

**Sport and
Citizenship**

Sport serving society



**Sport et
Citoyenneté**

Le Sport au service de la société

DOSSIER

SPORT ET IDENTITÉ EUROPÉENNE

**SPORT AND EUROPEAN
IDENTITY**

LABORATOIRE D'IDÉES

THINK TANK

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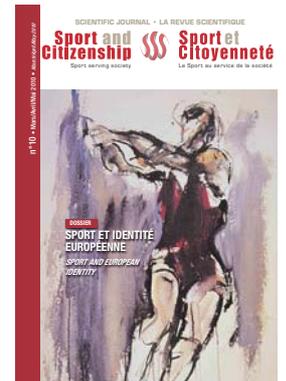


“Sport and European identity” at the heart of *Sport et Citoyenneté* journal

What is the role of sport in the process of building a European identity? Can sport promote a desire to live together? Doesn't competition actually encourage nationalist sentiments? How to prevent sport from being the vector of a negative identity? Does there exist a sport identity? How to define it?

Thirty three years after the Treaty of Rome and eighteen years since the creation of the European Union, we are forced to acknowledge that it is still difficult to come up with a precise definition of European identity accepted by all. However the love of sport unites Europeans much more than it has ever divided them. European decision-makers, famous experts, sportsmen or committed association representatives...they all share with us their vision of sport and its role in building a common European identity.

Sport et Citoyenneté, the first european think tank, thinks that it's now time for the floor!



Jérôme VALCKE

Secretary General
Fédération Internationale de Football Association

"I think that sport is unique in bringing on stage individuals and teams who oppose each other and measure each other up in pursuit of victory. It's a special relationship which certainly plays on competitive impulses and the desire to achieve a personal best, but also on notions of enjoyment, exchange, and a sense of belonging, with common references and values."



Sean KELLY MEP

"Much is expected from the EU in relation to sport as a result of the Lisbon Treaty. We can make a big impact but it will be slow."

André ANTOINE

Vice President and Sport Minister
Walloon Region
French Community of Belgium



"Like student exchange programmes, sport, undoubtedly, contributes to the emergence of a European identity. It will be involved in the construction of this European public space."



Rama YADE

Secretary of State for Sport
France

"The contribution of sport to a national identity is obvious. What event nowadays can motivate spontaneous support for the national colours? Where can you see 80,000 people singing the national anthem? Sport, of course!"



David MORGAN President, International Cricket Council (ICC)

"Sport in general, and cricket in particular, has the ability to build bridges between nations. An obvious example: India and Pakistan."

Kim GEVAERT

Former Belgian Athlete,
European athletics champion (100 and 200 m), Olympic silver medallist (4x400 m)

"At Beijing in 2008 we won the silver medal in the relay with a team truly representative of Belgium as it is. It was a great moment for us, being able to unite the country with our success."



Featured in our issue: Rama Yade, André Antoine, Jérôme Valcke, Sean Kelly, David Morgan, André Leclercq, Michal Krejza, Alice Holzman, Didier Pain, David Douillet, Kim Gevaert, Koen Breedveld, Jean-Paul Callède, Nadège Chambon, Mike Cronin, Muriel Féraud-Courtin, Michèle Guyot-Roze, Mickaël Heidmann, Remco Hoekman, Alexandre Husting, Thibaut Kerhervé, Joseph Maguire, Antoine Marsac, Peter Millward, Serge et Michel Pautot, Albrecht Sonntag, Silvester Stahl and Pierre Weiss.

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Sport et Citoyenneté

Press Pack (French) to download on our website: www.sportetcitoyennete.org

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