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Youth, Culture and Sport

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- 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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ITEMS DEBATED**CULTURE****Resolution on the cultural dimension of sustainable development**

Ministers of culture adopted a resolution on the cultural dimension of sustainable development ([13336/19](#)).

The aim of the resolution is to strengthen the contribution of culture to sustainable development. Its adoption will trigger a process leading to an action plan on the cultural dimension of sustainable development at EU level. The plan will be developed by the Commission in cooperation with member states and is expected to be included into the future EU implementation strategy for the 2030 Agenda.

In recent years, the work of the Council and the Commission in the area of culture has concentrated on promoting cultural diversity as well as the economic, social and external relations aspects of culture. The Council has been implementing work plans for culture since 2002 and the European Commission has implemented the European Agenda for Culture (2007) and the New European Agenda for Culture (2018). Delivering on sustainability would be a response of the sector to the 'New Strategic Agenda 2019-2024'¹ adopted by EU leaders in June. In it they have identified sustainability as crucial for the European model for the future and have committed to invest in culture and cultural heritage, which are at the heart of European identity.

Strengths, innovation potential and global competitiveness of the European cultural, creative and audio-visual industries - public debate

On the basis of a presidency discussion paper ([13341/19](#)), ministers of culture held a public debate on the strengths, innovation potential and global competitiveness of the European cultural, creative and audio-visual industries (CCIs). They were invited to exchange views on the following questions:

- Which challenges facing the CCIs and more specifically the audio-visual industry do you consider to be the most urgent at both national and European level? What do you consider to be the most important strengths of these industries?
- Which actions and policy measures should the EU take as a matter of priority to strengthen its global competitiveness in a sustainable way in the field of audio-visual content creation and distribution?

¹ [A New Strategic Agenda 2019 - 2024](#)

Ministers identified a series of serious challenges for the CCIs in the EU. Among these were the power of big non-European players and the amount of data they control, which undermined competition. The fragmentation of the European market, the difficult access to funding and the speed of digital transformation were also highlighted as the biggest challenges for European CCIs.

During the exchange of views, ministers pointed at some of the most important strengths of European CCIs:

- huge potential for growth
- ability to provide local content
- high quality of production
- linguistic and cultural diversity

Most of the participants in the debate highlighted that cooperation at European level in the areas of production and dissemination was key for strengthening the competitiveness of European CCIs. They also stressed the need to create favourable conditions for the functioning of CCIs through adopting appropriate legislative measures, facilitating funding, developing talent and investing in digital skills and media literacy. Ministers called for the full use of EU funding through programmes, such as Erasmus, Horizon Europe and Creative Europe. Some delegations provided examples of tax incentives for CCIs at national level.

SPORT

Conclusions on combatting corruption in sport

Ministers of sport adopted conclusions on combatting corruption in sport ([13349/19 + COR 1](#)). The fight against corruption in sport is a priority for the Finnish presidency of the Council. The conclusions' main aim is to suggest how the EU and its member states, and the sport movement can contribute to achieve integrity and fairness in sport. They recognise that while corruption in sport is not a new phenomenon, there is no overall EU approach to anti-corruption measures in sport.

Even though the fight against corruption in sport is not mentioned in the EU Treaties, corruption is recognised in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) as one of the 'areas of particularly serious crimes with a cross-border dimension'. Furthermore, the TFEU states that the EU 's action is aimed at 'developing the European dimension in sport, by promoting fairness and openness in sporting competitions'.

Conclusions on safeguarding children in sport

Ministers also adopted conclusions on safeguarding children in sport ([13351/1/19](#)). The promotion of sport among children and young people, and the provision of a secure sports environment are among the key priorities of the Finnish presidency.

The conclusions cover both protection of children as well as the promotion of children's wellbeing. The document identifies number of measures and initiatives which can be undertaken or further developed to ensure that children in sport are protected from physical and emotional harm, abuse or neglect. Member states, the Commission and sport organisations are invited to actively participate in the design of such measures and initiatives and to further cooperate among each other.

Promoting good governance in sport

Ministers held a public debate on good governance in sport based on a presidency discussion paper (13355/19). They were joined by a guest speaker - **Witold Banka**, President of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and former Sports Minister of Poland. The debate focused on two questions:

- How can public authorities and the sports movement cooperate at EU and Member State level in order to boost and foster good governance in sport?
- What benefits can cooperation at EU level bring in terms of promoting good governance in sport?

Ministers agreed that cooperation at both EU and national level and the sharing of best practices were key to achieve good governance in sport. They stressed that sports organisations also had to be encouraged to cooperate. Ministers highlighted the need to attach conditions to public funding for activities of sports organisations in order to incentivize them to implement codes of conduct and to work in a spirit of transparency. Some delegations also suggested to implement programs for training and providing advice to leaders of sports bodies. Ministers insisted on using funding from Erasmus programme to promote good governance in sport. They identified several benefits, which cooperation at national and EU level could bring to good governance in sport:

- introducing common standards
- influencing international sports bodies to adopt codes of conduct and rules on transparency
- contributing to fight match-fixing, corruption, racism and discrimination

Any other business (21/11/2019)

1. Estonia provided information about the nomination of Tartu for the European Capital of Culture 2024 ([13557/19](#))
2. Austria informed ministers about the selection of the European Capital of Culture 2024 at national level ([14094/19](#))
3. The Bulgarian delegation provided information about the return of archaeological objects to Bulgaria as a good practice on the protection and preservation of cultural heritage ([13945/1/19](#))
4. France intervened on the subject of related rights of publishers and press agencies in the digital age ([13740/19](#))
5. The Italian delegation presented an information note entitled: 'Strengthening the role of culture for the future of Europe requires the word “culture” spelled out in Commissioner designate Gabriel’s portfolio' ([13921/19](#))
6. The EU member states' representative of the incumbent Trio Presidency in the WADA Foundation Board briefed ministers about WADA meetings: Executive Committee, Fifth World Conference on Doping in Sport and Foundation Board, held in Katowice, Poland on 4-7 November 2019 ([13853/19](#))
7. The incoming Croatian presidency presented its work programme in the area of culture and sport.

The main priorities in the field of Culture will be the following:

- Risk management in the area of cultural heritage
- Media literacy in an ever-changing world
- Mobility as a vehicle of cultural and creative sectors
- Creative Europe programme for 2021-2027

In the area of Sport, the Croatian presidency presented the following priorities:

- Sport qualifications and competences for coaches

- Role and influence of media in sport
- Coordination of the EU positions for the WADA meetings
- Promotion of the negotiations on the multiannual programmes (Erasmus+ Sport)

YOUTH

Conclusions on digital youth work

Ministers adopted conclusions on digital youth work ([12681/19](#) + [COR 1](#)) whose main aim is to contribute to overcome the digital gap among young people. The conclusions identify a series of measures to make better use of digital technologies in the area of youth work and to help youth workers in their activities. Member states and the Commission are invited to undertake and apply these measures.

Youth work includes various social, cultural, educational and sports-related activities carried out with, by and for young people outside the formal educational system. The activities are managed by professional or voluntary youth workers and youth leaders. The value of these activities has been recognised in the Council conclusions on youth work¹. Further to that, in 2017 the Council adopted conclusions on smart youth work², stressing the importance of using digital technologies in work with young people.

Conclusions on education and training of youth workers

Ministers also adopted conclusions on education and training of youth workers ([13595/1/19](#)). The conclusions recognise that education and training of youth workers should be adapted to meet the particular needs and conditions in individual member states. At the same time, they stress that there is a shared understanding as regards the educational and training needs of youth workers in the EU. The text invites the Commission and member states to further explore how to improve the current youth work education and training systems in Europe.

The conclusions take into account the Resolution on the European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 adopted by the Council in 2019³. It invites the member states and the Commission to support the development of quality youth work at local, regional, national and European level, including training for youth workers.

¹ [Council conclusions on the contribution of quality youth work to the development, well-being and social inclusion of young people](#)

² [Council conclusions on smart youth work](#)

³ [Resolution on the European Union Youth Strategy 2019 - 2027](#)

A vision for youth work in Europe – climate change, young people and youth work - public debate

Ministers held a debate on how youth work can integrate the current main concerns of young people, in particular climate change. The discussion paper ([13398/19](#)), prepared by the presidency, contained three questions:

- How can we strengthen the capacity of youth work to respond to emerging challenges faced by young people in the context of climate change?
- How can youth work support young people in their climate activism and in building a sustainable future?
- Climate change is a cross-sectoral challenge. How can the youth sector act as a partner in cross-sectoral cooperation?

The debate started with a statement by Sara Nyman, vice-president of the Finnish National Youth Council. Sara Nyman told ministers that climate change deeply affected the lives of young people and urged public authorities to listen to the young across Europe and to integrate climate education in schools curricula.

Ministers agreed that in order to strengthen the capacity of youth work to respond to climate change, high level education and training on environmental issues and sustainable development had to be provided to all youth workers. They also stressed the importance of using more digital tools, providing funding for non-formal education schemes, including environmental issues in education at all levels and supporting mobility programmes.

On assisting young people in their climate activism, ministers identified the following measures:

- raising awareness among the young on environmental threats
- promoting low carbon and sustainable lifestyle
- involving young people in decision-making and the implementation of policies

Ministers also highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral cooperation at local, regional, national and EU level and the inclusion of environmental issues in all policy areas.

Any other business (22/11/2019)

1. The Portuguese delegation provided information on the conclusions of the World Conference of ministers responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth Forum, “Lisboa+21” – Lisbon, 22 and 23 June 2019 ([13734/19](#))
2. Lithuania briefed ministers on the 4th Eastern Partnership Youth Forum (EaP) marking the 10th anniversary of the Eastern Partnership in the field of Youth (Vilnius, Lithuania, 19 June 2019) ([13950/19](#))
3. The incoming Croatian presidency presented its work programme in the area of Youth, highlighting the following priorities:
 - Opportunities for young people in rural and remote areas
 - Raising awareness on the youth sector by informing and strengthening resources
 - Fostering the EU Youth Dialogue
 - Continuation of the work on the European Solidarity Corps programme post-2020

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

ENVIRONMENT

Minamata Convention: mercury waste

The Council adopted a decision on the position to be taken, on behalf of the EU, at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as regards the adoption of a decision establishing thresholds for mercury waste.

This decision enters into force on the date of its adoption ([13705/19](#), [13479/19](#))

Minamata Convention: dental amalgam

The Council adopted a decision on the position to be taken, on behalf of the EU, at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as regards the adoption of a decision on the phasing-out of dental amalgam.

This decision enters into force on the date of its adoption ([13706/19](#), [13480/19](#))

Emissions Trading System: Linking with Switzerland

The Council adopted a decision on the position to be taken, on behalf of the EU, within the joint committee established by the agreement between the EU and the Swiss Confederation on the linking of their greenhouse gas emissions trading systems, as regards to the amendment of annexes I and II to the agreement ([13683/19](#), [13327/19](#)).

The joint committee, during its meeting on 5 December 2019, is expected to adopt a decision regarding the amendment of annexes I and II to the agreement. Once the joint committee has amended the annexes, it will be considered that the conditions for linking set out in the agreement have been fulfilled and that, therefore, the EU should notify its instrument of approval to the Swiss Confederation. The agreement will enter into force on 1 January of the year following the exchange of the instruments of ratification or approval by the parties.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Eurojust

The Council approved the election of Mr Meyer-Cabri as vice-president of Eurojust ([13789/19](#)). Mr Meyer-Cabri, national member for Germany, has unanimously been re-elected by the college of Eurojust. He has served as Vice-President since 2016.

For more information, see [Eurojust press release](#)

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

VAT rules for e-commerce

The Council adopted two sets of implementing rules on VAT applicable to e-commerce:

- a directive on provisions for distance sales of goods and certain domestic supplies of goods ([8010/19](#))
- a Council implementing regulation on supplies of goods or services via electronic interfaces ([8011/19](#))

These rules are supplementing the overall VAT regulatory framework applicable to e-commerce that was adopted in December 2017 and will become applicable in January 2021.