



Organisation pour la Paix et le Sport

300 High-Ranking Decision Makers Come to Monaco for the Second International Peace and Sport Forum

The mobilisation of international players intensifies

Monaco, 1st December 2008 - The Principality of Monaco is preparing to host a historical summit meeting this week – the second International Peace and Sport Forum from 3 to 5 December. **Nearly 300 well-known figures and experts will participate to put sport at the service of peace in the world**, under the High Patronage of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco.

This exceptional attendance rate (almost the double of last year, 2007) shows how important this event is. After just one edition, the International Peace and Sport Forum has emerged as the main platform for exchanges and meetings of senior policy makers who define, support and implement sports policies. These initiatives are designed to ease social tensions in the aftermath of conflicts throughout the world.

Many leading figures have answered "present" to the Peace and Sport, invitation, including:

- **Wilfried Lemke**, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General for Sport for Peace and Development;
- Sport legends and members of the International Olympic Committee: **Nawal El Moutawakel**, **Sergey Bubka** and **Hicham El Guerrouj**;
- 35 Heads of State, Prime Ministers or Ministers of Sports, from 5 continents;
- 30 members of the International Olympic Committee;
- 30 International Federations and as many National Olympic Committees;
- 20 major non-governmental organizations;
- Fabulous Olympic champions such as the 800-meter runner **Wilson Kipketer** (World Champion 1995, 1997, 1999; world record in 1997 and 2000) and cyclist **Bridley McGee** (Olympic Champion, World Champion, world record on track; 17 stage victories in the Tours of France and Italy)
- Prestigious partners such as companies ONEXIM Group, Mercure International of Monaco, Carat Sport and the Institute of Strategic International Relations (IRIS).

The diversity of participants will enable the sharing of experiences, propose new partnerships and enhance those that already exist and formalize concrete responses to needs identified by communities, weakened by poverty, lack of social cohesion or the aftermath of conflict.

Many highlights during the Forum 2008

On December 4th, a much-awaited session will take place at the end of the day on the role of sport within the most disadvantaged communities in the **Middle East**, particularly **Israel-Palestine**. Ministers of Sport from Israel and Palestine will both be present to talk about opportunities for reconciling the two communities through sport; two teenagers from Israel and Palestine will talk about how sport has allowed them to overcome prejudice in their respective communities.

Several real-life case studies on projects developed in vulnerable areas with the assistance of Peace and Sport will be presented to give the floor to players living in areas of tension. Case-studies in **Burundi** and the Great Lakes region of Africa, the **Ivory Coast** and **Timor-Leste** will also be examined.

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For more information please contact :

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Actors for peace through sport are rewarded

On December 4th during the exceptional Gala Evening, Peace and Sport will honour famous and less famous initiatives that have especially contributed to peace, development and stability in 2008.

The “**Peace and Sport Awards**” will be given to one NGO, one International Federation and one sporting event.

The “Grand Prix for the Peace and Sport Image of the Year” will also be awarded for the best representation of fraternity through sport. It was announced ‘en avant-première’ during the SPORTELMonaco in October. The winning photo was taken on 6 September 2008 in Yerevan (Armenia), during the qualifying match for the Football World Cup, between the Turkish team and the Armenian team. The image shows the historic handshake between Turkish President Abdullah Gül and Armenian President Serge Sarkissian, bringing an end to two decades of diplomatic silence through football.

The prize will be awarded jointly to the Turkish and Armenian representatives by **Joel Bouzou**, President and Founder of Peace and Sport, and **David Tomatis**, Deputy President of Sportel.

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About PEACE AND SPORT

“Peace and Sport Organisation pour la Paix et le Sport” is an international organisation based in Monaco, created under the High Patronage of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II.

Peace and Sport’s objective is to bring the structuring values of sport to the heart of communities and individuals in crisis throughout the world. Undertaking projects in areas suffering the consequences of armed conflict, areas of extreme poverty or in lacking social cohesion, “Peace and Sport” makes sport a vehicle for tolerance, harmony, respect, sharing, citizenship and self-achievement, at the service of Sustainable Peace.

Supported by governments, world sport governance bodies, international organisations, private international corporations and international sports champions, Peace and Sport creates synergies between various actors to successfully carry out two major types of activity:

- 1) Organising an annual International Forum
- 2) Implementing Locally-Based Projects: concrete projects in areas in crisis throughout the world.

Peace and Sport has interventions in Cote d’Ivoire, Burundi, in the Great Lakes Region in Africa, in Timor Leste and is planning interventions in Israel-Palestine, Colombia and Haiti in the near future.

Peace and Sport was created by Joel Bouzou, its current President. Mr. Bouzou is an Olympic medallist and a Modern Pentathlon World Champion. He is the current General Secretary of the Modern Pentathlon International Union (MPIU), a Member of the World Olympians Association (WOA) Executive Committee, and an Advisor to HSH the Prince Albert II of Monaco.

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