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Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

2007/2261(INI)

27.3.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the White Paper on Sport
(2007/2261(INI))

Draftswoman: Esther De Lange

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home 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. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to implement an ‘intelligence-led policy’ of cross-border police cooperation in the field of sport, including the exchange of information and intelligence between security services, while ensuring respect for freedom, fundamental rights and data protection rules;
2. Points out that sport (and, in particular, certain forms of sport which have already been professionalised) has become or is becoming a global business forming part of a global market and the globalisation process;
3. Points out that that globalisation is altering relations between those involved in sport and bringing new situations into being, and that the Member States adopt different approaches to the new challenges, for which reason there is a need for sound, consistent political and legislative solutions which are consonant with the EU’s basic principles and values and with all that is set out in the EU Treaties;
4. Underlines the need – besides adopting preventive, dissuasive and repressive measures – to create the conditions for a more comprehensive approach capable of tackling and combating risks related to sport events, involving all the stakeholders in a strategy designed to strengthen the non-repressive aspects of the response to challenges, with a strong focus on education and training, as well as the exchange of best practices;
5. Draws particular attention to the valuable experience gained through the NFIPs (National Football Information Points, responsible for coordinating and facilitating cross-border police information exchange, including risk assessments and data on high-risk supporters) and the handbook for international police cooperation, which can play a key role in this ‘intelligence-led policy’; calls on the Commission and the Member States to cooperate more extensively and to further develop and update this approach where necessary;
6. Strongly urges the Member States and all organisations and institutions with sports responsibilities to redouble their efforts in the fight against the use, supply and sale of illegal doping products;
7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take the measures needed to tackle trafficking in, and the exploitation, of minor sportsmen/women, and believes that additional arrangements are necessary in order to ensure that the 'home-grown initiative' does not lead to child trafficking;
8. Urges the Commission to devote part of any possible future preparatory action in the field of sport to the issue of the protection of minors;
9. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take all relevant measures to prevent major sport events from encouraging the trafficking in and abuse of human beings, for

example forced prostitution and any other practice which infringes fundamental rights;

10. Underlines the need for measures to prevent racist attitudes and for serious monitoring of the enforcement of legislation on racism and xenophobia and any other kind of violence and discrimination within the framework of sport events, without excluding the strict application of existing legislation; urges the Commission and the Member States to incorporate into their policies measures which will promote values such as solidarity, tolerance and non-discrimination;
11. Calls on the Member States to incorporate gender mainstreaming in all stages of sports policies with a view to steadily narrowing the gap which still exists between men and women in terms of representation within sports bodies, financial reward and actual involvement in sport, so that both sexes can derive the same personal and social benefit from sport;
12. Welcomes the development of club licensing systems at national and European level and believes that such systems should also include provisions related to the prevention of racism, xenophobia and violence, the protection of minors and respect for fundamental rights;
13. Underlines the absolute need to enhance police and judicial cooperation between Member States and European police institutions with a view to combating more effectively the different types of offence committed during sport events or in the area of sport (such as the supply and use of doping products, human trafficking etc).

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	27.3.2008
Result of final vote	+: 35 -: 1 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Alexander Alvaro, Philip Bradbourn, Carlos Coelho, Esther De Lange, Gérard Deprez, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop, Armando França, Patrick Gaubert, Roland Gewalt, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, Lívia Járóka, Ewa Klamt, Magda Kósáné Kovács, Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler, Stavros Lambrinidis, Henrik Lax, Roselyne Lefrançois, Sarah Ludford, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Rareş-Lucian Niculescu, Athanasios Pafilis, Martine Roure, Inger Segelström, Csaba Sógor, Vladimir Urutchev, Ioannis Varvitsiotis, Manfred Weber, Tatjana Ždanoka
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Sophia in 't Veld, Jean Lambert, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Antonio Masip Hidalgo, Bill Newton Dunn, Nicolae Vlad Popa
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Manolis Mavrommatis