



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Legal Affairs

2011/2087(INI)

11.10.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Legal Affairs

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the European dimension in sport
(2011/2087(INI))

Rapporteur: Toine Manders

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas the values embodied by sport are faced with excessive commercial pressures exerted against a background of legal uncertainty, such as match-fixing;
 - B. whereas infringements of intellectual property rights constitute a real threat to the long-term funding of European sport;
 - C. whereas only the economic dimension of sport is subject to EU law and the rules inherent in the organisation of sporting competitions must remain outside its scope;
1. Asks the Commission and the Member States to redouble their efforts to protect sports organisations' intellectual property rights;
 2. Recommends Member States and sports federations to introduce, where not already applicable, the centralised sale of media rights, whose compatibility with EU law has been recognised on several occasions by the Commission;
 3. Expresses its concern about the broadcasting of sporting events in public places on channels broadcasting in the territory of a Member State for which they do not have retransmission rights;
 4. Reaffirms its position that sports bets are a form of commercial use of sporting competitions, and considers that Member States may protect sporting competitions from any unauthorised commercial use as one method of supporting sport at professional and amateur level, notably by recognition of sports bodies' property rights over the competitions they organise;
 5. Urges the Member States to work together with sports event organisers and betting operators to tackle the fraudulent manipulation of results for financial or other advantage, by establishing as a criminal offence any threat to the integrity of competitions, including those linked to betting operations;
 6. Stresses that training players at local level is necessary for the lasting development of European sport; asks the Commission to recognise the legality of measures fostering the promotion of locally trained players;
 7. Clearly marks its support for licensing systems and Financial Fair Play; considers such measures to be proportionate;
 8. Calls on the Commission to clarify the *acquis communautaire* in the field of sport through guidelines, basing itself on the Communication on sport;
 9. Recognises the expertise and legitimacy of specialised sport tribunals for the resolution of disputes in the area of sport in so far as they respect citizens' right to a fair trial;

10. Considers that a minimum level of qualifications should be laid down for football agents, with transparency ensured by a register of agents including a list of all the athletes represented by each agent and the salaries they receive;
11. Calls on the Commission to come up with proposals whereby organisers of sports competitions will receive from betting companies a fair share of the revenue when their competitions are subject to betting in order to safeguard the integrity of grassroots sport and develop it;
12. Calls on the Commission to initiate a dialogue with all European professional sport organisations on how to tackle problems arising from differences in the Member States regarding employment contracts (e.g. minimum age for signing an employment contract), working conditions and salary schemes for professional sportsmen and -women, as well as the rules on State aid and the competition rules for professional sport (e.g. maximum number of players to be used over the whole season in all competitions, transfer windows);

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	10.10.2011
Result of final vote	+: 14 -: 3 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Raffaele Baldassarre, Luigi Berlinguer, Sebastian Valentin Bodu, Françoise Castex, Christian Engström, Marielle Gallo, Sajjad Karim, Antonio Masip Hidalgo, Jiří Maštálka, Bernhard Rapkay, Evelyn Regner, Francesco Enrico Speroni, Dimitar Stoyanov, Diana Wallis
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Kurt Lechner, Toine Manders, Paulo Rangel
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Pablo Zalba Bidegain