



Education and Culture DG



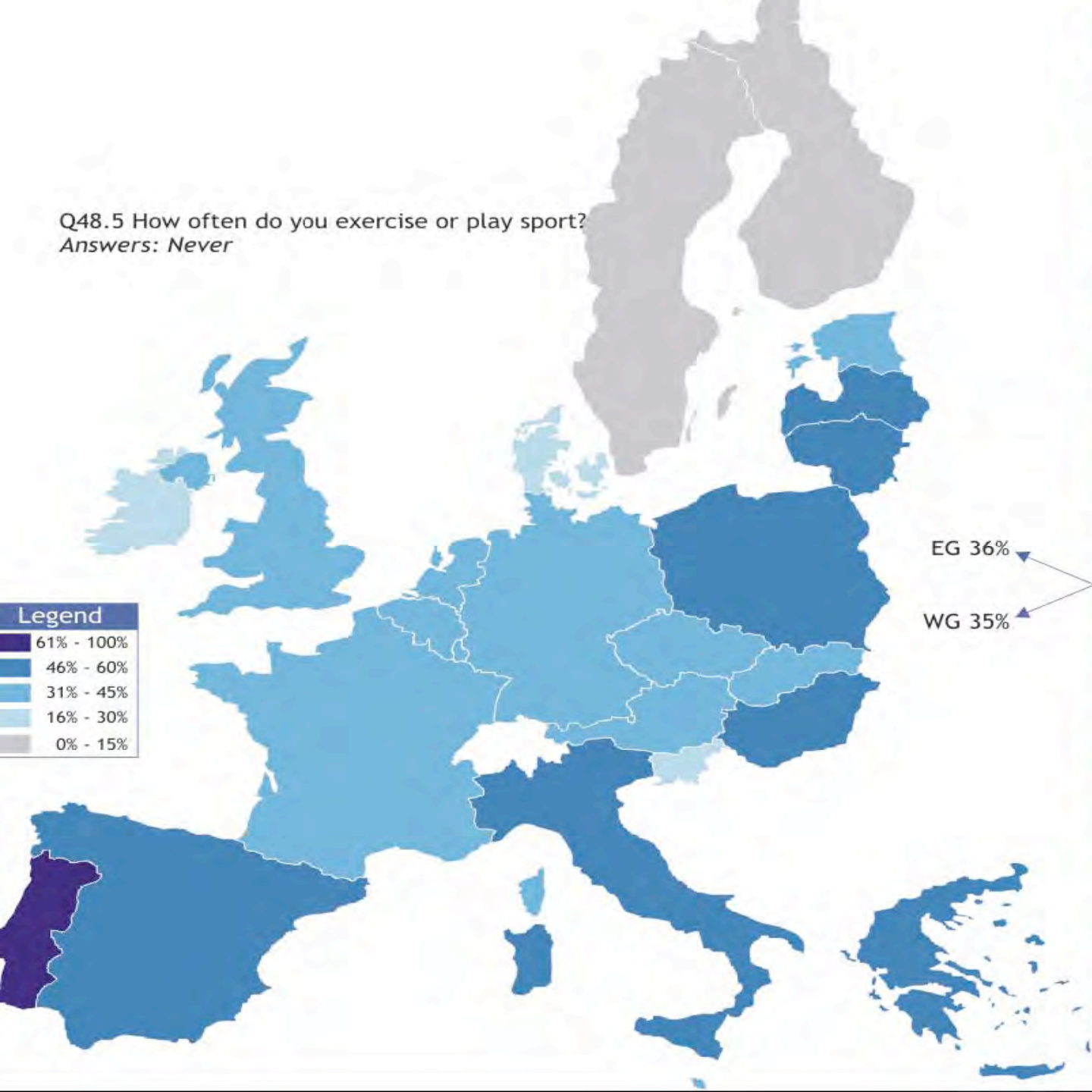
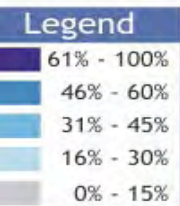
# White Paper on Sport



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Q48.5 How often do you exercise or play sport?  
 Answers: Never



EG 36%

WG 35%

Country Results		
	Portugal	66%
	Hungary	60%
	Italy	58%
	Greece	57%
	Latvia	48%
	Lithuania	48%
	Spain	47%
	Cyprus	47%
	Poland	46%
	Malta	43%
	EU25	40%
	Luxembourg	40%
	Estonia	40%
	Belgium	36%
	Germany	36%
	Slovakia	36%
	France	35%
	Austria	34%
	Czech Republic	34%
	The Netherlands	31%
	United Kingdom	31%
	Ireland	28%
	Slovenia	24%
	Denmark	17%
	Sweden	7%
	Finland	4%

# White paper on Sport

1. Preparatory phase
2. Main features
3. Part I: Societal role of sport
4. Part II: Economic dimension of sport
5. Part III: Organisation of sport
6. Next steps



# 1. Preparatory phase

## Response to consultations:

- **Comprehensive initiative – holistic approach**
- **Careful balance between societal role, economic dimension and organisation of sport**
- **Respect of subsidiarity, autonomy of sport organisations**
- **Respect of current EU legal framework**

## 2. Main features

### A. WHY a White Paper?

- **Political momentum**
- **Expectations: give sport a higher profile in EU policy making**
- **Potential of sport to contribute to EU's policy goals**
- **Social and economic developments affecting sport**
- **IESR, EP Reports**

## 2. Main features

### B. WHAT is the WP aiming at?

- **Strategic orientation on the role of sport in the EU**
- **Awareness of the specificities of the sport sector**
- **Knowledge about the application of EU law to sport**
- **Visibility of sport in EU policies, programmes and actions**
- **Debate on specific problems**
- **Appropriate level of action**

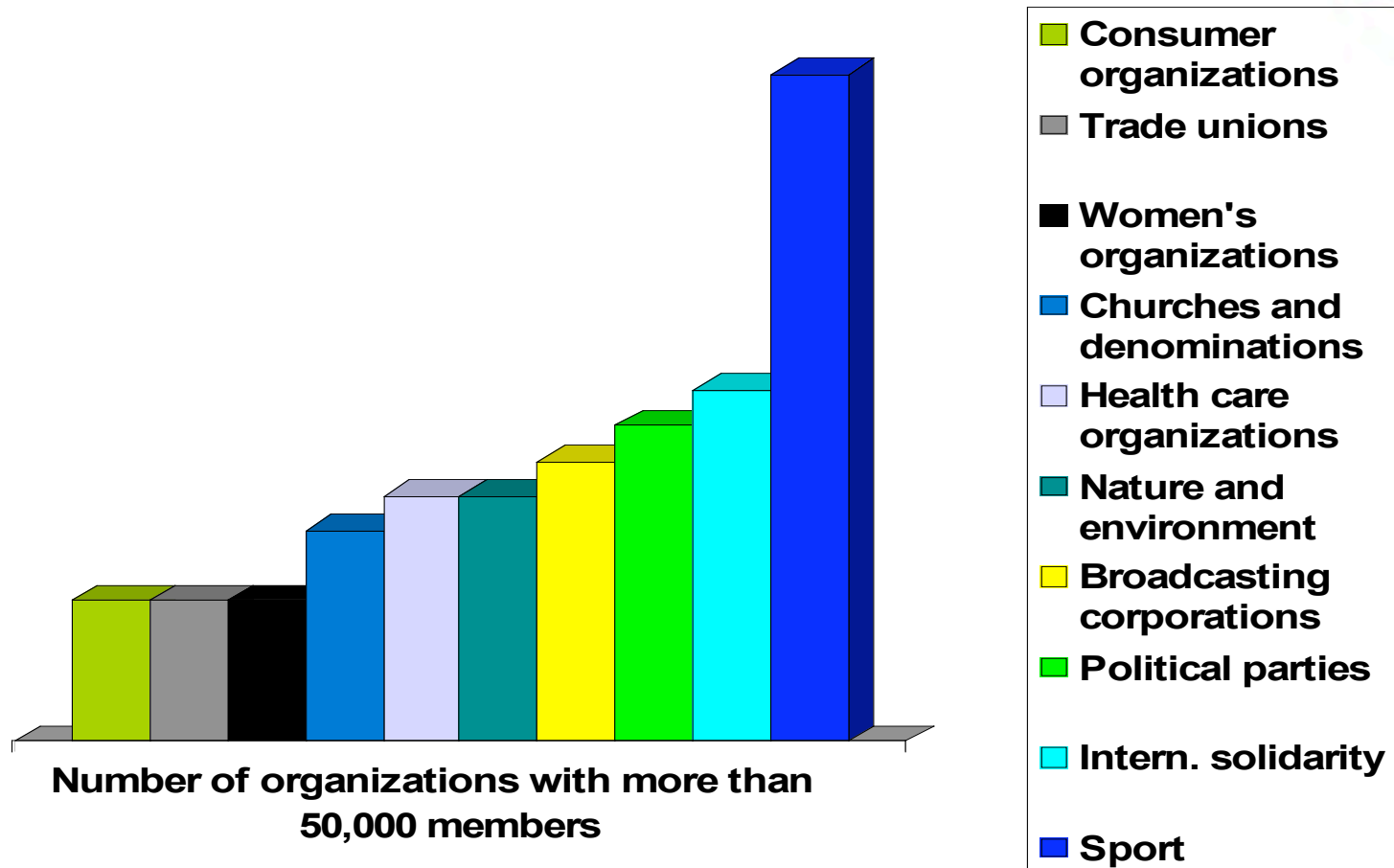
## 2. Main features

### C. HOW does the WP intend to achieve these objectives?

- **White Paper: key ideas and political messages**
- **Action Plan “Pierre de Coubertin”:** concrete actions
- **Staff Working Document: background and context, incl. annexes on application of EU competition and internal market provisions to sport**
- **Mix of “soft” instruments**



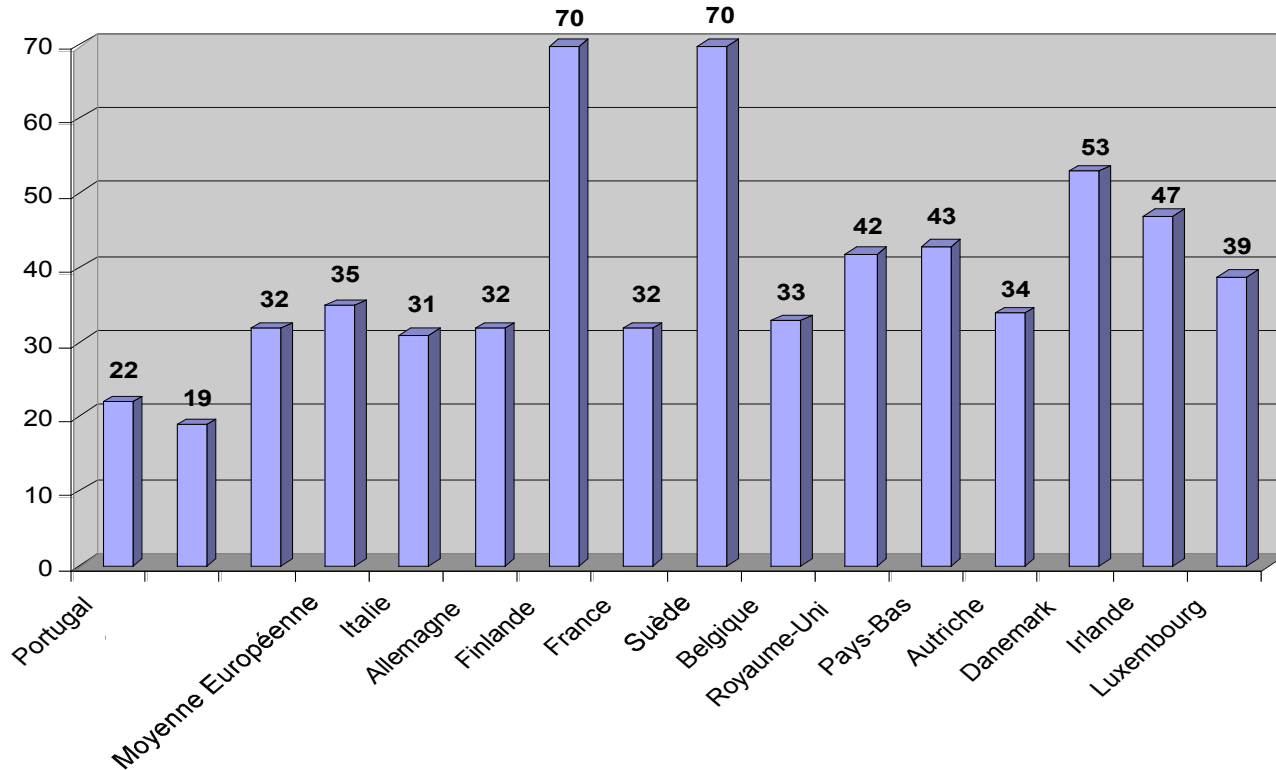
### 3. Part I: Societal role of sport



prof. dr. Maarten van Bottenburg - Utrecht University  
 W.J.H. Mulier Institute - Centre for Research on Sports and Society



## Ratio of regular sport practice by GNP in ascending order



Vocasport study

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/sport/whatsup/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/sport/whatsup/index_en.html)



## 3. Part I: Societal role of sport

### Overview:

- A. Public health
- B. Fight against doping
- C. Education and training
- D. Volunteering and active citizenship
- E. Social inclusion, integration and equal opportunities
- F. Fight against racism and violence
- G. External dimension
- H. Sustainable development





## A. Public Health

**THE FINDINGS THAT SHOCKED EISENHOWER**

Group	Failed to meet minimum standards
Out of 4,264 U.S. children tested for muscular fitness	57.9%
Out of 2,879 European children who were given the same tests	8.7%

Source: New York University—Bellevue Medical Center

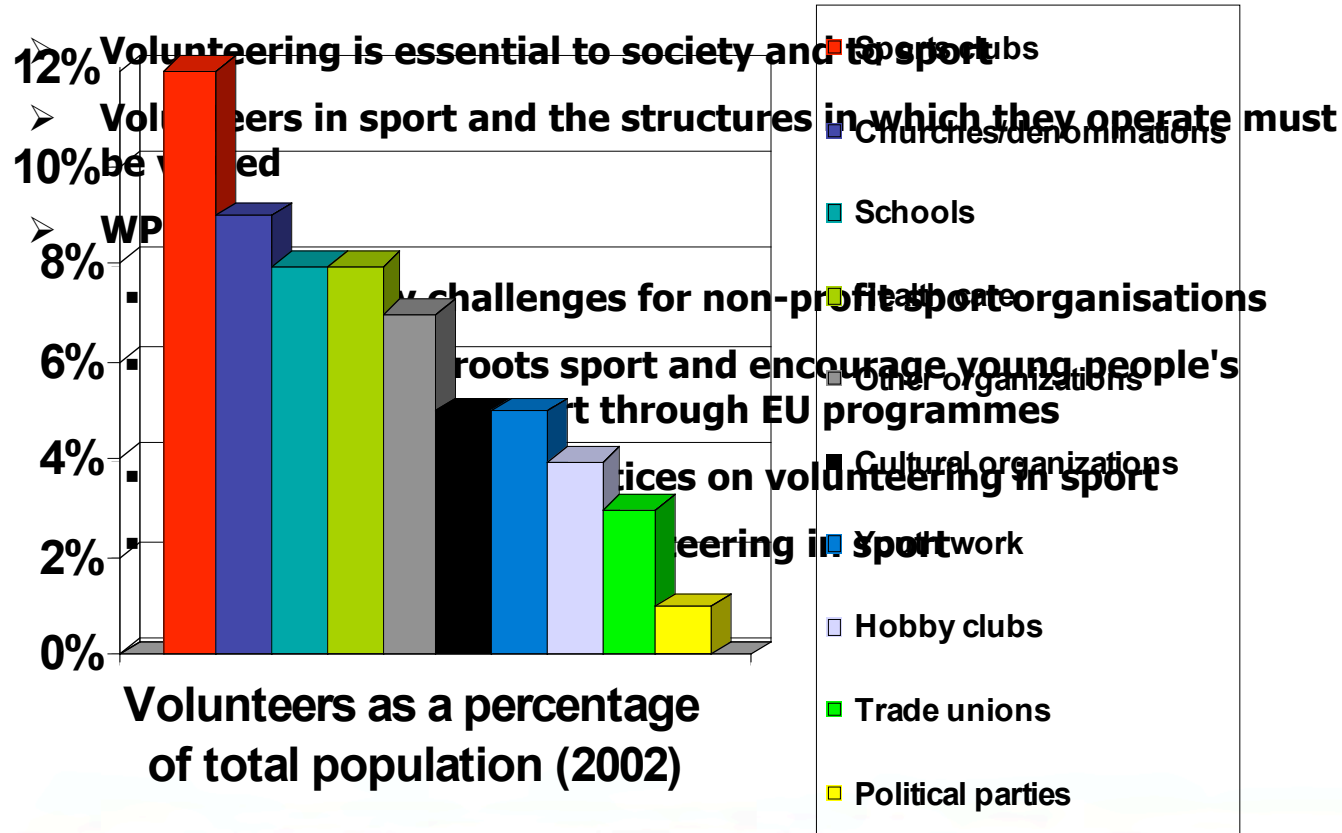
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The infographic features two circular photographs. The top one shows a group of children, and the bottom one shows a group of children and adults. The background of the infographic has a jagged, mountain-like silhouette at the bottom.





## D. Volunteering and active citizenship



## 3. Part I: Societal role of sport

### F. Fight against racism and violence

- **Racism and violence in sport remains a disturbing problem**
- **WP:**
  - **exchange of operational information and practical know-how on the prevention of violent and racist incidents**
  - **multidisciplinary approach to prevent anti-social behaviour**
  - **structured cooperation among law enforcement services, sport organisations and other stakeholders**
  - **EU programmes to contribute to the prevention of violence and racism in sport**



## 4. Part II: Economic dimension of sport

### Overview:

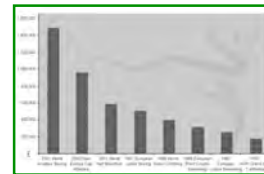
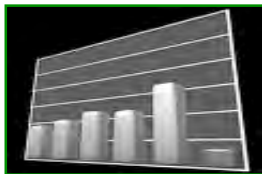
- A. Evidence-based sport policies
- B. Public support for sport



## 4. Part II: Economic dimension of sport

### A. Evidence-based sport policies

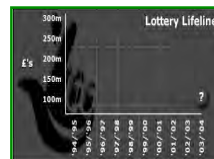
- **Sport policies need to be underpinned by a sound knowledge base**
- **WP:**
  - **European statistical method: measuring the economic impact of sport**
  - **Regular sport-related European information surveys**
  - **Study the sport sector's contribution to the Lisbon Agenda**
  - **Exchange of best practices on the organisation of large sport events**



## 4. Part II: Economic dimension of sport

### B. Public support for sport

- **Public support for grassroots sport is of major importance, not least to ensure open access to sport for all**
- **WP:**
  - **Sustainable financing model: long-term support to sport organisations**
  - **EU study on the financing of grassroots sport**
  - **Reduced VAT rates for sport**



## 5. Part III: Organisation of sport

### Overview:

- A. The specificity of sport**
- B. Free movement and nationality**
- C. Transfers**
- D. Players' agents**
- E. Protection of minors**
- F. Corruption, money laundering, and other forms of financial crime**
- G. Licensing systems for clubs**
- H. Media**

## 5. Part III: Organisation of sport

### A. The specificity of sport

- The word "specificity" does not appear in earlier EU texts
- **WP:**
  - Commission's position on what makes sport specific
  - Annexes on competition and internal market rules: further clarity on the application of EU law to the sport sector



## 5. Part III: Organisation of sport

### D. Players' agents

- **Bad practices in the activities of some agents: instances of corruption, money laundering and exploitation of underage players**
- **These practices are damaging for sport**
- **Agents are subject to differing national regulations**
- **WP:**
  - **get a clear overview of the activities of players' agents in the EU**
  - **evaluate whether action at EU level is necessary**

## 5. Part III: Organisation of sport

### E. Protection of minors

- **Trafficking of minors in some sports is an issue of major concern**
- **WP:**
  - **implementation of existing EU legislation**
  - **cooperation on the protection of the moral and physical integrity of young people: information on existing legislation, minimum standards, exchange of best practices**



## 5. Part III: Organisation of sport

### F. Corruption, money laundering and other forms of financial crime

- **Concerns about illegal financial practices in the field of sport**
- **WP:**
  - **public-private partnerships: identify vulnerabilities to corruption in sport, develop preventive and repressive strategies to counter corruption**
  - **implementation of EU anti-money laundering legislation with regard to the sport sector**



## 5. Part III: Organisation of sport

### G. Licensing systems for clubs

- **Robust licensing systems for professional clubs: promote good governance in sport**
- **Such systems must be compatible with EU competition and internal market provisions**
- **WP:**
  - **implement and strengthen self-regulatory licensing systems**
  - **conference with UEFA, EPFL, Fifpro, national associations and national leagues on best practices**



## 6. Next steps

 **Improving the structures for dialogue on sport at EU level:**

- ✓ **greater efficiency while remaining inclusive**

 **Strengthening cooperation with EU Member States, including a re-enforced Rolling Agenda for Sport:**

- ✓ **ensure progress and coherence in the political debates on sport**

 **Enhancing European social dialogue in the sport sector:**

- ✓ **address certain governance questions in sport upfront**

## 6. Next steps

**TITLE XI**  
**REFORM TREATY INCLUDING PROVISION ON DEEPENING COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES AND THE COMPETENT INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND SPORT, in particular the Council of Europe.**  
*Article 149*

[...]

**The Ratification foreseen by 2009** shall be aimed at: **developing the European dimension in sport, by promoting fairness and openness in sporting competitions and cooperation between bodies responsible for sports, and by protecting the physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen, especially young sportsmen and sportswomen.**

**the European Parliament and the Council**, acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 251, after consulting the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, **shall adopt incentive measures, excluding any harmonisation of the laws and regulations of the Member States** — **the Council**, acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, shall adopt recommendations.

**Thank you for your  
attention !**

[http://ec.europa.eu/sport/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/sport/index_en.html)