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## FOREWORD

I am very pleased and proud to write the Foreword to this Book on the occasion of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) having completed its first twenty years of operations. And I warmly congratulate the ASSER International Sports Law Centre and the Editors, Ian Blackshaw, Rob Siekmann and Janwillem Soek – in cooperation with Andrew Gibson, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia, and Steve Cornelius, University of Johannesburg, South Africa –, on their joint initiative in putting together and publishing this Book.

The CAS has come a long way since the idea of establishing it was first mentioned by Juan Antonio Samaranch, the former IOC President. His vision and confidence in its future have been truly vindicated. Since its creation and up to 31 December 2003, 576 cases have been submitted, of which 550 were requests for arbitration and 26 for an advisory opinion. In 2004, there was a sharp rise in the number of cases handled by the CAS and this trend continues apace. Thus, the CAS goes from strength to strength and has a great future, having, in the words of the Swiss Federal Tribunal in its landmark judgement of 27 May 2003, “built up the trust of the sporting world [and] ... now widely recognised ... [as] ... one of the principal mainstays of organised sport.”

This Book charts the history, including significant milestones, and achievements of the CAS and provides a range of very useful and helpful materials and valuable information for practitioners and students alike. All of the contributors are well qualified, being leading practitioners and academics in the field of sports dispute resolution; and a number of them are members of the CAS. Some of the contributions are of a critical nature and this adds to the usefulness of the work. The subject of a developing ‘Lex Sportiva’ and CAS is also critically examined in the Book.

The next twenty years – like the first – also present a challenge for the CAS, working as it does in a field where the economic, social and political stakes are increasingly high.

I have no hesitation in commending this Book to the sporting world, which the CAS has served and will continue to serve with considerable distinction and success.

São Paulo, Brazil, September 2005

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