

Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Year of Education through Sport 2004

(2002/C 25 E/13)

(Text with EEA relevance)

COM(2001) 584 final — 2001/0244(COD)

(Submitted by the Commission on 16 October 2001)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community and in particular Article 149 thereof

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty,

Whereas:

- (1) Promoting good quality education is one of the objectives of the European Community.
- (2) The educational values of sport were acknowledged by the Nice European Council of 7, 8 and 9 December 2000, thus confirming previous declarations, particularly Declaration 29 attached to the Amsterdam Treaty in which sport is defined as something which forges the identity of people.
- (3) The Nice European Council called upon the Community institutions to take due account of the educational values of sport in its action under various provisions of the Treaty, stressing in particular that it is important for Member States, with the support of the Community, to encourage voluntary activity.
- (4) The resolution of the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council of 17 December 1999 on the educational dimension of sport considers that sporting activities can have a teaching value which contributes to strengthening civil society and calls upon the European Commission to devise, in conjunction with the Member States, a coherent approach to exploit the educational potential of sport.
- (5) The European Parliament has adopted conclusions⁽¹⁾ confirming the opinion of the European Commission on

the educational values of sport and stressing the importance of sporting activities in acquiring meaningful social values such as team spirit.

- (6) The European Parliament had also called upon the European Commission to propose the organisation of a European Year of Sport⁽²⁾.
- (7) The Committee of the Regions noted in its opinion⁽³⁾ on the Commission's consultation paper 'The European model of sport' how important sport is in shaping the individual.
- (8) The Commission has, in its Helsinki report on sport, already examined the merits of using sport in education and youth-related matters given the values conveyed by sport.
- (9) Commission documents on lifelong learning and on the future objectives of education systems contain specific references to the added value that sports-based action can provide for the purposes of improving the quality of teaching.
- (10) Physical activity alone or as part of a team is the ideal way to offset the use of new technologies and its characteristic feature of sedentary and solitary work.
- (11) Careers in sport are starting increasingly early, the consequences for the young persons involved being disruption to their studies.
- (12) Sport makes it easier for people to move around and encourages multicultural exchanges. However, the opportunities in this area have not yet been fully exploited by education and academic organisations.
- (13) The 2004 Olympic Games in Athens will be very emblematic and have a high media profile. This must be used to open up sport and make it accessible to all citizens so that it can contribute to strengthening education policies. Other major sporting events such as the EURO 2004 football tournament in Portugal will also provide an opportunity to put the year's message across even more strongly.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 135, 7.5.2001, p. 274.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 200, 30.6.1997, p. 252.

⁽³⁾ COR 37/99 final of 15 and 16 September 1999.

(14) Raising awareness of the educational values of sport is essentially a question of effective action at national level in the Member States and this must be complemented by concerted efforts at the European level. The European year can thus serve as a catalyst to raise public awareness and bring dynamism to this action.

(15) Consistency and complementarity with other Community action are essential, particularly in the areas of countering discrimination and social exclusion and in promoting education, training, human rights and gender equality.

(16) The agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) provides for more extensive cooperation in the areas of education and youth between the European Community and its Member States and also with the countries of the European Free Trade Area participating in the European Economic Area (EFTA/EEA).

(17) The European year should be opened up to the participation of the applicant countries in central and eastern Europe in line with the conditions laid down in the Europe Agreements, in their additional protocols and in the decisions of the relevant association councils. For Cyprus, this participation will be funded by additional appropriations in accordance with arrangements to be agreed upon, and for Malta and Turkey by additional appropriations in accordance with the Treaty.

(18) This Decision lays down for the entire duration of the programme a financial framework constituting the prime reference, within the meaning of point 33 of the Inter-institutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission ⁽¹⁾ of 6 May 1999 on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure.

(19) In accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, as defined in Article 5 of the Treaty, the aims of the action proposed cannot be attained to a sufficient degree by the Member States acting on their own for reasons, which include the need for multilateral partnerships, transnational exchange of information and Community-wide dissemination of good practice. This decision does not go beyond what is necessary to attain those aims,

Article 2

Aims

The aims of the European Year of Education through Sport shall be:

1. to make education and sports organisations aware of the need for cooperation, given the educational importance of sport as a social phenomenon and its great capacity to permeate all levels of society particularly amongst young people;
2. to consider the use of the values conveyed through sport to develop the so-called basic educational skills whereby young people in particular can develop their physical prowess and also social competences such as working as part of a team, solidarity, tolerance and fair play;
3. to use the positive contribution of voluntary activity to parallel education, particularly that of young people, and to the development of the sporting movement;
4. to promote the educational value of pupil mobility and exchanges particularly in a multicultural environment and through the organisation of sporting and cultural contacts as part of school activity;
5. to encourage reflection and discussion on what needs to be done to promote the social integration of the disadvantaged groups through sport in education;
6. to encourage sport in the school curriculum in order to fight against the sedentary nature of the school population and thus contribute to improving pupils' physical wellbeing;
7. to consider the problems relating to the education of young sportsmen and sportswomen concerned by ever earlier sporting careers.

Article 3

Content of the measures

1. The measures taken to attain the objectives set out in Article 2 include the organisation of the following activities or the granting of support for these activities:
 - (a) meetings and events, including opening and closing conferences;
 - (b) voluntary actions during the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Athens;

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Proclamation of the European Year of Education through Sport

The year 2004 shall be proclaimed 'European Year of Education through Sport'.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 172, 18.6.1999, p. 1.

- (c) information and promotional campaigns to disseminate the educational values of sport;
- (d) cooperation with the media;
- (e) surveys and studies;
- (f) events designed to provide information and, in particular, examples of good practice;
- (g) financial support for transnational, national, regional or local initiatives to promote the objectives of the European Year of Education through Sport.

2. A detailed description of the measures set out in paragraph 1 is given in the annex.

Article 4

Implementation of the Decision and cooperation with the Member States

1. The Commission will be responsible for ensuring that the Community actions conducted pursuant to this Decision are implemented.

2. Each country will designate one or more appropriate bodies to be responsible for organising the country's participation in the European year, and for coordinating the action envisaged at national level; these bodies will assist in the selection procedure described in Article 7.

Article 5

Financial arrangements

1. Measures which are Community-wide in nature, as described in Part A of the annex, may be subsidised up to a maximum of 80 % of the total cost from the general budget of the European Communities.

2. Measures which are local, regional, national or transnational in nature, as described in Part B of the annex, may be co-financed from the general budget of the European Communities up to a maximum of 50 % of the total cost.

Article 6

Application and selection procedure

1. Applications for co-financing of actions from the Community budget under Article 5(2) shall be submitted to the Commission by the body/bodies referred to in Article 4(2). Applications must include information making it possible to assess the outcomes using objective criteria. The Commission will take the utmost account of the evaluation provided by the bodies concerned.

2. Decisions on the financing and co-financing of measures under Article 5 shall be taken by the Commission after obtaining the opinion of a group of experts. The Commission shall ensure a balanced distribution among the different fields of activity involved.

3. The Commission (in particular through its national or regional contact points) shall, in conjunction with the bodies referred to in Article 4(2), ensure that the calls for proposals are published in good time and distributed as widely as possible.

Article 7

Consistency and complementarity

1. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, shall ensure consistency between the measures provided for in this Decision and other Community actions and initiatives.

2. It shall also ensure optimal complementarity between the European Year of Education through Sport and other existing Community, national and regional initiatives and resources, where these can contribute to fulfilling the objectives of the European Year of Education through Sport.

Article 8

Participation by the EFTA/EEA countries, the associated countries of central and eastern Europe, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey

The European Year of Education through Sport shall be open to participation:

- by the EFTA/EEA countries in accordance with the conditions established in the EEA Agreement.
- by the candidate countries of central and eastern Europe in accordance with the conditions established in the Europe Agreements, in their additional protocols and in the decisions of the respective Association Councils.
- by Cyprus, whose participation shall be funded by additional appropriations in accordance with procedures to be agreed with that country;
- by Malta and Turkey, whose participation shall be funded by additional appropriations in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

Article 9

Budget

1. The financial framework for the implementation of this Decision is EUR 11,5 million (of which EUR 8 million will be allocated to 2004 and EUR 3,5 million to 2003 in order to prepare the launching of this Year from 1 January 2003).

2. The annual appropriations will be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspective.

3. At the Commission's initiative, funding may also be provided for the period 2004 for technical and administrative expenditure provided to the Commission and to the beneficiaries of the action alike, and not part of the permanent tasks under public service, and related to the identification, preparation, management, follow-up, audit and monitoring of the measures.

Article 10

International cooperation

The Commission may cooperate with appropriate international organisations for the purposes of the European Year of Education through Sport.

Article 11

Monitoring and evaluation

The Commission shall submit, by 31 December 2005 at the latest, a report to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the measures provided for in this Decision.

Article 12

Entry into force

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

ANNEX

NATURE OF THE MEASURES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 3

A. Action at Community level

1. Meetings and events:

- (a) organisation of meetings at Community level;
- (b) organisation of events to raise awareness on education through sport, including the conferences to open and close the European Year of Education through Sport;
- (c) voluntary actions on the occasion of the 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Athens and of other major sporting events in the Community.

2. Information and promotional campaigns involving:

- (a) the development of a logo and of slogans for the European Year of Education through Sport, for use in connection with any activity linked to the year;
- (b) an information campaign on a Community-wide scale;
- (c) the production of tools and aids accessible to people throughout the Community;
- (d) appropriate initiatives by European organisations active in the education and sports areas aimed at disseminating information on the European Year of Education through Sport;
- (e) the organisation of European competitions highlighting achievements and experiences on the themes of the European Year of Education through Sport.

3. Other actions:

- (a) Cooperation with broadcasting and media organisations as partners for spreading the information about the European Year of Education through Sport, for using new tools allowing easier access to this information (such as voice subtitling for the hearing impaired and images description for the visually impaired), and to other programmes if possible, and for improving communication about education through sport;
- (b) Surveys and studies on a Community-wide scale, including a series of questions intended to:
- (c) help to attain the objectives mentioned in Article 2;
- (d) assess the impact of the European Year of Education through Sport, to be included in a Eurobarometer survey and an evaluation report on the effectiveness and impact of the European year.

4. This funding may be in the form of:

- (a) the direct purchase of goods and services, in particular in the field of communication, surveys and studies, via open and/or restricted calls for tenders;
- (b) subsidies allocated to cover the expenses of special events at European level to highlight and raise awareness of the European Year of Education through Sport; such funding shall not exceed 80 % of the total cost.

B. Action at national level

Depending on the nature and content proposed, local, regional, national or transnational actions may qualify for aid from the Community covering up to a maximum of 50 % of the total cost. These actions could, for instance, include:

1. events connected with the objectives of the European Year of Education through Sport, including an event to launch the year;
2. information campaigns and measures to disseminate examples of good practice, other than those mentioned in Part A above;
3. the organisation of awards or competitions;
4. surveys and studies other than those mentioned in Part A above.

C. Action for which no financial aid from the Community budget is available

The Community will offer its moral support, including written authorisation to use the logo and other materials associated with the European Year of Education through Sport, for initiatives undertaken by public or private organisations, where those organisations can satisfy the Commission that the initiatives involved are or will be in progress during the year 2004 and are likely to contribute significantly to achieving one or more of the objectives of the European Year of Education through Sport.
