

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1984-1985

2 April 1984

DOCUMENT 1-53/84 13.

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Youth, Culture,
Education, Information and Sport

on sport and the Community

PART B: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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PE 84.000/fin. 13.
Or. Fr.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

While sport has associations with antiquity, particularly Greece, it was only after a slow start in the nineteenth century that it emerged as a significant social phenomenon. Although a recent development, it has expanded rapidly not only in European societies but throughout the world. This expansion has been quantitative in nature, involving a growing number of sports enthusiasts and sports activities, the introduction of new sports, the diversification of existing sports, large-scale infrastructural projects and increasing production of sports equipment leading to a vigorously expanding market. In addition, sport has become so diversified that it now covers very different physical activities. Hence there is a fundamental difference between a professional racing driver and an amateur rambler, which lies not only in their respective performances, but also in their attitude to physical effort, although both engage in sports activities and are regarded as sports enthusiasts. Nevertheless, an increasing number of people are becoming concerned with sport, particularly in the Community. Its effects are both social and economic. Given its international dimension, it promotes wider contacts and communication between nations but is increasingly open to the influence of economic and political factors. For this reason, we consider it essential for the European Parliament, elected by the nations of Europe, to make its opinion heard and adopt a position on the matter.

This subject may not appear to fall within the terms of reference of the European Parliament since nowhere in the Treaty is any allusion made to sport and measures which could be taken by the Community in this area. It would be easy for us to refer to Article 2 or Title III of the Treaty, particularly Article 48 on the free movement of persons and, in this respect, we would be fully justified. However, our justification, if one is necessary, relates more to the function which must be fulfilled by the European Parliament in representing the nations of the European Community. In setting up a Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport, the European Parliament, elected by direct universal suffrage in 1979, intended to act as spokesman for the citizens of Europe on their everyday concerns and aspirations, and to act at Community level and within the Member States to ensure that broader and closer cooperation was achieved for the benefit of all and to promote the construction of Europe.

Moreover, it would be impossible to formulate measures to achieve a tangible improvement in the standard of living of Europeans without taking account of every facet of their existence, and 'Europe is a nation of sports enthusiasts'.

It is by no means our intention to propose a new and rigid framework of regulations to be added to national regulations, thereby hampering the activity of national and international sporting associations and greatly exceeding the European Community's terms of reference. Our objective is to draw attention to the development of sport in the Community Member States, its successes and also its shortcomings, to encourage cooperation and, as far as possible, smooth out obstacles to the promotion of the most desirable aspects of sport.

It is with this in mind that the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport took the initiative of drawing up this report, taking the view that, without duplicating the considerable progress already made by other international organizations such as the Council of Europe, the European Parliament should make its opinions heard. The analyses and opinions contained in this report are the result of a great deal of work, a large number of studies and investigations concerning the development of sport and contacts with a number of French and international sports federations, and with the International Olympic Committee (IOC). While it would have been desirable to pursue these fruitful contacts since they were highly relevant to the issues at stake, we did not have sufficient time, since it was necessary to submit this report to the European Parliament before the end of its parliamentary term.

In order to understand the development of sport and its present trends, it would be useful to consider a number of questions : what is the function of sport, what is expected of it by those who engage in it and those who do not? And finally, what function is fulfilled or can be fulfilled by sport in the development of Europe and what can the Community do to promote sport?

Finally, your rapporteur welcomes the interest in our efforts evinced by the presidents of many national and international federations. From our contacts with those concerned it emerges that the importance of the task to be fulfilled by the European Parliament in improving the quality of sport in Europe is undisputed.

I - PRESENT SPORTING TRENDS IN EUROPE

As we have already pointed out, the development of sport is not strictly limited to Europe alone and even less to the Community. However, without neglecting the international aspect, which we will have the opportunity to consider more fully, we have concentrated on the present trends of sport in Europe.

A - Complexity and ambiguity of the sporting phenomenon

We consider that any attempt to give a totally satisfactory and hence comprehensive definition of sport and the activity it covers would be illusory since the simple fact of giving a precise definition would limit its scope and restrict its implications. For example, if sport is defined with reference to its games element, competition and intense physical activity requiring training, this relates essentially to competitive sports. However, for several years a form of activity known as 'sport for all' has developed which, according to the definition given by the Council of Europe, corresponds to various types of physical activity whether the latter takes the form of informal, spontaneous games or of a minimum amount of regular training.

In a more general sense, sport is open to all who wish to participate without discrimination as to age (from children to the elderly) and without excluding anyone (from those with exceptional physical abilities to the physically and mentally handicapped). In this respect sport, more than any other activity, prompts a genuinely universal view of mankind, since the sporting spirit prevails in every instance.

Not only is the practice of sport as a form of self-expression, physical expression and balance becoming increasingly common but it assumes a striking number of different forms and the ambitions and objectives of participants are equally varied.

Some have the opportunity to pursue an occupation which is also their hobby, while others, usually by choice or through the lack of certain physical or psychological qualities, regard sport as a complementary but sometimes essential activity to their life.

The success of the former has undeniably encouraged the latter, thereby promoting the recent development of mass sports as they are practised today.

Sport is also a social activity linked to the development of a certain type of society. It is becoming a consumer commodity which is all the more attractive since it is assured a vast audience, thanks to advertising by the mass media, while at the same time it is a means of remedying the more restrictive or harmful effects of modern society. Sport provides a means of combating the unhealthy effect of an excessively sedentary life and of urban existence by facilitating and even encouraging social contact.

It is this last aspect, in particular, which has encouraged the authorities of all Member States to promote sport. There is extensive evidence of this : the organization of sport in schools, the formation and training of national teams, and efforts to encourage as many people as possible to engage in sport. Such efforts take many forms : financial support for sporting associations, the provision of infrastructure, the training of sports instructors and the launching of advertising campaigns. Each country has acted in accordance with its traditions, some being more authoritarian and centralized, and others leaving greater freedom to local authorities or associations. But it is impossible to ignore a phenomenon which is an essential part of life for many individuals, attracts large crowds on occasion and hence fulfils a significant economic, social and political function.

B - The organization of sport

While the organization of sport is conditional partly by its origins, it has developed to meet the demands of a rapidly expanding sector.

The re-emergence of sport in the nineteenth century was the work of men and women who were attracted in particular by its beneficial effect on mental and physical health. Sport was first organized in the United Kingdom and then in Germany on a basis of associations, clubs or schools, which were interested in encouraging the practice of a given sport by increasing the number of participants and improving standards. The growing number of enthusiasts and the regional expansion of sport led to the introduction of regional or national organizations which, quite independently, formulated and harmonized the rules of the sport with which they were concerned. Finally, at international level, national federations joined international or European federations or associations with a view to codifying the practice of sport and organizing international events. Originally clubs and associations were financed by members' subscriptions.

Parallel to the development of sport on the basis of individual disciplines, the revival of the Olympic Games led to the constitution of an ad hoc organization, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), responsible for the organization and management of the Olympic Games and the enforcement of the Olympic rules, as defined at the end of the nineteenth century. The IOC is linked to each of its member countries by the national Olympic committees.

In addition to private national and international organizations, national governments have set up various administrative structures with a view to promoting sport; taking the form of regional and national ministerial bodies in France and organizations at state (Länder) level in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In principle, the three types of organizations are independent of each other. However, the expansion of sport and the resulting financial and political problems cannot fail to have a decisive influence on the development of their relationship with each other and on the future of sport itself.

C - The development of sport

The development of sport has raised a number of problems for which there are no miracle cures but to which attention must be drawn.

The increase in the numbers of sports enthusiasts and in the range of sports is a development. In principle, all can practise the sports best suited to their personalities. In sport, as other areas, an element of fashion naturally exists, one example being the enthusiasm for skateboarding which originated in the United States. This activity has died out as quickly as it appeared and is now only an occasional game for children. In the meantime, however, in certain countries local authorities have constructed expensive skateboard circuits which are now disused. Furthermore, fashions for certain types of sport do not necessarily encourage a taste for physical activity per se and lead to a plethora of small clubs and associations which, in order to survive, require injections of public funds, at the expense of the more traditional sports activities which continue to attract a solid body of sport enthusiasts.

1. Spectator sports

The strongest criticism is frequently levelled at the media, in particular television, for turning sport away from its original purpose for less idealistic ends. Such accusations regularly intensify particularly in the period covering the preparation and organization of the Olympic Games. However, it must be realized that any deviation of sport which may occur does not date from the advent of the cathode tube. Furthermore, it is unfair to criticize the spectacle provided by television broadcasts, since sport was a spectacle before the advent of television (while the essential aim of sport may be other than to provide a spectacle, the two have always co-existed harmoniously). Moreover, the advantages of broadcasting to a very large audience clearly outweigh the drawbacks. The most comprehensive coverage of sporting achievements and the 'elitist' elements of sport has served to make sport genuinely democratic and open to all, a fact which is paradoxical only in appearance.

Firstly, by identifying with sports personalities, the spectator wishes to become a performer. While the inner motives behind such emulation may be questioned, in the

final analysis the process creates sports enthusiasts. Secondly, considerable demand has been created among the public, bringing economic factors into play. The central position occupied by economic factors within our society is nothing new and the development of economic and financial structures connected with sport, together with the direct or indirect interest in sport shown by private or public undertakings and interest groups, was inevitable. Sponsorship is an example of this. Sport has become a consumer commodity which attracts a wide public. The mass production of sports material and equipment has led to a remarkable reduction in cost price and, as a result, in the retail price. While far from being alone, tennis perhaps provides the most eloquent and striking example. While ten years ago it was still largely the preserve of a social élite, it owes its massive expansion to the economies of scale subsequently achieved. Therefore, it is not a question of countering unfavourable effects but of setting the right course and maintaining it.

2. Sport and violence

One of the major problems currently arising from the development of sport and enthusiasm for sporting activities, even, or perhaps especially, when practised by others, concerns the element of violence. The desire of the contestants to win at any price, the chauvinism of the spectators, the economic and financial issues involved and media coverage combine both inside and outside the sports grounds to produce frequently serious outbreaks of violence.

While rules have been drawn up to discipline players (coloured cards in football matches, suspensions, banning from competitions, sending off, fines, etc.), and while the host sports clubs or organizations are held responsible for any excesses, violence is nevertheless becoming a very real part of the sporting world. We use the word 'becoming', but has this not, to a certain extent, always been the case? Sport involves a release of tension, particularly among the spectators, and a degree of violence among certain contestants. It may even be inherent in the sport, as in the case of boxing, to give but one example. However, this cannot hide the fact that the violence is becoming alarmingly widespread.

Concern at the growing violence in sport felt by both the contestants and the administrators of sports associations led in June 1981 to a manifesto in favour of non-violent sport and fair play being adopted by international agreement among a number of international associations and federations. At a symposium organized in 1982 by the Council of Europe on the subject of international sport and effective measures to prevent violence and encourage fair play, the final motion for a resolution called on the international sports federations, national associations, public authorities and the mass media to take the necessary measures to combat if not eliminate this

undesirable trend, which is diametrically opposed to the sporting ethos, including if necessary modifications to the rules of the game, the organization of information campaigns, measures to arouse awareness among journalists and measures to ensure public order and security inside and outside sports grounds. To date the numerous recommendations of this type have had little effect, the public authorities hesitating to intervene in the free administration of sport or in the coverage given by the media. The sports organizations do not have sufficient resources to ensure that the public behave in a disciplined fashion.

However, given the resurgence of violence among supporters at international football matches, on 17 November 1983 the European Sports Ministers adopted a declaration on violence and decided on practical measures, which it is hoped will have some effect on football matches and other sports events. In this connection, your rapporteur considers it necessary to observe that the deplorable outbreaks of violence which sometimes occur on sports grounds are connected with social problems relating in particular to civic education and family upbringing.

In this declaration, the Sports Ministers approve the practical measures to ensure public order proposed by the working party set up within the Committee for the Development of Sport at the Council of Europe, that is to say the separation of rival supporters, rigorous control of the sale of tickets and coordinated planning before the match by all concerned. It also requests that courts be given the power to impose sufficiently heavy penalties on spectators, including foreign visitors convicted of violent offences.

These recommendations are designed to overcome the most urgent problems and limit excessive outbreaks of violence but they have not yet been adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. While acknowledging the independence of sports federations, the Ministers urge the sports authorities and the public authorities to cooperate with each other.

In addition, your rapporteur proposes that greater attention be devoted to health problems in their various forms. For example, doctors and medical staff could be invited to attend a symposium on the subject.

3. Financing of sport

Finally we come to our last point concerning the modern development of sport, which is that the separation between professional and amateur sport no longer exists. Everyone knows that the only true amateur sports enthusiasts at present are those whom your rapporteur, without meaning any offence - quite the opposite - would refer to as weekend sports enthusiasts, that is to say those who engage in a sport purely for pleasure or good health. No top performers in any discipline are now completely amateur in the sense that they engage in their sport purely for the love of it without receiving any remuneration or compensation. There are many reasons for this: (the publicity value of a champion for a country or private organization, ever fiercer competition, etc..) and they clearly stem from present-day circumstances. Unless athletes have considerable financial resources, do not work or have jobs which leave them an enormous amount of free time, it is impossible for athletes to train sufficiently well to compete at top-level national or international competitions and perform well, especially the Olympic Games, for which only the best are chosen.

To deny this basic fact is to ignore the reality of twentieth-century existence.

This naturally brings us to the problem of financing, which is becoming increasingly acute as a result of the expansion of sport, the development of equipment and the increasing number of international events. The growing volume of support is not always accompanied by an increase in the number of spectators actually present in the sports ground or sports hall. In addition, having come to expect top levels of performance, largely as a result of television broadcasting throughout the world, the public is becoming extremely demanding, which means that clubs or federations are constantly required to improve their facilities and the results obtained. Again, in order to keep up high standards and restore public attendance, at sports grounds or tennis courts for example, clubs and federations are forced to invite sports personalities at a cost which sometimes greatly exceeds their financial resources. Members' subscriptions have long ceased to be sufficient for clubs and associations, while assistance from the public authorities, either in the form of subsidies, the provision of facilities or the payment of training costs are far from meeting the needs of certain sports. If the event attracts a large public, club managers are forced to resort to advertising.

The European Ministers for Sport meeting in the Council of Europe have, on several occasions, stressed the need to formulate a voluntary code of conduct on the conditions for private financial subsidies to sport. A voluntary code along these lines has in fact been drawn up, while the European Committee on the Development of Sport has been called upon to consult the appropriate non-governmental organizations concerned on the consequences of financial subsidies to sport, the creation of a European satellite television network and the video cassette market.

However, one point which has not been raised is the problem of state support, that is to say the question of state-employed athletes, an issue which is becoming increasingly significant at international level.

4. Sport for all

Nevertheless, despite present trends, attention should now be drawn to the benefits arising from the development of sport.

The mass of those participating do not necessarily aspire to Olympic medals, world championships and other honours but, on the one hand, help to improve the general standard of the sport in question and, on the other, foster the more positive aspects of physical exercise, the promotion of physical fitness, the encouragement of social contacts, enthusiasm for sport and leisure, and the development of the sporting spirit.

The development of sport affects all age brackets. While not all the population is accustomed to or has a taste for physical effort (since sport must be a leisure and not an obligation), participation in sport commences at an increasingly early age, and it is therefore likely that physical exercise will become an integral part of life, in accordance with the adage coined by Juvenal, 'Mens sana in corpore sano'. It should be noted that the proportion of sports enthusiasts within the population as a whole differs greatly between nations considered as sports-orientated, such as the Federal Republic of Germany, with a figure of 47%, and those which are not, such as France, with a figure of 20%. Enthusiasm for sport and the corresponding mentality must be acquired at a very early age and in this respect schools provide an eminently suitable environment. However, while a taste for endeavour in the field of sport and enthusiasm for sport may be provided at school, as part of education, such trends can only be encouraged, maintained and developed by having examples to follow (emulation of top-level sports) and through the media (in particular the audiovisual media). Great efforts must be made to ensure that school sports receive the same recognition as other academic disciplines.

With this in mind the Member State authorities have, over recent decades, attempted to raise the standard of school sports. Nevertheless in the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and France, the time devoted to sport in schools averages approximately two and a half hours per week. This relatively limited time is partially compensated by the development of extracurricular activities in clubs or associations, particularly in the field of sport. Moreover, while the qualifications of physical education teachers are improving in these three countries as a result of their participation in further training courses, at the same time cut-backs have meant that a limited number of posts are available to these qualified teachers and that it has been necessary to introduce a 'numerus clausus', competitions and other methods of selecting candidates.

The international dimension of sport is an undeniable asset. While we have pointed to its less favourable aspects, it cannot be denied that sport nevertheless provides an ideal opportunity for the organization of international events. Sport has led to an increase in contacts between younger and older people, enabling them not only to meet on the sports ground but to get to know each other better and to discover and respect their differences. Sport is an indispensable means of promoting such contacts and fostering mutual understanding between nations.

Respect for others is essential for understanding between all individuals and not only to those who live on different sides of national borders. In all countries it is accepted that sport should not be limited to athletes, that is to say to those who are in good health and have the necessary physical qualities and a particular taste for competition, but that it should be made accessible to all, that is to say younger and older people from all social walks of life, whatever their physical condition, in particular those who for various reasons live on the fringe of society. Therefore in order to benefit man, sport must be adapted to the needs and capacities of all. This implies a change not only in outlook but also in organizations.

The objective of mass participation in sport is no longer to discover and prepare athletes capable of making up a national and international elite, but to enable everyone to develop their abilities as they wish by means of any form of physical activity. Seen from this point of view sport is therefore a means of integrating fringe groups. Significantly, when in 1975 the European Ministers of Sport meeting in the Council of Europe adopted a European Charter of Sport for All, they pointed out that by providing recreational activities and occupations

sport could contribute to social and personal development. The Charter defines the responsibilities of the public authorities in this area: financial aid, permanent cooperation with voluntary organisations, the creation of a national structure for the development and coordination of sport for all, a provision of lasting and easily accessible facilities and the formation of qualified administrative, technical and sporting personnel.

Hence the public authorities are called on to participate directly in the expansion of sport within this new framework. This implies a clear formulation of national sports policies, the provision of considerable resources and the willingness of clubs or associations to help them perform a function for which they have frequently not been prepared. Such a policy of sport for all is being backed up by advertising campaigns which have had only limited success, as has been observed not only in the Federal Republic of Germany but also in France.

In theory the principle of sport for all is an excellent idea, since it fulfils the growing aspirations of the public. However its appeal to the public should be, above all, immediate and spontaneous, and from this point of view its organization may be too inflexible in certain countries. Sport should remain above all a means of self-expression for the individual, who should enjoy complete independence in organizing his time in order to prevent this 'leisure' from becoming an additional constraint. It is also possible that the organization of sport for all may develop outside existing sports clubs and associations. The latter may suffer if they are unable, for financial reasons or because of their conception of sport, to adapt to the new approach. Your rapporteur takes the view, however, that private sports clubs should continue to provide a basis for all sports activity.

Finally, the theoretical question arises, should sport serve to improve the living conditions of the individual or society as a whole?

The complexity and ambivalence of sport as we have just summarized it leads us to the question of the function which can and should be fulfilled by the Community in this respect.

II - SPORT AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

If the task of the European Community is considered to be that of developing exchanges other than those of an economic nature between its Member States and if it is accepted that sport is an eminently suitable vehicle for contacts and meetings between sports enthusiasts throughout the world, and more particularly in the European Community, there must be a convergence of interests in specific areas.

Firstly, we must avoid duplicating the work of the Council of Europe, the dimensions and scope of which are described above. Moreover, we cannot overlook the fact that in Europe sports activities go beyond the strict confines of the Community of Ten, and that it is in this area more than anywhere else that contacts with the Eastern European countries are pursued most consistently and with the largest degree of success.

It is necessary to establish the extent to which the European Community, as a special type of multinational organization, can contribute to the development of sport in individual countries.

A - Promoting meetings and exchanges between sports enthusiasts

Within the framework established by national or international federations sport is characterized by an increase in the number of international events: European cups, championships, competitions, etc. The timetable of sports events is therefore particularly full and, according to the sports federations concerned, it would therefore be difficult to find a suitable time to hold the 'Community Games'. In addition to this technical difficulty, it is difficult for certain European federations to persuade their members to agree to such a geographical restriction when for years their activities have largely exceeded the Community framework. Finally, Community Games would contribute nothing new to the world of sport, which has already been given an international dimension by the holding of European and world championships.

One proposal, however, would interest a number of federations. the organization of Community Games, not for top level sportsmen, but for young

players at junior or intermediate level. For this age group it appears that a gap remains to be filled. The organization of such games would allow satisfying and successful youth exchanges to take place, would have a great impact among young people and would allow the participation of sports enthusiasts belonging to small teams or small countries which have little chance of participating at the higher levels often dominated by one or two larger countries. A possible alternative would be the organization each year of sports events at school or university level in a different Member State and limited to sports practised at school.

Having made this proposal which, in our opinion, would be supported by those concerned, contact should be made with the education authorities of the Member States, the sports authorities and the European Youth Forum.

In addition to sports events of this type, the organization of which is the responsibility of the bodies concerned, and to which the Community could contribute, the latter could also promote the development of exchange schemes in the world of sport, involving young sports enthusiasts wishing to train in one of the Community Member States and exchanges of teachers and instructors wishing to participate in training and information courses on practical teaching and instruction methods in the different Community Member States.

While the Community budget contains appropriations for exchange visits for young people, we consider that it would be desirable to make a specific entry, for exchanges between young sports enthusiasts, clearly defining the objective of these exchanges.

However, as things now stand, we do not consider it realistic to propose the creation of a 'Community team'. Firstly, the failure of athletics events between the United States and Europe scarcely provides an encouraging precedent. Moreover, we would face opposition from sports federations to the idea of a geographically restricted Europe which excluded the Spanish, Portuguese and Scandinavians, to mention but a few. The formation of a Community team would also face problems of admission criteria. To form a high-level team it would be necessary to draw on representatives of countries already achieving peak performances at international level, which would benefit neither Community sport, nor Community athletes. If a scheme of proportional representation for the ten Member countries of the

Community were adopted, in terms of performance the result would be an unbalanced team and from the political point of view, would lead to endless deliberations to establish a sports quota for each country. In more general terms the fact of competing under a Community emblem would merely displace the problem of national teams with the consequences already mentioned in respect of the Olympic Games. Furthermore, deplorable as it may be, Community 'nationalism' is not understood and accepted by the Community nations, our objective is not to compete on equal terms with the United States and the Soviet Union to win medals and records but to encourage the practice of sport in the Community.

Encouraging the practice of sport in the Community means encouraging mobility among professional and other sportsmen who wish to practise their sport in another Community Member State on a temporary or permanent basis.

B - Free movement of sports enthusiasts

In this area we are confronted with two requirements, on the one hand the provisions of the Treaty of Rome concerning freedom of movement and establishment of workers and, on the other hand, the independence of sports federations which issue their own rules.

The principle of freedom of movement of persons and services (Articles 48 to 66 of the Treaty) is established as one of the foundations of the Community by the Treaty of Rome. It is also one of the conditions for the achievement of a vast European market. However, for 25 years, no link was established between this economic activity and sports activity. It was not until the 1970s that, in reply to a number of written questions by the Members of this Assembly (for instance, Written Questions No. 379/70 by Mr SEEFELD and No. 196/71 by Mrs FLESCH) the Commission referred to the possibility of applying the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of nationality to the field of professional sports.

A judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Communities of 12 December 1974, *Walgrave and Koch v. UCI* (Reports, 1974, page 1405), confirms this approach, stating that the so-called alien clauses contained in the rules of certain sports federations restricting the presence of foreign participants could not be applied to participants from a Community Member State. The Court laid down the conditions

for application of this rule (which it confirmed in a second judgment of 14 July 1976, *Dona v. Mantero* - Reports, 1976, page 1333) which may be summarized as follows:

- the practice of sport must constitute an economic activity within the meaning of Article 2 of the Treaty;
- private groups and government authorities must comply with the principle of the freedom of movement of persons and services.

However, the requirements of competitive sport at international level are such that the Court specified that:

'The prohibition of discrimination based on nationality does not affect the composition of sports teams in particular national teams, the formation of which is a question of purely sporting interest and as such has nothing to do with economic activity'.

This judgement will have the advantage of prompting certain football federations to allow foreign competitors to participate.

However, competitive sport at international level remains by nature hostile to genuine movement from one country to another of those engaged in sport. Indeed, a structure whose internal functioning is based on highlighting corporatism and nationalism, can scarcely accept a principle whose avowed aim is to eliminate it.

While the implementation of certain provisions of the Treaty would undeniably benefit professional sports, this is no easy task. To this end the Commission of the European Communities has a crucial role to play. It became aware of this in 1978 during the direct negotiations initiated by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) to attempt to suspend provisionally the strict application of the provisions on the freedom of movement of players between the federations of the Community Member States.

Generally speaking, the dispersion of regulatory bodies (sports authorities, government authorities or inter-governmental authorities) and the contradictions which sometimes arise between them makes it difficult to implement Community principles.

However, we must stress the need to ensure respect for one of the fundamental principles of the Treaty of Rome, namely the free movement of persons and the right of establishment, together with the mutual recognition of diplomas in the field of sport as in other professional spheres. Amateurs, however, are excluded from the scope of the Treaty.

Sports federations are independent in respect of rules governing the practice of sport and nothing should be done to infringe upon their competence in this respect. However, we do think that attention should be drawn to the need to harmonize the rules as far as possible in order to facilitate the practice of amateur sport. For example, an amateur tennis player with a licence to compete in Luxembourg may participate in all tournaments organized within this territory and the points won are taken into account for his classification within this country. If the same player wished to participate in a tournament in a neighbouring country he would not necessarily be authorized to do so without joining the federation of that country. Furthermore, the points won in that country would not be taken into account for his classification in Luxembourg and he would have little chance of obtaining a classification in a neighbouring country with different standards. This is only one example and we would not wish to impose our own views, given the problems of organization and competition faced by the federations. Nevertheless, it would, perhaps, be possible in certain cases to harmonize the rules and, if necessary, provide at least equivalence between sporting licences granted in the Member States of the Community, since in the present situation the idea of Community sports licences appears to be Utopian. Such harmonization would allow all amateurs to participate without the least restriction in all competitions organized throughout the Community, for example, in a country in which they are on holiday. This would have a positive effect on sports tourism which is vigorously expanding, and promote opportunities for meetings and exchanges between Europeans. Of course this requires an agreement at Community level not only between the federations but also between insurance firms.

Finally, within the framework of the customs union and the free circulation of goods within the Member States of the Community, the European Parliament several times requested the Council to adopt the Commission's proposal for a regulation submitted in 1981 (COM(81) 378 final), which was subsequently modified (COM(82) 110 final)¹. This proposal for a regulation, introducing arrangements for movement

¹OJ No C 227, 8.9.81, page 3 and OJ No. C 247, 21.9.82, page 3

within the Community of goods sent from one Member State for temporary use in one or more other Member States, referred specifically in the annex to sports articles accompanying sports teams such as sports clothing, balls, racquets, nets and equipment for athletics and gymnastics, etc. This regulation, which was designed to simplify border transit facilities, was finally adopted by the Council on 19 December 1983¹.

However, sports articles have been excluded from the list of items to which such arrangements could apply. Concerned at the possibility of fiscal fraud, the Council excluded from the field of application of the regulation all articles for which tax exemptions were not already granted under international agreements. We can only protest at the faint-hearted attitude displayed by the Council in this connection and call on the Commission to persevere in its efforts to promote the free movement of goods and hence, indirectly, the development of intracommunity contacts between sports enthusiasts.

C - Sport and relations with the Third World

We have indicated that sport could provide the ideal opportunity for meetings and exchanges between the nations of the world and, in our opinion, this applies particularly to relations between the Community and the countries associated with it under the Lomé Conventions. The new Lomé Convention is to contain a section on culture, in accordance with the wishes of the ACP countries and the European Parliament. In our view, it would be desirable for such cultural cooperation to be interpreted as widely as possible to include cooperation with regard to sport based on contacts between young sports enthusiasts, assistance for the purchase of equipment and the training of personnel and managers for ACP clubs and associations.

Furthermore, the European federations should recognize the function which can be filled by sport in promoting overall balanced development in the Third World countries and facilitating participation by their teams on equal terms in major sports events so that, without lowering qualifying standards for sports participants and the quality of sport in general, the participation of those countries and hence by the same token the expansion of sport there is not discouraged by the rules devised by and for the industrialized countries.

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¹OJ No. L 2, 4.1.84, page 1

Sport is part of everyday life and should not be considered as a secondary activity without influence on the cultural, economic and political life of a country. The organization of sporting activities involves a permanent exchange of information. The necessary consultations should take the form of annual meetings between representatives of the sports federations and European organizations.

In addition, Europe must demonstrate a capacity to transcend political differences and organize sport in the interest and to the satisfaction of all. Sport should be considered in the same way as music, painting and literature. Politicians should not dictate what works should be composed or what competitions should be held but should encourage and promote composition and creative activity. Therefore, measures should be taken to ensure that sport can provide a means of self-expression and become more democratic so that everyone can derive the benefits they are entitled to expect. Only then will it be possible to remedy certain undesirable trends and ensure that sport enables the individual to achieve greater self-awareness and social fulfilment. In this context we consider that the Community should take the initiative, by using its resources to eliminate the obstacles to sports exchanges and thereby helping to fulfil the objectives of the Treaty.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

9 March 1981

DOCUMENT 1-977/80

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr HAHN, Mr KLEPSCH, Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO
CERRETTI, Mr VERGEER, Mr BROK, Mr PEDINI,
Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE, Mr DEL DUCA, Mr HENCKENS,
Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE, Mr NARDUCCI, Mr LÜCKER,
Mr van der GUN, Mr SIMONNET, Mr LANGES,
Mrs MAIJ-WEGGEN, Mr HERMAN, Mr GHERGO,
Mr CLINTON, Mrs SCHLEICHER, Mrs BOOT,
Mr VERHAEGEN, Mr ALBER, Mr SÄLZER, Mr WEDEKIND
and Mr HELMS

on behalf of the Group of the European People's
Party (Christian Democratic Group)

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the launching of European school sports
competitions

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the fact that sport is an essential part of our common culture,
- mindful of the fact that the interest shown in sport and its importance in our society are increasing as leisure increases,
- recognizing that sport is one of the key factors in a person's education and development, particularly during youth,
- conscious that a very large proportion of our young people take part in sports, both at school and college and in clubs, experiencing thereby a measure of self-fulfilment,
- wishing to give young people who are keen on sport the chance to meet one another outside their own countries,
- hoping to foster in our young people, by means of peaceful sports competitions, the sense of belonging together in the Community,

1. proposes

- (a) School sports competitions should be held each year in one Member State for young people from all the Member States;
- (b) They should be restricted to the sports taught in schools in the majority of the Member States;
- (c) Each year a different Member State should be asked to organize the competitions on a rota basis;
- (d) The Community authorities should begin discussions to this end with the education authorities in the Member States; with sports organizations and with the European Youth Forum;

2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council of the European Communities.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982 - 1983

10 March 1982

DOCUMENT 1-12/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr BROK, Mr PFENNIG, Mr ESTGEN,
Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS, Mrs BOOT, Mr DEL DUCA and
Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the holding of games in the European
Community

The European Parliament,

- wishing to enhance the awareness of belonging to a Community in the EEC,
 - with the aim of encouraging contact between the young people of the Member States at the sporting level,
 - having a regard to a proposal by the Berlin Senator, Elmar Pieroth,
 - believing this to be a peaceful way of demonstrating that West Berlin is part of the EEC,

 - having regard to the interim report by Mr Israel (Doc. 1-149/81) and the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Langes (Doc. 1-386/80) on the designation of Olympia as the permanent home of the Olympic games,
1. Proposes that every four years the Member States of the European Community hold pre-Olympic games in West Berlin;
 2. Calls upon the Commission to conduct negotiations to this effect with the sports associations concerned;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Community.

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

16 July 1982

DOCUMENT 1-514/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VERGÈS, Mrs BADUEL-GLORIOSO, Mr CHAMBEIRON,
Mrs DURY, Mr FERNANDEZ, Mr FRISCHMANN, Mrs LE ROUX,
Mrs POIRIER, Mrs SQUARCIALUPI, Mrs WEBER and
Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the participation of football teams from the Third World

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the upsurge of interest in sport is an essential factor in the emergence of the countries of the Third World,
- B. having regard to the excellent results achieved by teams from the Third World in the last World Cup, in particular victories over major European teams,
- C. whereas the advancement of sport in these countries must be recognized and encouraged,
- D. whereas the number of Third World teams represented in the final stage of the World Cup does not reflect the standards of football in these countries,
- E. whereas the participation of these teams in the final stage of the World Cup does not reflect their achievements and contribution to the development of football,

Calls on FIFA (the International Football Federation) to create the conditions for greater representation of and non-discrimination against these teams at the next World Cup.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

20 October 1982

Doc. 1-746/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr JUNOT, Mr Ingo FRIEDRICH, Mr PFLIMLIN,
Lord HARMAR-NICHOLLS, Mrs VEIL, Mrs Louise MOREAU,
Mr VANDEWIELE, Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS, Mr PESMAZOGLOU,
Mr DONNEZ, Mr D'ORMESSON, Mr FAURE, Mr ANSQUER,
Mr COUSTE, Mr CRONIN, Mr DELEAU, Mr DENIAU,
Miss de VALERA, Mrs EWING, Mr FLANAGAN, Mr GERONIMI,
Mr ISRAEL, Mr DELATTE, Mr LALOR, Mr de la MALENE,
Mr MOUCHEL, Mr NYBORG, Mr PAULHAN, Mr REMILLY,
Mr VIE, Mrs WEISS, Mrs DURY, Mrs VAYSSADE, Mr JONKER,
Mr SPINELLI and Mrs PRIVOT

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the establishment of a sporting competition to be
known as the 'Community Games'.

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the need to take measures to revive the concept of the European Community in the minds of the public,
- B. having regard to the popularity of sporting competitions, in particular those between athletes of different nationalities,
 - 1. wishes competitions including the same disciplines and based on the same principles as the Olympic Games, to be organized between sportsmen from the Member States of the Community;
 - 2. requests that these Community Games be held every two years, the first in spring 1984 at the time of the next European elections;
 - 3. instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

8 November 1982

DOCUMENT 1-823/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr GONTIKAS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the establishment of Community athletic games

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

- A. whereas athletic games unite nations and, in particular, their youth, in noble pursuits,
- B. appreciating that athletics and the Olympic idea promote the unity of the European Community,
- C. having regard to the proposal of the President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr KONSTANTINOS KARAMANLIS, to hold the Olympic Games in Greece,
 - 1. Expresses its wish that athletic games be organized between the Member States of the Community;
 - 2. Requests that these games be held every two years in a different country, commencing with Greece (the country where the Olympic idea originated) in the spring of 1984 to coincide with the European elections;
 - 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission of the European Communities.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

15 December 1982

DOCUMENT 1-1046/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr CALVEZ and Mr DAMSEAUX

pursuant to Rule 47 of
the Rules of Procedure

on the organization of a European
athletics meeting in Strasbourg

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas international sporting events attract audiences of all ages and from all walks of life,
- B. whereas first class sport is covered by EUROVISION television broadcasts, radio commentaries and press articles, which are of interest to millions of men and women in the Community,
- C. whereas athletics is practised in all the countries of the Community and that major sporting events are planned several years in advance,
 - 1. Hopes that on the occasion of the next European elections, the Community and the European Parliament will agree to sponsor an athletics meeting bringing together the best athletes from the Member States;
 - 2. Requests that contacts be established with the European Athletics Association to fix a possible date for a meeting to take place in STRASBOURG before June 1984, during a part-session of the European Parliament, and which would include in its programme events held at the Olympic Games;
 - 3. Requests that the European Parliament take responsibility, if necessary, for covering the financial deficit of this sporting event.

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

13 July 1983

DOCUMENT 1-571/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr FERNANDEZ

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the training of personnel engaged in physical
activities and sport

The European Parliament,

- A - having regard to the considerable development there has been in physical training and sport in many areas of activity, in an extremely wide variety of forms and structures,
 - B - whereas the contribution they make to developing the character and maintaining the physio-anatomical potentialities of adults is a fundamental one,
 - C - convinced that thorough training of sport personnel is the only way to meet the many demands made by the development of such activities,
 - D - having regard to the lack of uniformity in the level of qualifications currently held by such personnel,
 - E - considering that this sector of activity is in a process of full expansion and consequently creates a large number of skilled jobs,
1. Requests the Commission to put forward a number of recommendations and to promote exchanges between Community countries;
 2. Calls on the Commission as a first stage to carry out a thorough study of the various types of training and review the present state of personnel training within the European Community;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council of the European Communities.

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983.-1984

13 July 1983

DOCUMENT 1-572/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr FERNANDEZ

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on physical education and sports instruction



The European Parliament,

- having regard to the value of physical education and sports instruction in developing not only physical and mental capacities but also emotional balance and social and cultural relations;
 - convinced that such training is vital for the development of the personality and also promotes equilibrium and versatility;
 - having regard to the problems of providing such training in primary and nursery schools;
1. Requests the Commission to study different methods of assimilating physical education and sports instruction into the initial years of schooling within the European Community, giving special attention to the following problems:
 - the training of competent staff;
 - timetables of theoretical and practical training;
 - the context of these activities.
 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council of the European Communities.

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

198³-198⁴

13 July 1983

DOCUMENT 1-573/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr FERNANDEZ

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on professional sport

PE 84.000/Ann.IX /fin.

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the growing impact of professional sport among the peoples of the European Community;
 - B. having regard to the major financing problems faced by certain professional clubs, given the competitive escalation of costs at national and international level;
 - C. deeply concerned at the difficulties faced by certain sportsmen in finding further employment at the end of their careers;
 - D. having regard to the specific problems arising in reconciling sporting ethics and the economic facts of life, in particular sponsoring;
1. Requests the Commission to carry out a survey of the various means of financing professional sport used by the organizations concerned within the European Community and to investigate the various policies followed in this connection, with particular regard to the integration of high-level sportsmen;
 2. Requests the Commission to draw up directives with a view to raising standards in general and ensuring that a more ethical approach is adopted within this sector;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and Council of the European Communities.

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

24 November 1983

DOCUMENT 1-1095/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr PURVIS and Mr SIMMONDS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on discipline during and after football matches

The European Parliament,

- A - deploring the damage and disruption caused by English football hooligans in Luxembourg on 16 November 1983, being only the most recent of many similar occurrences,
 - B - concerned that innocent Community citizens suffer at the hands of a despicable minority,
 - C - questioning whether such events, as currently conducted, do anything good for mutual understanding or the game of football,
1. Calls on the Community Member States to agree
 - (a) on the mutual financing by precept on football teams of adequate policing before, during and after football matches;
 - (b) on effective methods of punishment and reeducation of offenders, preferably in their country of origin;
 - (c) on an effective information exchange which will identify and isolate offenders so as to prevent such occurrences;
 - (d) on sanctions against football teams which do not successfully regulate the behaviour of their supporters;
 - (e) on generous compensation to those affected by the depredation of football hooligans to be financed from a levy on football teams and to be administered by a Europe-wide body;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this motion for a resolution to the President of the Commission, Council of Ministers and Union of European Football Federations.

PE 84.000/Ann. X/fin.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

12 December 1983

DOCUMENT 1-1170/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr ROMUALDI, Mr ALMIRANTE, Mr BUTTAFUOCO and
Mr PETRONIO

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on a common emblem for athletes of the ten Community
countries taking part in the next Olympic Games

The European Parliament,

- A. Whereas sport is a universal pursuit which breaks down the barriers between nations,
 - B. Whereas sport is a symbol of peace and union between peoples,
 - C. Conscious, in this difficult period of crisis, of the need to increase efforts for European integration,
 - D. Having particular regard to the importance of publicizing the idea of Europe in the year of the second direct elections to the European Parliament,
 - E. Whereas in 1984 the Olympic Games will be a meeting-place of global interest, of which every individual will be aware,
1. Hopes that the athletes of the ten Community countries, competing under the flags of their own separate states at the next Olympic Games, to be held in Los Angeles, will also be provided with a single common emblem as a symbol that they belong to the European Community, their ideal common homeland.
 2. Requests the President of the European Parliament to forward this motion for a resolution to the Commission.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr LECANUET, Mr PFLIMLIN, Mr ESTGEN, Mr VANDEWIELE, Mr KLEPSCH, Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO-CERRETTI, Mr VERGEER, Mr GHERGO, Mr BEUMER, Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS, Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE, Mr HAHN, Mr PEDINI, Mr BROK, Mr MARCK, Mrs L. MOREAU and Mr McCARTIN

on behalf of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democratic Group) pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure on the participation of European Athletes in the forthcoming Olympic Games in Los Angeles

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

- A - aware of the importance to the public of the Olympic Games the revival of which was instigated by Pierre de Coubertin,
 - B - aware that the participation of the countries of the European Community individually does not truly reflect at world level the vitality of sport in Europe,
 - C - aware that current regulations on this matter rule out the entry of a single European Community team at the forthcoming 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles,
1. requests that the national Olympic Committees meet to consider what changes should be made to the Olympic Charter to allow a united European team to be entered for the 1988 Olympics,
 2. calls on the governments and the national Olympic Committees concerned with the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles to make immediate arrangements to have a distinctive emblem such as the flag of the European Community sewn on athletes' tracksuits, thus giving them a sense of community and common purpose at the Games.