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European Union

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#### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

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Subject: Transparency and democracy in international sport federations  
-Information from the Danish, Finnish and Swedish delegations

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Delegations will find attached an information note from Denmark, Finland and Sweden on the above-mentioned subject, which is on the agenda under ‘Any other business’ for the upcoming Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 29-30 November 2021.

**BACKGROUND NOTE: TRANSPARENCY AND DEMOCRACY IN INTERNATIONAL SPORT FEDERATIONS, BY THE DANISH, FINNISH AND SWEDISH DELEGATIONS**

FIFA has awarded Qatar the right to host the World Cup in men's football in 2022. This decision has become a heated topic of debate in many countries and forums. The decision to let Qatar host the World Cup has exposed a lack of transparency and democracy within FIFA. Such a decision-making process is not compatible with a strong democratic mind-set, which should be the cornerstone of our sport federations nationally as well as internationally. It, therefore, calls for a raised general awareness of the integrity of our sport federations.

Consequently, the Ministers for Culture and Sport of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden have taken the initiative to issue a general statement – addressed to international sport federations – calling for actions to increase transparency and democratic practice to the benefit of all. The statement also urges international sport federations to pay particularly close attention to the respect of fundamental human rights and labour standards when awarding international sport events e.g.

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden believe that other European countries share this perspective on the integrity of sport, transparency, democratic practices, human rights and labour standards. Hence, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden invite other European countries to support the attached statement by a signature.

In order to ensure that the statement will be a strong and timely European instrument in the fight against corruption, manipulation, opaque, and undemocratic decision-making processes in international sport federations it is welcomed if Member States could indicate interest of co-signing the statement by 3 December 2021.

## **STATEMENT ON TRANSPARENCY AND DEMOCRACY IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPORT FEDERATIONS**

The signing Ministers for Sport call for more transparency and democracy in international sport federations.

We wish to support and cooperate with sport organisations at all levels in order to combat corruption, manipulation, opaque and undemocratic decision-making processes in international sport federations. Such acts undermine the core values of sport and threaten the integrity of sport.

FIFA has awarded Qatar the right to host the World Cup in 2022. That decision has exposed a lack of transparency and democracy within FIFA. Such a decision-making process is not compatible with the strong democratic mind-set, which should be the cornerstone in our sport federations both nationally and internationally.

While many international sport federations do respect transparency and democracy, many do not. Therefore, there is a clear need for international sport federations to reform their decision-making processes. The time for action is now.

We expect international sport federations to initiate actions that increase transparency and democracy for the benefit of all sport. We especially stress the importance of full transparency when awarding and implementing sport events.

We will continue to address transparency and democracy in sport in relevant international fora.

We will cooperate with and discuss transparency and democracy with sport federations both nationally and internationally.

We urge international sport federations to pay particularly close attention to the respect of fundamental human rights and labour standards when awarding international sport events.

Finally, we call for the promotion of non-discrimination and respect for all human rights, including the rights of migrant workers, children, minorities and LGBT+ persons, as well as freedom of expression and assembly in the preparation and execution of major sport events.

**Ms. Ane Halsboe-Jørgensen**

Minister for Culture  
Denmark

**Mr. Antti Kurvinen**

Minister for Science and Culture  
Finland

**Ms. Lilja Dögg Alfreðsdóttir**

Minister of Education, Science and Culture  
Iceland

**Ms. Anette Trettebergstuen**

Minister of Culture and Equality  
Norway

**Ms. Amanda Lind**

Minister for Culture  
Sweden