

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Session document

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B5-0462/2000

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance

pursuant to Rule 50(1) of the Rules of Procedure

by the Earl of Stockton, Chris Heaton-Harris and Roy Perry

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the right to safety at EURO 2000

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B5-0462/2000**Resolution on the right to safety at EURO 2000**

The European Parliament,

- recalling its previous resolutions on spectator violence and the free movement of supporters,
 - having regard to the European Convention of 19 August 1985 on spectator violence and misbehaviour at sports events and in particular football matches,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights,
- A. whereas the European Football Championship (EURO 2000) is to be hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands in June and July 2000,
- B. reiterating its deep concern about the threat of violence at football matches and recognising that national police forces are already preparing for potential problems during the EURO 2000 championship,
- C. noting that whereas some of the venues for the tournament can seat over 50 000 spectators, some can only hold less than 30 000 people,
- D. noting the concerns raised by the head of the Belgian Police Federation, with regard to the difficulty in controlling spectators outside of some of the proposed venues for football matches during the EURO 2000 tournament,
- E. noting concerns raised with regard to the risk of violence associated with spectators without tickets gathering in the region of football stadia during and after matches,
- F. noting with concern the findings of sports stadia safety experts with regard to safety and the potential difficulties in reacting to any emergencies within some of those football stadia,
- G. recognising the threat that serious violence at those matches could have on the safety and security of local residents and other spectators,
- H. whereas the European Football Championship is the second largest international football competition in the world,
1. Believes that the safety of spectators and local residents must be the prime priority when organising major events of this kind;

2. Is shocked by reports that the Stade Communal in Charleroi fails to comply with current Belgian safety standards with regard to the degree of slope of stands, yet is scheduled to host various games including the match between England and Germany;
3. Welcomes the offer by the King Baudoin Stadium in Brussels to stage the match between Germany and England;
4. Calls on the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and the EURO 2000 Foundation to pay the greatest attention to the advice of police organisations, football spectator authorities and stadia safety experts, with regard to the safety and suitability of the venues for the tournament and to act on that advice where there is believed to be an increased risk of violence;
5. Calls on UEFA and the EURO 2000 Foundation to re-examine as a matter of urgency the security implications of hosting high-profile football matches in small stadia located in residential areas;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Council of Europe, the Secretary-General of UEFA and the head of the EURO 2000 Foundation.