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## Safety management at sports venues - reasons, conclusions, recommendations for the future in the context of EURO 2012

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### Abstract

The article deals with the management of security at sports venues in the context of EURO 2012. In the main, the formal and legal regulations constituting the framework for the management of a major sports event were analyzed. The paper uses the dogmatic-egalitarian method of research, which required the analysis of detailed legal regulations of this area. The dogmatic-exegetical method, required an in-depth analysis of organizational aspects in the context of the use of literature and doctrinal views, as well as analysis of the legal text. The article presents the personal views of the authors and cannot be interpreted as the position of any body, entity or institution. The article presents the legal status as of 01/10/2022. The authors were mainly responsible for the following areas - D. Borek Chapter 1 and 5, S. Raniszewski, M. Bugajska and M. Tomanek 2-4.

**Keywords:** *European Football Championship, EURO 2012, management*

### 1. Introduction

Access to public information in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland is formulated quite generally, so it has been highlighted in legal acts of special force, in this article will be discussed only the issues arising from the context of the largest sporting event in Poland to date - EURO 2012. Exhaustive presentation was therefore not subject to acts of law *lex specialis*, because the purpose of this chapter is to show the constitutional and axiological basis of the institution of access to information, including sports information [1]. This right can be restricted only for the sake of the goods specified in the laws: the protection of the rights and freedoms of other persons and business entities, and the protection of public order, security or an important economic interest of the state. In the context of this discussion, aspects of security management at sports facilities [2], which may harm the rights of the individual, will be discussed. The issue of security is always a social value, not an individual value, and therefore requires certain sacrifices of individual welfare.

### 2. Historical context

The UEFA EURO 2012 European Football Championship brought together a very large number of people in Poland and Ukraine - fans who cheered on their national teams. The tournament lasted from June 8 when the Polish and Greek national teams faced each other in the beautiful National Stadium until the final on July 1 in the Ukrainian capital Kiev. The final tournament of the European Championships was attended by 16 national teams. The matches were played in 8 stadiums 4 in Poland i.e. Warsaw, Gdansk, Poznan and Wroclaw and in 4 cities of our eastern neighbor i.e. Kiev, Kharkov, Donetsk and Lviv. According to estimated calculations, about one million fans came to Poland during the Championships. Fans did not gather only in cities where their team played matches, it was natural that they lived near the city where the team played the match of the day. For example, fans of the Czech team lived in the vicinity of Wroclaw, in Lower Silesia it was at the City Stadium in Wroclaw that all 3 matches were played by the Czech team. Teams from Spain, Italy, Ireland and Croatia played their matches in two cities at the PGE Arena Baltic in Gdansk and the Municipal Stadium in Poznan where Ekstraklasa club Lech Poznan plays its daily matches.

Bydgoszcz a city that did not host the Championships however in this city fans of the Irish team had their base for matches of their national team. Shortly after the draw of the groups for UEFA EURO 2012, when it was known that Ireland would play its matches in Gdansk and Poznan, Irish fans booked places in hotels in Bydgoszcz [2, 3]. According to estimates, about 30,000 fans arrived in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie region. Such a number of fans who are excess residents of mainly the largest city in the region, i.e. Bydgoszcz, means that until their arrival all city services including the police, fire department and ambulance service were put on high alert. A fan zone was located within the Old Town in Bydgoszcz, where all the EURO 2012 matches were shown. Such fan zones were also located in the host cities and other towns. The largest fan zone was in Warsaw, where it could accommodate more than 100,000 people at a time. Such a number of people means that services had to be put on high alert [1].

### **3. Maintaining security during EURO 2012**

Security was one of the most important issues in the organization of the final tournament of the European Championships. The UEFA EURO 2012 security program covered 15 thematic areas, including, among others, the legal and judicial system (diagnosing legal loopholes that could have been an obstacle to ensuring the security of the tournament), security of stadiums and other official venues and venues for public viewing of the matches, public security and order, rescue and counterterrorism. To coordinate preparations for the tournament in this regard - the then Prime Minister Donald Tusk established the UEFA EURO 2012 Security Committee, headed by General Adam Rapacki, undersecretary of state at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration. In turn, the function of plenipotentiary chairman of the Committee was performed by Tadeusz Zygmunt, national coordinator for security at PL.2012. The main motto of all the Committee's activities was: "Have fun - feel safe" ("Have fun - feel safe"). The Security Committee brought together more than 30 institutions that were involved in securing the tournament.

In the course of its work, a list of persons responsible for preparations for ensuring security during the event was drawn up in all the institutions involved in the Committee's work, as well as naming by name the persons involved at the expert level. One of the most important tasks that was carried out was the development of an Integrated Security Concept (ISC), defining all areas, responsibilities and activities of the various entities to ensure the maximum level of security during the tournament. The Committee set itself the task of preparing the Integrated Security Concept together with Ukrainian partners [4].

The result of the work of the UEFA EURO 2012 Security Committee was the development of the Integrated Security Concept (ISC), describing all areas, responsibilities and activities of individual entities to ensure the maximum level of security during the tournament.

The Integrated Security Concept was the realization of a commitment made by the football associations and the governments of Poland and Ukraine in an agreement signed in 2007 to host the final tournament of the European Championships. The Polish government undertook to present UEFA with a comprehensive concept for ensuring security and order. Such a document was presented to UEFA in June 2009. It analyzed potential threats to the security of the tournament and outlined the scope of responsibility for the various stages of securing UEFA EURO 2012. The plan presented did not fully satisfy UEFA, hence the need to improve it.

The creation of the final concept required intensive cooperation between the entities involved in the work to ensure security during Euro, which, by virtue of their statutory duties, participate in the implementation of the projects that make up the UEFA EURO 2012 Security Program - primarily the Ministry of Interior and Administration (ensuring security and order in the country, border protection), the Polish Football Association and its company EURO 2012 Poland (security at stadiums and other official UEFA venues), the host cities (creating friendly public space and fan zones) and the PL.2012 company (coordination).

The overall security system consisted of the following elements: friendly public space, accurate information and competent service, effective and accessible medical care and rescue system, as well as a strategy

for the operation of public order services based on the best models and experiences [5]. Within the framework of the CBD, 110 projects were implemented, with a total of 2135 tasks in 15 areas. They were closely linked to the activities of the tournament organizer, UEFA. The main idea of securing the event was that security is a service for fans, which should not interfere with their enjoyment and the emotions they experience, but only enable them to play together in an atmosphere free of danger. Therefore, the security measures undertaken for UEFA EURO 2012 in Poland were guided by the slogan "Have fun - feel safe" (Have fun - feel safe), and their strategic goal was to combine the highest security standards with minimal interference in the personal freedom of all participants in the championship [6].

Security at the stadiums was supervised by police patrols, spotters, non-uniformed officers and members of foreign police delegations. The commander of the police force responsible for the stadium area will be based at the command post at the stadium [7].

A Security Staff was established for each match, which will include the coordinator of the Department of Security EURO 2012 POLAND, the commander of the police force, the head of law enforcement and information services, the medical coordinator and a representative of the Anti-Terrorist Center of the Internal Security Agency [8]. UEFA EURO 2012 stadiums were divided into four main stands. Fans were allowed to move only within their own stands. The stands were divided into sectors according to the arrangement of individual entrances and exits. During the matches there were no fences or moats separating the sectors with fans from the pitch, an adequate number of policemen were deployed around the playing area, estimated according to the security plan and risk analysis [9].

Adequate numbers of security forces were on constant alert should the need arise to reinforce particular areas around the pitch. The stadiums where the matches of the final tournament of the European Championships were played had to meet strict safety standards [9, 10]. Among other requirements, they had to be licensed by the relevant authorities, offer only seating and be completely free of internal fences. All installations and facilities in the stadium had to be adapted to safety requirements (e.g., non-combustible chairs) [10]. Each stadium had to be equipped with a closed-circuit television system, which made it possible to monitor the situation not only on the playing field, but also in the stands [11].

#### **4. The concept of "friendly space"**

The basis for the smooth and safe conduct of UEFA EURO 2012 was the creation of public spaces in the host cities that were friendly to all tournament participants. They were prepared for the arrival of a significant number of fans [10]. Therefore, it was important to ensure good transport connections. "Friendly public space," however, is not only efficient transportation. Adequate accommodation was created for Euro guests, including both luxury hotels for official guests, as well as camping and tour homes for fans [12].

An element of the security system in cities was also a program of public space volunteerism (volunteers deployed in city centers, transportation hubs, fan zones) [13, 14].

During any sports event organized by several countries, the speed and ease of crossing the border between them is extremely important [11]. In the case of UEFA EURO 2012, the problem was all the more serious because Ukraine is not a member of the European Union and the Schengen area, which abolishes border barriers between its member countries [15]. Therefore, the goal of both organizing countries was to make border crossing as easy as possible for fans. It was decided that during the Euros at the main border crossings between the two countries there would be separate lanes for tournament visitors, the so-called green corridors [9]. Special lanes for fans with "Euro 2012" symbols were located at the crossings: Krakowiec-Korchowa, Szeginie-Medyka, Rawa Ruska-Hrebenne and Jagodzin Dorohusk [16]. Tournament visitors could also count on improved infrastructure and overall capacity at Ukrainian borders. Before UEFA Euro 2012, Ukraine modernized as many as 20 border crossings [15]. Their capacity increased by 50 percent. In addition to the points on the border with Poland, the crossings on Ukraine's borders with Hungary, Russia, Belarus, Slovakia and Moldova were upgraded [16].

At the four international border crossings between Poland and Ukraine (Ustilug-Zosin, Smolnica-Krościenko, Hrusow-Budomierz and Uhrynów-Dolhobyczów) there was only one joint customs control. Changes proposed by the European Commission have simplified border crossing procedures for train personnel, among others [17]. In May 2010, as part of the process of preparing for the Tournament, the UEFA EURO 2012 Security Committee was established by the Prime Minister, with Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration, General Adam Rapacki, as its head. The function of plenipotentiary of the Committee's chairman, in turn, was performed by the National Coordinator for Security at PL.2012 [8, 9]. One of the most important tasks that were carried out as part of the Committee's work was the development of an Integrated Security Concept defining all areas, responsibilities and actions of individual entities to ensure the maximum level of security during the Tournament [18].

On September 6, 2010 The UEFA EURO 2012 Security Committee adopted the Integrated Security Concept by resolution [8, 9]. On the same day, the Committee also adopted a resolution on the implementation

of the PPM (Project Portfolio Management) project management tool, implemented and administered by PL.2012. In 2011, Polish-Ukrainian cooperation in the area of security will be continued and developed. This task is being carried out by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and one of its most important elements will be the preparation of the Polish-Ukrainian Security Strategy [19].

## 5. Summary

In the field of security and order of sports events within the framework of the Council of Europe there is a Standing Committee on Combating Violence at Sports Events (T-RV), which consists of representatives of member states [18]. In summary, as is evident from the previous considerations, there are forms of public legal protection of a sports spectacle and the safety of fans-consumers of such an event. In common law, they are quite poor and concern the provision of safety in connection with the conduct of a given sports show and the issue of the responsibility of fans for behavior with negative consequences [19]. The discussed regulations are auxiliary to large sporting events, which are often governed by their own laws as was the case with EURO 2012. It is not a matter of coincidence that the greatest importance in this regard should be attributed to the regulations of sports federations.

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