

## **ARISF President R. Chiulli speaking at the European Parliament – Executive Summary of his speech**

Dear President, honorable members, delegates,

It is a great pleasure and honor to have the opportunity to convey our thoughts and ideas on the "Universal Language of Sport" at the European Parliament.

Sport is an extraordinary means to show and disseminate those values such as passion, loyalty and fair competition which are fundamentals in our today's society and it is in this spirit that I welcome this initiative.

I am honored and proud to serve as ARISF President, Vice President of SportAccord, the umbrella organization for all International Sports Federations, Olympic and non-Olympic, and Member of the IOC Commission Sport and Active Society.

ARISF, the Association of Recognized IOC International Sports Federations, is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-discriminatory organization constituted through and recognized by the International Olympic Committee.

ARISF is one of the pillars to the Olympic Movement and of the Community of World Sport, with all of its Member International Sports Federations committed to respect and foster the values and principles set forth in the Olympic Charter.

The ARISF is in essence the Federation of the 35 International Sport Federations recognized by the International Olympic Committee and has thousands of national sports federations, hundreds of thousands of sport clubs, hundreds of millions of athletes followed by over a billion fans and media viewers around the globe.

To be recognized by the IOC and to join ARISF, any International Federations must meet stringent criteria such as universality (the sport discipline must be practiced in at least 50 different countries), popularity, governance, protection and development of athletes, full compliance with the WADA Anti-Doping

Code and the Olympic Charter, concrete development plans for young athletes and protection of the environment.

For ARISF this is an historical moment. The hopes and dreams of millions of athletes around the world have now become reality. All five Sports which will be included in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 sports program (Baseball/Softball, Karate, Skateboarding, Sport Climbing and Surfing) are ARISF Members. The decision by the IOC Session in Rio de Janeiro, fully aligned with the reforms of the Olympic Agenda 2020, was defined as the most comprehensive evolution of the Olympic program in modern history.

The proposal of including new sports was intended to put more focus on innovation, flexibility and youth development in the Olympic program. The five ARISF sports are a pioneering combination of established and emerging, youth-focused events which are popular and will add value to the legacy of the Games.

The unprecedented decision will certainly bring a younger and more innovative feeling to the Olympic program with 18 new events and 474 athletes.

ARISF is proud to be a proactive member of a larger sport family, the Olympic Movement, and that's why to keep this large family united and successful we need team spirit among sports, Olympic and non Olympic, among federations, among nations and among athletes. Our athletes are the main representatives of our ideals. Athletes make our values and message tangible for millions of people worldwide.

ARISF through our athletes promotes the values of Olympism, a life philosophy that combines sport, education and culture and it is proud of actively contributing to achieving the objectives of the Olympic Agenda 2020.

The Olympic Agenda 2020 reflects the fact that sport is more important in society than ever, and increasing activity and engagement in sport in society should be a key goal of governments and non-governmental agencies throughout the world.

The Sport and Active Society Commission is involved on all the initiatives of the Olympic Movement that are related to using sport to improve physical activity in the population, giving access to sport as a right for all, and on engaging in sports activities with a special focus on youth.

Globally, 1 in 4 adults is not active enough and more than 80% of the world's adolescent population is insufficiently physically active (World Health Organization).

Let's reverse this trend and get moving!

We do wish to build a better world by educating youth through sport. Sport provides education and guidance to young generations and can "Unite in Diversity" regardless of faith, race, culture, beliefs, gender and ability; through the Universal Language of Sport we can achieve respect for all diversities, understanding of each other's traditions and values in a more and more integrated community.

Sport is our passion and whether we are playing, supporting or coaching, we can have a positive impact both on and off the sports ground.

The practice of sport is a human right and every individual must have the possibility of practicing sport, without discrimination, with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.

By blending sport with culture and education we are seeking to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of good example, social responsibility and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles.

In order to achieve this goal and strengthen sport's position in society, we have a shared responsibility to safeguard the credibility of sport and protect clean athletes by demonstrating good governance, transparency and high ethical standards.

We do support all European Union sport initiatives designed to promote participation, physical activity, dual careers for athletes, good governance, integrity and social inclusion and I would like to thank Mrs. S. Costa, Chairwoman of the Committee on Culture, Education, Sport and Youth which was among the first and the most active supporters to believe in the "Universal Language of Sport".

I just recently realized that 1.2 billion people in the world are practicing an ARISF Federation Sport .....they cannot be wrong!

I believe that, together, we are greater than the sum of our individual ambitions and, together, we can build a better world through Sport.

Dr. Raffaele Chiulli  
President ARISF