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Education, Youth, Culture and Sport

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Main results of the Council

Education

The Council adopted conclusions on:

- *effective **teacher education**, addressing concrete issues such as how to attract and retain the best candidates, how to ensure the relevance of teacher education programmes and how to better exploit the potential of new technologies and resources. Member states are also invited to use the funding opportunities in EU instruments, such as the Erasmus+.*
- *multilingualism and the **development of language competences**, inviting member states to adopt and improve measures aimed at promoting multilingualism and enhancing the quality and efficiency of language learning and teaching.*
- ***quality assurance** supporting education and training, which cover specific issues such as the quality of cross-border education and the extent to which quality assurance arrangements could be developed in other areas of education and training, such as schools, work-based learning and non-formal learning.*

*It also held, in public deliberation, a policy debate on the subject: "**Education crossing borders: new opportunities and challenges**". The Secretary-General for Education and Religious Affairs of the Greek government and President the Council, Professor Athanasios KYRIAZIS, declared that "the three sets of conclusions constituted the basis for a rich debate on this issue which is increasingly important in Europe. The national and international higher education institutes and studies providers should work together to ensure the quality of cross-border curricula and diplomas".*

Youth

The Council and the representatives of the governments of the member states adopted two resolutions on:

- *the **EU Work Plan for Youth**, which is a medium-term plan for 18 months, with key initiatives in specific youth policy areas, so as to enable the EU and its member states to address urgently the high youth unemployment rates and the consequences of the current crisis for young people.*
- *the **structured dialogue process**, which is a forum for continuous joint reflection on the priorities, implementation and follow-up of European cooperation in the youth field, involving a wide range of young people and youth organisations.*

*The Council also adopted conclusions on promoting **youth entrepreneurship to foster social inclusion**, focusing on creativity, innovation and green jobs and inviting member states to recognise the importance of entrepreneurial education from an early age, highlighting the role of non-formal and informal learning to ensure the autonomy and the personal development of young people, as well as to facilitate their successful integration into the labour market.*

*In this context, ministers also discussed, in public deliberation, how to foster **an entrepreneurial mindset among today's younger generation**. The discussion brought together experiences and proposals from member states and had the contribution of an external guest speaker, Mr Konstantinos Kollias (President of the Economic Chamber of Greece). Mr Panagiotis Kanellopoulos, General-Secretary for Youth stated that "this issue is a priority for the Greek Presidency, given the still high youth unemployment rate in Europe and in particular in Greece."*

Culture and Audiovisual

*The Council adopted a recommendation for a decision designating **Leeuwarden (Netherlands) as European Capital of Culture for the year 2018**.*

*The Council also adopted conclusions on **cultural heritage as a strategic resource** for a sustainable Europe, underlining that cultural heritage, be it tangible, intangible or digital, is a strategic resource in which modern Europe - one of the richest regions of the world in terms of culture - should invest in order to make its social, economic and environmental development more sustainable. The conclusions call in particular for more resources to be invested in cultural heritage as a part of sustainable regional strategies developed both at national and European level*

The President of the Council Minister Panagiotopoulos said that "Europe is not only a cradle of culture but also a bridge between cultures". He also recalled that "the best answer to anti-European movements appearing in the context of the European elections is our common culture and heritage of which we can be proud and which unites us all "

*The Council also held, in public deliberation, a policy debate on the topic "**Addressing cultural policy challenges in the context of the next Work Plan for Culture beyond 2014**". Since 2002, Council work plans for culture have been a framework for the EU's medium-term cultural policy-making.*

*Furthermore, ministers had an exchange of views on the **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement between the EU and the USA**, on the basis of information from the Commission on the state of play of negotiations.*

Sport

*The Council and the representatives of the governments of the member states adopted a resolution on the **EU Work Plan for Sport (2014-2017)**, which complements and reinforces the impact of activities launched under the Erasmus+ programme in this field. It also aims to further strengthen the cooperation in the field of sport between member states and the Commission.*

*The Council adopted conclusions on **gender equality in sport**, inviting member states to consider developing policies and programmes for eliminating gender stereotypes and promoting gender equality in education curricula and practices from an early age. The conclusions also invite member states, in cooperation with sports organisations, to promote the prevention of gender based violence in sport and the protection of victims and potential victims of sexual abuse and harassment in sport.*

*Ministers also discussed, in public deliberation, the economic, social and environmental **sustainability of major sport events**, against the background of member states experiences of hosting this kind of events, such as Olympic Games, World/European Championships. Ministers addressed in particular the issue of legacy.*

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- 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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ITEMS DEBATED

EDUCATION

Teacher education

The Council adopted **conclusions on effective teacher education** ([8883/14](#)), addressing concrete issues such as how to attract and retain the best candidates, how to ensure the relevance of teacher education programmes and how to better exploit the potential of new technologies and resources.

The conclusions highlight the importance of identifying the professional competences which teacher educators themselves need, as well as the knowledge, skills and attitudes which they should be helping future teachers to develop. Member states are also invited to use the funding opportunities in EU instruments, such as the Erasmus+ Programme and, where appropriate, the European Social Fund.

The education and training of teachers - both in preparation for, and throughout, their careers - is a crucial element in ensuring high quality teaching, which in turn is a key factor in achieving better learning outcomes and educational success.

The Commission underlined the importance of this issue and pointed out that, although many member states provide support for teachers and school leaders, they do not always have specific policies or provisions for teacher educators. It therefore encouraged member states to exchange best practices in this field. It also recalled that the first international survey on teachers (the OCDE Talis project) will be available in June.

Language competences

The Council adopted conclusions on **multilingualism and the development of language competences** ([9513/14](#)).

The conclusions invite member states to adopt and improve measures aimed at promoting multilingualism and enhancing the quality and efficiency of language learning and teaching.

The assessment of language competences proposed in the conclusions is designed to help member states in this task, as well as to measure overall progress across the EU in developing such competences.

Linguistic diversity is a fundamental component of European culture and intercultural dialogue and being able to communicate in a language other than one's mother tongue is a key competence that contributes to the mobility, employability and personal development of European citizens, in particular young people, in line with the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs.

However, a recent European survey¹ showed that the level of foreign language learning in Europe is generally poor: too many pupils fail to reach even a 'basic user' level and almost half of Europeans report that they are unable to hold a conversation in any language other than their mother tongue.

The Commission recalled its preference for a European benchmark in this area, but was aware of the complexity and diversity of the linguistic landscape in the EU, where many national factors influence language policy .

The conclusions constitute a valuable basis for future work by defining the criteria for an EU-wide survey of language competences which the Commission proposes to organise in 2016-17 and which will be funded mainly through the Erasmus+ programme.

Quality assurance

The Council adopted conclusions on **quality assurance supporting education and training** ([9516/1/14 REV 1](#)). In addition to taking stock of quality assurance initiatives already taken in the higher education and vocational education and training sectors, these address specific issues such as the quality of cross-border education and the extent to which quality assurance arrangements could be developed in other areas of education and training.

Promoting quality in all sectors of the education and training system is an important priority for all member states, although ensuring quality and transparency is important not just at national level but at European level too, as more and more students participate in cross-border mobility schemes, not least those funded by the new Erasmus+ Programme.

The Commission stated its willingness to support member states in this field, in particular regarding work-based learning and non-formal and informal learning. It recalled recent Commission reports in this sector². Furthermore, the Commission underlined the need for quality assurance also at pre-school and school education level and for improving synergies between quality and mobility in vocational education and training.

¹ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/index_en.php

² Commission reports: "Progress in Quality Assurance in Higher Education" ([5855/14](#)) And "Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training" ([5856/14](#))

Education crossing borders: new opportunities and challenges¹

In the follow-up to the adoption of the above conclusions, ministers discussed cross-border education issues on the basis of questions prepared by the Presidency ([9127/14](#)).

Although the phenomenon of cross-border education is spreading in Europe, driven by internationalisation, competition and the Internet, member states are involved in this sector in varying degrees.

There was general agreement among member states that the Bologna process is the blueprint for cross border education and that cooperation and the exchange of best practices at European level were crucial. A number of member states have already put in place partnerships between higher education establishments at national but also at international level and several of them wished to extend this cooperation to vocational education and training.

While many member states acknowledged the opportunities created by cross-border education, they insisted that these must be underpinned by strict quality standards and maximum transparency applying either to national or third country institutes or to study programmes providers. Cross-border education should not lead to the creation of “diploma-mills”.

Several member states pointed to the issues which cross-border education raises in relation to accreditation and diploma recognition and stated that quality assurance systems should be improved at European level. Others recalled the importance of language proficiency to fully benefit from the advantages of education abroad.

Some member states drew attention to the fact that external campuses require solid management capacity and investment, which can be a risk to the mother institution.

Most member states were of the view that there was no need for more European instruments in this sector but rather that the existing ones should be more efficiently used, although some advocated the establishment of a European platform to exchange information on the issues raised by cross-border education.

Finally, Slovenia, with the support of several member states, requested the creation of a package of scholarships for Western Balkans students. The Commission pointed out that the number of scholarships available to Western Balkans students has already significantly increased and that Erasmus + will provide them with even more opportunities for mobility and exchanges.

¹ See also: Council conclusions on the global dimension of European higher education (*OJ C 28, 31.1.2014*)
Rethinking Education: Investing in skills for better socio-economic outcomes ([14871/12](#))

Other business

– *University multirank*

The Council took note of information from the Commission regarding U-Multirank, the new global university ranking tool, set up with €2 million in funding from the European Union. It assesses the performance of more than 850 higher education institutions worldwide, rating universities on a much wider range of criteria than the existing international rankings, which focus mainly on research outcomes.

The aim of this new tool is to avoid simplistic tables which can result in misleading comparisons between institutions of very different types or mask significant differences in quality between courses at the same university. Individual users will be able to build a personalised ranking based on their particular needs.

– *Enhancing children's media literacy*

The Council took note of a presentation by the Commission on the **Film Club project**, a UK based charity organisation which has been working with schools thorough the UK since 2007 with the aim of introducing children and young people to the world of cinema, in particular European cinema. It gives children aged between 5 and 19, regardless of background or ability, the opportunity to watch, discuss and review films and it also provides them with training and online resources to make their own films.

Commissioner Vassiliou personally considers this project as an example of best practice in media literacy, since it opens the door to the world of cinema and film-making, as well as it stimulates their imagination and promotes critical thinking.

– *Work programme of the incoming Presidency*

The Council took note of information from the Italian delegation on the work programme of the future Presidency, which will include the following priorities:

- Promoting innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship
- The role of education and training in the context of the forthcoming review of Europe 2020
- Well-being at school
- Promotion of multilingualism from an early age

YOUTH

EU Work Plan for Youth

The Council and the representatives of the governments of the member states adopted a **resolution on an EU Work Plan for Youth (2014-2015)** ([9523/14](#)). It is a medium-term structured plan for 18 months, with a limited number of key initiatives in specific youth policy areas, so as to enable the EU and its member states to address urgently the high youth unemployment rates and the consequences of the current crisis for young people.

It sets out three priorities:

- development of youth work and non-formal and informal learning;
- enhancement of cross-sectoral co-operation; and
- empowerment, with a special focus on access to rights, autonomy, participation and active citizenship

It also aims to strengthen cooperation between member states and the Commission and develop synergies with education, training and employment policies in order to ensure youth policy input into the European Semester. The Work Plan will be evaluated in the second half of 2015.

Structured dialogue

The Council and the representatives of the governments of the member states adopted a resolution on the structured dialogue process, including social inclusion of young people ([9026/14](#)).

The aim of the structured dialogue with young people is to serve as a forum for continuous joint reflection on the priorities, implementation and follow-up of European cooperation in the youth field, involving a wide range of young people and youth organisations in the consultations at all levels in the member states, at the EU Youth Conferences¹ and during the European Youth Week.

¹ The last one took place in Thessaloniki from 10 to 12 March 2014
<http://gr2014.eu/events/conferences-and-seminars/european-youth-conference>

The overall thematic priority for European cooperation in the youth field for the period 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2014 is social inclusion. The 18-month trio Presidency (Ireland, Lithuania and Greece) have together established specific priorities within the overall theme.

In 2013, the Irish Presidency focused on the contribution of quality youth work to enhancing the development, well-being and social inclusion of all young people and the Lithuanian Presidency put the emphasis on enhancing the social inclusion of young people, in particular young people not in employment, education and training (NEETs). During the first half of 2014, the Greek Presidency aimed at strengthening young people's entrepreneurial spirit.

The next cycle of the structured dialogue will be launched in the EU Youth Conference in October, under the Italian Presidency. Youth empowerment will be the priority theme for the next 18 months.

Youth entrepreneurship

The Council adopted conclusions on **promoting youth entrepreneurship** to foster social inclusion of young people ([8378/14](#)), which is a horizontal priority for the Greek Presidency, given the still high youth unemployment levels in the EU and in particular in Greece ¹.

The conclusions focus on fostering social entrepreneurship, creativity, innovation and green jobs and invite member states to recognise the importance of entrepreneurial education from an early age, highlighting the role of non-formal and informal learning to ensure the autonomy and the personal development of young people, as well as to facilitate their successful integration into the labour market.

Entrepreneurship competences include transversal skills and attitudes, as well as knowledge, and youth work can be a key tool for developing those skills. In particular, the "social entrepreneurship" model, primarily aimed at contributing to the general good of society, can appeal to young people and give them the chance to provide innovative responses to the current economic, social and environmental challenges.

The European Union, via the Europe 2020 strategy and its flagship initiatives on "New skills and jobs", "Digital Agenda for Europe", "Innovation Union" and "Youth on the move"², is promoting entrepreneurship by fostering skills and competences that can boost competitiveness and growth that will be smart, sustainable and inclusive.

¹ 23.2% in the EU-28 and 23.8% in the Euro area (December 2013)

² See also: The Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan (EAP)
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/entrepreneurship-2020/index_en.htm

In this context, ministers discussed how to foster an entrepreneurial mind-set among today's younger generation, on the basis of two questions prepared by the Presidency ([9012/14](#)). In order to contribute to a more open debate, the Presidency invited an external speaker, Mr Konstantinos Kollias (President of the Economic Chamber of Greece).

Mr Kollias considered that European education systems are lagging behind their American and Asian counterparts because their curricula are not adapted to the needs of the current work market. Education systems must improve "soft skills", group work, communication, which are primary requirements independently of the choice of studies. The EU has to adjust its policies to the young people needs and not the contrary.

Tax and assurance constraints are a burden for a starting entrepreneur and young people have also difficulties in accessing EU programmes in part because of red tape and in part because they have a restricted scope. Failure should not mean the end, it's also a learning experience and could be seen as the beginning of success.

The Commission took a broad interpretation of "entrepreneurship", considering it as the ability to detect opportunities. Every young person should have an entrepreneurship experience before completing their studies, eventually through non formal and informal learning which are an excellent way of "learning by doing". The Commissioner underlined that entrepreneurship education is one of the aspects of Erasmus +.

The main conclusions of the debate were the following:

- entrepreneurship education should start from an early age in school;
- non-formal and informal learning have a key role in developing soft skills;
- "the freedom to fail" should be positively perceived but at the same time safety nets and services should be established;
- a monitoring system for young entrepreneurs should be developed;
- access to financing should be improved and bureaucratic barriers lifted;
- a culture of entrepreneurship should be promoted.

Other business

– *2nd European Youth Work Convention.*

The Council took note of information from Belgian delegation concerning the 2nd European Youth Work Convention, which will be held in 2015, during Belgian's presidency of the Council of Europe. The theme of the conference t will be youth work.

– *Work programme of the incoming Presidency*

The Council took note of information from the Italian delegation on the work programme of the future Presidency, which will include the following priorities:

- Youth empowerment, in particular access to rights;
- Political and social participation of young people
- European public service, in particular cross boarder mobility of volunteers

CULTURE AND AUDIOVISUAL

Before starting with the formal items on the agenda, minister Panagiotopoulos, as Chair of the Council, expressed his concerns about the destruction of monuments or archaeological sites caused either by natural disasters, such as the recent floods in Balkans, or by military conflicts, for instance in Syria and in other Middle East countries. The EU has a duty to protect and preserve cultural heritage and to this end the minister proposed that the Council examines ways and means to better protect natural or artistic sites struck or threatened by natural or human disasters. In this regard, Minister suggested a creation of a Task Force for Culture to intervene in such situations.

European Capitals of Culture

The Council designated **Leeuwarden** (Netherlands) as **European Capital of Culture for the year 2018** ([9252/14](#)). The other capital of culture for that year is **Valletta** (Malta), which was designated by the Council in May 2013.

The European Capitals of Culture initiative was launched in 1985 and over 50 cities have been designated since then. Its aim was to promote greater mutual understanding between European citizens and strengthen a feeling of European citizenship, simultaneously highlighting the richness of European cultures and both their diversity and their shared features.

Decision 1622/2006/EC¹ sets out the procedure for selecting the European Capitals of Culture. Its annex establishes the order in which the member states are entitled to nominate their city. Until 2019, cities from two member states will be designated each year as European Capitals of Culture.

The Dutch minister recalled that Amsterdam and Rotterdam were already awarded this label and that Leeuwarden choose as its motto “Open communities”. The programme has both local and European dimensions, by involving city's surroundings and by developing projects all over Europe. The programme will take into account not only cultural but also environmental and social concerns.

The Council also adopted an implementing decision on the arrangements for the appointment by the Council of three members of the selection and monitoring panel for the European Capitals of Culture action (2020-2033) ([9128/14](#)).

¹ [OJ L 304, 3.11.2006.](#)

The Council recently adopted decision 445/2014/EU¹, which sets out a new legal framework for the European Capitals of Culture action from 2020 to 2033.

The decision provides for the establishment of a European panel of ten experts to be appointed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission (three experts each), as well as by the Committee of the Regions (one expert). The role of the panel is to select the cities to be awarded the title of Capital of Culture and to monitor them during the whole procedure. The decision also states that each EU institution needs to establish its own procedures for the selection of its experts.

The Council will need to appoint its first three experts to the panel by the end of 2014 in order to have a first panel in place in early 2015 to start the selection procedure for the 2020 European Capitals of Culture, in Ireland and Croatia.

The Commission underlined the joint responsibility of the four institutions under the new decision and highlighted the crucial role of the panel, which will have the main responsibility for the quality of the programmes and therefore for the success of the designated capitals of culture.

Cultural heritage

The Council adopted conclusions on **cultural heritage as a strategic resource for a sustainable Europe** ([9129/14](#)). It is the first time the Council adopts conclusions specifically on this issue.

The conclusions underline that cultural heritage, be it tangible, intangible or digital, is a strategic resource in which modern Europe - one of the richest regions in the world in terms of culture - should invest in order to make its social, economic and environmental development more sustainable. The fact that cultural heritage is unique and non-renewable presents opportunities as well as challenges. Among the opportunities, the text highlights the contribution of cultural heritage to social cohesion and to the economy, where heritage can become a driver for regional development, local jobs, urban regeneration and cultural tourism.

On the other hand, the economic crisis and the limited public financing for culture can have a particularly adverse effect on conservation and preservation of cultural heritage, which is often seen as an expensive "extra". Climate change, which can lead to cultural assets being irreversibly damaged or lost, also constitutes a major challenge, as well as the impact of the digital shift.

¹ OJ L 132, 3.5. 2014.

The conclusions call in particular for more resources to be invested in cultural heritage as a part of sustainable regional strategies developed both at national and European level. Given the cross-cutting nature of cultural heritage, member states and the Commission are invited to better coordinate their policies and actions which deal with or have an impact on cultural heritage, including at international level. Member States are also invited to consider cultural heritage as a possible topic to be addressed under the next Council Work Plan for Culture.

The Commission announced that before summer it will adopt a communication on cultural heritage with the aim of strengthening its understanding and protection, highlighting in particular its contribution to Europe 2020 goals.

Cultural policy challenges

The Council also held a policy debate on the topic "**Addressing cultural policy challenges in the context of the next Work Plan for Culture**".

Since 2002, Council work plans for culture have been a framework for the EU's medium-term cultural policy-making. The current Work Plan for Culture ¹ has six priority areas: cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and accessible and inclusive culture; cultural and creative Industries; skills and mobility; cultural heritage, culture in external relations, and culture statistics. It will come to an end on 31 December 2014.

The Commission considers that the European Agenda for Culture - although adopted in 2007 - is still a good foundation for the next Work Plan. Furthermore, several of the current Work Plan priorities can still be carried over, such as cultural and creative industries, contribution of culture to intercultural dialogue and role of culture in external affairs. However, new challenges such as increased globalisation and digitisation have appeared that need to be addressed.

The Commission also drew attention to the outcome of the 2013 evaluation by member states of the current Work Plan for Culture which highlighted in particular:

- the Work Plan is relevant to cultural policy in member states;
- the preference for a more streamlined WP focusing on limited, but high-level priorities;
- the need to integrate culture in all major EU policies.

¹ OJ C 325, 2.12.2010.

Several ministers made a reference to the Forum de Chaillot on culture which took place in April in France¹. The French minister recalled the main messages of the Forum and called for a real European cultural strategy. In this content, several ministers considered important to give European citizens "the taste" for culture and use it as a mean of bringing citizens together, which is particular crucial in times of growing Euroscepticism.

In general member states agreed that:

- Culture is a cross cutting issue and a strategic approach to culture is therefore necessary. Several ministers called for culture to be included in the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy given the evidence on culture's contribution to economy,
- Culture has an intrinsic value but there is still a real need for accurate and comparable statistics on culture in order to prove its contribution to jobs and growth;.
- The digital shift presents a key challenge for culture and cultural diversity;
- The digitisation of cultural heritage, including film and audiovisual heritage, needs to be boosted in order to broaden access to culture. In this regard, several ministers also stressed the need to address copyright issues.
- Links with formal and informal education should be strengthened, as well as arts education which should in turn increase access to culture and promote cultural diversity;
- Alternative sources of financing for culture must be explored, including crowd-funding, and better use of European programmes in other fields such as research (Horizon 2020 programme covers research on culture) or enterprise (COSME programme) should be made.

The Commission informed that progress on cultural statistics is expected given the new resources of Eurostat in this field. It also recalled that the guarantee fund for cultural and creative industries, established by the Creative Europe programme, will be operational in 2016.

¹ <http://www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/Presse/Communiqués-de-presse/>

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement

Ministers had an exchange of views on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement (TTIP) between the EU and the USA, on the basis of information from Commissioner de Gucht on the state of play of negotiations.

The TTIP is a comprehensive agreement that addresses a broad range of bilateral trade and investment issues with the aim of boosting trade and investment between the two partners. The negotiations started in mid-2013, and the fifth round of negotiation is scheduled for this week.

Audiovisual services were explicitly excluded from the negotiating mandate given to the Commission by member states last June, as it has been the case for more than two decades in negotiations with third countries.

Commissioner De Gucht indicated that no major progress in the negotiations was to be expected before the coming mid-term elections in the USA, but he considers that it will be best to find an agreement before the end of year.

He firmly stated that he will keep strictly to the mandate he was given and therefore there are no negotiations on the audiovisual sector. However, he acknowledged that the US has shown interest in a number of areas of EU audiovisual policy .

In response to questions from several member states on transparency issues, the Commissioner stated that in any negotiation a certain confidentiality is necessary. Restrictions on access to documents related to the negotiations were due to the particularly restrictive approach of the US to these issues. However, he was hopeful that a "reading room" system could soon be established to allow viewing of the draft texts under negotiation.

He recalled that the Commission reports regularly to the Council Trade Policy Committee, which answers primarily to the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) and it also has to report to the European Parliament. The Commissioner also underlined that there was no consensus among member states to make the negotiating mandate public.

A number of member states reiterated their total opposition to the inclusion of audiovisual sector into the TTIP negotiations, recalling that this was crucial for cultural diversity and in particular for the European film industry and creative sector.

Other business

– *European film in the digital era*

The Council took note of information from the Commission on its recent communication on this subject ([10024/14](#)), which proposes measures to increase audiences for European films and to rebalance the distribution of funding between production and distribution.

– *Work programme of the incoming Presidency*

The Council took note of information from the Italian delegation on the work programme of the future Presidency, which will include the following priorities:

- Adoption of the new Work Plan for Culture
- Cultural heritage
- Audiovisual issues, including digitisation and copyright
- Mobility of artists
- Cultural tourism

SPORT

EU Work Plan for Sport

The Council and the representatives of the governments of the member states adopted a **resolution on an EU Work Plan for Sport (2014-2017)** ([9131/14](#)), building on the achievements of the first EU Work Plan ¹, which was generally considered quite successful ², and complementing and reinforcing the impact of activities launched under the Erasmus+ programme in the field of sport. It also aims to further strengthen cooperation in the field of sport between the member states and the Commission.

The resolution underlines the need for the EU to work closely with the sport movement and relevant competent organisations at national, European and international levels, such as the Council of Europe and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), in particular through the structured dialogue.

The second Work Plan once more acknowledges the important contribution of sport to the overall goals of the Europe 2020 strategy, given the sector's strong potential to contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and new jobs and considering its positive effects on social inclusion, education and training, as well as on public health and active ageing . The plan sets out the following priority areas:

- **integrity of sport**, including anti-doping, the fight against match-fixing, protection of minors, good governance and gender equality;
- **economic dimension of sport**, addressing in particular sustainable financing of sport, the legacy of major sport events, economic benefits of sport and innovation;
- **sport and society**, covering health-enhancing physical activities (HEPA), volunteering and employment in sport, as well as education and training in sport.

The Council will evaluate the implementation of the present Work Plan in the first half of 2017, on the basis of a report prepared by the Commission by November 2016.

¹ OJ C 162, 1.6.2011.

² See report from the Commission on the implementation of the Work Plan for Sport 2011-2014 ([5842/14](#)).

Gender equality in sport

The Council adopted **conclusions on gender equality in sport** ([9517/14](#)), inviting member states to consider developing policies and programmes for eliminating gender stereotypes and promoting gender equality in education curricula and practices from an early age. The conclusions also call on member states, to promote, in cooperation with sports organisations, the prevention of gender-based violence in sport and the protection of victims and potential victims of sexual abuse and harassment in sport.

Member states are also asked to consider developing with sport organisations adequate and proportional measures, in accordance with national and EU law and applicable data protection legislation, to check the suitability of persons working in the field of sport (especially with minors).

Furthermore, they call on the Commission to support transnational initiatives (e.g. awareness-raising campaigns, exchange of good practices, networks, projects) focusing on the implementation of national and international strategic actions on gender equality in sport, within the framework of EU funding programmes such as Erasmus+, addressing in particular decision-making in sport governing bodies, coaching, and the fight against gender-based violence and negative stereotypes in sport.

Equality between women and men is a fundamental principle of the European Union enshrined in the Treaties and integrating this principle into all EU activities and policies constitutes one of the EU's specific tasks. Gender equality is also enshrined in article 23 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. However, gender balance in sport is implemented differently in the member states and more work is still required at European level and at the level of the international sports movement.

Sustainability of major sport events

Ministers discussed the **economic, social and environmental sustainability of major sport events**, on the basis of two questions prepared by the Presidency ([8751/14](#)). In order to ensure a more dynamic debate, the Presidency invited a guest speaker, Mr. **Gordon Arthur**, chief communication officer of Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games ¹.

Leverage and legacy have become increasingly important considerations in planning major sporting events. Broadly speaking, legacy means lasting, long-term benefits on a regional or national scale, that result either from the event itself or from the "leverage" activities surrounding it.

Mr. Arthur presented a short video highlighting the preparation and the different ways in which Glasgow and the region benefited from hosting the Commonwealth Games.

Member states reported their positive and negative experiences when hosting major sport events and the debate highlighted

- the importance of advanced careful planning to ensure a long term legacy for the hosting city or country;
- the particular difficulties of smaller countries for hosting major events, which could be reduced through cooperation and "co-hosting" between countries;
- the need to plan the future use of sports infra-structure, which should be designed for "multi-use";
- the advantages of combining private and public sector funding, as well as the involvement of the "third sector"(volunteers and non-profit organisations)
- civic pride and a volunteering culture are key benefits of a successful event;
- the importance of continuing to host as many international sports events as possible in the EU, but taking also into account, safety, social and environmental concerns;
- continuing dialogue with international federations is necessary.

¹ <https://www.glasgow2014.com/>.

Other business

– *World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)*¹

The Council was briefed by the EU representatives on the outcome of the WADA meetings which took place in Montreal in 17-18 May 2014. The EU is represented on the WADA Foundation Board by Belgium, Ireland and Luxembourg, and on the Executive Committee by France. The Foundation Board is WADA's supreme decision-making body and it is composed of 38-member in equal proportion of representatives from the Olympic Movement and from governments.

Main discussions in the WADA meetings focused on legal update (EU data protection regulation), the 2015 budget, the athletes biological passport and the Anti-Doping Administration & Management System (ADAMS)

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), set up in 1999, is a private law body whose mission is to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against doping in sport in all its forms. Its key tasks include scientific research, education, the development of anti-doping capacities and monitoring of the World Anti Doping Code. The new code will enter into force in 2015.

– *Financial fair play*

The Council took note of information from the French delegation, asking the Commission to prepare an European initiative to support the rules on financial fair play, as established by the UEFA in 2011, which should be applicable to all sports.

– *Work programme of the incoming Presidency*

The Council took note of information from the Italian delegation on the work programme of the future Presidency, which will include the following priorities:

- Sport and innovation - exploring synergies between sport, research, universities and enterprises
- Health enhancing activities, in particular for your young people

¹ <http://www.wada-ama.org/en/>

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

GENERAL AFFAIRS

"Single audit" in the EU cohesion policy

The Council adopted conclusions on the Court of Auditors' special report No 16/2013 entitled "Taking stock of 'single audit' and the Commission's reliance on the work of national audit authorities in cohesion, set out in [9187/14](#).

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

EUBAM Libya

The Council allocated a budget of € 26.2 million for the European Union integrated border management assistance mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya) for the period from 22 May 2014 until 21 May 2015, the current end of the mission's mandate.

TRANSPARENCY

Public access to documents

On 20 May 2014, the Council approved:

- the reply to confirmatory application No 11/c/01/14 ([8851/1/14 REV 1](#)).
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