

CONFERENCE ON

# MEGA SPORTS EVENTS

## & Human Rights

*Viewing the International Olympic  
Committee and FIFA through the eyes  
of civil society*



Fællessalen, Christiansborg, November 13, 2015 from 1 pm to 5 pm

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

# Mega Sports Events & Human Rights

Viewing the International Olympic Committee and FIFA through the eyes of civil society

### WHERE

“Fællessalen” at The Danish Parliament Christiansborg in Copenhagen

### WHEN

November 13, 2015 from 1pm to 5 pm

### HOW

The conference is free and open for all. It is sponsored by the Hermod Lannung Foundation

- Should civil society interfere with the International Olympic Committee or FIFA, when they award the Olympic Games and the FIFA World Cup to a city in a rogue state? A state that consequently mistreats its citizens and spend an extravagant amount of money to host the games instead of improving living conditions for its people?
- Is it the business of governments and/or the UN to monitor and bring to justice an organization like FIFA to stop the corruption, money laundering and tax evasion that allegedly fester the organization behind the World Cup? And how can we do it?
- Is it justifiable for us in the Western World – with the Human Rights Convention in our hands – to try to prevent a country from hosting mega sports events?
- Should governments or the UN give moral guidelines for athletes and sports clubs receiving invitations from countries that are violating human rights and other UN conventions?
- Where do the active athletes stand when faced with the moral and political issues that circle the periphery of their sport?

These are some of the questions that this conference will try to address by leaving the floor to key speakers who have dealt with the issues professionally.



## THE SPEAKERS

**Gerd von der Lippe**, Norwegian professor, feminist, journalist, social commentator and former sprint athlete

**Lars Werge**, Chairman of the Danish Journalist Union (DJ) and former sports journalist

**Sara Slott Petersen**, Danish 400 m Hurdles Athlete, Olympian, Diamond League Winner

**Jens Weinreich**, Journalist from Berlin and close to the epicenter of FIFA and the IOC

**Morten Mølholm Hansen**, Director of the Danish Confederation of Sports Federations (DIF)

**Martin Lidegaard**, Politician, MP for Radikale Venstre, former foreign minister, former minister for climate and energy, and former chairman of the green think tank Concito.

## MODERATOR

**Mette Bloch**, TV-host, performer and lecturer on performance. Former double World Champion in the lightweight singlesculler (rowing)

For security reasons, everyone wishing to participate in the conference must sign up ...

<https://podio.com/webforms/13902749/935585>



Admission is first-come-first-served. When you arrive, go through the security check to the right of the main entrance to the parliament (below the stairs).

The conference is held in English.



## PROGRAM

13.00 -13.30

### **MP Martin Lidegaard's opening speech**

#### ***Should politics interfere with sport?***

This classic question is more relevant than ever. The dilemma is for real. On the one hand, the international community imposes ethic demands on host countries to change the world in a better direction. On the other hand, ethic demands could form a barrier for many countries to apply - typically countries with whom public dialogue and civil exchange are most needed.

13.35-14.00

### **Gerd von der Lippe**, University College of Telemark, Norway

The analysis will highlight the paradoxes of the claims made by the corrupt, masculinist FIFA as a beacon for the promotion of human rights. The lack of workers` rights in Qatar is included in interviews of eight, male and three female poor expatriates in Doha.

Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) claims for itself a role as a partner of promoting human rights in sports. The competition of symbolic and sporting capital in this field is the Men's World Cup. Qatar will be the first Arab country to host these games in the Middle East. The decision to award the cup to Qatar has resulted in criticism and accusations of corruption in FIFA, allowing Qatar to `buy` the cup. Although only ¼ of its population are Qatari, many of the rest live as low-skilled workers without a citizenship, human rights and workers` rights.

14.05-14.35

### **Lars Werge**, Chairman of the Danish Union of Journalists

(Dansk Journalist Forbund)

For journalists, the challenge is tangible when it comes to the coverage of international mega sports events on a political level. The sport political topics are a hard sell in the newspapers. Only when larger scandals are unfolding, the editor in chief gets interested and – maybe – the readers and viewers. How do journalists deal with these dilemmas?

The approach is complicated: The few persons making decisions are typically spread around the globe. The organizations and industries who wish to influence the decision makers are based in enormous multinational corporations – or are part of an undemocratic regime.



The clients – IOC and FIFA – are situated in countries with a weaker tradition for transparency than in the Scandinavian countries. The doors are firmly closed.

14.40-15.00

**Sara Slott Petersen**, Olympic 400 m hurdles athlete

How a top athlete responds to sports events getting politized and to occasional public demand for boycotting games and world championships?

15.00-15.20

**Coffee break**

15.20-15.45

**Jens Weinreich**, Sports Journalist from Berlin, author of the book "FIFA Confidential – The collapse of a criminal empire"

IOC's efforts to reform itself is not working as well as the leadership claims. The measures against corruption are used as propaganda. FIFA is a criminal organization that should be treated as such.

15.50-1615

**Morten Mølholm Hansen**, Danmarks Idrætsforbund (Danish Confederation of Sports Federations)

"Boycott of sport events in non-democratic countries is not a useful tool to use in order to improve human rights and democracy in authoritarian systems. We are convinced that sport can contribute to a more open and inclusive world by building bridges between people and nations. In that light, we participate in big sport events, even if the host countries have political systems we disagree with".

16.20-17.00

**Panel Discussion**

Members of the panel: Lars Werge, Sara Slott Petersen, Morten Mølholm, Jens Weinreich and Gerd von der Lippe.





## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### **Gerd von der Lippe,**

*Professor of Sociology at University College of Telemark, Norway*



Gerd von der Lippe is a Professor Emeritus at the Institute for Sport and Outdoor Living. She has a Ph.D in sports sociology and sports history. She is a feminist and engages in public debates. Her research is about gender and power in a sports sociological and historical perspective.

She was the first scientist in Norway to initiate the research in sports and gender. Gerd was pivotal for the establishing of the Institute for Sport and Outdoor Living and became its first department manager. As a previous top athlete and freelance sports journalist, she is familiar with inner workings of sport.

### **Lars Werge, Chairman of Dansk Journalistforbund** (Danish Union of Journalists) DJ



Lars Werge is a Danish journalist and former high jumper who since this year is the Chairman of the Danish Union of Journalists (Dansk Journalistforbund). Previously, he served as Vice Chairman (from 2011). Before his career in the union, he was a sports journalist at the tabloid Ekstra Bladet.

Lars has his education from the Sports School of Business 1986-87 and from the Danish School of Journalism in Aarhus.

He has worked at the national news agency Ritzaus Bureau, the daily Berlingske Tidende the tabloid BT. He was named Sports Journalist of the Year 2007.

Lars has written six books, among them

*The Olympic bomb, 2000,* and *Between Silence and Lies: a journey through the dark reality of Cycling, 2008.* Foto v/ Thomas Tolstrup



**Jens Weinreich, Sports Journalist, Berlin, Germany**



Jens Weinreich has followed both the IOC and FIFA closely for many years. He has written several critical books and articles about the IOC with co-authors Thomas Kistner and Volker Kluge. He has just published the book *"FIFA Confidential – the collapse of a criminal empire"*.

Jens Weinreich began his journalistic work in 1996 for the Berliner Zeitung and was head of the newspaper's sports department from 2002 by 2008. After that, he worked for several years for Deutschland Radio.

Jens Weinreich has been involved in repeated conflicts with sports officials, athletes and sports editors over his critical writing. In 2008, for instance, he had legal disputes with the German football federation's president, Theo Zwanziger, and in 2009 with the speed skater Claudia Pechstein. In 2012, Jens became a freelance writer for among others Der Spiegel.

**Martin Lidegaard, MP for the social-liberal party Radikale Venstre. MA in Communications**



Martin Lidegaard is a member of the Danish parliament for the social liberal party Radikale Venstre. He is the former Minister of Foreign Affairs (February 3, 2014 - June 28, 2015) and Minister for Climate and Energy (October 3, 2011 - February, 2014).

His first period as an MP was from 2001 to 2007. Before becoming part of the government in 2011, he co-founded and became the chairman of the think tank Concito from where he brought a considerable knowledge about climate change, energy saving solutions and protection of the environment to his office as minister.

Martin Lidegaard has a Master in Communications from Roskilde University Centre.



## Morten Mølholm Hansen



Morten Mølholm Hansen is the new CEO of the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark. Morten has been working with sports most of his life.

He started in the Ministry of Culture in the beginning of the 90'ties, but quickly moved to the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark, where he has had numerous managerial positions leading up to his promotion in 2015.

Prior to his promotion, he was the director of Sports Development, and was responsible for getting more people to do sport in sports clubs and strengthening the sector of volun-

teers in sport in Denmark. He was also responsible for the report about Danish cycling and doping in the 90'ties.

## Sara Slott Petersen



Sara Slott Petersen, 28, is a 400 m hurdles athlete and ranks third among the top five runners in 2015. She has qualified for the Olympic Games in Rio in Brazil in 2016 by achieving a 4th place in her discipline at the World Championships in Beijing this year, narrowly missing a bronze medal. Also in 2015, she has placed first and second in Diamond League races in Lausanne and Paris.

Sara Slott started her athletics career at the age of 14 and won a gold medal at the Youth Olympic Games in Paris in 2003. In the 2012 Olympics in London, Sara made it to the semifinals.

She is the mother of a 2-year old son and has a degree in Nutrition and Health specializing in nutrition and physical activity. She lives with her family in Aarhus, Denmark's second city.





## Mette Bloch



Mette Bloch, TV-host, performer and lecturer on performance. Former double World Champion in the lightweight singlesculler (rowing)

For questions:

**Lena Baden**, Organizer and Vicechair of the International Committee of the Social-Liberal Party Radikale Venstre. lbd@shl.dk; 27290733

**Mette Annelie Rasmussen**, Chairman of the International Committee of the Social-Liberal Party Radikale Venstre.

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## PRESSEMEDDELELSE

### Konference om Mega Sportsevents og Menneskerettigheder

Skal det civile samfund eller FN blande sig, når verdens største sportsorganisationer Den Internationale Olympiske Komite (IOC) og FIFA vælger værtsbyer i en diktaturstat for deres firårige megaevents De Olympiske Lege (OL) og VM i fodbold? En stat, der efterfølgende mishandler sin befolkning og bruger ekstravagant mange penge på at arrangere begivenheden i stedet for at bruge pengene til at forbedre befolkningens levevilkår.

Det og flere andre spørgsmål forsøger konferencen Mega Sports Events & Human Rights at endevende. Konferencen finder sted på Christiansborg om eftermiddagen **den 13. November** og er åben for alle.

**Radikale Venstres Internationale Udvalg** har inviteret oplægsholdere fra ind- og udland til at behandle spørgsmål som f.eks. "vil det være rimeligt, at den vestlige verden med Menneskeretskonventionen i hånden kan forhindre et land i at blive vært for OL eller FIFA World Cup?".

IOC og FIFA er private organisationer for en snæver medlemsskare af højt placerede sportsledere og royale. Offentlige instanser har kun begrænset indflydelse på eller magt over disse to private, verdensomspændende og meget magtfulde klubber.

OL og World Cup'en er de seneste årtier gået hen og blevet en særdeles indbringende forretning, hvilket ikke uventet har bevirket, at IOC og FIFA har haft store problemer med korruptions- og bestikkelseskandaler. Blandt politikere opstår diskussionen ofte, om man kan gribe ind i disse sager på politisk hold, men den strandes som regel på, hvordan man kan håndhæve eventuelle forbud eller regler.

#### Oplægsholderne

Blandt oplægsholderne er blandt andet **Dansk Journalistforbunds formand, Lars Werge, den danske, olympiske hækkeløber Sara Slott Petersen og den tyske journalist Jens Weinreich**, som har fulgt og kritiseret FIFA i de sidste 20 år og er kommet meget tæt på FIFA's præsident, Sepp Blatter.

En fjerde taler er den norske professor ved Telemark Høgskole, Gerd von der Lippe, der for nylig har været i Qatar for at tale med arbejdere, der opfører de stadioner, hvor FIFA's World Cup i 2022 skal holdes. Gerd von der Lippe er feminist, samfundsdebattor og tidligere sprinter. Hun vil derfor tage sine feministiske briller på, når hun bedømmer en organisation som FIFA. Endelig vil **direktør for Danmarks Idrætsforbund, Morten Mølholm** fortælle om forbundets holdninger til temaet.

**Tidligere udenrigsminister Martin Lidegaard** åbner konferencen og er også blandt talerne.

Konferencen er støttet af Hemod Lannung Fonden, foregår på engelsk og deltagelse er gratis. Dog skal man af sikkerhedsgrunde akkrediteres for at opnå adgang til Christiansborg.

Moderator: **Mette Bloch, TV-host, performer and lecturer on performance.** Former double World Champion in the lightweight singlesculler (rowing)

## CONFERENCE

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For oplysninger og presseakkreditering, ring eller skriv til Lena Baden, næstformand i RV Internationale Udvalg. E-mail: lbd@shl.dk Telefon: 27 29 07 33 eller 33 45 05 05



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