

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Employment and Social Affairs*

**2007/2086(INI)**

8.6.2007

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the role of sport in education  
(2007/2086(INI))

Draftswoman: Evangelia Tzampazi

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Reaffirms the European Union's legitimate interest in sport, in particular its social and cultural aspects, as well as the educational and social values that sport transmits such as self-discipline, challenging personal limitations, solidarity, healthy competition, respect for opponents, social inclusion, opposition to any form of discrimination, team spirit, tolerance, and fair play;
2. Stresses the significance of implementing the Amsterdam and Nice declarations, especially concerning the specific characteristics of sport in Europe and its social function, of which account should be taken when implementing common policies;
3. Recognises the vital social and cultural role that sport clubs and associations are able to play in their local and national communities; considers that schools, training centres, sport clubs and associations should be more involved in various forms of engagement and participation of the local population through a better social dialogue, preferably initiated by local authorities (health, social affairs and education departments); asks for attention to be focused in order to ensure that sport clubs function without fanaticisms in compliance with the sporting and social ideals;
4. Emphasises the need to make European society more aware of the modern role and educational importance of sport, by encouraging educational and sports organisations to establish and develop close partnerships and joint objectives and promoting solidarity between the professional and amateur sectors, and to sensitise the educational community to the need to address the problems of a sedentary lifestyle by promoting sports at school;
5. Considers that sports education and training, particularly with an emphasis on olympic ideals, is an effective instrument for social inclusion of disadvantaged groups and multicultural dialogue, and for the promotion of voluntary work, and plays an active part in counteracting discrimination, intolerance, racism, xenophobia and violence;
6. Recognises that sport is an employment-creating sector and that other areas, such as education, medicine, the media and the manufacture and marketing of specialised equipment and products, are directly linked to this sector;
7. Encourages Member States to modernise and improve their physical education policies - principally to ensure that a balance is struck between physical and intellectual activities in schools - to invest in quality sports facilities and take appropriate measures to make sports premises and sports curricula at schools accessible to all students, with proper regard being paid to the needs of disabled students; suggests that support is forthcoming for a wide range of sporting activities so that every student has a real opportunity to participate in different sports; calls on the Member States to support the requirement to increase the time spent on physical education in schools; to promote the legal recognition of institutions and organisations which contribute to better integration of sports activities in schools and preschools; favours granting incentives to sports clubs having

- collaboration agreements with schools, educational establishments, youth centres, and other community or voluntary organisations involved in lifelong learning projects;
8. Recognises that sport plays an important role in lifelong learning, and that students of all ages should be enabled to participate;
  9. Urges the Member States, in cooperation with physical education colleges, to provide high-quality, all-round education, equipping athletes with all the necessary skills to enter the employment market or pursue their studies in higher education institutions and beyond;
  10. Emphasises the role of sport organisations and initiatives such as the Special Olympics, that contribute to the integration of people with disabilities in sport as well as in the society through sport; strongly encourages Member State and EU support to continue and expand the work of those organisations and initiatives;
  11. Applauds the work of volunteers in all sporting organisations and recognises that most of these organisations could not exist without volunteers; therefore recommends that 'credits' or some form of commendation for voluntary service be put in place at a European level to recognise and promote this work;
  12. Asks the Commission to draw up clear guidelines on the application of the State aid rules to public sports facilities, indicating what kind of public support is acceptable and legitimate in order to fulfil the social, cultural, health-enhancing and educational roles of sport, such as financial or other support granted by public authorities for the provision or updating of school sport facilities;
  13. Stresses the importance of physical exercise in curbing obesity and overcoming unhealthy life-style habits, thereby greatly benefiting individual health, expresses concern, however, that longer working hours and present-day conditions of employment in general, are preventing workers from taking regular physical exercise and becoming more involved in sport;
  14. Recognises that health reasons are not sufficient to encourage regular sporting activities; urges the Member States, therefore, to improve the promotion of sports linked to leisure and social activities;
  15. Considers that sports - and not just team sports - foster interaction between people, in addition to contributing to social integration and greater productivity at work; urges the Commission and Member States to promote easy access to sport at the workplace and to encourage more flexible working hours in order to engage in sporting activities;
  16. Stresses that, in our multicultural society, sport can and can be integral part of formal and informal education and that studies have shown that regular physical activity improves mental and physical wellbeing, while having beneficial effect on learning abilities;
  17. Calls on the Commission to identify areas where EU action can provide added value with regard to action already taken by sports organisations and Member States authorities; considers that the open method of coordination is an appropriate way to achieve better cooperation at European level in the specific area of physical education policy and sport

for all;

18. In the context of the prospective Commission White Paper on sport, considers it important to include funding opportunities for sport related activities which are linked to the objectives stated in Article 149 of the EC Treaty;
19. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the Member States, together with the national and European umbrella organisations for sports, to determine, fully respecting the principle of subsidiarity, the suitable legal framework and the instruments that could be used to increase investment in the sport education and training of young persons in the pre-schools and schools;
20. Asks that the Commission ensure that legislation applies to the provision of services in the sports sector in the same way as to other activities in the framework of all Community policies;
21. Considers that the qualifications acquired through sports activity should be recognised under the common reference system embodied in the future European Qualifications Framework; welcomes the Commission proposal to include sport in the field of application of the European Credit Transfer System for Vocational Education and Training; considers that increased transparency and mutual recognition of licenses and diplomas for the provision of services in the sports sector in the European Union would contribute to the free movement of persons (students, sportsmen and women, workers and employers) as well as to the long-term assimilation of athletes on the employment market, and that it would also contribute to social cohesion in Europe and to achieving the Lisbon Strategy targets, as this is an area with a high potential for job creation;
22. Stresses that the results of the European Year of Education through Sport 2004 must be utilised to the full, capitalising on and further developing good practices through new initiatives receiving public and private funding or being promoted in the spirit of corporate social responsibility;
23. Calls on the Commission to take into account and formulate a policy towards stakeholders, decision makers and citizens, to facilitate consultation with regard to European action on the role of sport in education.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	The role of sport in education		
<b>Procedure number</b>	2007/2086(INI)		
<b>Committee responsible</b>	CULT		
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	EMPL 24.5.2007		
<b>Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary</b>	No		
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Evangelia Tzampazi 18.1.2006		
<b>Previous drafts(wo)man</b>			
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	8.5.2007	14.5.2007	5.6.2007
<b>Date adopted</b>	7.6.2007		
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: -: 0:	38 1 0	
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Jan Andersson, Alexandru Athanasiu, Emine Bozkurt, Iles Braghetto, Philip Bushill-Matthews, Milan Cabrnock, Ole Christensen, Derek Roland Clark, Luigi Cocilovo, Proinsias De Rossa, Harlem Désir, Harald Ettl, Richard Falbr, Ilda Figueiredo, Joel Hasse Ferreira, Stephen Hughes, Ona Juknevičienė, Jan Jerzy Kulakowski, Jean Lambert, Raymond Langendries, Elizabeth Lynne, Mary Lou McDonald, Thomas Mann, Ana Mato Adrover, Elisabeth Morin, Csaba Óry, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Kathy Sinnott, Jean Spautz, Gabriele Stauner, Anne Van Lancker, Gabriele Zimmer		
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Udo Bullmann, Françoise Castex, Monica Maria Iacob-Ridzi, Sepp Kusstatscher, Mario Mantovani, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Evangelia Tzampazi		
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>			
<b>Comments (available in one language only)</b>			