

European Update

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EUROPEAN NEWS

1 European Parliament report: White Paper on Sport

Following voting by the committees which examined the European Parliament's report on the White Paper on Sport, the final version of the report is due to be voted on by the European Parliament on 8 May in Strasbourg. The report scrutinises the European Commission's White Paper on Sport produced last summer and provides the European Parliament's analysis and recommendations. It has no legal status, but acts as a recommendation to the Commission and is an indication of what the Parliament may accept when the Commission produces a final sports policy.

The report, led by Greek MEP Manolis Mavrommatis, highlights the significance of the EU Reform Treaty and calls for sport to have more legal certainty, even to the extent of the European Commission drafting guidelines of how EU legislation applies to sport. It concludes that self-regulation in sport is the most effective way of governance and also addresses aspects such as doping, sports marketing and the trade in players.

Next steps: Despite the positive elements in the report, CCPR believes that neither the White Paper nor the Parliament's report go far enough in promoting the autonomy of sport or its specificity, which are vital for the future of sport across Europe. For this reason CCPR is backing an amendment by the ALDE party (Alliance for Liberal-Democrats for Europe) which, at a high level asks for the Commission to take subsidiarity, autonomy and the specific nature of sport into account in all policy areas which affect sport.

The European Parliament Report can be found at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A6-2008-0149+0+DOC+WORD+V0//EN>

2 European Commission study: Home grown players

The European Commission has completed its study into home grown players and has sent it to football organisations and clubs around the UK via both the Premier League and the Football Association. The Commission is now analysing the findings to assess its next steps before releasing the results. The issue of home grown players and quotas may not be a new one - indeed the ECJ ruled on quotas in Italian Serie A in the 1970s - but with last year's White Paper on Sport showing an increased tolerance of the need to protect and support young national players, the issue is once again top of the political agenda. CCPR has expressed its disappointment to the European Commission in both public and private meetings that this study only examines football, but will continue to engage with the Commission on this issue.

How you can help: CCPR will be meeting with both DG Culture and DG Employment in the near future to discuss the effects of quotas and home-grown players on all sports. If your sport is affected by quotas and EU legislation on free-movement of personnel or you would like to know more, please contact James MacDougall (jmacdougall@ccpr.org.uk).

3 European Commission conference: Piracy and content online

Content online concerns how media is accessed online and considers the effect of innovative new ways of viewing digital media. CCPR welcomes efforts made by the Commission to understand, develop and protect content online simultaneously, although careful assessment of evidence is needed to ensure the full impact of current European proposals is understood.

From sport's perspective, recent proposals from the European Union institutions have been disappointing as sport has not been considered a major partner in discussions. This is particularly unsatisfactory as piracy is of huge concern to sports rights owners and directly threatens investment in the grassroots and development of sport. Sport, in fact needs particular care, as the dynamic nature of competition means that sports rights are particularly susceptible to live on-line piracy, whereas film and music are not.

Following lobbying from the Sports Rights Owners Coalition (SROC) and the Premier League, sport's voice is now being heard on this issue and CCPR joined the two organisations in submitting its stance on content online in the recent consultation. Following this consultation a high level conference is to be held by the European Commission on counterfeiting and piracy on May 13. Please contact James MacDougall (jmacdougall@ccpr.org.uk) if you would like further details.

CCPR's consultation response

<http://www.ccpr.org.uk/ourcampaigning/uk/consultationsandbriefings/pastconsultationsandbriefings/>

4 Council of Europe study: The Autonomy of Sport

The autonomy of sport is defined as the ability of sporting organisations to determine their own rules and regulations and not be dictated to by governmental organisations. According to Lord Moynihan, in terms of the international aspects of sport, there is "no greater challenge than the challenge to the autonomy of sport".

One of the successes of the European White Paper on Sport produced last summer has been to open extended dialogue on the issues affecting sport. The fact that the paper failed to effectively deal with the issue of autonomy has brought the subject in to sharp focus. This means that under the French presidency this summer, there will be a full European investigation on autonomy by the Council of Europe. The base survey for the study includes conceptual, political, legal, financial and psycho-sociological elements. CCPR will participate in the survey as part of the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisations but the Council of Europe has also said that national umbrella organisations and national sports federations can submit their views.

How you can help: The Council of Europe survey is available to view on the CCPR website <http://www.ccpr.org.uk/ourcampaigning/uk/consultationsandbriefings/liveconsultationsandbriefings.htm>. If you have any comments or you would like to provide input into CCPR's submission, please contact James MacDougall (jmacdougall@ccpr.org.uk).

5 Betting integrity: European Premier Football Leagues Conference

Following Michel Platini's prediction last year at the Commission's violence in sport conference that the issue of betting integrity would join doping, violence and racism as one of the scourges of sport, betting integrity has been rising up the political agenda. Prior to Platini's comments, CCPR had already commissioned [research](#) by the Centre for the Study of Gambling at the University of Salford into betting integrity. The report highlighted the huge growth in the betting markets and increases in risk due to the changing face of the market.

As a result CCPR is calling for:

- a tightening of the obligation on the betting industry to share information of suspicious or unusual betting patterns with sport's governing bodies
- for sports bodies to share best practice in keeping corruption out of sport
- for the betting industry to make a contribution to the costs of the extra measures sport needs to put in place to protect itself from this increased risk.

To examine the issues more closely the European Premier Football Leagues are hosting a conference on the protection of intellectual property rights and betting integrity in Brussels on 6 May. Please contact James MacDougall (jmacdougall@ccpr.org.uk) if you would like further details.

6 UK legislation: Points based system for managed migration

The UK's new managed migration and points based systems which are currently being implemented could have a major effect on sport. CCPR is lobbying strongly on the need for a sports visa outside the points based system. The Australian system, on which the new UK regime is modelled, offers a sports visa but such an allowance is a notable exception in the UK proposals.

Europe is continuing to analyse its immigration policy (in which the UK has an opt-out) and specifically considers attracting sporting events when analysing immigration options (COM(2006)0403: European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community Code on Visas). CCPR takes the view that it is essential that the UK remains an attractive venue to hold major sporting events when compared to the rest of Europe. The points based system for managed migration was discussed in the UK Parliament on April 24 and the latest statements of intent will be produced following the May local elections.

How you can help: Contact James MacDougall to give him your organisation's views on the points based system (jmacdougall@ccpr.org.uk).

Australian visas: <http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/special-activity/421/index.htm>

Points based system for managed migration: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/points-based-system-announced>

CCPR consultation response: <http://www.ccpr.org.uk/ourcampaigning/uk/consultationsandbriefings/pastconsultationsandbriefings/>

7 UK parliament: Vote on the amended EU Reform Treaty Bill

In a House of Commons vote on 5 March, the UK Parliament voted against the Conservative amendment to the EU (Amendment) Bill by a majority of 63. This means that the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty will not be subject to a referendum. Twenty nine Labour MPs and a quarter of Liberal Democrat MPs did, however, vote against their party line in calling for a referendum.

European Union member states have until the end of 2008 to ratify the treaty and only Ireland currently plans to hold a referendum. Sport is included in the treaty for the first time and allows the European institutions the ability to support and provide coordinating action for sport, while explicitly stating that the EU can not harmonise sporting regulations and must take into account sport's specific nature when defining policy.

Lisbon Treaty at a glance: http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/glance/index_en.htm

8 European Commission: Annual Policy Strategy for 2009

The European Commission has outlined its proposals for its policy strategy for 2009 and focused on policy areas in order to put the citizen first, in particular: growth and jobs; climate change and sustainable Europe; Europe as a world partner; common immigration policies; better regulations and improved communications. The paper will stimulate discussion between the European institutions and paves the way for legislative initiatives in 2009. 2009 should prove to be an important year for Europe with the election of a new European Parliament and Commission coming alongside the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty.

Policy Strategy <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0072:FIN:EN:PDF>

9 CCPR's European Summit: The Oval, 10 June

CCPR is delighted to present the key decision makers in European sport in conference for the first time in the UK. If you want to know how Europe works, the direction of sport policy in Europe and how it affects the UK this is a must attend event at the Oval on 10 June. Speakers include:

- **Michal Krejza**, Head of the Sports Unit, European Commission
- **Jim Murphy MP**, Minister for Europe
- **Chris Heaton-Harris MEP**, Chair, Sports Intergroup, European Parliament
- **Lord Moynihan**, Chair, BOA
- **Richard Caborn MP**, Honorary Member, CCPR
- **Birgitta Kervinen**, President, European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation

For more information visit www.ccpr.org.uk/europeansummit

FUNDING

10 EU Funding: Daphne III for protection against violence

The general objective of the Daphne III Programme is to contribute to the protection of children, young people and women against all forms of violence and to attain a high level of health protection, well being and social cohesion. Daphne III was explicitly mentioned as a funding stream available to sport in the White Paper on Sport. Funding of up to €200,000 per project, accounting for a maximum of 80% of the funding, is available.

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/daphne3/funding_daphne3_en.htm

11 Community action projects in the field of health

The European Commission has recently launched a call for proposals for its health programme running from 2008-2013. Over €28m is reserved for calls for proposals for projects. Included amongst its aims is the explicit desire to promote health through the reduction of health inequalities between EU regions; improving mental health and healthier living; promoting physical activity through infrastructure; addiction prevention; planning a better use of physical environment; and integrating injury prevention in curricula of vocational training of local health service providers, teachers, sport coaches, product designers and urban planners.

Link:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/howtoapply/call_for_propal_projects_en.htm

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