

STUDY

UNfair Play >
Breaking the
International
Isolation of Sports

MAY 2010, PRISHTINA

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Abbreviations

CEFTA – Central European Free Trade Agreement	FIVB – International Volleyball Federation
CEV – European Volleyball Confederation	IAAF – International Association of Athletics Federation
EHF – European Handball Federation	IHF – International Handball Federation
EJU – European Judo Union	IJF – International Judo Federation
ESC – European Shooting Confederation	ISSF – International Shooting Sports Federation
ETF – European Tennis Federation	ITTF – International Table Tennis Federation
ETTU – European Table Tennis Union	IWF – International Weightlifting Federation
ETU – European Taekwondo Union	BC – Basketball Club
EWF – European Weightlifting Federation	KOC – Kosova Olympic Committee
KBF – Kosova Basketball Federation	IOC – International Olympic Committee
FIBA – International Basketball Federation	MCYS – Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
FIFA – International Football Federation	MFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
FILA – International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles	UN – United Nations
FINA – International Swimming Federation	UCI – International Cycling Union
FIS – International Skiing Federation	UEFA – European Football Union
FITA – International Archery Federation	UNMIK – United Nations Mission in Kosova
KWF – Kosova Wrestling Federation	WTF – World Taekwondo Federation
KSSF – Kosova Shooting Sports Federation	
KJF – Kosova Judo Federation	

Executive Summary

In his Report for UNMIK, in January 5, 2010, the UN Secretary General calls for a flexibility in finding a “modus operandi” for the participation of Kosova in regional and international mechanisms¹. On the other hand, European Commission’s Progress Report for Serbia for 2009 calls for finding a pragmatic solution to enable Kosova’s participation in regional initiatives². The Foreign Policy Club, through this study, makes a proposition to promote sports as a measure of good will to ease the relations between Kosova and Serbia. Kosova’s state institutions should include the issue of sports in the agenda of future talks between the two countries, with the specific request to remove the practical obstacles imposed by Serbia to the membership of Kosova’s federations in the international ones. Serbia should show its readiness for cooperation, leaving aside its preventive politics towards the internationalization of Kosova sports, as concrete evidence that it is interested in resolving the technical issues between the two countries.

Kosova has a negative balance in the internationalization of its sports. As of today, only two Olympic sport federations of Kosova have gained full membership in international federations, and in other cases, membership is conditioned to limited rights and the provision of an observer status. This study shows the shortfalls and isolation of the Kosova sport in four

dimensions: losses (mainly financial), internal organization (Olympic Committee, sports federations and state institutions), influence of politics (Serbia, lobbying) and the human dimension (KB Universiteti, Majlinda Kelmendi).

Notwithstanding the numerous obstacles to the internationalization of Kosova sports, some actions could be also undertaken in the current circumstances. This study provides for five possibilities for actions: Sport, a measure of a good will (between Kosova and Serbia), Sport Arbitrage after rejection (case of Gibraltar), Use of UNMIK, Participation in the Football Albanian League (case of Monaco), and temporary solutions (private leagues, white flag).

Recommendations are to politicize the issue of sports internationalization, develop a strategy for this purpose, to have an international lobbying for admission to international federations, to put international pressure against Serbia in order to withdraw its blockades, increase the quality of the internal organization of sport institutions, to have a civil society pressure against the domestic institutions to prioritize sports, to promote pressure sport as a profitable business, to enhance and complement the sport-related legislation, to attract sponsors, etc.

¹ Report of the Secretary General of the UN for the Security Council on the International Mission for Interim Administration in Kosovo, 5 January 2010, <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/668/87/PDF/N0966887.pdf?OpenElement>

² European Commission, Serbia 2009 Progress Report, 14.10.2009, https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/olacrf/20091014Elarg/SR_Report_to_press_13_10.pdf

Introduction > Current Situation

As any other political and economic activity, Kosova sport in the 1990s was also a parallel activity, and it was carried out in very difficult conditions, under the permanent threat from the occupier's police force. Under such discouraging circumstances, the debate or the possibility for an internationalization of sports was almost unimaginable. At the time, internationalization was exclusively linked to the national and political cause of Kosova. Another rather difficult period for the Kosova sports was the postwar period until the declaration of Kosova's independence. During this period, the international UN administration had exclusive competencies in all areas of governance. Consequently, the internationalization of sports, as a foreign policy activity, relied on UNMIK's mercy. While the international administration was not even slightly concerned on the issue of sports and Kosova athletes, the local governments had put internationalization of sports at the bottom of their policy priorities. Such disappointment followed sports even after the country's independence on 17 February 2008. The utopia of 100 immediate recognitions had an effect in the efforts to internationalize sports, declaring that membership of Kosova sports federations in the international ones would be a closed issue with automatism. Certainly, neither the former nor the latter happened. Even after these periods and political developments sports is still in the very bottom

of the priorities' list for the state of Kosova.

Today, while state budget is allocated to ministries in form of percentages, it is only the sports budget is calculated in Euros (see Figure 1 below). Compared with Serbia, which has allocated nearly €38 million for its Ministry of Youth and Sports for 2010³, Kosova has invested ten times less in sports. Since its functioning, the Kosova Assembly has never discussed on the issue of sports. Only a few sports federations have achieved membership in international federations, mostly with limited rights or as observer members. The women's volleyball club Drita from Gjilan, a few days prior to their journey to France to play a friendly match (with an invitation by the French Volleyball Federation) was informed on the cancelation of the match after an intervention by a Serbian official in the International Volleyball Federation. This year, in February, Canada's Vancouver was host of the Winter Olympic Games, and certainly Kosova, again, wasn't represented in this major event. The Kosova sports and, consequently, the Kosova economy lose millions every year as a result of sports lack of internationalization. Above all, it is the Kosova athletes that suffer the most, and pay this isolation with stagnation in their professional career development.

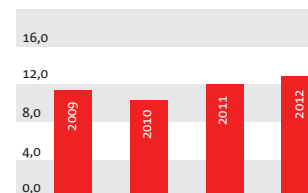


Figure 1. Budget of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (2009 and 2010) and projections for 2011 and 2010⁴

³ Popular Parliament of Serbia, the Law on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2010 http://www.parlament.gov.rs/content/lat/akta/akta_detalji.asp?id=769&t=Z# (reviewed on 11.04.2010)

⁴ Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Budget of the Republic of Kosovo for 2010 <http://www.mef-rks.org/sq/download/buxheti-i-konsoliduar-i-kosoves/2010/2365-buxheti-i-republikes-se-kosoves-per-vitin-2010> (reviewed on 11.04.2010)

I. Kosova sports vis-à-vis internationalization

Kosova is yet to adopt a strategy for Sports Internationalization. The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports is in the final drafting phase of the Sports Strategy, which, inter alia, also includes the issue of internationalization. Thus, efforts for internationalization remain individual, unorganized, without the proper support, and consequently with rather poor results. As of today, only a few federations gained membership to international federations. In most cases this membership is conditioned with limited rights, and the provision of an observer status. On the other hand, the Kosova Olympic Committee is yet to gain membership in the International Olympic Committee, as a precondition for this is international recognition of five Olympic federations of Kosova. Efforts of the Kosova federations in internationalization have not shown desired results.

While a certain number of rejections for membership in international federations are due to Kosova's incomplete international recognition (and not being a member of the UN), other reasons for rejection are related to the Kosova Olympic Committee's lack of membership in the IOC, non-fulfillment of the technical and procedural criteria for application, and also include rejections without a clear reference. Part of the latter category is the negative answer of the European Tennis Federation to the application of

the Kosova Tennis Federation, which doesn't specify any reason for rejecting the membership application. In another case, the International Shooting Federation, has reasoned the rejection of the membership request of the Kosova Shooting Federation with the criteria to first become members in IOC and UN, criteria which have entered into force on 1 January 2009, while the KSF's application was first submitted on 2004 (first application) and April 2008 (second application). Kosova has currently only two Olympic federations with full and equal membership rights in international federations: Kosova Ping-Pong Federation and Kosova Weightlifting Federation. Kosova Sport is still in a miserable condition, waiting for internationalization⁵.

⁵ Please find a detailed overview of applications and memberships in international federations in the Annex of this analysis

II. Fallbacks and isolation

International isolation is a high cost to the Kosova sports. Many questions remain unaddressed properly, from responsibilities of state institutions, to our professional preparations to face with the sports international level. On the other hand, financial losses from non-participation in international competitions, though without an accurate calculation, reach millions. There two reasons mentioned in the debate on the isolation of the Kosova sports: poor internal organization of local institutions (KOC, sports federations, sport clubs and the Ministry of Sports) and the influence of politics (obstacles posed by Serbia, the political status issue, etc.). The best indicators of the damages caused to Kosova as a consequence of this international sports isolation are the regional countries and their successes and profits from participating in international competitions. Countries such as Montenegro (recently independent), Macedonia, Albania, and even Bosnia and Herzegovina (with similar political problems with Kosova) are using sports to also improve their country's international image.

Losses

Losses to Kosova and its sports can be categorized in two levels: first, financial losses, which are vast. Taking into account the financial incentives of international federations for participatory clubs

in international championships, the Kosova clubs have lost millions of Euros in revenues as a result of its isolation for a decade. A good example is the FIFA's GOAL Program⁶, which allocates millions of Euros every year to help countries with undeveloped (football) infrastructure. Kosova is not a beneficiary of this program. While the majority of less developed countries secure funds by investing in new generations of athletes and profits from their "exports", in Kosova tens of athletes are transferred every year to foreign clubs without any compensation – due to non-recognition of the Kosova clubs certificates by international federations. Kosova has a very high percentage of youth, and when developed countries have started to age, "cultivating and exporting" athletes could become a very profitable business for the Kosova's economy in general.

When adding the aspect of internal revenues (tickets, television rights, other sales) which would naturally increase when organizing international matches, we can conclude that a determining factor of the miserable financial situation of the Kosova sports is isolation. Selling television rights is a rather profitable dimension in sports. "...amount of television rights for the Olympic Games has increased from €308 million for the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984, to €1.4 billion for the Games in Sydney in

⁶ FIFA's GOAL Program <http://img.fifa.com/aboutfifa/developing/goalprogramme/index.html>

II. Fallbacks and isolation

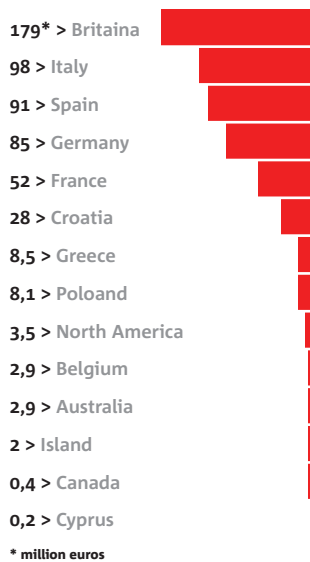


Table 1. Television rights, UEFA Champions League for the 2009-2010 season (per country)
Source: FootBiz http://footbiz.blog.capital.fr/index.php?action=article&id_article=422489

⁷ Schaub, Sports and Competition: Broadcasting Rights of Sports Events http://ec.europa.eu/competition/speeches/text/sp2002_008_en.pdf

⁸ Law on Sponsorships is in the drafting phase for a long period. This law is considered as a proper incentive for attracting investments in sports

2000. In 1992, broadcasters paid €434 million for the television rights of the English Premier League for five seasons. In 2000 they paid €2.6 billion for three seasons.⁷ While playing for the Trocal Regional League, RTK had paid €50,000 to BC Universiteti for the rights to broadcast the matches. The annual budget of the club for this period was over €200,000, and today they barely can keep the club alive for one championship.

Furthermore, internationalization would have a direct effect in increasing the number of donors and sponsors, local and international, for Kosovo's sport clubs⁸. These revenues would automatically imply investments in sports infrastructure, which currently doesn't meet the basic criteria for organizing a normal match. Above all, losses are also suffered to a personal level. Hundreds and thousands of athlete's careers are vanished, being only limited to the Kosovo territory. Several young and experienced basketball referees, who would be considered as valuable assets in any other country, are not allowed to attend international training for referees, and as a result, they cannot take the tests for international certification of referees.

Internal organization

In the hierarchy of the institutions and organizations of a country, the Olympic Committee is the top responsible

authority for sports policies and its development, followed by sports federations, sport clubs, Ministry of Sports and other state departments (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Kosova Olympic Committee continues to have very limited capacities, while sports federations show a chronic inability to overcome the challenges of an internal organization for competitions in the national level. Sport clubs, save for a few, are in a permanent struggle for a financial existence, and their entire efforts are ended with the completion of a year's national championship competition. The Ministry of Sports is still using the lack of sufficient funds as an alibi for progress and better results in the internationalization of sports. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the exception of one meeting organized with the accredited Ambassadors in Prishtina, hasn't included the internationalization of the Kosova sports in its priority policies.

A permanent problem of the Kosova sports is the need to refresh the sports federations' management staff. A large portion of federation managers have retained their positions for nearly two decades. The paper "Monarchs of sport federations" provides evidences of long stays in top positions in sport federations, thus posing an obstacle for the introduction of new staff and new governance mentality in the Kosova sports⁹. In addition, an element of fragmentation is seen



These statutes require that a member should be recognized by the international community, and since Kosova has already reached recognition by nearly one third of the world countries, it leaves room for different interpretations...

in the Kosova sport federations, which creates tensions among different groups which aim to administer federations.

Impact of politics

Kosova Basketball Federation has proved that it is serious in its efforts to gain membership in FIBA¹⁰. Every necessary lobbying and procedural action for membership in FIBA has been undertaken immaculately by the KBF officials. Moreover, basketball is considered as the most successful sport in Kosova in the recent years. However, this Federation hasn't received an official response from the international federation on its application. During his visit in a fact-finding mission in Kosova, Mr. Lubomir Kotleba, Sportive Director in FIBA, clearly described the sports reality of Kosova: "As far as basketball is concerned, you don't need to do anything more"¹¹, adding that membership in FIBA is a political issue. In addition to the active role of Serbia in preventing internationalization of Kosova sports, and reasons such as UN membership, secret agreements between IOC¹² and international federations, the influence of Russia in these federations, are often mentioned as the source of isolation. In an interview for a Foreign Policy Club documentary on the challenges of the Kosova sports internationalization, the Swiss Ambassador in Kosova, Mr. Lucas Beglinger,

had stated: "These statutes require that a member should be recognized by the international community, and since Kosova has already reached recognition by nearly one third of the world countries, it leaves room for different interpretations on whether Kosova meets the criteria of international recognition. It is here that politics come into play. Unfortunately... it would be naïve to say that the political aspect has not impact, and it always depends on individuals. Serbia is very active in protecting its interests, and in sports it is much represented. This is another obstacle."¹³ The engagement of Serbia to preclude internationalization of Kosova sports is not a secret activity, as the Serbian Strategy for the Sports Development specifically speaks of preventive and hindering actions against Kosova's efforts to internationalize sports.

The political dimension of the internationalization of sports is also linked with a very practical detail. Looking at representation in executive boards of international federations (including the International Olympic Committee) based on countries of origin of its members, we can see a significant presence of countries that have recognized Kosova's independence. Although representation and voting in these bodies is not linked with politics and official positions of countries of origin of its members, one

⁹ Koha Ditore, Monarchs of sport federations, 01.03.2010 <http://www.koha.net/index.php?cid=1,42,13336&sq=monark%EBt>

¹⁰ International Basketball Federation (<http://www.fiba.com>)

¹¹ Wikipedia, Membership of Kosovo in international sports federations, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Membership_of_Kosovo_in_international_sports_federations#cite_note-13

¹² International Olympic Committee (<http://www.olympic.org>)

¹³ Foreign Policy Club, Challenges to the Internationalization of Kosovo Sports (Documentary), Interview with Mr. Lucas Beglinger, Swiss Ambassador in Kosovo, 12.02.2010

II. Ngecjet dhe izolimi

form of pressure, however, could be put through national institutional channels.

Best proof that political channels can unblock political obstacles for internationalization is certainly the Serbian Strategy and its role to block the internationalization of Kosova sports. On the other hand, Kosova institutions still consider sports as being outside of politics, thus, not only having a direct affect in this sector, but rather with a Kosova-wide impact. Overcoming this situation is only possible with international pressure against Serbia to withdraw its practical blockades against Kosova attempts to internationalization, specifically for membership international sports federations.

...and the human dimension

One of the most important events in the Kosova sports in the last decade was the participation of the (women's) Basketball Club 'Universiteti' in the Regional Trocal League. Though a private league, having a regional competition was an excellent possibility for Kosova clubs, which weren't challenged beyond Kosova borders. This adventure, however, lasted only one year, as with the increase of the number of participating clubs in this league, came a request and an explicit condition of Serbian clubs to exclude the Kosova club. Returning to the domestic competition was a disco-

uraging experience for the basketball players of BC Universiteti. Two of the most distinguished players of the club, Elvira Dushku and Teuta Abdullahu, instead of finding themselves in the transfer lists for European clubs, they are now pursuing new careers. They said their goodbyes to sports immediately after being excluded from regional the league. On the other hand, our country has, unofficially and mainly due to personal influences, won a world gold medal in the junior Judo competition. The talented Kosova judoka, Majlinda Kelmendi¹⁶, has proven that if given a chance, Kosova athletes can prove themselves worthy of international competition. Though her name was not followed with the representative country and a state flag, Majlinda, nevertheless, is the best example as to how to think of the human dimension of athletes, whose sportive careers should not be kept hostage of political problems between countries.

14 Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Youth and Sports <http://www.mos.gov.rs/modules.php?op=download&name=Downloads&file=index&req=viewsdownload&sid=1> (reviewed on 11.04.2010)

15 Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Youth and Sports <http://www.mos.gov.rs/modules.php?op=download&name=Downloads&file=index&req=viewsdownload&sid=1> (reviewed on 11.04.2010)

16 More on Majlinda Kelmendi http://www.judoinside.com/uk/?factfile/view/42942/majlinda_kelmendi

Area	Objective	Activity	Responsible institution – Funding
SPORTS LEGISLATION	Support provided in maintaining the position of Serbia in international sports organizations	Legal and advisory assistance for state federations in preventing possible membership of the Autonomous Province of Kosova and Metohija in international sports organizations	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sports League of Serbia, Serbian Olympic Committee No additional funds are planned for these activities

Table 2. Serbian Strategy for the Sports Development 2009 - 2013⁴⁴

Objective	Activity	Indicator	Responsible authority	Funding	Timeframe
Support provided to maintain the position of Serbia in international sports organizations	Legal and advisory assistance for the state federations to prevent possible membership of sports federations of the so-called Republic of Kosova in international sports organizations	-number of consultations developed	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sports League of Serbia, Serbian Olympic Committee	This activity doesn't require any additional budget	2009 – ongoing

Table 3. Sport Strategy Implementation Action Plan in the Republic of Serbia 2009 - 2013⁴⁵

III. Possible options

The debate on Kosova sport internationalization is not a predominant debate in the Kosova society and politics. Furthermore, when having this debate, it is not done in a structural manner. With the exception of some private initiatives, which are lost in our clamorous political and social days, two years after the declaration of independence, sports continues to be an issue for junior state officials. Thus, the debate on alternative (temporary) options, in the absence of a permanent solution, is not developed. Foreign Policy Club, through conferences on sports internationalization, in addition to keeping this debate alive, aims to provide possible options to challenge this international isolation.

Option 1 – Sports, a measure of good will

The recent international messages to Kosova and Serbia are on the flexibility for a regional cooperation and integration. These messages aim to find practical solutions for the disputed issues between the two countries. Sports can serve as an important moment of the relations between Kosova and Serbia, if they are promoted as a measure of a good will. To prove the good will of both countries in seeking practical solutions, Kosova institutions should bring forward to the future talks agenda the issue of sports, with specific requests for Serbia to remove

the practical obstacles against Kosova's membership in international sports federations. Serbia should show its readiness for cooperation, by eliminating the preventive practices against membership of Kosova federations to international ones.

Option 2 – Sports arbitrage after rejection (case of Gibraltar)

Gibraltar is an autonomous territory of Great Britain, and even though it is not an independent country and covers a small surface, it has proven greatly competent in facing international sports federations. Gibraltar has 11 Olympic sports federations, including many sports federations that are admitted in international federations. The case of its Football Federation is more specific, since membership in UEFA was subjected to Article 5 (amended in the meantime) of UEFA's statute, which stipulates that members to this entity may be federations of independent countries, while this requirement did not exist earlier. The Gibraltar Football Federation decided not to take the UEFA rejection for granted and demanded arbitration on the issue by the Court of Arbitration for Sport¹⁷. The case won in this Court represents a very strong precedent for other cases, including the Kosova sports federations which take the rejections as concluded matters.

Option 3 – Utilizing UNMIK

Other than one letter sent by SRSG Joachim Rucker to the president of the International Olympic Committee on the possibility of Kosova's participation in international sports events¹⁸, UNMIK did not undertake any substantial actions towards the internationalization of Kosovar sports. The CEFTA agreement and Kosova's membership, through UNMIK, in this regional initiative, may serve as a good model and precedent for facilitating membership processes in international sports federations. On the other hand, the UN Secretary General appointed a Special Sports Envoy, which is already notified on the Kosova case and may act as a facilitator in contacts with international federations and the International Olympic Committee. UNMIK is an ever present opportunity, and its utilization in sports internationalization is entirely dependent on the will and interest of Kosova state institutions.

Option 4 – Participation in the Albanian Football League (case of Monaco)

Monaco Football Club, of the state of Monaco, competes in the first league of the French football championship. Moreover, the successes reached in the French national league gave FC Monaco the opportunity to represent France in European club football competitions (such as the Champions League). One of the possi-

ble options for Kosovar sports is to analyze legal and technical requirements for participating, with one or more Kosovar clubs, in the Albanian national football league. Such participation would stimulate an improvement of the quality and a financial contribution for Kosova football, while at the same time opening the path for Kosovar clubs to gain the right to compete in European football cups and competitions, certainly pending their successes in this league. The possibility for similar options for other sports should be further explored, while football could serve as an initial project of a long and multiple step process.

Option 5 – Provisional solutions

There are many other forms for breaking international isolation in sports. First of all, sports federations and clubs should remain maximally engaged in arranging games of friendly character with other countries. These games, which could be further perfected through participation in informal international tournaments, represent a strong motivation for athletes and often a strong political message on the obstacles faced by sports. The case of Majlinda Kelmendi, the Kosovar judo competitor that won a world gold medal although she did not present herself as a Kosovar athlete, represents another transitional solution which could be used by other athletes and sports

¹⁷ For more information see Tribunal Arbitral du Sport - <http://www.tas-cas.org>

¹⁸ The letter was sent in end 2007, and the official response of IOC was "NOT diplomatic". Unofficially, after this letter, IOC has immediately contacted the UNMIK officials to state that nothing can be done from the moment

III. Possible options

until the political issues are resolved. The participation of these athletes (mostly in individual disciplines) under the Olympic flag or the flag of the respective international federation, would make possible individual athlete internationalization, until full internationalization of sports federations is realized. Above all, Kosova sports federations should fight for mem-

bership and representation in international federations even if the status of fully fledged members cannot be obtained immediately. Membership with limited rights of a number of Kosovar federations, as proven to date, provides a good opportunity for sports clubs to take part in official European club competitions.

IV. Recommendations

For Kosova state institutions

> The Government of Kosova (MCYS and MFA), in cooperation with the sports community, should draft a common strategy on the matter of sports internationalization. This issue should be treated as a matter of urgency by the Government of Kosova. IOC membership respectively the participation of Kosovar athletes in the 2012 Olympics should be determined as fundamental objectives of this strategy,

> The country's institutions should immediately assist sports federations, in financial and administrative aspects, in fulfilling the necessary criteria for application in international federations. Special focus should be placed on federations that have realistic possibilities for obtaining membership, in order for Kosova to accomplish the prerequisite for IOC application, namely the admittance of five Olympic federations. Allocation of a special budget for this process should be considered,

> "Politicization" of the issue of Kosovar sports internationalization. The issue of sports internationalization should be treated as an integral part of the lobbying for the recognition of Kosova's independence and its membership in international organizations, thus becoming part of the official Kosovar agenda and pressure applied by all Kosovar officials towards the friendly states and other international forums,

> The Government should allocate specific funding and appoint individuals/

groups/departments responsible for the implementation of the sports internationalization strategy. This process should include diplomatic representatives of countries like Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, etc. in Kosova.

> The lobbying process should include engagement of active and globally renown athletes, retired athletes and athletes whose penetrability in right places could play a significant role,

> The country's institutions should work in mobilizing international representatives in finding ways to integrate Kosovar sports federations in respective international federations. The support from friendly states should be officially requested, more intensely than until now, to support in sports internationalization and in mobilizing their administrative sportive capacities to support Kosova's membership endeavors,

> The Quint and other EU member states should be asked to assist in 'convincing' the Government of Serbia – considered the inheritor of Yugoslavia since its disintegration – to lift the blockade placed over Kosovar sports internationalization,

> The Assembly of Kosova should approve a resolution to demand lifting of the blockade for Kosovar sports internationalization.

IV. Recommendations

For the Olympic Committee and Sports Federations

> Along with the demands for full memberships, the sports internationalization strategy should encompass transitional arrangements (such as competing under Olympic/European flags, competing at club level, usage of the right of friendly states for common competitions, etc.). These arrangements should be applicable in cases of failure to exert the fundamental demands,

> Immediate engagement in developing professional capacities, with special emphasis on the administrative scope, in order to professionally prepare the formal basis for application and eventual membership in international federations,

> The rejection of the applications for membership in international federations does not represent the end of the process. In certain cases, it may in fact be the beginning of the journey. Arbitration for sport is a real and rather important avenue to be used in the journey towards membership in international federations.

For international institutions in Kosova

> International institutions and missions with executive authorities in Kosova should prove less negligent towards sports and should treat it first of all as a political problem,

> Kosovar sports internationalization

should represent one of the priorities of these institutions, since they are able to establish communication channels and facilitate the procedures of application of Kosovar federations for membership in international federations,

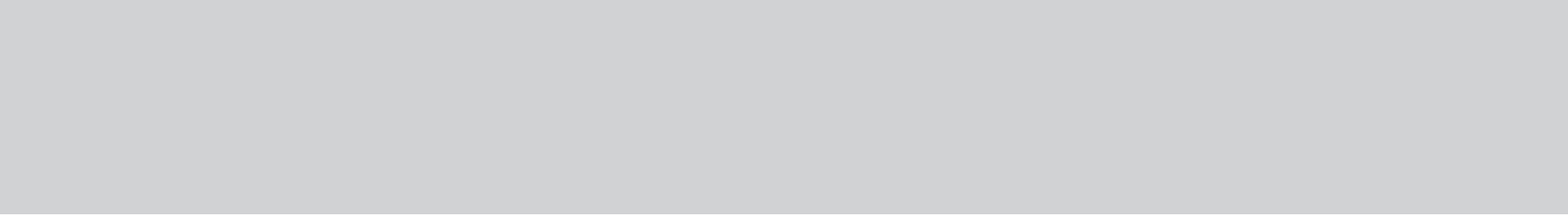
> Facilitation of sports promotion processes, as a measure of good will between Kosova and Serbia.

For the civil society

> Civil society organizations in Kosova should apply greater pressure over Kosova state institutions to prioritize the issue of sports internationalization,

> Civil society organizations, along with sports federations and the Kosova Olympic Committee (which also enjoy the status of NGOs) should promote the benefits that Kosova will enjoy from sports internationalization,

> Civil society organizations, along with sports federations and the Kosova Olympic Committee, should apply great pressures and provide alternatives regarding the completion of the necessary legal infrastructure to encompass international sports.



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Annex – Overview of membership in international sports federations (Kosova Olympic federations) ¹⁹

Nr.	Federation	Application for membership in international federation	Membership criterion of international recognition (statutory)
01	Kosova Athletics Federation www.fakosova.org	IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) at end-2008 www.iaaf.org	There are no state recognition criteria, only Federations that organize competitions in a respective state or territory. However, since 1 January 2006, IAAF decided not to accept territories
02	Kosova Basketball Federation www.basketbolli.com	Last application on 1 December 2009 in FIBA (International Basketball Federation) www.fiba.com KBF applied several times earlier to FIBA KOC membership in IOC and Kosova's member-	ship in the UN There is no official response to the last application (silence).
03	Kosova Boxing Federation	1. The last application in April 2010 to AIBA (International Boxing Association) www.aiba.org 2. Admission in AIBA means automated admission to EABA (European Boxing Association)	There are no state recognition criteria, only Federations that organize competitions in a respective state or territory
04	Kosova Cycling Federation	On 14 March 2008 in UCI (International Cycling Union) www.uci.ch	There are no state recognition criteria, only Federations that organize competitions in a respective state or territory
05	Kosova Football Federation www.ffk-kosova.com	To FIFA (International Football Federation) on 30 April 2008 www.fifa.com	FIFA statute demands the state to be internationally recognized. UEFA statute requires membership in UN. FIFA requires UEFA's opinion on the admission of new federations
06	Kosova Handball Federation www.kosovahandball.com	1. In January 2004 in EHF (European Handball Federation) www.eurohandball.com 2. Admission in EHF means automated admission in IHF (International Handball Federation) www.ihf.info	Internationally recognized state (unspecified)
07	Kosova Wrestling Federation www.kosova-wrestling.com	1. Last application to FILA (International Wrestling Federation) in 2008 www.fila-wrestling.com 2. Admission in FILA means automated admission in CELA (European Wrestling Council) www.cela-wrestling.com	Membership of KOC in IOC and membership of Kosova in UN
08	Kosova Swimming Federation	In 2008 in FINA (International Swimming Federation) www.fina.org	Kosova's membership in UN
09	Kosova Weightlifting Federation www.kosovaweightlifting.com	1. In May 2008 in IWF (International Weightlifting Federation) www.iwf.net 2. In February 2008 in EWF (European Weightlifting Federation) www.ewf.sm	There are no state recognition criteria, only Federations that organize competitions in a respective state or territory
10	Kosova Table Tennis Federation www.fppk.com	1. In end-2002 in ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation) www.ittf.com 2. Admission in ITTF means automated admission in ETTU (European Table Tennis Union) www.ettu.org	There are no state recognition criteria, only Federations that organize competitions in a respective state or territory

Application/membership response	Membership status	Expectations
Rejection due to lack of international recognition of Kosova	N/A	Awaiting movements in the political sphere
Twice before the application was rejected due to the fact that Kosova was not a state (2007) and due to the failure of KOC to be admitted in IOC (2008)	N/A	Awaiting the accomplishment of membership criteria to IOC and UN
Written refusal from AIBA since KOC is not member of IOC and Kosova is not a UN member	N/A	Appeal for the second point of refusal, as the Statute of AIBA does not require the UN membership
Cannot be admitted since KOC is not member of IOC	Status of member with limited rights. Only clubs and individuals, but no national team competition	Awaiting the accomplishment of IOC membership criterion
Rejected since Kosova is recognized by a small number of states and a substantial increase of the number of recognitions should be awaited	N/A	In end-May 2010, it is expected that the request to FIFA on FFK being the sole authority for issuing international transfer certificates for Kosova players
1. Positive from the European Handball Federation in December 2004 2. Positive from the International Handball Federation in 2007	1. Associate member if EHF 2. Associate member if IHF Cannot compete with the national team and cannot use flag or anthem	Obtainment of full membership in September 2010 EHF Congress in Copenhagen
Positive from FILA in September 2008	Associate member of FILA (no right to participate in world, European or Olympic competitions)	When KOC is admitted in IOC, FMK will become a fully fledged member of FILA
No official response to the application (silence)	N/A	Repeated application to FINA
1. Positive from the International Weightlifting Federation on 18 June 2008 2. Positive from the European Weightlifting Federation	1. Fully fledged member of IWF 2. Fully fledged member of EWF	Organization of an exhibition competition of international character in Kosova during 2010. Improvement of sportive and competitive quality to face international competition
May 2003, during the Paris Congress, Kosova Table Tennis was admitted	Fully fledged member of ITTF and ETTU	Improvement of sportive and competitive quality to face international competition

Nr.	Federation	Application for membership in international federation	Membership criterion of international recognition (statutory)
11	Kosova Skiing Federation	In 2006 in FIS (International Skiing Federation) www.fis-ski.com	There are no state recognition criteria, only Federations that organize competitions in a respective state or territory
12	Kosova Shooting Sport Federation	1. In 2004, first application to ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) www.issf-sports.org , in April 2008, second application to ISSF 2. In May 2008 in ESC (European Shooting Confederation) www.esc-shooting.org	ISSF demands, since 1 January 2009, membership of the National Olympic Committee in IOC and membership of the state in UN
13	Kosova Tennis Federation www.tenniskosova.com	On 4 May 2010 in ETF (European Tennis Federation) www.tenniseurope.org	There are no state recognition criteria, only Federations that organize competitions in a respective state or territory
14	Kosova Volleyball Federation www.fvk-ks.org	In January 2009 in FIVB (International Volleyball Federation) www.fivb.ch and CEV (European Volleyball Confederation) www.cev.lu	Kosova's membership in UN
15	Kosova Judo Federation	1. Last application to EJU (European Judo Union) in August 2009 www.eju.net 2. Membership in EJU means automated membership in IJF (International Judo Federation) www.intjudo.eu	KOC membership in IOC
16	Kosova Taekwondo Federation	Application to ETU (European Taekwondo Union) www.etutaekwondo.org and to WTF (World Taekwondo Federation) www.wtf.org	There are no state recognition criteria, only Federations that organize competitions in a respective state or territory
17	Kosova Archery Federation	On 17 June 2009, in FITA (International Archery Federation) www.archery.org	There are no state recognition criteria, only Federations that organize competitions in a respective state or territory

⁴⁹In addition to Olympic federations, Kosovo has nine other non-Olympic sports federations: Aeronautics, Automobilism, Alpinism, Bodybuilding, Disabilities, Karate, Kickboxing, Chess and Softball. Only the Softball Federation of Kosovo is member with full rights of the ISF, www.internationalsoftball.com

Application/membership response	Membership status	Expectations
Positive for participation in international competitions	Observer FIS member, no voting rights	The right of voting in FIS and participation in Winter Olympic Games
1. Written rejection since KOC is not member of IOC and Kosova is not member of UN 2. Rejected since KOC is not member of EOC (European Olympic Committee)	N/A	At the ISSF Assembly in July 2010, in Munich, the rejection reasons will be opposed, since application in ISSF occurred prior to the entry into force of the criteria for IOC and UN membership. If no success is reached, the issue can be addressed through international sport arbitration
On 17 February 2010, rejection without any specific reason	N/A	Lobbying in political decision-making centers to overcome the Serbian and Russian blockade in ETF
Cannot be admitted since Kosova is not member of UN and KOC is not member of IOC	N/A	Lobbying for admission in international federations through meetings with national federations
Written rejection from EJU since KOC is not member of IOC	IJF member with limited rights (no flag), participation in world competitions, competition under IJF flag (temporary solution)	Continuous reminders to EJU regarding KJF's membership request
Awaiting response	N/A	Membership in ETU and WTF
Positive on 6 August 2009	Interim member with all rights, expect for voting	Full membership expected during the FITA Congress in Torino (Italy) in July 2011.

About the Foreign Policy Club



Foreign Policy Club is a nongovernmental organization comprised of renowned intellectuals, politicians, and civil society activists, distinguished in foreign policy. Through an intellectual debate, the Club seeks to offer its contribution through providing recommendations for the generation of Kosova's Foreign Policy, in the function of peace in Kosova, region and the world. The Club organizes debates, analyses the recent developments and offers recommendations on Kosova's foreign policy, focuses in analyzing global trends which have an impact in the Kosova's daily economy and policy, and researches Kosova's global integration opportunities. The Club shall also strive to bring into attention of Kosova's public the world's current debates and attract the attention on Kosova policy's essential steps vis-à-vis these developments. The Club, through its activity and intensive debate, shall generate recommendations and programs regarding integration processes in the regional, European and global sense, especially regarding the process of EU and NATO integrations, which are at the disposal of Kosova's institutions.

Special focus of this organization will be the conduct of a debate on immediate actions that Kosova institutions need to undertake in the diplomatic sphere in function of Kosova's recognition from UN member-states, as well as Kosova's admission in international organizations, such as in UN, CoE, OSCE, World Bank, IMF, Islamic Conference Organization, Olympic Committee, etc. The Club shall strive to stimulate such debate until Kosova's recognition is obtained by the majority of states worldwide and until Kosova becomes a member of the abovementioned organizations. It is the Club's intent to recruit human capacities that have proven affinities in the sphere of foreign policy. The Club shall develop special academic programs for advancing this profile of professionals, which is of vital significance for this institutional sector.

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