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Q48.5 How often do you exercise or play sport?

*Answers: Never*
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

Number of organizations with more than 50,000 members

- Consumer organizations
- Trade unions
- Women's organizations
- Churches and denominations
- Health care organizations
- Nature and environment
- Broadcasting corporations
- Political parties
- Intern. solidarity
- Sport

prof. dr. Maarten van Bottenburg - Utrecht University
W.J.H. Mulier Institute - Centre for Research on Sports and Society
3. Part I: Societal role of sport

Ratio of regular sport practice by GNP in ascending order

Vocasport study
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
3. Part I: Societal role of sport

A. Public Health

THE FINDINGS THAT SHOCKED EISENHOWER

Out of 4,264 U.S. children tested for muscular fitness

57.9%

failed to meet minimum standards

Out of 2,879 European children who were given the same tests

8.7%

failed to meet minimum standards

Source: New York University—Bellevue Medical Center
Copyright 1957, U. S. News Publishing Corp.
D. Volunteering and active citizenship

- Volunteering is essential to society and to sport.
- Volunteers in sport and the structures in which they operate must be valued.

WP

- Identify key challenges for non-profit sport organisations.
- Overseen the roots sport and encourage young people's sport through EU programmes.
- White paper on Sport

Part I: Societal role of sport

3. Part I: Societal role of sport

Volunteers as a percentage of total population (2002)
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
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

The Community and the Member States shall foster cooperation with third countries and the competent international organisations in the field of education and sport, in particular the Council of Europe.

In order to contribute to the achievement of the objectives referred to in this Article, the Council:

— 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.

The Union shall contribute to the promotion of European sporting issues, while taking account of the specific nature of sport, its structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function.

Title XI

Education, Vocational Training, and Youth and Sport

Article 149

The Community and the Member States shall foster cooperation with third countries and the competent international organisations in the field of education and sport, in particular the Council of Europe.

Ratification foreseen by 2009
Thank you for your attention!

http://ec.europa.eu/sport/index_en.html