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Education, Youth, Culture and Sport

Brussels, 28 November 2011

President **Ms Krystyna SZUMILAS**
Minister for National Education
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Minister for Sport and Tourism
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Main results of the Council

EDUCATION

*The Council adopted a **resolution on a renewed European agenda for adult learning.***

The Council also adopted conclusions on

- **language competences to enhance mobility;***
- **the modernisation of higher education;***
- **a benchmark for learning mobility.***

*In public, ministers held a policy debate on **investing effectively in education and training in a time of crisis***

YOUTH

*Ministers had a public debate concerning **youth cooperation beyond the EU.** The Council also adopted conclusions on the **Eastern dimension of youth participation and mobility.***

AUDIOVISUAL

*The Council adopted a decision concerning the signing of the **European Convention on the legal protection of services based on, or consisting of, conditional access.** It also adopted conclusions on the **protection of children in the digital world.***

CULTURE

*Ministers held a public debate on the **contribution of the cultural sector to economic recovery and growth.** It also adopted conclusions on **cultural and creative competences and their role in building intellectual capital of Europe***

SPORT

*The Council adopted a resolution on the **representation of the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA** and the coordination of the EU and its Member States' positions prior to WADA meetings.*

The Council also adopted conclusions on

- ***the role of voluntary activities in sport in promoting active citizenship;***
- ***combating match-fixing.***

*Furthermore, ministers held a public debate concerning **good governance in sport.***

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¹ Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks. Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>). Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

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State Secretary responsible for higher education and
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Mr Andy LEBRECHT

Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport (Scottish
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Deputy Permanent Representative

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Ms Neelie KROES
Ms Androulla VASSILIOU

Vice-President
Member

ITEMS DEBATED

EDUCATION

Language competences

The Council adopted conclusions on language competences to enhance mobility ([16744/11](#)) which are aimed primarily at re-emphasising that language learning is a key factor in enhancing individual mobility and employability, as well as having a positive impact on competitiveness.

The Polish Presidency recalled that language learning was one of its key priorities in the field of education and training: in addition to the social and cultural benefits it brings, multilingual citizens are better placed to take advantage of the many educational, professional and economic opportunities created by an integrated Europe.

Commissioner Vassiliou informed the Council that the Commission had launched a study on language skills, involving 14 member states, whose results which would be published in the course of 2012. She also recalled that language learning and multilingualism were among the main priorities of the new EU programme "Erasmus for all".

Modernisation of higher education

The Council adopted conclusions on this subject ([16746/11](#)), primarily in response to a Commission communication from last September ([14198/11](#) + [ADD 1](#)), which stressed the need for reforms in higher education in order to maximise the sector's potential, as well as its contribution to ensuring economic recovery and sustainable growth.

The conclusions also acknowledge that higher education - through its links with research and innovation - plays a crucial role in achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy, which set an ambitious target specifically in this field, namely that "by 2020 the share of 30-34 year olds who have completed tertiary or equivalent education should be at least 40 %".

Europe currently has around 4 000 higher education institutions, with over 19 million students and 1.5 million staff. There is consistent evidence to show that the unemployment rate of people having tertiary level qualifications is almost half of the rate of those who don't have them. Yet only 26 % of the EU workforce currently hold tertiary level qualifications.

Agenda for adult learning

The Council adopted a resolution on a renewed European agenda for adult learning ([16743/11](#)), which aims to bring fresh impetus to this important area of education. The agenda both sets out a long-term vision in this field up to 2020 and establishes a number of short-term priorities to be achieved by 2014.

Adult learning still lacks the recognition and resources afforded to other areas of education, yet it is generally acknowledged that such learning has an important role to play in terms of employability and mobility, as well as in enhancing social inclusion and personal development. This is particularly relevant in a Europe confronted with the triple challenge of an ageing working population, accelerating technological change and an increasingly competitive global economy.

In order to achieve the ambitious target that member states have set themselves of ensuring that 15 % of the working age population participate in some form of adult learning by the year 2020, it is therefore necessary to devote special attention to measures providing continued skills development and further education for the high number of low-skilled Europeans¹. A first step would consist in improving literacy, numeracy and digital skills and enhancing second-chance measures.

¹ In 2010, the average rate of adult participation in lifelong learning stood at 9.1 % - down from 9.8 % in 2005.

Benchmark for learning mobility

The Council adopted conclusions on a benchmark for learning mobility ([16745/11](#)), to complement the five existing reference levels of European average performance (or "benchmarks")¹, agreed under the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ("ET 2020")².

The new benchmark differentiates between three areas: mobility in higher education, mobility in vocational education and training and youth mobility in general, and will result in greater reliability and comparability when it comes to measuring the various types of learning mobility which the EU promotes.

Investing in education and training in a time of crisis

In the context of significant reductions in public spending across the EU, ministers discussed, in public deliberation, relevant issues such as the implications of the financial crisis for member states' education and training systems, what constitutes "effective investment" and which areas should be given priority at a time of limited resources.

The debate was preceded by a short presentation by Professor Ludger Wössmann, of the University of Munich's Institute for Economic Research of a study developed by European Expert Network on Economics of Education (www.eenee.org) on the cost to society of low educational achievement.

Member states acknowledged the crucial importance of investing in education in order to foster growth and employment in the medium term. A number of them said they had not cut education expenditure despite the current difficult economic situation, and some member states had even increased it in certain sectors. For instance, several member states considered that pre-school should be a priority for investment, since this was an area of education widely acknowledged as having long-term benefits for all pupils, but particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Several ministers also underlined in this context that successful investment in education and training was less a matter of the actual amount spent and more a matter of ensuring quality and value for money. They also argued in favour of a more results-based allocation of resources and a more efficient use of the European structural funds.

¹ Adult participation in lifelong learning: 15%; Tertiary level attainment: 40%; Early school leaving: 10%; Low achievers in basic skills: 10%; and Early childhood education: 95%.

² OJ C 320, 16.12.2008.

However, a significant number of ministers also agreed that new and sustainable forms of funding had to be found - in particular for higher education - and that collaboration with businesses and the private sector in general should be strengthened.

Several ministers also highlighted the crucial role of vocational training in fostering social inclusion and enhancing individual employability. Formal and non-formal education should therefore be valued and recognised.

One point stressed by almost all member states was the importance of teachers. Particular attention should be devoted to attracting the best graduates to teaching and ensuring relevant, high quality professional training.

Any other business

– ***"Erasmus for All"***

The Council took note of information presented by Commissioner Vassiliou on the proposal for a regulation establishing "Erasmus for All": the new EU Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport ([17188/11](#)). The proposal sets out an integrated approach encompassing in a single programme the education, youth and sport sectors, as well as the various international cooperation programmes in the education field.

The "Erasmus for all" programme focuses on three types of key actions, namely the learning mobility of individuals; cooperation for innovation and good practices, and support for policy reform. At the same time, within the context of the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), one of the priorities of "Erasmus for all" is to emphasise streamlining, simplification and a performance-based allocation of funds.

Examination of the new proposal will begin next month and continue throughout 2012 under the Danish and Cypriot Presidencies, with a view to reaching agreement with the European Parliament towards the end of the year.

– ***Key Presidency events in the field of education***

The Council took note of information on key events organised by the Polish Presidency, in particular the ministerial conference held in Gdansk on 11 October 2011 and the ministerial debate "Go East, Erasmus", which took place in Bialystok on 28 September 2011. (<http://www.prezydencja.men.gov.pl/images/stories/pdf/en.pdf>)

– ***Juvenes Translatores***

The Council took note of the information presented by the Commission concerning the translation contest *Juvenes Translatores* ([14432/11](#)), addressed to 17 year-old secondary school pupils in all EU Member States and designed to promote language learning, multilingualism and translation among young people. *Juvenes Translatores* has grown steadily in popularity and it is about to celebrate its fifth anniversary, with 700 schools all over Europe organising the contest on their respective premises on 24 November 2011.

– ***Work programme of the incoming Danish Presidency in the field of education***

The Council took note of information from the Danish delegation on the Presidency's priorities for the coming semester, in particular:

- Examination of the "Erasmus for all" proposal ;
- Benchmark for employability;
- Entrepreneurship and innovation.

YOUTH

Eastern dimension of youth participation

The Council adopted conclusions on the **Eastern dimension of youth participation and mobility** ([15952/11](#)), supporting cooperation and facilitating mobility for young people, youth workers and youth organisations from the European Union, particularly with the Eastern European countries (Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Russia), in the context of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field¹. The Eastern dimension is an important priority for the Polish Presidency.

The conclusions include several horizontal recommendations concerning mobility in the fields of culture, society, politics or personal life, which aim to indicate the most effective methods of developing cooperation and increasing the quality of mobility, in particular in the field of non-formal education and voluntary activities.

Commissioner Vassiliou indicated that a "Eastern Partnership window" was being created in the "Youth in Action" programme, which has already an allocation of 31,5 million EUR for the next two years. Furthermore, the European Youth Portal will be upgraded and more user-friendly for the neighbouring countries.

Youth and the World

In public deliberation, Ministers discussed the theme "Youth and the World", i.e. young people's cooperation with regions outside the EU, which is one of the eight fields of action set out in the resolution on the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field², adopted in 2009, and also has close links with the Europe 2020 flagship initiative "Youth on the Move" ([13726/10](#))

Most Member States underlined the importance of the Youth in Action programme as a main instrument to strengthen the civil societies in the neighbouring countries and promote mobility opportunities with non-EU countries. Increased mobility opportunities, voluntary activities and other type of cooperation with third countries will raise awareness of other cultures and enhance skills and thus facilitate employability of young people.

¹ OJ C 311, 19.12.2009.

² OJ L 320, 28.11.1998.

A large number of Member States have already cooperation with countries outside the EU in particular with Mediterranean and Balkan countries, as well as with Eastern European countries. This type of cooperation focuses mainly on conferences, youth exchanges, language learning and exchanging best practices on youth work and research.

In this context ministers highlighted the importance of broadening the existing EU programmes, such as Youth in Action and Eastern Partnership, with a view to providing better access to information, improving cross-sectoral cooperation, promoting of language learning and facilitating easier access to visas for young people. These issues were also repeatedly expressed by young people themselves. The Presidency pointed out that direct contacts with young people are also needed and that this could be best done within the structured dialogue between the public authorities and young people.

Any other business

– ***"Erasmus for All"***

The Council took note of information provided by Commissioner Vassiliou on the proposal for a regulation establishing "Erasmus for All": the new EU Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport ([17188/11](#)), focusing more particularly on youth issues.

– ***EU Structured Dialogue with young people***

The Council took note of the report from the Presidency on the EU youth conference - the final stage of the dialogue at the European level - which took place on 5-7 September 2011, in Warsaw (<http://www.prezydencja.men.gov.pl/images/stories/pdf/en.pdf>). The aim of the conference was to summarise the results of consultations with young people that took place in all member states from June to August 2011 and were attended by more than 12000 participants.

The EU youth conference involved not only young people but also representatives of public administrations and various experts in this area, as well as the European Commission and other institutions. Recommendations were developed jointly by all participants during workshops.

– ***Work programme of the incoming Danish Presidency in the youth field***

The Council took note of information from the Danish delegation on the Presidency's priorities for the coming semester, in particular:

- Young people's creativity, innovative capacity and talent
- Participation in society and active citizenship; and
- Youth aspects of "Erasmus for all" Programme.

AUDIOVISUAL

Conditional access

The Council adopted a decision on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the European Convention on the legal protection of services based on, or consisting of, conditional access ([16275/11](#)). This convention is an instrument of the Council of Europe which entered into force in 2003 and its regulatory framework is almost identical to the one set out in the Council directive 98/84/EC ¹.

The aim of the two legal instruments is to establish legal protection against piracy of technological systems of pay-TV, video-on-demand, etc. They cover both TV and radio broadcasting services and also transmission by Internet. After the signature, the Council will proceed with the proposal for a decision on concluding the Convention, which will be transmitted to the European Parliament with the request for its consent.

Ministers considered that the accession to the Convention of the EU and its member states will contribute to raising its profile, encouraging ratification by other countries (only 9 countries have so far ratified it, 4 of which are EU members), and thus extending the legal protection for paid services beyond the borders of the EU.

The Commission entered two statements in the Council minutes, one regarding the legal base and EU exclusive competence to accede to the Convention and another concerning the final clauses of the Convention, in particular the voting of amendments and the acceptance of new contracting parties. The United Kingdom also entered a statement clarifying that it fully supports the adoption of the decision and that it will be bound by the Convention's provisions.

¹ OJ L 320, 28.11.1998.

Protection of children in the digital world

The Council adopted conclusions on the protection of children in the digital world ([16155/11](#)), in response to the Commission report from September 2011 on this issue ([14268/11](#)). The report assesses how Member States have implemented measures specified in the two recommendations adopted by the Council in 1998¹ and, together with the European Parliament, in 2006².

The conclusions underline the need to educate children as well as their parents and teachers about how to be safe on-line. Awareness raising, acquirement of digital competence and media literacy are key tools to enable children to cope with problems they might encounter on the Internet and therefore they should be promoted and strengthened at national as well as at EU level.

Furthermore, the conclusions also call upon the audiovisual industry to design their services and products so that the protection of minors is fully taken into account. In line with the Digital Agenda for Europe ([9981/1/10](#)) - one of the Europe 2020 strategy's flagship initiatives -, member states were also invited to further implement hotlines for reporting illegal contents, as well as to ensure that technological tools such as parental control and privacy settings by default are widely available and user-friendly.

In this context, Commissioner Kroes reported that she already had organized a meeting with several chief executives of the industry, calling on them to promote in particular better consistency in the age rating and content classification systems across the EU. In this context, several member states asked the Commission to continue activities undertaken under the current Safer Internet Programme³.

¹ Recommendation concerning the protection of minors and human dignity (OJ L 270, 7.10.1998, p. 48).

² Recommendation on the protection of minors and human dignity and on the right of reply in relation to the competitiveness of the European audiovisual and online information services industry (OJ L 378, 27.12.2006).

³ http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sip/policy/programme/index_en

CULTURE

Cultural and creative competences

The Council adopted conclusions on cultural and creative competences and their role in building intellectual capital of Europe ([16227/11](#)) - its people, communities, institutions -, which is increasingly seen as a key for the prosperity of society new. Cultural and creative competences are a basis for innovation and creativity: they promote critical reflection and innovative thinking, and enhance flexibility.

The conclusions also address the development of synergies between culture and creativity on the one hand, and education, innovation, research and employment on the other. They could be implemented through creative partnerships, allowing for the transfer of creative skills to different economic sectors and thus benefitting the whole society. Reducing early school leaving, promoting non-technological and social innovation, boosting employability, and enhancing creativity and entrepreneurship at all levels of education and training are examples of the added value of cultural and creative competences.

Member states and the Commission are also called upon to strengthen investment in cultural infrastructure, both physical and digital, from the European Regional Development Fund.

Enhancing the evidence base of the contribution of the cultural sector to growth

In public debate, ministers discussed the ways and means to improve data on the contribution of the cultural sector to growth, job creation and social development.

The European Competitiveness Report 2010 states that the cultural and creative industries account for 3,0 % of total employment (2008) and 3,3 % of GDP (2006) and that between 2000 and 2007 employment in the sector grew on average much more rapidly than in the EU economy as a whole ¹.

¹⁰ European Competitiveness Report, 2010, Commission staff working document SEC(2010) 1276, pp.166-167.

In general, ministers agreed that reliable and comparable data that would clearly demonstrate the contribution of the cultural and creative sector to European economy is essential both for national and European cultural policy-making. They therefore welcomed the recent ESS-net ¹Culture final report and indicated that they intend to start implementing its recommendations

Several member states' national institutes have already developed statistics on certain cultural aspects but they are neither comprehensive nor comparable. Many ministers therefore called for a common European approach in this field that would lead to a permanent and accurate system of statistics on culture. In this context, they also showed willingness to sharing best practices and participating in pilot projects and some ministers also advocated the establishment of public and private partnerships.

A number of ministers also underlined that reliable, comparable and up to date data would be extremely useful when establishing national and European budgets and the use of European structural funds, in particular in the context of current discussions on the Multi-Financial Framework., as well as better use of in this sector recalled that the was currently being discussed.

Finally, many member states and Commissioner Vassiliou stressed that the contribution of culture cannot be measured only in economic but also in social terms.

¹ The European Statistical System Network on culture project (2009-2011)

Any other business

– ***Informal meeting of ministers for culture and audiovisual affairs***

The Polish Presidency informed the Council on this informal meeting ,which took place in Wroclaw, on 9 September 2011, in parallel with a major cultural event ("The European Cultural Congress"), and also briefly presented other key Presidency events, such as the conferences on mobility and on competences in culture.

(<http://www.prezydencja.men.gov.pl/images/stories/pdf/en.pdf>)

– ***European Heritage Label***

The Council took note of information from the Presidency ([16324/11](#)) on the state of play concerning the procedural arrangements for the appointment by the Council of four members of the European panel responsible for selecting sites to be awarded the European Heritage Label ¹and for their subsequent monitoring. The panel will consist of 13 experts which will be appointed for a three year period.

– ***Digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material***

The Council took note of a presentation by Commissioner Kroes of the Commission recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation ([16291/11](#) + [ADD 1](#)).

The Digital Agenda for Europe ² has defined the actions necessary to maximise the contribution of information and communication technologies to the wider Europe 2020 strategy. One of the key areas put forward in the Agenda is the digitisation of our cultural heritage and the further development of *Europeana*, the EU 's digital library.

¹ OJL 303, 22.11.2011

² 9981/1/10.

The Commissioner underlined the importance of digitisation of cultural collections — books, maps, audio, films, manuscripts, museum objects, etc. — since it not only preserves knowledge resources from Europe's extraordinary cultural heritage but also makes them more easily accessible to all citizens. At the same time, digitisation turns these resources into a lasting asset for the digital economy. The Commissioner therefore called on member states to ensure that by 2015 30 million cultural objects be available through *Europeana*.

– ***The audiovisual sector in the digital age***

In this context, the Council also took note of an oral information from the Commissioner Kroes on the state of play and perspectives of the audiovisual sector in the digital age.

The Commissioner recalled that audiovisual sector is going through major changes and has an huge potential for growth and jobs, but is not benefiting from the digital single market. An ambitious strategic approach is required in this sector and the EU must not miss this opportunity. The Commissioner also informed the Council that President Barroso was going to send a letter to member states, asking them to appoint a "Digital Champion".

– ***Creative Europe Programme***

The Council took note of a presentation by Commissioner Vassiliou of its proposal for a regulation on establishing the Creative Europe Programme 2014- 2020 ([17186/11](#)), which is a new support programme for the cultural and creative sectors, bringing together the current Culture, MEDIA and MEDIA Mundus programmes. Compared to the previous programmes, its budget has been increased by 37%. The main aim of this single comprehensive framework programme is to streamline procedures and more effectively support cultural and creative operators to take advantage of the opportunities the digital shift and globalisation offer.

– ***2012 European capitals of culture***

The Council took note of the presentations by the Portuguese and Slovenian delegations concerning the cultural programme of the cities of Guimarães and Maribor, which will be next year's European capitals of culture ([16961/11](#)).

The European Capitals of Culture initiative was launched in 1985 in order to help bring closer together member states' citizens. Since then, more than 40 cities have been designated and until 2019 cities from two member states will be designated each year as European capitals of culture.

– ***Work programme of the Danish Presidency in the culture and audiovisual sector***

The Council took note of information from the Danish delegation on the incoming Presidency's priorities for next semester, in particular:

- Examining the new "Creative Europa" programme;
- Developing the cultural dialogue with third countries;
- Promoting digitisation.

SPORT

World Anti-Doping Agency

The Council and the representatives of the governments of the member states, meeting within the Council, adopted a resolution on the representation of the EU member states in the Foundation Board of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)¹ and the coordination of the EU and its member states' positions prior to WADA meetings (16958/11). This agency, set up in 1999, is a private law body although half of its board members represent governments. Its mission is to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against doping in sport in all its forms.

The resolution establishes the practical arrangements concerning the participation of the European Union and its member states in the work of WADA, namely the preparation, negotiation and adoption *inter alia* of rules, standards and guidelines by the agency. A key aspect of the new arrangements is to ensure greater continuity for the EU's representatives, in order to improve significantly the EU's ability to influence positively WADA's decision-making process.

The resolution also includes guidelines for conduct between the Council, the Member States and the Commission prior to WADA and Council of Europe meetings.

Voluntary activities in sport

The Council adopted conclusions on the role of voluntary activities in sport in promoting active citizenship (16349/11), in the context of "2011-European Year of Voluntary Activities"².

According to a 2010 Eurobarometer survey, there are 35 million volunteers (7 % of the total population) in sport throughout Europe. A huge number of non-profit and civil society-driven organisations are the main providers of sport and physical activities for European citizens at the local level. Volunteering in sport is also a high national priority for the Presidency, as the EURO 2012 (European Football Championship) will be organised in Poland and Ukraine in June and July 2012 and this is one of the events that relies heavily on the support of volunteers.

¹ <http://www.wada-ama.org>

² OJL 17, 22.1.2010.

The conclusions seek therefore to raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering, improve conditions for the development of voluntary activities in sport - which provide the backbone and basis for the organisation of the entire sports sector -, as well as encourage recognition of new skills gained through non-formal and informal learning experiences in this field.

Combating match fixing

The Council adopted conclusions on combating match fixing ([16819/11](#)), which aim to foster close cooperation and information sharing between Member states, the Commission, the sports world and gambling operators in order to address this dangerous phenomenon.

In recent years, as a consequence of the rapid growth of on-line betting ¹, sport in Europe has been confronted with several scandals linked to the manipulation of results of many sports such as football, rugby, tennis, cricket and snooker. This kind of fraud generally involves criminal activities, such as corruption, fraud and money laundering, with the resulting profits feeding other criminal networks.

The conclusions call for the development of educational programmes and better monitoring systems and they also invite the Commission to launch a study on the match-fixing situation and, in light of its conclusions, to present a proposal for a recommendation on this serious problem.

It should also be recalled that the EU Work Plan for Sport for 2011-2014², adopted by the Council in May this year, already highlighted the fight against match fixing as a priority theme. In this context, Commissioner Vassiliou recalled that the European Parliament is also involved in this issue and is developing preparatory actions in sport.

The matter was also discussed at lunchtime during the structured dialogue with the high-level representatives of the sports movement (UEFA, EPFL (European Professional Football Leagues), EU Athletes (European Elite Athletes Association), EOC (European Olympic Committee) and Recreation and sport Alliance.

¹ Green Paper on on-line gambling in the Internal Market ([8313/11](#)).

² OJ C 162, 1.6.2011.

Governance in sport

In public, ministers had a policy debate on good governance in sport, which was preceded at lunchtime by an informal exchange of views between EU public authorities and the representatives of the sports movement on this subject.

There was a large consensus on the principles underlying good governance in sport, such as transparency, democracy, accountability, financial solidarity and social responsibility, including gender equality.

A number of ministers underlined that the autonomy of the sports movement must be preserved and that there should be a clear division of tasks between public authorities and sport organisations, but this does not imply that those organizations can be above the law.

Although sport is organised in different ways in member states, sport often benefits from State subventions, but most ministers agreed that help is conditional on it achieving high standards of governance.

A large number of member states is waiting with great interest for the recommendations of the recently established expert group on good governance in sport, which will start its work on 6 December, with the aim of developing principles of transparency in this field.

Finally, several ministers pointed out that EU added value can be provided through cooperation with international organisations and federations such as IOC, UEFA, FIBA with a view to encouraging positive initiatives in the area of good governance e.g. Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and UEFA's financial fair-play initiative.

Any other business

– ***"Erasmus for All"***

The Council took note of information presented by Commissioner Vassiliou on the proposal for a regulation establishing "Erasmus for All": the new EU Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport ([17188/11](#)) focusing more particularly on sport issues.

This sub-programme for sport has a budget of 34 million EUR for this year out of a total amount of 238 million for the next seven years. Its main objectives are: supporting amateur sport, foster dual careers (education and sport) and develop partnership agreements with private bodies.

– ***Informal meeting of ministers of Sport***

The Council took note of information from the Presidency concerning this informal meeting, which took place in Krakow, on 13 and 14 October 2011 (<http://www.prezydencja.men.gov.pl/images/stories/pdf/en.pdf>), and dealt with the issues of match fixing and economic aspects of sport.

– ***Meeting of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Foundation Board***

The Council took note of information from the Presidency concerning this meeting, which took place in Montreal on 20 November 2011. The EU was represented by the troika (HU, PL, DK) and the agenda included the adoption of the budget, revision of the World Anti-doping Code and various data protection issues.

– ***UEFA EURO 2012***

The Council took note of a presentation by the Presidency concerning this event, which was followed by a short promotional film .

– ***London Olympics 2012***

The Council took note of a presentation by the United Kingdom delegation concerning this event, which was followed by a short promotional film.

– ***First European Outdoor Sports Meetings***

The Council took note of information from the French delegation on the Nature & Sports Euro'meet, which took place in Annecy, from 5 to 8 October 2011 ([17146/11](#)). It brought together for four days, nearly 500 European participants from sport, tourism, environment and outdoor sports industry networks. They shared their experiences, developed a collective expertise and produced recommendations calling for greater recognition of outdoor sports in European structural and sectoral policies.

– ***Work programme of the Danish Presidency in the sport sector***

The Council took note of information from the Danish delegation on the incoming Presidency's priorities for the coming semester, in particular:

- "Erasmus for all" and its sub-programme for sport;
- Combating doping and match-fixing;
- Social responsibility
- Enhancing voluntary activities and sport for all

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Reform of EU external financial instruments

The Council approved amendments to certain EU external financial instruments and a EUR 190 million programme to help banana producers in ACP countries (*56/11 REV 1 + 57/11 REV 1 + 58/11 REV 1 + 59/11 REV 1*). For more information, see press release [13823/11](#).

HEALTH

EU statement on world AIDS day

The Council adopted an EU statement on world AIDS day (1 December 2011), set out in [17261/11](#).

INTERNAL MARKET

Chemicals - REACH system - Technical update

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption by the Commission of regulations updating annexes XIV and XVII to regulation 1907/2006 on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals ("REACH"¹) as regards the classification of certain substances.

The draft Commission regulations are subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt them, unless the European Parliament objects.

¹ Official Journal L 136, 29.5.2007, p. 3.

Medical devices - Electronic instructions - Update to technical progress

The Council decided not to oppose adoption by the Commission of a regulation addressing the supply of instructions for use of medical devices in electronic form.

Directives 90/385/EEC and 93/42/EEC concerning medical devices contain provisions on the means by which, in the light of technical progress and considering the intended users of certain medical devices, the information specified in the two directives concerning these devices may be set out.

The draft regulation is subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt it, unless the European Parliament objects.

FOOD

Scrutiny of a Commission decision on food enzymes

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission decision amending decisions 2011/263/EU and 2011/264/EU in order to take into account of developments in enzymes classification in accordance with annex I to Council directive 67/548/EEC and annex VI to regulation 1272/2008 ([14637/11](#));

The Commission decision is subject to the so called regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt it, unless the European Parliament objects.
