

Editorial Report

SOCIETIES IN MOTION:
RISING UP THROUGH SPORT

#RhodestoPeace



**PEACE
AND
SPORT**
REGIONAL
FORUM

ISLAND OF RHODES
18 OCTOBER 2018



TABLE OF CONTENT

02 Editorial by Joël Bouzou

02 Editorial by George Hatzimarkos

03 Press Conference

Wednesday 17th october

04 Special Movie Projection and Discussion

Thursday 18th october

05 Forum Sessions

05 Opening Ceremony

05 Session 1: "The role of sport in creating peaceful communities, networks and regional cooperation"

06 Session 2: "Cities as a hub of innovation and social inclusion"

07 Session 3: "Investing in human capital for social and economic development"

09 Decision-making roundtable entitled "Connecting policy with practice: creating a shared future through sport"

11 Sport Agora – Sport Simple activities with Champions for Peace

11 Pitch Exchange: How is your Organization contributing to the Mediterranean region through sport

12 Greek Cultural Ceremony

12 Sport Diplomacy event

12 Special Session with Nikos Galis

13 Peace and Sport Awards Gala Evening

17 Partners

Editorial by Joël Bouzou



Mr Joël Bouzou
*President and Founder
Peace and Sport*

Dear Delegates, Dear Friends,

I am honoured to welcome you to this very special Peace and Sport Forum. Following the success of 10 editions of our International Forum, this year the event will be held on a local level in Greece, in partnership with the Region of South Aegean. A new venue but the same purpose: bringing together key leaders to discuss how to tackle social challenges through sport. By choosing to hold the event in Rhodes, we want to send a strong message about significant regional challenges, with the conviction that all States, NGOs and athletes should share the same values and move towards one goal: peace.

I invite you all to share best practices and to get nourished by all these discussions, debates, and real-life testimonies. Immerse yourself in everyone's experiences and enrich yourself with the words of speakers who have come from many different countries. I wish you an excellent Peace and Sport Regional Forum 2018!

Editorial by George Hatzimarkos



Mr George Hatzimarkos
Governor of the Region of South Aegean

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the Peace and Sport Regional Forum "Societies in Motion: Rising up through Sport" to the island of Rhodes. It is the first time that this important event, promoting the noble principles of cooperation and peace, will be organized in Greece and, what is more, on an island that has been a crossroads of cultures and ideas over time, making Rhodes the ideal place to highlight the forum's main goals: to promote sport as a tool for social development, identify regional challenges and build synergies that encourage the inclusive impact of sport for society.

With these thoughts and emotions, we welcome you on board and hope that you enjoy this great event.

Press Conference 26/09/2018



A press conference was held in Athens Greece on 26th September 2018. Its key speakers were: George Hatzimarkos, Governor of the Region of South Aegean, Joël Bouzou, Peace and Sport's Founder and President, and Christian Karembeu, a Peace and Sport Champion for Peace.

The press conference was a major opportunity to announce the theme of the Forum: Societies in Motion: Rising up through Sport, and to disclose the high-level speakers.

On this matter, Joël Bouzou, Founder and President of Peace and Sport, pointed out: *"Currently there are a great number of peace-through-sport initiatives and some remarkable actions taking place in the Mediterranean region. As a result, we are delighted to work together with the Region of South Aegean to gather key leaders to discuss how to tackle social challenges through sport"*.

Wednesday 17th October

Special Movie projection and discussion

To launch this year's forum, Peace and Sport (in partnership with Eleven Campaign) hosted a Special Movie Night during which the trailer for "Eleven: Rise as One" and the movie "God went Surfing with the Devil" were screened in Rodos Palace.

The latter is a documentary directed by Alexander Klein that recounts the story of a group of activists trying to get a shipment of 23 surfboards into the Gaza strip. Before the movie projections, there was an open discussion with Greek soccer star Giorgios Karagounis, Director and coach of the Eleven Campaign Mihalīs Monemvasiotis, Anthony Ricca, and Surfing4Peace Director and Founder Artur Rashkovan.

Thursday 18th October

During this one-day Regional Forum, three plenary sessions and an opening ceremony took place in the morning: the first one dealt with the role of sport in creating peaceful communities, networks and regional cooperation; the second focussed on cities as a hub of innovation and social inclusion; and the last one looked at investing in human capital for social and economic development

OPENING CEREMONY

During the opening ceremony, Mr. George Hatzimarkos, Governor of the Region of South Aegean and Mr. Joël Bouzou, President and Founder of Peace and Sport evoked the importance of hosting a Regional Forum in Rhodes, the cradle of Olympism and the crossroads of civilization. H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco sent a message of peace on this occasion.



SESSION 1

THE ROLE OF SPORT IN CREATING PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES, NETWORKS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Sport is a powerful and neutral instrument that can bring societies and countries together in ways that traditional forms of diplomacy and diplomats rarely can. How can sport be used to improve regional cooperation and networks within Mediterranean countries? Based on their personal experience in different Mediterranean countries, the speakers presented recommendations and shared best practices to ensure that countries and policy-makers use sport as a platform for dialogue and cooperation.

Moderator: **Mrs Marlène Harnois**, Taekwondo Olympic Medallist and Champion for Peace.

Speakers: **Mrs Ouided Bouchamaoui**, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in 2015.

Mr Lazaros Papadopoulos, Founder of Athlenda and basketball player

Mrs Madeline Hung, Co-Founder of the Good Country

Mr Alex Canals, Regional Representative of FC Barcelona Foundation FC.



SESSION 1

THE ROLE OF SPORT IN CREATING PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES, NETWORKS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Ouided Bouchamaoui, 2015 Nobel Prize Laureate, opened the first session of the inaugural Regional Peace and Sport Forum focusing on how to create long-lasting platforms for communication and fostering cooperation among regional peace and sport stakeholders. She emphasized our duty to work daily to establish and promote human rights and individual freedom, strengthen the principles of justice, democracy, equality, tolerance, and dialogue through sports. Bouchamaoui addressed the discouraging facts for our youth: every five minutes one child dies because of violence; every minute 28 girls are married before they turn 18; 3.17 million children have experienced war; 85 million children are victims of forced labour **and yet every child has a basic right to care, education, justice, and protection**. Thus, it is imperative to raise our voices, propose solutions, guide States, civil societies and organizations and, as Bouchamaoui claimed " **sport and its humanistic values, its universality can help to transmit a message of peace and tolerance through sport - the language of the body, heart, and mind**".

Lazaros Papadopoulos, former international basketball player and CEO of *Athlenda*, captivated participants' attention by showing a video of the true story of Christ Wamba, a refugee boy from Congo whose only dream was to play basketball. Papadopoulos and the Athlenda platform inspire such young athletes to help them fulfil their dreams. **All of us here are different, we come from different countries, have different religions, speak different languages but we have the same feeling and dream to be athletes irrespective of playing level, or even if we are just a fan**. The dream may be the same for every kid out there but opportunities and access to resources are not. This is the gap that Athlenda tries to bridge by empowering these young athletes to show their talent to an international basketball network through innovation and the power of technology.

Madeline Hung, co-founder of *The Good Country*, reminded us how sporting events have long demonstrated the **power of sport to bridge even the starkest social divides, offering the opportunity to bring together everyone and anyone on the same team**. Nonetheless, Hung challenged the audience to reflect on how we can transfer the right balance of cooperation and competition which drives human progress and elevates the standard of play in sports to different life arenas outside of sport to create truly peaceful communities. What kind of sportsmanship can we aspire to in the 21st century and in the age of globalization? The quest to find answers to such questions led Hung and Simon Anholt to co-found The Good Country, an initiative to establish a new "country" designed to show other countries how to be better team players and confront some major global challenges such as climate change, pandemics, economic stability, and weapons proliferation. The Good Country embraces the work and values of Peace and Sport and is open to learn from it, amplifying the work that is already being done in order to **bring together more cooperative and collaborative peaceful communities through sport**.

Committed to refugee populations, especially children, *the Barcelona Foundation* has launched programs using sport as a tool for social transformation in partnership with organizations such as the UNHCR and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to raise awareness about youth refugees and improve their quality of life. **Alex Canals**, regional coordinator for Italy, Greece, and Lebanon at Barcelona Foundation, explained that the Foundation's mission is **to support children and youth through sport and education to achieve a more egalitarian and more inclusive society**. Canals highlighted three main areas of work, namely the prevention of violence, the promotion of social inclusion, and improvement of access to education. Interventions in the above-mentioned areas are organized around four main actions: (i) developing programs around the world, (ii) raising awareness and running campaigns, (iii) collaborating with leading institutions such as UNICEF to contribute to the attainment of sustainable development goals, (iv) contributing to knowledge generation.

SESSION 2

CITIES AS A HUB OF INNOVATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

How can sport be a tool to promote positive social change in cities in both the short and long term? Speakers presented innovative recommendations and shared best practices to ensure that communities and cities maximize the use of sport for development, peace and social inclusion.

Moderator: **Mr Edin Koljenovic**, RYCO Montenegro Officer

Speakers: **Mr Petros Kokkalis**, Hope Refugee FC President and former Olympiakos Vice President
Mr Kashif Siddiqi, Founder of Football for Peace and Champion for Peace
Mrs Athina Zerva, Head Coach of the Greek National Deaf Women's basketball team
Mrs Rimla Akhtar, Chair of the Muslim Women's Sport Foundation

Petros Kokkalis, Hope Refugee FC President and former Vice President of Olympiakos F.C. explained how in his capacity as Deputy Mayor for the city of Piraeus, he chose to tackle the issue of refugee integration following the increase in the migration flow in 2015. The Hope Refugee FC was launched in cooperation with the municipality and the UEFA Foundation, with the ultimate purpose of giving refugees the opportunity to interact with host populations and, equally importantly, vice versa. The build-up to the initiative included promotion to all nine refugee camps in the greater Athens area, and open trials to select players, which saw the participation of more than 150 players from 18 countries. Kokkalis stressed the fact that Hope Refugee FC had already played 70 games with other Greek teams which was **not only an opportunity for refugees to get out of the camps but also to interact with around 1000 Greek players on an equal level.**

Kashif Siddiqi, Champion for Peace, co-founded Football for Peace with the aim of using sport as a diplomatic tool through which they recently organized a football match at the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro to promote gender equality bringing together 30 females from around the world from war torn regions. Siddiqi shared the interesting story of how he and FIFA legend Elias Figueroa were brought together by Peace and Sport, a contact which resulted in the inception and founding of Football for Peace during the 2013 Peace and Sport Forum. Siddiqi explained how Cities for Peace, one of the key concepts of Football for Peace, targets cities around the world which are divided and looks to bring youth from different walks of life, faiths, and cultures together to educate them on why they should be working together. This initiative combines education (60%) and football (40%) because in his experience **"growing up as a footballer, one thing that we realize is that we are colour-blind. It does not matter which colour someone is or what faith they come from and sport gives us that tool".**

Athina Zerva, Head Coach of the Greek National Deaf Women's basketball team, led her team to the top of the world highlighting her consistent efforts to bring attention to the issues of young people with disabilities. Zerva characterized this success as a modern sport fairy-tale, as both she and the athletes had to face numerous difficulties. Her very first challenge -communicating with athletes with varying degrees of hearing loss - was quickly overcome when **everyone realized that mere eye contact and the language of basketball were enough to understand each other during practice.** When she took the team over in 2011, her revised outlook was that **"we will not train deaf women but athletes"** which led to much better understanding and results culminating in a gold medal in the 2017 Summer Deaflympics in Turkey.

Rimla Akhtar, Chair of the Muslim Women's Sport Foundation found herself playing football at a young age when she realized that **she had found this space where nobody seemed to care about the colour of her skin, about the fact that she was a girl, or about this piece of cloth that she wears around the head. All they cared about was her ability on the pitch.** This feeling of acceptance and confidence that she developed as a result of feeling part of the community, Akhtar carried with her throughout her life, leading her to believe in the important role of sport in both personal and societal development. Her biggest challenge initially was to reconcile two different worlds: the very diverse and one of the least interactive communities, the Muslim community; and the exclusive and rigid sports industry. It took much effort on both sides to give people the opportunity to be part of the sports industry. Why is inclusion important? **If there is someone who feels inadequate in life in general, they can come on to a sports pitch and suddenly feel like they have something to give, contribute to their team, and they will carry that field of play metaphorically throughout their lives. They raise themselves up through sport.**

SESSION 3

INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The role of athletes, more than just playing, entitles them to serve as role models. *Three famous athletes tell their own stories about how sport changed their life for good.*

Moderator: **Mrs Honey Thaljieh**, captain of the Palestinian women's football team, Communication Corporate Manager at FIFA and Champion for Peace

Speakers: **Mr Michail Seitis**, Paralympic and World record holder 400m

Mr Mihalis Kakiouzis, Ex-Captain of Greece National Basketball team and Eleven Campaign Ambassador

Mr Christian Karembeu, Strategic Advisor of Olympiakos F.C and Champion for Peace.

Honey Thaljieh, Captain of the Palestinian women's national football team and Champion for Peace, opened and moderated the third session. A girl growing up in the narrow streets of Bethlehem wanting to play football under the most difficult political, cultural, and social circumstances has now become the woman who has broken through countless social and political barriers to be a role model to women and girls throughout the Middle East and beyond. She explained how at the age of 15 she realized that football is much more than just a game; **football offered her an identity, security, freedom, and empowerment to empower other girls in the community to change their lives through this beautiful game which is about fair play, justice and equality on and off the pitch.** Sports have the power to change lives, to make a difference, and to believe that no barriers, no walls, no challenges can stop us from dreaming, hoping for a better future, and believing that sky is our limit.

Michael Seitis, Paralympic and World Record Holder 400m, whose passion for running along with his dream of participating in the Olympic Games were not shuttered even after an accident that changed his life, took the stage with his showcase of inner strength earning him a standing ovation in what was one of the most emotional moments of the Forum. Three months after his accident Seitis was back on track, training hard to compete in his first race with a prosthetic leg. Following his amputation, his only thought and focus was on how soon he could return to running. Seitis admitted that **it was athletics that played a major role enabling him to turn a negative situation into a positive one as it was through sport that he was taught how to be disciplined, patient, persistent and mentally tough.** Three years following his accident, his hard work paid off leading him to compete in five events in the 2016 Paralympic Games where he achieved two world records in 400m. A year later, Seitis managed to win a gold and silver medal in the World Championships.

Former Captain of Greece National Basketball team, European Champion (2005), and Eleven Campaign Ambassador, **Michalis Kakiouzis**, has been a vocal advocate of the use of sport for social development throughout his career. After his retirement from sport, he focused his efforts on working with academies to galvanize the next generations of basketball players in Greece, as well as promoting the transformative power of sport. Growing up he looked up to his favourite basketball athletes dreaming of becoming like them one day. Kakiouzis stressed the importance of the continuous support he received from his parents, his father especially, without which he would not have been able to reach his goals. **He praised basketball for having given him the opportunity to come in contact with other countries, cultures, learn languages and motivate him to think and learn about differences among people.** Most importantly, through basketball he has set an example for younger generations, and he continues to do so managing two basketball academies of about 500 youngsters.

Christian Karembeu, Strategic Advisor of Olympiakos F.C. and Champion for Peace, has been very active since his retirement, promoting football in his birthplace, Lifou (New Caledonia), and he was also very quick to visit Haiti after the terrible earthquakes in 2010 to help children dream a better future through sport. Looking back to his journey from New Caledonia to France at the age of 17, he spoke about how sport facilitated his integration as it gave him and his team-mates the opportunity get to know each other's unique backgrounds. **Sport has a tremendous power to change our future, to chant hopes, to inspire dreams and to inspire each other.** Karembeu has been a Champion for Peace since 2009 embracing his responsibility to promote peace and to break down barriers in a troubled era where we have forgotten that human beings should come first. In his role as special advisor to Olympiakos F.C., he sees clubs as being in a position to change the game and play a bigger social role with such initiatives as the Athens Principle on the right to participate in sport.

Sessions



Decision-Making Roundtable



After lunch, a decision-making roundtable entitled "Connecting policy with practice: creating a shared future through sport" took place. 13 high-level leaders from different policy- and decision-making realms and countries were brought in to share best practices on how to maximize the use of sport for development.

Peace and Sport President and Founder Joël Bouzou welcomed all participants setting the tone of the discussion by emphasizing the rise of a global movement to create peace through sport which knows no boundaries or borders. The goal of this decision-making roundtable was to provide a platform to gather, amplify and circulate solutions.

Mr. Georgios Vassiliades (Deputy Minister of Culture and Sport, GRE) explained how the Greek Ministry of Culture and Sports prioritized the need to secure the fundamental right of access to sport, focusing on and aiming to enable the next generation to enjoy sports for all while highlighting the social and economic benefits of such an approach. In a unifying appeal, he invited all stakeholders to share the same values and overcome regional conflicts and differences.

Prof. Stoyan Hristov Andonov (Deputy Minister of Culture and Sport, BUL), emphasized the unifying power of the Olympic movement and the widespread use of sport as a peace provider. For his ministry, there are three decisive factors that help to generate and maintain peace: (i) legislation, (ii) the media, and (iii) sports organizations. In addition to its peace-promoting ability, the value of sport in economic and social domains is also acknowledged as reflected in EU Council documents. Prof. Andonov concluded by recognizing the importance of hosting international sporting events.

H.E. Dr. Ashraf Sobhy (Minister of Youth and Sport, EGY) reiterated the worldwide motion for sport to support peace. Sport serves as a tool to connect all people in Egypt, boosting the economy, and enhancing health development. Dr. Sobhy suggested the use of local and national sport talents as sports Ambassadors, citing the example of Egyptian footballer Mohamed Salah.

Mrs. Burbuqe Bakija-Deva (Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, KOS) argued that sport can change a whole society. During the European Week of Sports, her Ministry hosted conferences to promote gender equality and diversity and to encourage treating people without any discrimination. Highlighting the power of sport, the Deputy Minister underlined that "sometimes what politics cannot do, sport can achieve it", also referring to the International Olympic Committee's recognition of Kosovo in 2014. This allowed the country's inaugural participation in Olympic Games in 2016, bringing its first ever gold medal. As many of the challenges we face are derived from politics, sport could be treated as the best way to enhance cooperation in politics too.

Mr. Nikola Janovic (Minister of Sports, MNE) placed the emphasis on sport as a multidimensional phenomenon having social, psychological, medical, cultural and many other facets. Sport should be seen as a field of public interest which led his Ministry to adopt a new normative and strategic framework. Athletes have the capacity to become the "most extraordinary promoters of a country", all the more with annual stipends for promising athletes, even in non-Olympic sports. Minister Janovic also addressed the "Systemic approach" of the Ministry of Sports of Montenegro to develop sport for children and promote peace values such as tolerance, solidarity, and justice.

Mr. João Paulo Rebelo (State Secretary for Youth and Sport, Ministry of Education, POR) eagerly shared a set of good practices initiated in Portugal. The Portuguese Secretariat of Youth and Sport recently supported a total of 200 initiatives with a budget of over 3 million euros. Strong efforts are also being made to boost school sport, already resulting in doubling the number of students in school sport activities. One of these efforts involves the introduction of a new program promoting nautical activities in cooperation with nautical clubs, an initiative that could probably be assimilated in most Mediterranean countries. The White Card project valuing Fair Play and combatting against hate speech and discrimination is yet another adopted initiative which more and more associations and clubs choose to engage in.

Decision-Making Roundtable

Mr. Cosmin Butuza (Secretary of State for Sports, ROU) and **Ms. Cristina Andronic** (Deputy Secretary for Sports, ROU) stressed the need to develop policies keeping sport on a sustainable development path, acknowledging that sport offers huge benefits for the health of a nation. Romania has launched numerous projects to this end including the organization of over 120 events in 2017 aiming to raise the levels of active participation of children and develop social behaviours. The European Week of Sport was successfully leveraged through the organization of 200 events involving more than 30,000 participants. The Ministry urged authorities to consider cooperating with NGOs as well as drawing upon relevant EU opportunities such as Erasmus+ concluding that “the real value is about what sport brings back to society”.



Mrs. Clare Barrell (UK Sport International Relations Adviser, GBR) referred to the positive legacy of the London 2012 Games while also explaining UK Sport's repurposed strategy with a strong component in creating and working through partnerships in delivery of programs in cooperation with UNICEF and the Commonwealth Secretariat to name a few. Building capacity of Governing Bodies to provide high quality and inclusive sport is UK Sport's priority and goal. Mrs. Barrell presented Fight for Peace as an example of good practice: an initiative employing boxing and martial arts to realize the potential of young people in communities affected by crime, violence and social exclusion.

Mr. Viktor Huszar (Co-Founder Fiteq, HUN) enriched the discussion offering an International Federation's (IF) perspective whose responsibilities and priorities differ from those of a government. "For governments medals might be important but for IFs athletes are important". According to their IF's approach and experience, the best practice is that they do not identify the problems themselves but rather choose to do it through partners (e.g. Peace and Sport) to have a holistic approach to the roll-out of development programs. In other words, the IF brings the sport and Peace and Sport complements and tailors the program accordingly in order to ensure long lasting benefits. IFs have the power to become game changers and support innovative initiatives as illustrated in Teqball World Cup finals featuring men playing against women.

Mr. Nabeel Abu-Ata (Secretary General of the Jordan Basketball Federation, JOR) reminded us that 30% of population in Jordan is made up of refugees. In this context, the Jordan Basketball Federation took the unprecedented step of allowing Syrian refugees to make up 20% of any team competing in the league. Additionally, a whole team of Palestinians was allowed to compete against the Jordanian teams. Mr. Nabeel Abu-Ata encouraged all stakeholders to look at athletes as individuals who become role models.

Mr. Spyros Capralos (President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, GRE) identified sport as the most unifying tool for peace and solidarity mentioning how the impact of Ibrahim Al-Hussein's (Syrian refugee) participation in the Olympic Torch Relay in Athens 2 years ago and participation in Rio Paralympic Games acquired international dimensions. The HOC shows its solidarity providing relief assistance (e.g. pitches, courts, and clothing equipment) to refugee camps as well as through organizing activities in cooperation with Olympians (e.g. visits to initiate refugees to different sports). Forging partnerships and synergies among the Olympic movement is a priority. "Let us all allow sport to heal fractured societies".

Joël Bouzou (President and Founder of Peace and Sport, MON) and **George Hatzimarkos** (Governor of the Region of South Aegean, GRE) summarized the contributions of all delegates into take-home messages demonstrating that sport is global with a fantastic network: a potential mutual pillar for the world both for the inside and outside of a country. Sport is an investment for social cohesion and, thus, it is not by the economic dimension alone that we should judge its impact. Finally, in order to engage as many allies as possible in this effort, we need to encourage: i) regular fruitful meetings between governments and International Federations who can become global actors for peace; and ii) the involvement of Olympians and Champions through educating them to be role models and enabling them to give back to society.



Sport Agora



Four main activities took place at the Ancient Stadium of Rhodes. A highly historical place that made this day really special.

Sport Simple activities with Champions for Peace



Over 100 children from Rhodian schools participated in sports activities including Track and Field with Mrs. **Nouria Benida-Merah**, Algerian Athletics Olympic Champion, Taekwondo with **Marlène Harnois**, French Taekwondo Olympic medallist, and **Balla Dieye**, Taekwondo Senegalese World Championship Medallist, Teqball with **Honey Thaljieh** Founder and captain of the Palestinian women's football team and **Kash Siddiqi**, International Player for Pakistan and Karate with **Fodé Ndao** Karate Vice-World Champion and African Champion.



Pitch Exchange



The twelve organizations which presented transformative peace-through-sport actions in this networking session also shared their best practices to contribute to the world of 2030 in the Mediterranean.

Here is the detailed list of the pitch exchange speakers:

Moderator: Mrs Nevena Vukasinovic, **Vice-Chair of ENGSO and EUNA Fellow**

Speakers:

Mr Jorge Bolanos, **President of Dragones de Lavapies**

Mr Sascha Dürkop, **Secretary General of CONIFA**

Mr Benjamin Boukpeti, **Kayak - Olympic Medallist and Champion for Peace**

Mr Kyriakos Kyriakopoulos and Mr Theo Moschonas, **COO and Country Representative Eleven Campaign**

Mrs Tanya Kyriakidou, **President of ASTERI**

Mrs Annie Constantinidis, **ACS Athens Director of Athletics**

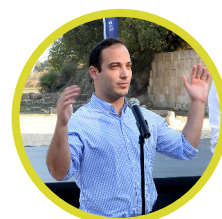
Mr Artur Rashkovan, **Founder of Surfing4Peace**

Mr Medard Koya, **Co-Founder of All Blacks FC**

Mr Andrew Piner, **Director of Play International Kosovo**

Mrs Eleni Nadin Diker, **Founder of Bomovu**

Ms Dora Palli, **Deputy Director, International Olympic Truce**



Greek Cultural Ceremony



Dancers performed a traditional Greek ceremony on stage. Magnificently dressed and carrying torches, they demonstrated Greek elegance. This was also the time for a massive #WhiteCard photograph from delegates, children and guests to symbolize their commitment to peace through sport.



Sport Diplomacy event



A Sport Diplomacy event was organized in cooperation with the Fédération Internationale de Teqball (FITEQ). A friendly Teqball match gathered four international football players in the presence of sport and political leaders of the region, for a highly symbolic moment of diplomatic unity. Greek footballer Giorgos Karagounis, 2004 UEFA European Champion, Turkish Hamza Hamzaoglou, and Cypriot Charalambos Andreou played along with Football star and Champion for Peace Christian Karembou, to prove how the power of sport can foster dialogue and cooperation among neighbouring countries with political differences.



Special Session with Nikos Galis

The session began with a video message from H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco calling to maximize the use of sport for peace in the region followed by a speech from Mr Joël Bouzou, President and Founder of Peace and Sport calling for more concrete actions and better synergies between governments, athletes, federations, the Olympic family and NGOs. Finally, the Governor of the Region of South Aegean George Hatzimarkos insisted on the need to find innovative solutions to tackle current social issues affecting the Region of South Aegean.

Speaker: **Nikos Galis**, Greek basketball legend in the 2017 Hall of Fame

This Special session paid the tribute to Greek basketball legend Nikos Galis.



This is the greatest gift that an athlete can offer to society and the greatest feeling that an athlete can realize...putting aside all the Championships or the personal awards, what really matters is what we leave behind, Galis said referring to a mother thanking him for having saved her son from substance abuse and addiction after finding meaning in his life in basketball. He explained how he learnt to play basketball in the streets of New York, going to Harlem, an area he describes as being 100% black, only to emphasize that they were all his friends when he played there and this is ***what sport can bring: no discriminations or social barriers***. His message to kids is that they must work hard, listen to their coaches, and love what they do...not everyone is going to be a superstar but everybody can help their team and their teammates because this is what sport is about: a team. Galis argued that celebrity athletes could be great spokespersons and through their virtues and habits they could inspire children to have high moral values through friendship, tolerance, and peace.

Peace and Sport Awards Gala Evening



The 2018 Peace and Sport Awards recognized inspirational actions in eight different categories accomplished by organizations, international federations and athletes around the world and in the region. This year's winners are:

- Champion of the Year: **Blaise Matuidi** for his association “Les Tremplins Blaise Matuidi” to help social reinsertion of kids in the French suburbs.
- April6 Initiative of the Year: **The Ministry of Youth and Sports in Bahrain** which organized the “1,000 Steps for Peace” event and the “Color Run” event which gathered more than 5,000 people to celebrate April6 and to raise funds to build a football field in the Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan.
- Sport Simple Programme of the Year: **Fundación Buen Punto**, which empowers children through surfing activities using self-built wooden surf boards in Choco area in Colombia.
- Diplomatic Action of the Year: **The U.S. Department of State’s Sports Diplomacy Division with the University of Tennessee’s Center for Sport, Peace & Society**. Its goal is to protect disability rights and foster women’s empowerment by airing dynamic emerging female leaders from 65 countries with America’s top female executives through sports.
- Special Jury Prize: **The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF)** for the achievement of the unified Korean Women’s Ice Hockey team participating at the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games.
- Regional Peace-Through-Sport Initiative of the Year: **American Community Schools of Athens** which led educational activities on the promotion of peace through sport and organized “The Color of Peace”, an event that promoted social inclusion and dialogue between different cultures.
- Regional Sport Organization of the Year: **Hope Refugee F.C.** a football team comprised of refugees and asylum seekers living in Athens, Greece that foster social integration within society.
- Regional NGO of the Year: **Budo for Peace** which conducts seminars for instructors from different religions and Martial Arts trainings for children in Israel, with a methodology developed by instructors from different religions.



Jury Members

Jury President:

Mrs. Fany Palli Petralia, Vice-Chairperson, International Olympic Truce Center

Jury Members:

Mr. Gabor Borsanyi, President, FITEQ – Fédération Internationale de Teqball

Mr. Adonis Cambourakis, President, Rodos Hotel Association

Mr. Pascal Gentil, Taekwondo Olympic Medalist ,Champion for Peace, Peace and Sport

Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou, Founder, Stelios Philanthropic Foundation

Memories





Partners

Gold partner



Silver partner



Bronze partners



Media partners



Strategic partner





#RhodesToPeace



18 OCTOBER 2018

ISLAND OF RHODES

 GREECE