

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2022/2027(INI)	Procedure completed
Esports and video games		
Subject		
4.10.03 Child protection, children's rights		
4.10.13 Sport		
4.60 Consumers' protection in general		
4.60.02 Consumer information, advertising, labelling		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Culture and Education	 FARRENG Laurence	17/12/2021
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 FRANKOWSKI Tomasz	
		 FRITZON Helène	
		 NIENASS Niklas	
		 DA RE Gianantonio	
		 POREBA Tomasz Piotr	
		 GEORGIOULIS Alexis	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Internal Market and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs		
	Education, Youth, Sport and Culture		

Key events			
10/03/2022	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/10/2022	Vote in committee		

12/10/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0244/2022	Summary
09/11/2022	Debate in Parliament		
10/11/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		
10/11/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0388/2022	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/2027(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/9/08496

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report	PE731.488	26/04/2022	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE732.723	31/05/2022	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A9-0244/2022	12/10/2022	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T9-0388/2022	10/11/2022	EP	Summary

Esports and video games

The Committee on Culture and Education adopted an own-initiative report by Laurence FARRENG (Renew Europe, FR) on esports and video games.

The video game ecosystem has become a leading cultural and creative industry (CCI) all over the world with an estimated European market size of EUR 23.3 billion in 2021. Although this videogame and esports ecosystem has experienced strong structural growth, it still lacks the harmonised data, definitions and legal frameworks required to enable them to embrace their full potential.

Video games and esports: challenges, opportunities and a European strategy

Members called on the Commission and the Council to acknowledge the value of the video game ecosystem as a major CCI with strong potential for further growth and innovation. They called for the development of a coherent, long-term European video game strategy, which should benefit all actors involved fairly and adequately, while taking into account esports and the current dependence on imports and building on existing national strategies in order to support EU actors and EU start-ups in these sectors.

According to the report, the creation of a truly integrated European video game sector will require more video game productions and co-productions by European actors. It welcomed the fact that the Creative Europe and Horizon Europe programmes provide funding for the European video game sector, including research and innovation, through specific calls for tender with European added value. Members regretted, however, the low amount of funding committed so far, and the fact that the eligibility criteria are not always fit for the sectors needs, especially SMEs. They called, in this regard, for greater support and investment in research and development (R&D) and training to maximise game creation opportunities throughout all Member States and encourage the development of and retain European talent.

With a view to promoting and supporting the international trade and marketing of video games created in Europe, the Commission is called on to map and define the European video game industry and to consider creating a European Video Game label, as well as fostering other initiatives at a national and European level to improve the discoverability of video games and encourage the dissemination and recognition of video games created in Europe, including worldwide.

It is also proposed to create a European Video Game Observatory to support and provide decision-makers and stakeholders with harmonised data, assessments and concrete recommendations with a view to developing the sector.

Intellectual property (IP)

Members underlined that IP is central to video games and a key factor in growth and investment. It highlighted the need to develop a European strategy for video game IP, utilising both the creation of new and original IP and the promotion of existing European creations and IP.

Education and wellbeing

The report noted that video games have the ability to bring the school environment closer to pupils everyday reality, in which video games often figure prominently. Indications that primary school teachers that have used video games in the classroom have in some cases observed a significant improvement in several key skills, such as problem-solving and analytical, social and intellectual skills, spatial coordination, and teamwork, as well as better levels of concentration. esports can also be incorporated in education and contribute to the acquisition of digital competences and skills. In this regard, Members insisted that video games and esports can be a valuable teaching tool and called for better equipment and connectivity in schools.

According to the report, video games and esports can provide significant mental health benefits for many players and have the capacity to disseminate positive values, which should be pursued for the younger audience in particular.

Esports: fair competitive video gaming within a European framework

The report stated that esports and sport are different sectors, not least because the video games used for competitive gaming or esports are played in a digital environment and belong to private entities that enjoy full legal control and all exclusive and unrestricted rights over the video games themselves. The Commission is called on to develop a charter to promote European values in esports competitions, in partnership with publishers, team organisations, clubs and tournament organisers.

Members called on the EU to consider the creation of a visa for esports personnel based on the Schengen cultural and sports visas, applicable to all personnel involved in running and participating in esports competitions, and to consider measures to facilitate visa procedures to enable video game workers to come to the EU.

While highlighting that video games can be a social activity allowing users to socialise and spend time together, the EU should adopt a responsible approach to video games and esports by promoting them as part of a healthy lifestyle including physical activity, in-person social interaction and cultural engagement.

Esports and video games

The European Parliament adopted by 560 votes to 34, with 16 abstentions, a resolution on esports and video games.

The video game ecosystem has become a leading cultural and creative industry (CCI) all over the world with an estimated European market size of EUR 23.3 billion in 2021. Although this videogame and esports ecosystem has experienced strong structural growth, it still lacks the harmonised data, definitions and legal frameworks required to enable them to embrace their full potential.

Video games and esports: challenges, opportunities and a European strategy

Members called on the Commission and the Council to acknowledge the value of the video game ecosystem as a major CCI with strong potential for further growth and innovation. They called for the development of a coherent, long-term European video game strategy, which should benefit all actors involved fairly and adequately, while taking into account esports and the current dependence on imports and building on existing national strategies in order to support EU actors and EU start-ups in these sectors.

According to the resolution, the creation of a truly integrated European video game sector will require more video game productions and co-productions by European actors. It welcomed the fact that the Creative Europe and Horizon Europe programmes provide funding for the European video game sector, including research and innovation, through specific calls for tender with European added value. Members regretted, however, the low amount of funding committed so far, and the fact that the eligibility criteria are not always fit for the sectors needs, especially SMEs. They called, in this regard, for greater support and investment in research and development (R&D) and training to maximise game creation opportunities throughout all Member States and encourage the development of and retain European talent.

Parliament underlined that national incentives and support for local video game development, including SMEs, should be encouraged and facilitated through EU State aid rules such as the General Block Exemption Regulation.

With a view to promoting and supporting the international trade and marketing of video games created in Europe, the Commission is called on to map and define the European video game industry and to consider creating a European Video Game label, as well as fostering other initiatives at a national and European level to improve the discoverability of video games and encourage the dissemination and recognition of video games created in Europe, including worldwide.

It is also proposed to create a European Video Game Observatory, a European Video Game Academy as well as a European archive to preserve the most culturally significant European video games.

Education and wellbeing

The resolution noted that video games have the ability to bring the school environment closer to pupils everyday reality, in which video games often figure prominently. Indications that primary school teachers that have used video games in the classroom have in some cases observed a significant improvement in several key skills, such as problem-solving and analytical, social and intellectual skills, spatial coordination, and teamwork, as well as better levels of concentration. esports can also be incorporated in education and contribute to the acquisition of digital competences and skills. In this regard, Members insisted that video games and esports can be a valuable teaching tool and called for better equipment and connectivity in schools.

Esports: fair competitive video gaming within a European framework

Parliament considers that esports and sport are different sectors, not least because the video games used for competitive gaming or esports are played in a digital environment and belong to private entities that enjoy full legal control and all exclusive and unrestricted rights over the video games themselves. It believes, however, that both sectors can complement and learn from each other and promote similar positive values and skills, such as fair play, non-discrimination, teamwork, leadership, solidarity, integrity, antiracism, social inclusion and gender equality.

Moreover, the Commission is called on to develop a charter to promote European values in esports competitions, in partnership with publishers, team organisations, clubs and tournament organisers.

Members called on the EU to consider the creation of a visa for esports personnel based on the Schengen cultural and sports visas, applicable to all personnel involved in running and participating in esports competitions, and to consider measures to facilitate visa procedures to enable video game workers to come to the EU.

While highlighting that video games can be a social activity allowing users to socialise and spend time together, the EU should adopt a responsible approach to video games and esports by promoting them as part of a healthy lifestyle including physical activity, in-person social interaction and cultural engagement.

Transparency				
FARRENG Laurence	Rapporteur	CULT	05/10/2022	ISFE - Representing the European Videogames Industry
FARRENG Laurence	Rapporteur	CULT	27/09/2022	CD Projekt
FARRENG Laurence	Rapporteur	CULT	14/09/2022	Tencent International Service Europe B.V.
FARRENG Laurence	Rapporteur	CULT	19/07/2022	Asobo Studio
FARRENG Laurence	Rapporteur	CULT	05/07/2022	Google
FARRENG Laurence	Rapporteur	CULT	23/06/2022	Groupement Européen des Sociétés d'Auteurs et Compositeurs
GEORGOULIS Alexis	Shadow rapporteur	CULT	18/05/2022	- Yesports.gg , (blockchain/NFT/Metaverse platform) - Gameworld.gr - Pr Agency Pr World - Loresoft - Greek Gaming Academy - ????????????? ?????????????? - ????????????? ?????????? ????????? «????????? ?????????? ?????????????», ????????????????? ??? ????????????????????? - University of Peloponnese - Master of Science in Modern Sport Communication, Journalism and Photo Press - ?????????????? ?????????????? - ????????????? ?????????? ?????????????? - ????????????? ??? ?????????????? ?????????? - University of Peloponnese - Running Movement Lab-Management and Organization of Running Events
GEORGOULIS Alexis	Shadow rapporteur	CULT	11/05/2022	Katarzyna GORGOL-MAEDER International Olympic Committee (IOC), Sergi MESONERO Interactive Software Federation of Europe (ISFE), Marius LAUER International e-sports commentator and consultant, Kimmo LEINONEN City of Espoo/ Board member of the Finnish Esports Federation (SEUL), Samy OUERFELLI Freaks 4U Gaming GmbH, Head of New Business
FRITZON Helène	Shadow rapporteur	CULT	03/05/2022	Europe's and Sweden's video games industry
FARRENG Laurence	Rapporteur	CULT	21/04/2022	Asobo Studio
GARCÍA DEL BLANCO Ibán	Member	05/10/2022	ISFE - Representing the European Videogames Industry AEVI	

GARCÍA DEL BLANCO Ibán	Member	05/07/2022	ISFE - Representing the European Videogames Industry
GARCÍA DEL BLANCO Ibán	Member	30/03/2022	Equipo de Asuntos Públicos de la Asociación Española de Videojuegos (AEVI)