

Provisional agenda

## **The EU Structured Dialogue on Sport**

6<sup>th</sup> of December 2010

### **1. Outcomes of the Sport Council**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November the EU sport ministers have gathered in the Sport Council. The three following formal initiatives were approved by the 27 Member States: the conclusions on the role of the EU in the international fight against doping, the conclusions on the role of sport as a source of and a driver for active social inclusion, and the resolution on the EU structured dialogue on sport.

The Presidency would like to exchange views on the implications of these three points for the future.

### **2. The future of the EU Structured Dialogue on sport**

The EU Dialogue between EU institutions and sport stakeholders has been established for some time, including regular consultations with the European Commission and the European Parliament. Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the Council concluded that there is a need to further develop this dialogue by adding a high-level component.

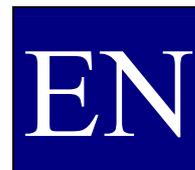
The sport stakeholders are the crucial contributors to this dialogue; therefore it is important to learn about the expectations and reflections of the sport movement on the one hand, and the EU public authorities on the other hand, on how this dialogue can evolve in the near future and how it can contribute to the good understanding between the world of sport and the EU institutions.

### **3. Topical issues**

The Presidency would like to give the stakeholders the opportunity to raise any relevant topical issues which could be of importance in the dialogue with the EU institutions. This informal setting can provide a useful environment to discuss issues with a cross-border impact in the EU.



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**The role of the EU in the international fight  
against doping  
- Conclusions of the Council and the Representatives of the  
Governments of the Member States, meeting within the  
Council -**

*3046th EDUCATION, YOUTH, CULTURE and SPORT Council meeting  
Brussels, 18 and 19 November 2010*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States,

1. RECALLING that:

- The Council adopted Conclusions on 4 December 2000 (which these conclusions supplement) on combating doping<sup>1</sup> setting out the need for the European Community and Member States coordination, within a reasonable time before each meeting of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), to be organised under the responsibility of the Presidency.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 356, 12.12.2000, p. 1.

**P R E S S**

- Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty<sup>2</sup> on 1 December 2009, the European Union acquired a competence in the area of sport allowing the Union to carry out actions to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of the Member States to contribute to the promotion of European sporting issues, while taking account of the specific nature of sport, its structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function. Consequently, the European dimension in sport is to be developed by promoting fairness and openness in sporting competitions and cooperation between bodies responsible for sports, and by protecting the physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen, especially the youngest sportsmen and sportswomen. Co-operation with third countries and competent international organisations, in particular the Council of Europe, shall be fostered.

2. AWARE that

- some of the issues dealt with by WADA fall within the EU sphere of competence whilst others are the responsibility of the Member States;
- given that WADA is structured on a continental basis, close cooperation with the Council of Europe is necessary with a view to having a common understanding on all items of European interest.

3. CONSIDERS THAT

- ensuring that the views of the EU and its Member States are given due weight in WADA deliberations is of a crucial importance;
- where appropriate, e.g. in the light of the EU acquis and the duty of sincere co-operation, EU and Member State positions shall be coordinated, under the responsibility of the Presidency, in good time and in efficient manner prior to meetings within WADA."

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<sup>2</sup> Articles 6 and 165 of TFEU.



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## **Council conclusions on the role of sport as a source of and a driver for active social inclusion**

*3046th EDUCATION, YOUTH, CULTURE and SPORT Council meeting  
Brussels, 18 and 19 November 2010*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council of the European Union,

1. RECALLING:

- The political background to this issue as set out in the Annex, in particular:
- The declaration attached to Conclusions of the European Council of 7-9 December 2000, which states that sport is a human activity resting on fundamental social, educational and cultural values, and a factor making for integration, involvement in social life, tolerance, acceptance of differences and playing by the rules.<sup>1</sup>
- Decision n°291/2003/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 6 February 2003 establishing the European Year of Education through Sport 2004.<sup>2</sup>
- Decision n°1098/2008/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 22 October 2008 concerning the European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> SN 400/00.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 43, 18.2.2003, p. 1–5.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 298, 7.11.2008, ANNEX 1.2., p. 26.

# **P R E S S**

2. WELCOMING:

- That, following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty<sup>4</sup> on 1 December 2009, sport has become a competence of the European Union and that, consequently, the European dimension in sport is to be further developed, taking particular account of the social and educational function of sport.
- The intention of the European Commission to adopt the Communication on the Lisbon Treaty and sport by the end of 2010.

3. RECOGNISES THAT:

1. Common priorities such as increased employment, social inclusion, gender equality, equal access to facilities and services, intergenerational solidarity and intercultural dialogue need stronger support across the European Union, including in the area of sport.
2. Sport holds an important place in the lives of many EU citizens and plays a strong societal role with a powerful potential for social inclusion in and through sport, meaning that participation in sport or in physical activity in many different ways contributes to inclusion into society; whereby inclusion in sport involves a combination of "sport for all", equal access to sport, equal opportunities in sport, and varied demand-oriented sporting opportunities and sport facilities, and whereby social inclusion through sport involves inclusive participation in society, community development and strengthened social cohesion.
3. The sports movement can make an important contribution to issues of public interest such as social inclusion. In this context, professional athletes and amateur sport persons, as well as sport clubs, are role models for society, especially for young people, and other sport organisations and civil society organisations dealing with sport also contribute to social inclusion in and through sport.
4. Access to and participation in diverse aspects of sport is important for personal development, an individual's sense of identity and belonging, physical and mental wellbeing, empowerment, social competences and networks, intercultural communication and employability.
5. The "European Conference on Local Sports Participation: social inclusion and combating poverty", 13-14 October in Leuven, Belgium, which demonstrated that sport plays an important role in social inclusion of disadvantaged groups, especially on the local level.

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<sup>4</sup> Articles 6 and 165 of TFEU.

4. IDENTIFIES, WITH DUE REGARD FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF SUBSIDIARITY, THE FOLLOWING COMMON PRIORITIES WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION IN AND THROUGH SPORT:

4.1. Support the "Sport for All" principle based on equal opportunities by:

1. Increasing the overall participation in sport and providing encouragement for physical activities to as many citizens as possible, including young people.
  2. Paying special attention to social inclusion in sport of people who are currently not physically active, mainly among socially disadvantaged groups.
  3. Bearing in mind that access to "sport for all" is important, including the accessibility and availability of sport facilities, infrastructures and venues to as many people as possible, in particular to persons with disabilities, as well as the importance of enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities.
  4. Encouraging gender equality in sport, especially concerning access to sport and representation in decision-making bodies, and including active measures against gender stereotyping.
1. Make better use of the potential of sport as a contribution to community building, social cohesion and inclusive growth by:
1. Focusing on the use of sport to promote inclusion into society of disadvantaged groups so as to develop more cohesive communities.
  2. Recognising and increasing the acquisition of skills and competences such as discipline, team-work and perseverance through informal learning activities in sport, including voluntary activities, as a way of enhancing employability.
  3. Acknowledging the economic, employment and learning potential of sport for contributing to the smart, sustainable and inclusive growth necessary for achieving a sustainable future.
2. Support the transnational exchange of strategies and methodologies to make better use of the potential of sport for social inclusion on a national and European level by:
1. Stimulating networking between the Member States, and local and regional authorities, and ensuring their involvement, in particular concerning mutual exchange of knowledge and best practices.
  2. Supporting research and analysis of the relation between sport and social inclusion in creating an analytical framework founded on practice-based evidence, with special attention to social inclusion of disadvantaged groups through sport.
  3. Monitoring and evaluating existing policies in order to support decision making and improve future actions, taking into account the views of relevant stakeholders.

5. THEREFORE, IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUES OUTLINED ABOVE,

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION, WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE SPHERES OF COMPETENCE, WITH DUE REGARD FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF SUBSIDIARITY AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF SPORT, TO:

1. Promote sport cooperation on the principle of "Sport for All" based on equal access and equal opportunities, in particular for physically inactive people, following the priority of social inclusion in and through sport.
2. Encourage actions involving a strong link between sport and sectors engaged with the issue of social inclusion, and increase interest in sport among physically inactive people.
3. Encourage and promote participation in sport of people who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, at the same time as ensuring their inclusion into society through sport by introducing them to new social networks and equipping them with new skills.
4. Promote intercultural dialogue by including persons from different cultural backgrounds in society through sport.
5. Promote actions related to social inclusion in and through sport of persons with disabilities, including improved infrastructure and better accessibility of sport facilities and venues, as well as research related to specialised sport devices, and give priority to sport.
6. Promote actions related to the mainstreaming of gender equality issues into sports-related activities, especially equal gender access to decision-making positions, and address sport in connection to gender roles as set out in the Strategy for equality between women and men 2010-2015<sup>5</sup>.
7. Design channels of communication and cooperation with other relevant policy fields and departments both within and between the various EU institutions and within the Member States, paying special attention to the positive contribution of sport to social inclusion and include sport in relevant action plans such as action plans for social inclusion and action plans against poverty.

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<sup>5</sup> COM(2010) 491 final.

8. Encourage the recognition of informal learning through sport, as a complement to formal education through the acquisition of constructive skills and competences necessary for employability, in connection with sustainable and inclusive growth.
9. Raise awareness and highlight the importance of voluntary activities in sport both as a tool for social inclusion and as a means of acquiring skills so as to contribute to employability and cohesion, particularly in the context of the European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship (2011).
10. Promote and support mutual learning instruments, cross-disciplinary research aiming at an analytical evidence-based framework, and the exchange of knowledge and best practices, for instance through high-level seminars or meetings of expert groups on issues relating to sport and social inclusion, and ensure that the results of such activities are effectively disseminated and connected to practice.
11. Maximise the contribution of sport to achieve goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, particularly through its flagship initiatives including the European Platform against Poverty.
12. Encourage, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, to set an example for social inclusion by linking sport to social inclusion projects, with special focus on local organisations which are in close contact with citizens.
13. Encourage, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, to make efficient use of the funds available in the EU, including in connection to the possible future Sport Programmes, to support the process of social inclusion in and through sport.

6. INVITES THE COMMISSION TO:

1. Incorporate the issue of social inclusion in and through sport as a priority for sport cooperation, above all in the upcoming Communication of the European Commission on the Lisbon Treaty and sport.
2. Ensure that social inclusion in and through sport is considered in possible future proposals for EU Sport Programmes, as one of the priorities, and examine the possibilities of using the existing funds such as the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund, and programmes such as the Youth in Action and Lifelong Learning Programmes to support activities in the area of sport.
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of EU level activities supported by preparatory actions in the field of social inclusion.

**POLITICAL BACKGROUND**

1. Conclusions of the Nice European Council of 7-9 December 2000, Annex IV, Declaration on the specific characteristics of sport and its social function in Europe. <sup>6</sup>
2. Conclusions of the Spring 2008 European Council of 13-14 March 2008. <sup>7</sup>
3. Decision n°1098/2008/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 22 October 2008 concerning the European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010). <sup>8</sup>
4. European Council Declaration on sport of 11-12 December 2008, part of the European Council Conclusions – Annex 5. <sup>9</sup>
5. Decision n° 2010/37/EC of the Council of 27 November 2009 concerning the European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship (2011). <sup>10</sup>
6. Conclusions of the European Council of 17 June 2010. <sup>11</sup>
7. Commission White Paper on Sport of 11 July 2007. <sup>12</sup>
8. Communication of the European Commission on the Lisbon Treaty and sport [to be published in November 2010]."

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<sup>6</sup> SN 400/00 ADD1 REV1 + ADD1 REV2 (de, it, en, el, pt).

<sup>7</sup> Doc 7652/08, p. 9 (Presidency conclusions).

<sup>8</sup> OJ L 298, 7.11.2008.

<sup>9</sup> 17271/ 08 ANNEX 5, p. 21.

<sup>10</sup> OJ L 17, 22.1.2010.

<sup>11</sup> EUCO 13/10.

<sup>12</sup> COM (2007) 391 final, p. 4.



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## **Council resolution on the EU structured dialogue on sport**

*3046th EDUCATION, YOUTH, CULTURE and SPORT Council meeting  
Brussels, 18 and 19 November 2010*

The Council adopted the following resolution:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

### **1. RECALLING**

- i) Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union which in particular requires the Union to "contribute to the promotion of European sporting issues, while taking account of the specific nature of sport, its structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function" and to develop "the European dimension in sport".
- ii) The European Council Declaration on Sport, Annex 5 of the Presidency Conclusions (Brussels, 12 December 2008), which calls for the strengthening of the constructive dialogue with the International Olympic Committee and representatives of the world of sport.

### **2. AWARE**

- i) That diverse dialogue mechanisms in the field of sport have been established for some time at national, regional and local level.
- ii) That successive EU Presidencies have organised a number of informal meetings of Sport Ministers and Sport Directors.
- iii) That EU-level dialogue has taken place with sport stakeholders at different levels, in particular within the EU Sport Forum.

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- iv) Of the European social dialogue in the sport sector, with a sectoral social dialogue committee on football being established in 2008.

3. CONSIDERS THAT

- i) Following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, a new era in EU priorities in the field of sport has begun.
- ii) A strengthened EU dialogue with sport stakeholders would serve as an opportunity for a continuous and well-structured exchange of views on priorities, implementation and follow-up to EU cooperation in the field of sport.
- iii) It is necessary to further develop such a dialogue by consolidating existing structures and practices, in particular the annual EU Sport Forum.
- iv) In addition, there is a specific need to develop the high-level component of the already existing dialogue, linked to Council meetings.

4. CONSEQUENTLY AGREES THAT THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL SHOULD

- i) Convene, on a regular basis, generally in the margin of the Council meeting, an informal meeting of leading representatives of the EU public authorities and the sports movement with the aim of exchanging views on sporting issues in the EU;
- ii) Establish, following the necessary consultation, an agenda for each meeting which should focus particularly on the issues addressed or to be addressed in recent or forthcoming Council meetings;
- iii) Invite a limited number of participants to the meeting, seeking to ensure balanced participation from the EU public authorities, on the one hand, and representatives of the sports movement on the other hand;

- iv) Invite to this meeting representatives of the Council (the Team Presidency, a representative of the next Team Presidency, and assisted by the Council Secretariat), the European Commission, and the European Parliament;
- v) Seek to achieve representative, broad and balanced participation from the sports movement at the meeting, with particular emphasis on bodies from within the EU and from Europe.

The Presidency should take fully into account, when deciding on the list of invitees from the sports movement, the agenda of the Council meeting, the Team Presidency's priorities and any urgent or topical issues, including those raised in the context of the annual EU Sport Forum. In addition, continuity of representation should be considered when appropriate.

In this regard, the Presidency should also be steered, by the following guidelines:

- The diversity of the world of sport should be reflected by considering particularly the following aspects: Olympic sports and non-Olympic sports; professional sports and amateur sports; competitive sports and recreational sports as well as grassroots sports and sport for people with disabilities
  - The interests of the different actors within the sport sector, including those with a European dimension e.g. umbrella organisations, European and national federations, clubs and sportsmen and sportswomen, should be taken into account.
  - The specific nature of the sport sector should be taken into consideration.
  - The international dimension of EU cooperation in sport should also be taken into account."
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