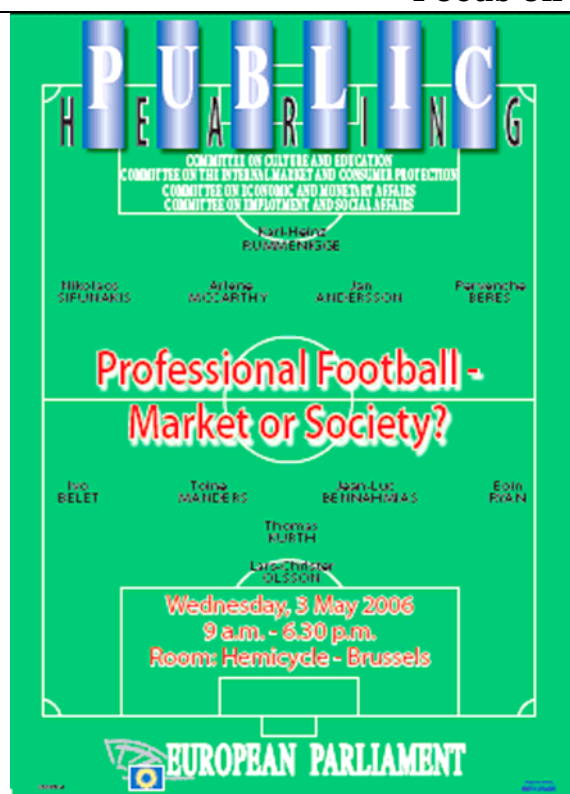


The *CULT* Gazette

Newsletter from the European Parliament
Committee on Culture and Education

Meetings in Brussels: Tuesday, 25 & Thursday, 27 April 2006

Focus on Public Hearing



A hearing on "Professional Football - Market or Society?" was organised last 3 May 2006 by the Committee on Culture and Education, jointly with three other committees (Committee on Internal market and Consumer Protection, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs). It attracted major attention in the media throughout Europe.

The CULT Committee decided to devote its part of the hearing to two aspects: the role of football as a tool for social integration and the question of the future of European football linked to the development of rules which help to support the training of young local talents. In the panel on integration experts and practitioners took the floor to describe their experiences. Ghana-born player *Salou Ibrahim* shared his experiences as a player who came to Europe as a youngster and who started his career in Germany before moving to Belgium where he is playing now for first division club Zulte-Waregem.

He underlined the importance of language skills as a basic prerequisite for being accepted and integrated in social environment. *Tony Russell* from Scottish Celtic Glasgow presented the education programme which the club has set up in order to keep a close link to the local community and to take part in educational measures which are jointly organised with public institutions. He stated that the element of social inclusion is an essential part of the club's mission since its founding years in the 19th

century. This is underlined by a social charter the club has established. Speaking in his capacity as the chairman of the Independent Football Review, a study project which has been initiated under the UK presidency in 2005 and which receives support from several Member States governments, *José Luis Arnaut* presented the main findings of the study due to be published in June. He stressed the importance to include the social and educational function of football if a correct picture of football is to be drawn.

The second panel dealt mainly with the "home-grown player rule", a rule designed by UEFA in order to give greater incentive to clubs to train young local talents. This initiative is to be seen in the context of safeguarding the future of European football, according to UEFA CEO *Lars-Christer Olsson*. Stronger support for young talents would help to make clubs more aware of their social and educational role, reverse the trend of eroding local identity and counterbalance financial strength of a few potent clubs. Ultimately such a measure would help to reverse the trend of predictability of results which threatens football as a whole. *Thomas Kurth*, representing the G-14, the group of Europe's most successful clubs, did not oppose *per se* to measures increasing local commitment of clubs. However, he underlined the need for legal certainty of such rules since they can entail heavy financial implications for the clubs. For the economic activities of a club it is crucial to know that rules are legally valid for a certain period and cannot be challenged in court. As regards the future of football he advocated a new approach of how leagues are managed which should increase the influence of clubs in the decision-making process in national and European associations. *Emmanuel Macedo De Medeiros* stressed his main concern that economic activities have increased strongly in the last two decades, leading to a widening gap between "rich" and "poor" clubs. The Bosman case had detrimental effects on the financial situation of many clubs. As a way of limiting economic imbalances collective selling of TV rights could be used. The "home-grown player rule" is one of several elements to safeguard the future of football. Finally *Odile Quintin*, Director General of the European Commission, emphasised the important social function of sport which is also underlined by the Nice Declaration of the European Council in 2000 which gives sport a special role. However, the economic activities of clubs have to follow the rules created by Community law. As regards the support for young local players the Commission accepted the request by UEFA to analyse its "home-grown player rule". Such an assessment would have to determine if such rules are necessary and proportional to achieve the objective envisaged. The Commission aims at concluding this analysis soon. Moreover, she announced that the White Paper on Sport in Europe, which the Commission expects to adopt next year, will define the specific characteristics of sport in Europe.

In organising the follow up to this hearing, an initiative report on "The future of professional football in Europe" will be drafted, to which five parliamentary committees will contribute (Committee on Culture and Education, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and Committee on Legal Affairs). The Committee on Culture and Education will take the lead. Its draftsman is Mr. Ivo Belet (EPP-ED).

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Exchange of view with the European Commission

□ Mr Jan FIGEL, Commissioner for education, training, culture and multilingualism



A discussion took place with Commissioner M. Jan Figel on the current work in progress in the field of culture and education. He first emphasized the achievements of the last few months: the "European Capital of Culture 2007-2019", the programme "Europe for citizens", the key competences for education and lifelong learning, the European quality Charter for Mobility, the UNESCO

Convention, the European Year for Intercultural Dialogue, or the multilingualism initiative report. Thanks to the agreement reached on the 2007-2013 Financial Perspectives, a clear financial framework is now available. He underlined indeed the increase in funding for programmes directly related to the new Lisbon Agenda, such as the new lifelong learning programme with an extra 800 million € budget. Additional funding for programmes that reach out to citizens, such as culture, youth, health and consumer protection is

therefore secured. He also emphasized the administrative simplification for the end users as well as the implementation of new programmes. He then described the Annual Policy Strategy, which sets out the goals for 2007. It aims to enhance the confidence of EU citizens towards the work of the European Union. The new Education and Culture Programmes, starting in 2007 will make an important contribution to the objectives of prosperity, solidarity and security, by teaching European citizens how to work together and by promoting mutual understanding and respect. He also stated that a communication on the role of culture for the future of European integration will soon be presented by the Commission as well as a White paper on sport taking into account the views of all organisations and authorities involved in this field. Commissioner Figel finally described the creation of an EIT (European Institute of Technology) and stated that it will be essential to improve Europe's competitiveness. It will be financed thanks to various sources including the EU, the Member States and the business community. In attracting the best and most talented students, researchers and staff worldwide, the creation of an EIT will be an important step in filling the current gap that exists between higher education, research and innovation. To conclude, Commissioner Figel stated that education, training and new policies should have a central position as they would contribute to the reforms Europe needed, building a true knowledge economy and society.

Rapports

□ Key competences for education and lifelong learning

Consideration of draft report

The rapporteur, Mrs. Helga Trüpel (V/ELA), presented her draft report on the proposal for a Recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning. She welcomed the Commission proposal for its support to achieve the objectives of the reinvigorated Lisbon strategy and for its particular importance in the context of life-long learning. In this respect she emphasised the need for greater investment in education, training and skills. She stressed the importance of creating such a European frame of reference for key competences offering European citizens a necessary tool to adapt to an evolving labour market in a knowledge based society, but at the same time underlined the need to grant access to these competences to all European citizens, including those with special needs (such as early school leavers, the disabled, long-term unemployed, older people and those with low basic skills). The rapporteur provided a more detailed definition of the knowledge and attitudes which lie at the basis of civic competence and stressed in particular the importance of the European dimension, which is closely linked to knowledge of European history and of the European process of integration and an awareness of a European cultural identity and shared values. The rapporteur also highlighted the importance of a sense of initiative as a key competence and proposed that the designation and definition of this key competence be expanded to include 'cultural awareness'. Mrs. Trüpel emphasised that it is not just the acquisition of key competences but also the further development and updating of key competences through life-long learning which should be promoted intensively in order to support further learning and employability. Finally she welcomed the fact that the proposal seeks to support the development of Member States' lifelong learning strategies and education and training systems and hence promote curricular reforms and the creation of a coherent adult education and training provision.

Adoption in CULT: 29 May 2006

Adoption in plenary: June 2006

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□ i2010: Bibliothèques numériques

Echange de vues

Pendant ce deuxième échange de vues sur la proposition concernant i2010: les Bibliothèques numériques, le rapporteur, Mme Marie-Hélène Descamps (PPE-DE), a présenté un document de travail avec des premières remarques et questions, auxquelles la Commission européenne a fourni des réponses lors du débat. En particulier, les thèmes qui ont fait l'objet de la discussion concernent principalement l'architecture du projet (25 bibliothèques numériques et/ou une Bibliothèque numérique européenne), le caractère multilingue de l'instrument, la définition du type d'œuvres qui feraient prioritairement l'objet de la numérisation, la nécessité d'avoir le plus tôt possible une cartographie des œuvres numérisées dans les différents pays européens, l'identification et le rôle des centres de compétences chargés de la numérisation des œuvres, la diffusion et promotion du projet à travers le plus grand nombre de canaux possibles, la recherche d'un nom pour le projet qui soit plus accrochant pour les citoyens et capable d'illustrer la diversité du patrimoine culturel et linguistique de l'Europe. Elle a aussi souligné l'importance d'une mise en place d'une instance de

coordination du projet, à côté du Groupe d'experts d'haut niveau. Dans ce sens elle a demandé à la Commission de recevoir les résultats de la première rencontre de ce groupe qui vient d'avoir lieu. Finalement elle a invité la Commission à adopter la recommandation aux Etats membres prévue dans la proposition au plus vite pour que le Parlement puisse en être, de conséquent, saisi en co-décision.

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❑ **Revision of the "Television without Frontiers" Directive**

Exchange of views

A second exchange of views took place on the proposal for revision of the Directive concerning the coordination of certain provisions in Member States concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities ("Television without frontiers" Directive), for which Mrs Ruth Hieronymi (PPE-DE) has been appointed draftswoman. She reported on the further steps taken by the *ad hoc* Working Group composed by the draftsmen of the committees which are due to deliver an opinion (ECON, ITRE, IMCO, LIBE, FEMM) as well as on the joint hearing to take place on 1-2 June. During the debate many questions were raised to the Commission, in particular concerning issues such as the scope of the Directive, self and co-regulation, advertising, transparency, short services, copyrights, consumer protection and pluralism. A draft report will be presented at the CULT Committee meeting in July. The report will be adopted by CULT in October and by the EP Plenary in December.

Vote and adoption in CULT: October 2006 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: December 2006 (tbc)

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❑ **Année européenne du dialogue interculturel (2008)**

Vote and adoption of a draft report

The report on the European year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 by Mrs Erna Hennicot-Schoepges (PPE-ED) was voted. The 46 amendments in the final text stress that the European Year 2008 should:

- generate sustainable actions after 2008 as well as continuity and coherence with the 2007 European Year of Equal opportunities;
- accentuate the cultural and educational dimension contained in the renewed Lisbon strategy and making education a key medium for teaching about diversity and increasing understanding of other cultures, promoting mobility and exchanges;
- increase and structure cooperation with actors on the ground, by actively involving numerous civil society partners in the preparation and implementation of the year, as well as with the European institutions and national and regional authorities and with international organisations such as the Council of Europe and UNESCO;
- raise the awareness of European citizens of the importance of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue in everyday life;
- establish a Prize for Intercultural Dialogue as well as a web portal to make all actions in the field of intercultural dialogue accessible to the general public;
- increase the Community grant from 50 to 80% to facilitate the implementation of projects for cultural operators
- promote a more active role of the European Parliament to ensure the continuity of the action and to ensure that respect for intercultural dialogue is one of the criteria for evaluating all the Union's work.

Adoption en plénière: Mai 2006

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Opinions

❑ **Value added tax (VAT): supply of services (amendment Directive 77/388/EEC)**

Consideration of draft opinion

The committee adopted the draft opinion by the draftsman, Mr Gyula Hegyi (PES), on the revision of the so-called VAT directive, concerning the areas relevant to the CULT committee, such as audiovisual services

and distance teaching. As regards services to be supplied at a distance, in cases where the place of supply of services shall be the place where the consumer is located, the opinion stresses the importance to introduce the 'one-stop scheme' allowing suppliers to use a single VAT number for all services provided throughout the EU and therefore fulfil all obligations related to VAT in the Member State where they are established. In this respect it states that in the absence of such scheme, more administrative burdens would be created, which may hamper the supply of cross-border services. As regards recent technology changes and especially the proposal of the European Commission on the Television without Frontiers Directive, the text proposes the inclusion of both linear and non-linear audiovisual media services in the current proposal.

Adoption in plenary: 15-16 May 2006

Responsible Committee: ECON

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□ **European Qualification Framework**

Consideration of draft opinion

The objective of the planned European Qualification Framework (EQF) is to create a meta-framework which will enable qualifications systems at the national and sectoral levels to relate to each other. This reference structure will facilitate the transfer and recognition of qualifications held by individual citizens. The implementation of the EQF will be an important move towards realising the goal of providing real and attractive opportunities for lifelong learning at all levels.

Vote et adoption en CULT: 29 May 2006

Adoption in plenary: June 2006

Responsible Committee: EMPL

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□ **Mise en œuvre du programme communautaire de Lisbonne: davantage de recherche et d'innovation - investir pour la croissance et de l'emploi**

Examen d'un projet d'avis

M. Guy Bono (PSE), Rapporteur sur le rapport d'initiative concernant la mise en œuvre du programme communautaire de Lisbonne: davantage de recherche et d'innovation - investir pour la croissance et de l'emploi, a présenté son projet d'avis. Après avoir rappelé l'importance de la recherche et de l'innovation pour la croissance et l'emploi, le rapporteur a fortement souligné la nécessité pour l'Union d'investir beaucoup plus dans la recherche (il regrette que l'objectif des 3% d'investissement dans la recherche prévu par Lisbonne ne sera pas atteint). Aussi, le rôle des universités dans la recherche devrait être très renforcé avec une amélioration de la carrière scientifique ainsi qu'une synergie entre l'enseignement supérieur et la recherche et le secteur privé développée pour éviter la fuite des cerveaux. Il a invité à une meilleure utilisation des fonds européens pour aider la création d'emplois et recommande que le futur Institut Technologique européen (EIT) soit compatible avec le Centre européen pour la recherche.

Vote et adoption en CULT: Mai 2006

Adoption in plenary: Juin 2006

Responsible Committee: ECON

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□ **Commission Recommendation of 18 May 2005 on collective cross-border management of copyright and related rights for legitimate online music services**

Exchange of views

The draftsman for an opinion on the recommendation, Mr Mavrommatis (EPP-ED) presented his perspective on the issue. He strongly suggested that the Commission, after having published the recommendation, should act more decisively and present a legal text which sets rules to regulate copyright management and related rights in the music industry. So far the Commission only wants to observe the developments in this sector without taking concrete action arguing that further empirical research needs to be done. The draftsman pointed out that the issue shows the effects of a situation whereby, to a large extent, rights management, the statute of collective rights managers and the role of artists in those collecting societies are organised according to diverging national laws and where this very heterogeneous situation conflicts with economic

trans-border activities which are subject to the rules set by the EU's internal market. He further suggested that right-holders should be less bound to the national boundaries and be able to choose freely their collective right manager, in order to increase competition and quality of services of such managers. As regards the payment of royalties, greater attention should be paid to ensure that right-holder actually receive the royalties they are entitled to. Seeing the growing number of commercial users providing to their clients some kind of music service this proves increasingly difficult.

Vote et adoption en CULT: 29 mai 2006

Responsible Committee: JURI

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❑ **Renewal of the interinstitutional agreement on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure**

Vote and adoption of draft opinion

The Commission representatives coming from the Directorates responsible for the programmes under the competence of the CULT committee were invited to describe the impact of the Agreement on budgetary discipline on each of the programmes and responded to the members' questions. The rapporteur, Mrs Ruth Hieronymi (EPP-DE) recalled the recently adopted committee position and the continuous effort of the committee to defend the budget of its programmes during the negotiations.

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Other activities

❑ **Delegations**

A delegation of the Culture and education Committee has visited Slovenia from 19 to 21 April. A report will be available soon on the COM CULT website.

❑ **Hearings**

A hearing on "The Audiovisual Media Services Directive" is due to take place next 1-2 June 2006.

List of recently appointed Rapporteurs for 2006

Report	Rapporteur
Education and lifelong learning: production and development of statistics	Nikolaos Sifunakis
TVSF - Television broadcasting services	Ruth Hieronymi
i2010: Digital Libraries	Marie-Hélène Descamps
The European natural and architectural cultural heritage in rural and insular areas	Nikolaos Sifunakis
Initiatives to complement national school curricula providing appropriate teaching materials to include the European Dimension	Christopher Beazley
New framework strategy for multilingualism	Bernat Joan i Marí
White Paper on Communication	Luis Herrero-Tejedor
The EU action in the field of Education through Sport: building on EYES 2004 achievements	Pál Schmitt
Interoperability of digital interactive TV service	Marianne Mikko
Opinion	Draftsman
Value added tax VAT: place of supply of services	Gyula Hegyi
Financial Perspective	Ruth Hieronymi
Implementing the Community Lisbon Programme	Guy Bono
Rules on participation for implementation of the 7th FP on Research (2007-2013)	Karin Resetarits
Commission Recommendation of 18 May 2005 on collective cross-border	Manolis Mavrommatis

management of copyright	
Situation of disabled people in the enlarged European Union - 2006-2007	Nikolaos Sifunakis
Creation of a European Qualifications Framework	Milan Gal'a
Budget 2007	Helga Trüpel

Composition du Secrétariat

<http://www.ipolnet.ep.parl.union.eu/ipolnet/cms/pid/111>

Dates of next meeting

- Brussels, Monday & Tuesday, 29&30 May 2006

If you wish to download the documents mentioned in the CULT Gazette, please click on:

http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/2004_2009/organes/cult/cult_meetinglist.htm

We say goodbye to Anna Lisa Boni who changed job within the EP administration.

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