

AGREEMENT

FOR SPORTS CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE FINNISH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS DIVISION AND LITHUANIAN STATE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS

For the benefit of the development of mutual sport contacts and friendly relations between Finland and Lithuania and following the invitation of Lithuanian State Department of Physical Education and Sports, the official delegation of the Finnish Ministry of Education, Sports Division visited Lithuania on 9 - 11 June 1998.

The Lithuanian delegation

Mr Rimas Kurtinaitis	Director General
Mr Arunas Kazlauskas	Deputy Director General
Mr Algirdas Raslanas	Deputy Director General

and from the Finnish side

Mr Harri Syvasalmi	Director
Mr Pekka Honkanen	Director of the Finnish Sports Museum
Ms Emma Kuusi	EU Assistant

During the visit the two parties discussed sports development trends in Finland and in Lithuania as well as in the whole of Europe. Also, in an open discussion with the representatives of the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee and the Lithuanian Union of Sports Federations the parties informed each other about the current situation and future strategies in the sphere of sport. The delegation was received in the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. During the meeting with the Deputy Chairman of the Seimas and the Chairman of the Seimas Commission on Youth and Sports the issue of social significance of sports as an important part of human life was discussed. The two parties agreed upon the following principles as the basis for co-operation between sports organisations in Finland and Lithuania:

1. Taking into account the possibilities, the two parties foresee to carry out training camps for high level athletes in Vuokatti and Vierumaki sports facilities, possibly with a reduction;
2. To exchange delegations of sports for all as well as for disabled people;
3. Taking into account the possibilities, the Finnish sports specialists agree to act as a consultant body in the sphere of sports facilities construction in Lithuania;
4. Within the period of EU Presidency of Finland, both parties agree to be in close co-operation in the sphere of sports. The parties also foresee to exchange information and carry out co-operation, especially stressing the Nordic dimension, on the EU issues as well as in the programmes and projects carried out by the EU;
5. To support Finland in achieving its goal to be the host of the 2006 Winter Olympic Games;
6. Both parties agree to invite sports scientists, sports medicine representatives as well as sports specialists to seminars and conferences held in Finland and Helsinki and exchange information.

More detailed programme for co-operation for the years 1999/2000 is to be discussed during the visit of the Lithuanian delegation in Finland in autumn 1998.

Done in Vilnius on 11 June 1998

Rimas Kurtinaitis
Lithuanian State Department
of Physical Education
and Sports

Harri Syvasalmi
Ministry of Education
Cultural Policy Department
Sports Division