



Union des associations européennes de football



**Media Release**

Date: 19/10/2007

**Communiqué aux médias**

No. 117

**Medien-Mitteilung**

## ***UEFA satisfied with reference to specific nature of sport in EU reform treaty***

The European Union (EU) reform treaty that was adopted by the heads of state and government of the 27 EU member states in Lisbon last night makes explicit reference, for the first time, to the specific nature of sport.

Article 124a) of the new treaty stipulates that *“The Union shall contribute to the promotion of European sporting issues **while taking account of its specific nature, its structures** based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function”*.

This new wording retains the substance of the proposed text in the aborted project to establish a new constitution for Europe (article III – 282) and it is also in line with the Nice Declaration (2000), which made reference to the “specific characteristics” of sport.

The Olympic and sporting movement is delighted by this historic move, which reflects a demand previously expressed on many occasions by the International Olympic Committee, the National Olympic Committees, the European Olympic Committees, the 35 international federations and their European confederations.

“A treaty based reference to the specific nature of sport is a positive development as is the recognition of existing sports structures in Europe. We look forward to these principles being applied in practice in future and we also regard this as a very important step forward towards achieving a concrete definition of the specificity of sport,” said UEFA President Michel Platini.

The Olympic and sporting movement has high hopes for the inclusion of the notion of the specific nature of sport in the EU treaty and will closely follow its application, most notably when it comes to defining its exact contents.