Integrated approach to sport policy: good governance, accessibility and integrity

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The European Parliament adopted by 522 votes to 76, with 37 abstentions, a resolution on an integrated approach to Sport Policy: good governance, accessibility and integrity.

Members recalled that with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, the European Union acquired a **specific competence for sport** to build up and implement an EU-coordinated sport policy supported by a specific budget line. It has been estimated that sport-related employment represents 3.51 % of total EU employment, and the share of sport-related gross value added at EUR 294 billion (2.98 % of total EU gross value added).

Integrity and good-governance of sports: in the light of recent corruption scandals in sport, Parliament stressed the need for a **zero-tolerance policy to corruption** and other types of crime in sports. It recalled that fighting corruption in sport requires **transnational efforts and cooperation** among all stakeholders, including public authorities, law enforcement agencies, the sports industry, athletes and supporters.

Members called on international, European and national sports organisations to **commit to good governance practices, and to develop a culture of transparency and sustainable financing** by making financial records and activity accounts publicly available.

In this regard, Members called on the Commission to develop a **pledge board**, and to explore the possibility of creating a **code of conduct** in the areas of good governance and integrity in sport. They also called on sports organisations to put forward by 2018 **concrete proposals** to enhance good governance standards for sports organisations.

Member States are encouraged to:

- make **public funding** for sports conditional, subject to compliance with established and publicly available minimum governance, monitoring and reporting standards;
- establish dedicated prosecution services tasked specifically with investigating sports fraud cases and establish **match fixing as a specific criminal offence;**
- support **doping controls**, national testing programmes and legislations allowing coordination and information-sharing between state authorities, sports organisations and anti-doping agencies.

Members reiterated their call for the establishment of **transparency registers for the payment of sports agents**, underpinned by an efficient monitoring system, in order to tackle agent malpractice.

Bidding to host major events should comply with good governance standards, with human and labour rights, and with the principle of democracy, in order to ensure a positive social, economic and environmental impact on local communities. Members condemned all forms of discrimination and violence in sport and recalled the need to boost the fight against **human trafficking** in sports, in particular the trafficking of children.

Members also urged the Council to find a solution that will allow the EU and its Member States to sign and ratify the new Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events, and reiterated the call for the introduction of the **mutual recognition** of stadium bans in Europe and the exchange of data in this regard.

Social inclusion, social function and accessibility of sport: Parliament considered that investing in sports will help build united and inclusive societies, remove barriers and enable people to respect each other by building bridges across cultures and across ethnic and social divides, and to promote a **positive message of shared values**, such as mutual respect, tolerance, compassion, leadership, equality of opportunity and the rule of law.

The Commission is urged to **allocate more funds to sport under** Erasmus+, with a focus on grassroots sports and education, and to enhance its visibility and accessibility in order to improve the mainstreaming of sport into other funding programmes such as the ESIF or the Health Programme.

The resolution underlined the importance of **education through sport** and the potential of sport to help get socially vulnerable youngsters back on track and in preventing radicalisation.

Recalling that young European athletes are often faced with the challenge of combining their sports careers with education and work, Parliament underlined the need to ensure sustainable **financial support for dual-career exchange programmes** at EU and national level through the Erasmus+ Sport chapter. It called on the Member States to promote, in collaboration with educational institutions, cross-border exchanges of athletes and to provide access to scholarships for athletes.

Stressing that the lack of physical activity is identified by WHO as the fourth leading risk factor for global mortality, Parliament encouraged the Member States and the Commission to make **physical activity** a political priority in the next EU Work Plan on Sport, especially for young people and vulnerable communities from socially deprived areas where physical participation is low. It urged the Member State to **encourage citizens** to pursue physical activities on a more regular basis by means of appropriate health policies and programmes for their daily lives.

The report stressed that **disabled people** should have equal access to all sports facilities and urged the Member States to implement inclusive sport programmes for disabled people at schools and universities.

Lastly, Members maintained that the **selling of TV rights** on a centralised, exclusive and territorial basis, with equitable sharing of revenues, is essential to the sustainable funding of sport at all levels.