



L'Organisation pour la Paix par le Sport

Sous le Haut Patronage  
de S.A.S. le Prince Albert II de Monaco



**PRESS FILE**

## **Launch of the “Champions for Peace” Club**

### *37 famous athletes unite to put sport at the service of peace*

**Monaco, 25 November 2009** – The Opening Ceremony of the 3rd Peace and Sport International Forum was distinguished by the launch of the ‘Champions for Peace’ club, a group of 37 famous sportspeople committed to serving peace in the world through sport.

The launch took place at the Oceanographic Museum in Monaco in the presence of **HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco** and over 400 international decision-makers from sport, politics, and the private sector including S.E. Dr. Danilo TÛRK, President of the Republic of Slovenia, Dmitry KOSAK, Vice Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Rama YADE, French Secretary of State for Sport, HRH Prince Nawaf Faisal Fahd ABDULAZIZ, IOC member, Wilfried LEMKE, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General for Sport at the Service of Development and Peace, and many others.

Champions for Peace represent **23 nationalities** from all 5 continents in the world, comprising 24 Olympic and non-Olympic sports disciplines. Collectively, these heroes of podium between them have no less than 47 world championship titles, 20 Olympic titles and nearly 100 national and regional titles.

An unequalled success record to promote sport as a vector for peace to the general public and decision-makers from all over the world! Champions for Peace share a common desire: to contribute, actively or symbolically, to a culture of peace throughout the world using sport.

This Champions’ club is an initiative from “Peace and Sport, l’Organisation pour la Paix par le Sport”, founded by World Champion and Olympic Medallist in Modern Pentathlon, Joël Bouzou.

As part of their commitment as Champions for Peace, these great sportspeople will support Peace and Sport’s actions as well as members of the Peace and Sport networking platform.

They will speak at official events to defend the cause of peace through sport and get involved in field actions for peace-building. They will meet youngsters who live in extremely disadvantaged circumstances, for whom they are role models and provide a source of inspiration; they will help to train coaches in the field; they will actively raise awareness amongst decision-makers and potential investors.

At the launch, Joel Bouzou declared: *“Over and above success in sport, these athletes share a common conviction: that sport can bring about a culture of peace by encouraging education, dialogue social integration and stability within vulnerable communities. Through sport, they can achieve more than sport. They can help to transform people’s mentalities.*

**Contact presse : Valérie Amant - +33 (0)6 83 37 66 21 - [press@peace-sport.org](mailto:press@peace-sport.org)**  
**[www.peace-sport.org](http://www.peace-sport.org)**

## Who are the Champions for Peace?

- **RONALD AGENOR**, International Tennis Player, Haiti
- **ISAAC ANGBO**, African Judo Champion, Côte d'Ivoire
- **AS MONACO FOOTBALL CLUB**
- **SERGE BETSEN**, three-time Rugby Champion for France, Cameroon
- **BENJAMIN BOUKPETI**, first Olympic Medallist, Canoe-Kayak, Togo
- **SERGEY BUBKA**, Olympic Champion, six-time World Champion, Pole-vault, Ukraine
- **LORIS CAPIROSSI**, three-time World Champion, Motorcycling, Italy
- **SÉBASTIEN CHABAL**, Winner of Six Nations, Rugby, France
- **DANIEL ELENA**, six-time World Champion, Rally Driver, Monaco
- **MARO ENGEL**, Rally Driver, Germany
- **JEAN-PHILIPPE FLEURIAN**, Professional Tennis Player, France
- **DICK FOSBURY**, Olympic Champion, High Jump, USA
- **CATHY FREEMAN**, Olympic Champion, World Champion, 400m, Australia
- **PIERRE FROLLA**, quadruple World Record Holder, Free diving, Monaco
- **DIANA GANDEGA**, International Player, Basketball, Mali
- **Yelena Isinbayeva**, World Champion, Pole-vault, Russia
- **OLIVIER JACQUE**, World Champion, Motorcycle racer, France
- **CHRISTIAN KAREMBEU**, World Champion, Football, France
- **ROBERT KARLSSON**, Professional Golf Player, Sweden
- **WILSON KIPKETER**, Long-distance World Champion and current world record-holder, Denmark
- **JOHANN KOSS**, Olympic Champion, triple World Champion, Speed Skating, Norway
- **SABRI LAMOUCHE**, Champion for France, Football, France
- **DANIEL LUGER**, Rugby Champion, Six Nations Tournament, Great Britain
- **BRADLEY MCGEE**, double Olympic Champion, World Champion, Cycling, Australia
- **KAVEH MEHRABI**, Olympian, Badminton, Iran
- **JÉRÔME MEYER**, triple World Cup-winner, Climbing, France
- **VENUSTE NIYONGABO**, Olympic Champion, 5000 m, Burundi
- **STUART O'GRADY**, Olympic Champion, twice World Champion, Cycling, Australia
- **PAULA RADCLIFFE**, World Champion, Long Distance, Great Britain
- **SIDIKI SIDIBÉ**, Professional Basketball Player, France
- **MARCO SIMONE**, Italian and French Champion, Football, Italy
- **SEBASTIEN SQUILLACI**, French Champion, Football, France
- **BRUNO SROKA**, double World Champion, Kite surf, France
- **HELENA SUKOVA**, Professional Tennis Player, WTA, Czech Republic
- **BLANKA VLASIC**, double World Champion, High Jump, Croatia
- **CHRIS WADDELL**, five-time Paralympic Champion, World Champion, Downhill ski, USA
- **PERNILLA WILBERG**, twice Olympic Champion, quadruple World Champion, Ski, Sweden
- **PEDRO ALEJANDRO YANG**, Olympian, Badminton, Guatemala



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**Contact presse : Valérie Amant - +33 (0)6 83 37 66 21 - [press@peace-sport.org](mailto:press@peace-sport.org)**  
**[www.peace-sport.org](http://www.peace-sport.org)**