

R13 Red Card for Sportwashing

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Agenda item: 4. Resolutions

Motion text

1 One of the principles of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the
2 harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society
3 concerned with the preservation of human dignity. We understand that human
4 dignity should neither be exclusive to nor withheld from any ethnicity, gender,
5 language, religion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

6 Unfortunately, sports have been instrumentalised by certain countries and
7 regimes to hide their record of grave human rights violations and at times
8 glorify a personality cult to serve as a distraction. This is called
9 sportwashing. A very notorious case is the 1936 Summer and Winter Olympics
10 hosted by and held in Nazi Germany. Going into recent times, more and more cases
11 of sportwashing are being committed: the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia, the 2022
12 Winter Olympics in China, and the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar to name some. The
13 preparations for the latter are being plagued by cases of migrant workers
14 working under dangerous conditions with little to no pay, extremely low
15 standards of living, and deaths caused by preventable workplace accidents.

16 We young greens believe that no country which engages in severe human rights
17 abuses such as forced labour, genocide, and war crimes may be allowed to host
18 major international sport tournaments such as but not limited to Olympic Games
19 and world championships. Furthermore, similarly severe human rights abuses such
20 as forced labour, forced displacement, and persecution of national and cultural
21 minorities in the process of preparing for these games are unacceptable and
22 should lead to the host country being changed or the games suspended, as well as
23 other sanctions (e.g. fines or bans from future competitions).

24 Therefore we, the Federation of Young European Greens, call for:

- 25 • a reform of the International Olympic Committee's Code of Ethics where
26 severe human rights abuses in the process of preparing for the games
27 should lead to the host country being changed or the games suspended, as
28 well as other sanctions where necessary (e.g. fines or bans from future
29 competitions);

- 30 • a reform of the Rule of Conduct for Host Countries and the hosting process
31 where human rights abuses in the process of preparing for the games must
32 at all times be avoided, where countries with history of human rights
33 violations must closely consult and be supervised by the International
34 Olympic Committee, and in case of violation an appropriate sanction can be
35 put on the host country;

- 36 • to apply these provisions analogously to international sports federations
37 with their respective international sporting events and competitions;

- 38 • the revival of the Olympic Truce as an absolute requirement during the
39 Olympic Games. It means no country will engage in an armed conflict seven
40 days before the start of each Olympic Games and until the eighth day after
41 the conclusion of the Paralympics. Its violation should also be sanctioned
42 forcefully.