

MULTISPORT DECLARATION

The Treaty of Lisbon and the article 165 TFUE have created new chances for the EU in the field of sport. It is our conviction that cooperation between the European institutions, Member States and sports actors, like sports federations and clubs, are necessary requirements in order to capitalize these opportunities, without touching the fundamental principle of *“specificity of sport”*.

In our view the Commission is going in the right direction when promoting dialogue with the sport movement, but there is still much work to do and a long way to go, namely in widening up the audience of the sport stakeholders.

The European Commission’s July 2007 White Paper on Sport was the first *“comprehensive initiative”* on sport in the EU. Not by chance, it was entitled to Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the International Olympic Committee. The Olympic Games represent the *summa* of sport’s values, giving relevance not to one sport only, but to a whole range of different sport disciplines. From a parallel point of view, sport can be described in many different ways, many as the different dimensions that it represents.

The European sports are many, as many are their functions at the national and European level: social, economic, health, etc. That is why the European Multisport Clubs can understand better than anyone else the difficulties and the issues of the developing sport movement. And that is also why we applaud the Commission for its work in *“developing the European dimension in sport”*. We want to cooperate with the European Institutions, in order to play our role and help the EU to improve its level of knowledge in this challenging field, concentrating on three main priorities – social dimension of sport, integrity of sport, economic dimension of sport – as they have been identified in the debate that has recently taken place in the European Union.

SOCIAL DIMENSION

Since the *“Adonnino Relation”* in 1985, the European Community looked at sport as a valid instrument to enhance European integration. Sport is capable of overtaking every geographical barrier and it suits perfectly with the EU’s goals of social inclusion.

So, it is important to promote *fair play* and to fight violence, racism and xenophobia in sport. We welcome the recent Commission's proposals on the promotion of sport in schools through the 'EU Physical Activity Guidelines'

INTEGRITY

Fight against doping is a relevant topic that touches upon both sport's social and health dimensions, as it is an example, on the one hand, of "unfair play", while on the other it can damage athletes' health despite their physical activity. The cooperation between EU, the Council of Europe and the World Anti-Doping Agency deserves to be cited as a perfect instance of exchange of good practices and policies at international level.

It is also important that the economic dimension of sport does not grow at expense of its social characteristics. Developing norms on legal bets is fundamental to fight the illegal ones and to prevent the *match-fixing* phenomenon. Moreover, the recent studies promoted by the Commission on sports agents in the EU represent a fundamental step in the protection of minors and in the fight against the trafficking of sportspeople.

ECONOMIC DIMENSION

Sport plays an increasing role in national economies and in the European Union. We therefore appreciate its including in Europe 2020 strategy, as sport could become an engine for the European economic recovery. For this to happen, it is also important to strengthen the analysis on the economic self-sustainability of sport clubs.

As multisport realities, we encourage the Commission's intention to promote a closer link between the different levels of the European sports pyramid, exploring ways to strengthen financial solidarity mechanisms between professional sport and grassroots sport.

Moreover, it must be taken into account that today's investments on sport can bring relevant savings in future, because a healthier population produces positive effects on health policies in the long run.

CONCLUSIONS

- The Multisport Clubs are relevant realities of the European sport system, and as such they wish to become an active and reliable partner for the European Institutions (The Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee) in the common endeavor of promoting a European dimension of sport;

- The Multisport Societies are also convinced that they can share with the European Institutions a distinctive know-how and an array of good practices in the management of grass-root sport activities acquired through the years, whilst being able at the same time to channel the voice and represent the aspirations of thousands of European sportsmen and women;
- Having regard to this the Multisport Societies fully endorse the EU intention to develop a structured dialogue with the sport stakeholders as an opportunity for a continuous and well-structured exchange of views on priorities, implementation and follow-up to EU cooperation in the field of sport, and hopes to be able to take an active part in this structured dialogue in the future;
- The Multisport Societies share the EU priorities encompassed in the EU Work Plan for Sport 2011 – 2014, and intend to contribute, to the best of their knowledge and in full respect of the competences of the European Commission and the Member States, to the activities listed therein, concentrating on the integrity, the social dimension and the economic aspects of sport in Europe;
- The Multisport Societies welcome the idea of a distinctive Sport Chapter in the new Multiannual Program of the European Union in the field of Education Youth and Sport “Erasmus for All” (2014-2020), and resolve to strengthen their cooperation establish a permanent forum of Multisport clubs to fully exploit all the possibilities offered by this Program.

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