R13new Red Card for Sportwashing

Proposers:

Agenda item: 4. Resolutions

Motion text

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Sports clubs to be prevented from being acquired by states for the purpose of sportswashing;

- the revival of the Olympic Truce as an absolute requirement during the Olympic Games. It means no country will engage in an armed conflict seven days before the start of each Olympic Games and until the eighth day after the conclusion of the Paralympics. Its violation by any aggressor or attacking state should also be sanctioned forcefully.