

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2021/2058(INI)	Procedure completed
EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward		
Subject 4.10.13 Sport		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Culture and Education	 FRANKOWSKI Tomasz	23/03/2021
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 HEIDE Hannes	
		 FARRENG Laurence	
		 VON CRAMON-TAUBADEL Viola	
		 SLABAKOV Andrey	
		 DA RE Gianantonio	
		 GEORGOULIS Alexis	
European Commission	Commission DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	Commissioner GABRIEL Mariya	

Key events			
20/05/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/10/2021	Vote in committee		
08/11/2021	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0318/2021	Summary
22/11/2021	Debate in Parliament		
23/11/2021	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/2058(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/9/06041

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report	PE696.306	02/08/2021	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE697.530	14/09/2021	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A9-0318/2021	08/11/2021	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T9-0463/2021	23/11/2021	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2022)49	18/03/2022	EC	

EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward

The Committee on Culture and Education adopted an own-initiative report by Tomasz FRANKOWSKI (EPP, PL) on EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward.

Sport plays a key role in the social, cultural and educational life of European citizens and promotes values such as democracy, respect, solidarity, diversity and equality. It must be inclusive and open to all regardless of age, gender, disability or cultural and socioeconomic background.

Strengthening visibility, cooperation and the mainstreaming of sport in EU policies

Members called on the EU to adopt a more holistic approach to sports policy and step up efforts to mainstream it into other EU policies. With this in mind, they called on the Commission to set up regular high-level structured cooperation with all sports stakeholders and other institutions to deliver more targeted and accountable recommendations for action on the current challenges facing the sport sector. The report suggested adding sport to the title of the portfolio of the responsible Commissioner. It also called for the establishment of an EU sport coordinator who would be the Commission's contact on the issue and a visible reference point. The increased involvement of Parliament is called for in order to provide a framework for regular political debate and action on sport, and on parliamentary scrutiny and monitoring with regard to the implementation of the strategic goals.

Enhancing the principles of a European sports model

Members called for a European sports model that recognises the need for a strong commitment to integrating the principles of solidarity, sustainability, inclusiveness for all, open competition, sporting merit and fairness, and accordingly strongly opposes breakaway competitions that undermine these standards and endanger the stability of the overall sports ecosystem.

Recognising the role of federations in governing their sport, the report highlighted the need for more targeted and increased solidarity and more financial redistribution, as well as exchanges in skills and know-how, especially between professional and grassroots sport. Sports federations to implement a solidarity mechanism based on a fair and binding distribution method that ensures the adequate funding of amateur and grassroots sport.

Members stated that the German club ownership model based on the 50+1 rule (whereby private investors are only allowed to own up to 49% of the shares) has served German football well and should be considered as a possible example of best practice as other countries seek to enhance their own models.

Ensuring safe, inclusive and equal sport

The Commission and the Member States are called on to involve all relevant stakeholders in ensuring that sports policy and legislation support gender equality, with particular attention to tackling all forms of violence and harassment, gender stereotypes, low visibility and media coverage, and disparities in wages, premium pay and awards. Members expressed support for the social inclusion of persons with fewer opportunities, refugees, ethnic minorities and the LGBTQI+ community in sport. Funding should be increased for people with disabilities and children should be safeguarded from abuse. Member States are urged to increase the amount of physical education, including daily physical activities, active breaks and extracurricular physical activities in schools.

Helping sport to ensure a successful recovery

Members insisted on the need for support and dedicated funding mechanisms to get the sport sector and all sports back on track in the wake of COVID-19, including through national support funds, the Recovery and Resilience Facility and EU structural funds. The EU institutions are urged to considerably increase the budget dedicated to grassroots sport under the Erasmus+ programme in the next financial programming period.

Supporting the transition to a sustainable and innovative future

The report underlined that in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, new ways of organising sporting events should be envisaged using the digital technologies available. Members called on the Commission to effectively tackle the growing problem of illegal streaming of live sport events without delay.

EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward

The European Parliament adopted by 597 votes to 36, with 55 abstentions, a resolution on EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward.

Sport contributes to strengthening European integration and to the EU's position in international cooperation. COVID-19 has had an adverse economic and social impact on the sport sector. The EU should seek to further develop the European dimension of sport by supporting both elite and grassroots sport, which play a key role in the social, cultural and educational life of European citizens and promote the values of democracy, respect, solidarity, diversity and equality.

Strengthening visibility, cooperation and the mainstreaming of sport in EU policies

Parliament called on the EU to adopt a more holistic approach to sports policy and step-up efforts to mainstream it into other EU policies. With this in mind, it called on the Commission to present a communication on the future of sport and to establish regular structured high-level cooperation with all sport stakeholders and other institutions in order to make more targeted and accountable recommendations for action on current challenges in the sport sector.

Members suggested adding sport to the title of the portfolio of the Commissioner in charge. They called for the creation of an EU sport coordinator who would be the visible reference point for the Commission on this issue. Parliament should play a more active role in sports diplomacy and be more involved in establishing a framework for regular political debate and action on sport.

Enhancing the principles of a European sports model

Members called for a European sports model based on values, voluntary activities and solidarity that recognises the need for a strong commitment to integrating the principles of solidarity, sustainability, inclusiveness for all, open competition, sporting merit and fairness. They accordingly strongly opposed breakaway competitions that undermine these standards and endanger the stability of the overall sports ecosystem.

Recognising the role of federations in governing their sport and sports clubs as the foundation of a European sports model offering everyone the opportunity to engage in sport locally, the resolution highlighted the need for more targeted and increased solidarity and more financial redistribution, as well as exchanges in skills and know-how, especially between professional and grassroots sport. Sports federations to implement a solidarity mechanism based on a fair and binding distribution method that ensures the adequate funding of amateur and grassroots sport.

Parliament also insisted that major sporting events should no longer be awarded to countries where these fundamental rights and values are repeatedly violated.

Ensuring safe, inclusive and equal sport

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The fundamental rights of athletes should be protected, including their representation in decision-making, freedom of association, collective bargaining and non-discrimination.

The resolution stressed a zero-tolerance approach to racism and violence in sport. The Commission, Member States and federations should develop measures to prevent such incidents and to adopt effective penalties and measures to support victims.

Public authorities are called upon to develop sports facilities, and to increase the number of hours devoted to physical education, active breaks and extracurricular physical activities in schools, while instigating a change in mentality in the recognition of the importance of sport as a school discipline.

Helping sport to ensure a successful recovery

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