



2020/2864(RSP)

13.11.2020

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Question for Oral Answer B9-0000/2020

pursuant to Rule 136(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on the impact of COVID-19 on youth and on sport
(2020/2864(RSP))

Sabine Verheyen
on behalf of the Committee on Culture and Education

**European Parliament resolution on the impact of COVID-19 on youth and on sport
(2020/2864(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Articles 165 and 166 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Article 5(3) of the Treaty on European Union and Protocol (No 2) on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality,
 - having regard to Article 14 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
 - having regard to its resolution of 17 April 2020 on EU coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences¹,
 - having regard to its resolution of 22 October 2020 on the future of European education in the context of Covid-19²,
 - having regard to Rules 136(5) and 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on Culture and Education,
- A. whereas, according to the ILO,³ the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is hitting young people and the youth sector disproportionately hard and they are likely to suffer severe and long-lasting effects;
- B. whereas the negative impact on the functioning of EU youth and education programmes, on the national education systems, on employment, and on civil liberties are among the main challenges young people are facing today;
- C. whereas the psychosocial effects of COVID-19 affect young people’s mental health and ability to socialise owing to both immediate and longer-term factors;
- D. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous economic impact on professional sports as revenues have plummeted because numerous events at all levels have had to be cancelled or have taken place without spectators;
- E. whereas the impact of the continued pandemic on semi-professional and grassroots sports and recreation is devastating since many sports clubs face an existential threat because they are non-profit by nature and therefore without any financial reserves;
- F. whereas sport is an important economic sector accounting for 2.12% of total GDP and 2.72% of total employment in the EU;
- G. whereas sport fulfils important societal functions, inter alia by promoting social inclusion, integration and cohesion and by improving physical and mental health;

¹ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2020)0054.

² Texts adopted P9_TA-PROV(2020)0282.

³ Global report “*Youth & COVID-19: Impacts on jobs, education, rights and mental well-being*”;
https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/youth-employment/publications/WCMS_753026/lang--en/index.htm

Youth

1. Is concerned that the youth labour market is highly sensitive to economic cycles and, an economic crisis, youth employment is hit harder as it is dominated by relatively unstable low-paid part-time jobs;
2. Underlines that labour-intensive sectors, such as wholesale and retail, accommodation, tourism and food services, employing low-paid and low-skilled young workers have been most dramatically affected; believes that, as a result, it is likely that youth unemployment rises substantially in both the short and long term, as with the 2008 economic crisis;
3. Urges the Commission and the Member States to take all necessary measures to counter the disastrous effects on youth employment, including through macroeconomic (fiscal and monetary) policies that direct public expenditure towards providing hiring subsidies or youth guarantees, as well as investment in economic sectors with the potential to absorb young jobseekers;
4. Is deeply concerned that, in their agreement of 21 July 2020, the European Council was not ambitious enough in its support for the young generations – the future of Europe; underlines in this context that sectoral programmes with a direct focus on youth or with the potential to support the transition towards a fairer, more socially and environmentally sustainable Europe, will now not be able to meet their ambitious targets, which is a bitter disappointment for the young people and future generations;
5. Calls for the wide use of alternative learning opportunities, such as online learning and training, a strong focus on technical and Vocational Education and Training, and the use of digital tools and teaching and learning materials, in order to avoid people dropping out of education and to provide for a smooth and effective school-to-work transition;
6. Urges Member States to increase investment in digital solutions for practical skills development and improve access to those solutions; stresses the need to develop competences among teachers, trainers, headteachers and managers to improve the delivery of online, distance and blended learning with a particular focus on skills development programmes;
7. Is concerned that the COVID-19 crisis has increased anxiety and fear among young people, which risks impacting considerably on their lives and school-to-work transition; calls for the wide use of tailored mental health services, psychosocial support and sports activities, acting as stand-alone or modular measures, and for upscaled mental well-being support within training and education institutions;
8. Calls for a rights-based approach in the various policies rooted in the principles of non-discrimination and equality in order to tackle the multiple forms of discrimination suffered by young people during the COVID-19 crisis, and to protect vulnerable groups, such as homeless young people and young migrants and refugees;

Sport

9. Is deeply concerned about possible lasting damage to the sports sector, not only in economic and employment terms, but also for society as a whole;
10. Underlines that sport and physical exercise are particularly important under the circumstances caused by the pandemic;
11. Considers that general recovery instruments adopted by the EU in response to the crisis

can help support the sports sector in the short term and urges Member States to ensure that national support funds benefit the sports sector despite its specific characteristics and organisational structures;

12. Believes that existing financial support will not be sufficient and calls on the Commission to explore all possible avenues to deliver additional targeted support for the sport sector;
13. Invites the Commission to thoroughly assess the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sport and, based on the results of this assessment, develop a coordinated European approach to cope with the challenges and mitigate the consequences;
14. Calls for a structured and systematic exchange of best practices between Member States in dealing with the effects of the crisis on sports;
15. Calls on the Commission to coordinate all measures taken to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on sport in a dedicated EU Action Plan;
16. Urges the Council to prioritise in the forthcoming EU Work Plan for Sport measures and actions aimed at helping the sector cope with the consequences of the pandemic in the short and long term;
17. Considers that different sports have been affected to different degrees and that, within certain sports, smaller clubs and grassroots sport have suffered in particular; underlines the importance of solidarity within the European sports community across different sports and within sports.