURO 2012. Don’t get mistaken by first impression of a calm and quiet girl, some Committee members call her “cheeky monkey with an Irish accent”. At her first match, she was in a baby carriage, just couple of weeks old and has loved football from the first day of her life. She loves to work with fans, especially with her Disabled Fans Club Association. She coordinates projects for football fans endangered with social exclusion because of poverty, disability or growing up in orphans and works with graffiti artists with an ultra background in her city.

Michael Riečanský (Slovakia), 25 is one of the founders of Tribuny Su Nase (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.

Linda Hadorn (Switzerland), is a new member to the FSE Committee. She works for the national umbrella association ‘Fanarbeit Schweiz’ since 2007. There, she is responsible for several projects concerning research, fan travelling and international work. She is keen to strengthen the discussion on terraces and fan culture being some kind of subculture and she is ready to head for interesting discussions about whatever topic beyond that. Of course, Linda is a football fan, too, and supports the best second place team ever in Switzerland.

Igor Gomonai (Ukraine), 32, is a member of the “All-Ukrainian Supporters Association”, a recently founded NGO in Ukraine with the goal to become the voice of Ukrainian football fans who stand up for a positive fan and football culture without violence and discrimination. During EURO 2012, he was the national coordinator for the FSE Fan’s Embassies project in Ukraine. Igor has been a dedicated Dynamo Kyiv fan since 1986, when he watched his first match at the stadium with his father and hasn’t forgotten the atmosphere at this football game ever since... and he’s still enjoying it :). Currently all his activities are associated with football.
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 projects, lobbying and the management of various projects and 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 happy that her club FC St. Pauli finally got promoted to the Bundesliga again and confident that they will win the Championship and that fans will successfully reclaim the game...one day.

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: Anti-Discrimination

Goran Grosman (Croatia) is is a new member of the FSE Committee and director of newly founded Anti-Discrimination Divison of FSE. He is a member Alerta Zagreb, White Angels (FC Zagreb supporters) and he is involved in some initiatives for mapping right extremism and Anti-discrimination topics in Croatia and region. His main interests in FSE are to fight against fascism, racism, any other type of discrimination and to bring football back to people and people back to football. He supports FC Zagreb, club that is in ruins because of catastrophic leadership and loves to spend Friday evenings "giving his voice" for the club.
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.fanseurope.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 306218, 20328 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. As for obligations, you have to confirm your membership details once a year, electronically or via post. For the duties of the membership at 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 or when you don’t confirm your membership details by the end of the financial year.

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.
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.

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: Two thirds of the total positions of the FSE Committee + one third of the total number of permanent seats within the FSE Committee at the time of elections have to be reserved for members democratically elected by the AGM. 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 a 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)
THE FSE STATUTES

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 bases, 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 programmes 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 data base 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. Confirm to FSE their membership contact details as stored in the FSE membership database (in writing and via email)
at least once a year and at the latest upon receipt of the third request so to do, this to be done no later than by the
end of the respective financial year.
   d. 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 ⅔ 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
The organization of the event at local level was supported by: