Sport in the European Union

1996/2187(INI) - 13/06/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mrs Doris PACK (PPE, D), the European Parliament called on the IGC to include an express reference to sport in Article 128 of the Treaty and to recognize the cultural, economic and social importance of sport in the Community. In particular, it called on the Commission to create a "sports" task force and to draft a Green Paper, in consultation with the sports movement as a whole, on the establishment of a comprehensive EU action plan for sport. The main objectives are to: - take account of sport in the whole spectrum of Community programmes (regional, social, educational, youth, training and health) and restructure the Community pilot action for sport; - make provision, on the basis of Article 126 of the Treaty, for a series of actions (not currently provided for in the White Paper) on education and training; - contribute, through sport, to social integration and the fight against racism; - make provision for programmes to increase public awareness and raise the profile of female sports; - work with sports associations in implementing efficient redistribution and solidarity mechanisms so that training of young players and the continued existence of amateur clubs can be financed by means which are compatible with Community law; - examine if the various systems of state aid for professional clubs applied in the Member States and disparities in social and fiscal charges have an impact on the equilibrium of European competitions; - present proposals to regulate the legal transfer of a player from one club to another during a single competition without restricting the player's freedom to change clubs; - conclude an agreement with national and international sports associations on compliance with Community regulations on the evaluation of the environmental impact of major sporting events (directive 337/85/EEC and its amendments). Parliament also called for a Sports Council to be convened and for a European Year of Sport to be organized. Finally, it asked the Commission on Culture, Youth and Education to establish sound, structural relations with the European sports movement.