



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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INFORMATION NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council

to: Council

Subject: Commemoration by UEFA of the centenary of the football matches played in
no man's land during the Christmas truce of 1914

– *Information from the French delegation*

Delegations will find attached an information note from the French delegation on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under "Other Business" for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 25 and 26 November 2013.

**Commemoration by UEFA of the centenary of the football matches
played in no man's land during the Christmas truce of 1914**

The President of UEFA recently proposed that a number of Member States should join in celebrating the centenary of the football matches held between the warring nations of the First World War in Europe during the Christmas truce of 1914.

He hoped that several Heads of State or Government would be able to attend a commemoration match involving national youth teams, to be held in Ypres stadium in December 2014.

France is greatly in favour of commemorating the moment which marked a lull, during the short space of time it took to kick a football around, in the fighting of the first large-scale slaughter of the 20th century. It believes that the Council of the European Union should lend its support to this initiative. Political support is indeed crucial to ensuring that this commemoration is successful throughout Europe. France therefore wishes to draw the attention of the Sports Ministers to this initiative during the meeting of the Sports Council on 26 November 2013.