

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

Brussels, 30-31 May 2016

*The Council will start on Monday at 10.00 with **youth** issues, chaired by the Netherlands State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport, Martin van Rijn. The Commission will be represented by Commissioner Navracsics.*

The Council will be preceded (at 08.30) by the usual informal meeting ('structured dialogue') between representatives of European youth organisations, the President of the Youth Council configuration, Commissioner Navracsics and the ministers from the expanded troika (LU, NL, SK and MT).

*The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the **role of the youth sector in preventing** and combating **violent radicalisation of young people**. Ministers will also discuss, in public deliberation, the **role of youth policy** in an integrated approach **to support youth identity development***

*The morning session will be followed by a working lunch of education and youth ministers, who will discuss the **joint role of education and youth policies in preventing radicalisation among young people**.*

*The afternoon session, beginning at 15.00, will be devoted to **education matters** and will be chaired by the Netherlands minister for Education, Culture and Science, Jet Bussemaker. Commissioner Navracsics will again represent the Commission.*

*The Council is due to adopt conclusions on developing **media literacy and critical thinking through education and training**. Ministers will also exchange views, in public deliberation, on the **modernisation agenda for higher education** in Europe.*

*Council proceedings will resume on Tuesday at 09.30, with **culture and audiovisual** items, under the chairmanship of Minister Jet Bussemaker. Commissioner Oettinger will attend the morning session.*

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

The Council **is** expected to adopt conclusions on **the role of Europeana for the digital access, visibility and use of cultural heritage**.

Subsequently, the Commission will present its proposal for revising the **Audiovisual Media Services Directive**. Ministers will then be able to discuss the AVMS proposal in general and address one of the aspects of the AVMS directive in particular, namely the **promotion of cross-border circulation of European audiovisual content**.

Sport-related issues will be dealt with in the afternoon, starting at 14.00, chaired by the Netherlands minister for Health, Welfare and Sport, Edith Schippers. The Commission will again be represented by Commissioner Navracsics.

During this session the Council is due to adopt conclusions on enhancing integrity, transparency and **good governance in major sport events**. It will also include a public debate on the role of governments in **improving governance in sport**.

The sport session will be followed (16.00-16.30) by the 'structured dialogue' meeting between representatives of the sports movement (IOC, EOC, FIFA and UEFA), all EU sport ministers and Commissioner Navracsics. They will address the issue of **good governance in relation to major sport events**.

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Press conferences: Monday after lunch (+/-14.30) and Tuesday +/-13.15 (Culture and Audiovisual) and +/-18.00 (Sport)

Press conferences and public events can be followed by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu/>
Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery: <http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu>

YOUTH

Preventing and combating violent radicalisation

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the role of the youth sector in an integrated and cross-sectoral approach **to preventing and combating violent radicalisation of young people** ([9041/16](#)).

The terrorist attacks in Paris and Copenhagen in 2015 and most recently in Brussels in March have highlighted the specific threat posed by 'homegrown' radicalisation, i.e. the promotion of Islamic fundamentalism in Western Europe by extremists seeking to recruit young Muslims to further their cause by violent means. At the same time the rising incidents of violent xenophobia all over Europe show an urging need for actions.

To counter this phenomenon, countries across Europe are seeking ways of ensuring the early detection and prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism in all its forms.

The text of the conclusions stresses the invaluable contribution that youth work, voluntary and cultural activities and sport can make in reaching out to young people who might otherwise be more vulnerable to radicalisation.

The conclusions therefore invite member states and the Commission to develop training and education modules for youth workers to be used at national, regional and local level in order to ensure that youth workers acquire sufficient up-to-date knowledge, tools and skills and awareness.

They also highlight the need to undermine and challenge existing violent extremist ideologies and to counterbalance them with appealing non-violent alternatives and to support parents, siblings, peers and others in contact with young people who are at risk of violent radicalisation, providing them with information on existing support systems and counselling possibilities.

The informal meeting of EU education ministers in Paris on 17 March 2015 highlighted the need to promote fundamental European values such as democracy, equality, non-discrimination, tolerance, solidarity and the rule of law. The Paris declaration stressed the importance of both formal education and informal learning in order to ensure inclusion of all young people in civic societies.

The current EU Work plan for youth 2016-2018 ([13631/15](#)) focuses on increased social inclusion of all young people, taking into account underlying European values, and the role of youth work both in the non-digital and the digital world.

An integrated approach to support youth identity development

Ministers will discuss, in public deliberation, the **role of youth policy** in an integrated approach to **support youth identity development**, on the basis of a presidency background paper ([8365/16](#)).

The changes that Europe is currently facing bring challenges for Europe as a whole, but also specifically for young people within Europe. Europe's population is increasingly visibly diversified, the socio-economic situation makes it difficult for young people to enter the labour market, the legitimacy of a united Europe is being questioned and violent images of international conflicts, sometimes at the borders of Europe, are often present in the media.

In this context, young people need a strong and positive identity to be able to successfully participate in education, the labour market, and society at large. It is also crucial for them to build resilience against anti-democratic influences and forces.

This involves meeting different kinds of people, learning to deal or engage with them and standing up for what you believe in in a constructive way. These skills are especially difficult to achieve for youngsters at risk, who have troubled family backgrounds, problems at school or within society.

Therefore, a pedagogic network with an integrated approach is necessary, supporting young people's positive identity development, and it should include parents, family, sports coaches, religious and other informal leaders, youth workers, and teachers.

However, these networks are not easy to put in place. They require well-focused initiatives by credible parties, supported by effective policies, and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels.

Against this background, ministers are invited to answer the following questions:

- What sort of conditions and support have you created (should be created) in national youth policies to implement pedagogic networks with an integrated approach for young people? If possible, could you please illustrate this with concrete examples based on practices and challenges you face in the implementation of an integrated approach in your country?
- How can the cooperation among member states at EU level be organised so that it contributes to encourage building pedagogic networks with an integrated approach?

EDUCATION

Media literacy and critical thinking

The Council is due to adopt conclusions **on developing media literacy and critical thinking through education and training**, which acknowledge the many benefits and opportunities that the Internet and social media can bring, but also highlight the potential threats and dangers they can present. The conclusions stress the fundamental role of education and training in helping young people to become media-literate and responsible citizens of the future.

The conclusions also encourage the use of the funding opportunities offered by all relevant EU funds and programmes – notably Erasmus+, the Connecting Europe Facility, the European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020, Creative Europe and Europe for Citizens – to support these efforts.

Furthermore, they call on member states to continue to cooperate with, and take into account the work done by other multilateral fora, such as the Council of Europe², UNESCO and the OECD, since the challenges cross borders and affect countries both inside and outside the European Union.

Media literacy - that is, all the intellectual, technical, social, civic and creative capacities that allow us to access and have a critical understanding of and interact with both traditional and new forms of media - is of increasing importance. It is closely related to active engagement in democratic life, to citizenship and the ability to exercise judgement critically and independently, as well as to reflect on one's own actions, and can thereby enhance young people's resilience in the face of extremist messages and disinformation.

Digital competence, which encompasses the confident, creative and critical use of ICT, is a crucial component of media literacy. A low level of digital competence can leave a person at a disadvantage, not just on the labour market where almost all jobs require some level of digital competence, but also in society at large, and therefore lead to exclusion.

These issues have been at the forefront of discussions in this area since the Paris declaration adopted in March last year by all the EU education ministers, in the wake of the Charlie Hebdo attacks, and became even more crucial following the Paris and Brussels attacks.

The declaration highlights the key role that education has to play in promoting citizenship and the Union's fundamental values. Ministers agreed that one of the areas in need of strengthening was young people's ability to think critically and to exercise judgement so that, particularly in the context of the Internet and social media, they are able to grasp realities, to distinguish fact from opinion, to recognise propaganda and to resist all forms of indoctrination and hate speech.

²

In particular, the strategy for the rights of the child 2016-2021, adopted in March 2016, which addresses the issue of protecting and promoting the rights of the child in the digital environment: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/children/>.

Modernisation of higher education

Ministers will discuss, in public deliberation, the **modernisation agenda for higher education** in Europe.

In 2011 the Council adopted conclusions³ in response to the Commission communication "An Agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems" ([14198/11](#)). While the core topics covered remain relevant, the Commission, following a public consultation, intends to review the agenda later this year, in order to take into account developments that have occurred since then in this field.

The aim of the debate is to allow ministers to put forward the issues and considerations they believe should be addressed within this strategic European initiative.

To structure the debate, the presidency has selected three key topics that it feels reflect the main challenges for European higher education ([8635/15](#)):

- **increasing the labour market relevance of higher education** through skills and university-business partnerships
- **preparing engaged citizens** by putting greater emphasis on inclusion and social and civic competences
- **the changing roles of teaching staff**

Three member states will first briefly present a concrete example of a policy or project linked to one specific discussion topic. After each short presentation, the other member states will be invited to respond with comments or questions, keeping in mind the three corresponding questions prepared by the presidency on the support and added value of European cooperation.

Any other business

- New skills agenda for Europe
- Information from the Commission
- Ministerial meetings to be organised in Cyprus:
- Information from the Cyprus delegation
- Summer School "Beyond the refugee crisis - Studying in Europe"
- Information from the Greek delegation
- Work programme of the incoming presidency
- Information from the Slovak delegation

³ OJ C 372, 20.12.2011.

CULTURE and AUDIOVISUAL

Role of Europeana

The Council will adopt conclusions on the **role of Europeana for the digital access, visibility and use of European cultural heritage**, addressing its financing, governance, quality of available data and user-friendliness. The conclusions also aim to reinforce Europeana as a cultural and digital innovation project, increasing member states' involvement and ownership and securing its sustainable financing:

Europeana was launched in 2008 as the EU public digital library with the aim of bringing online the cultural heritage of member states and showcasing the richness and diversity of European cultural heritage. It has helped to create a network of heritage professionals and it provides an online platform for sharing and re-using cultural material, which to date gives access to more than 50 million items from around 3 700 cultural institutions (<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>).

To increase Europeana's value, technological improvement of the platform is needed. Moreover, to better reach and engage end-users, content needs to be presented in more attractive and diverse ways, including through curated exhibitions, social media, and applications in research, education, tourism and the wider creative sector.

Europeana is co-financed by the EU (from the Connecting Europe Facility) and member states that provide contributions on a voluntary basis. This financing model has proved unable to cover Europeana's needs in a sustainable manner.

The Council therefore invites the Commission to switch from funding by means of grants, to a combination of grants and procurement. Under procurement, the EU can fully finance and safeguard the network and the platform functions, whereas EU grants will remain available for specific projects aiming at the wider audience, which are to be co-funded by and participating organisations.

The Council asks the Commission to evaluate the overall state of Europeana and submit to it mid and long-term guidelines for its development. This assessment is to be finalised by October 2017.

Audiovisual Media Services Directive

Along with strengthening the internal market and competitiveness, promoting the cultural and linguistic diversity of Europe has long been a key objective of EU audiovisual policy. Global media convergence has brought a new dimension to it.

The Commission will present its proposal for a revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMS), which was adopted in 2010⁴, establishing a single market for the free circulation of audiovisual works.

The current directive is based on the country of origin principle, according to which service providers are subject only to the rules applicable in their own country. At the same time, the directive seeks to ensure the protection of general public interests such as the protection of minors, media pluralism, cultural diversity, consumer protection, etc. It regulates both traditional TV broadcasting and new on-demand services, albeit to a different degree.

The revision of the AVMS directive is also part of the Commission's [Digital Single Market Strategy](#), adopted in May 2015, aiming to modernise the audiovisual regulatory framework in order to adapt it to the digital era, which is characterised by the increasing consumption of online and on-demand content, mostly on mobile devices.

In 2015 the Commission launched a REFIT exercise to evaluate whether the directive was still fit for purpose. The outcome of the REFIT will be published together with this legislative proposal.

Following the Commission's presentation, ministers will be able to discuss the proposal in general and address one of the aspects of the AVMS directive in particular, namely the **promotion of cross-border circulation of European audiovisual content**.

According to the latest figures for video on demand (VOD) platforms in Europe, although European works do quite well on television (64% of transmission time but only 9% non-national), international films (mostly US) circulate better (63% of admissions in 2014) than national and EU non-national films. National films often come second in their home market (24%), but they have difficulties in finding an audience abroad (9%).

For video on demand, on average 27% of the films available in catalogues is European, with 19% non-national and 8% national European films.

Ministers are invited to consider several issues in this context, such as content creation versus audience reach, co-productions, national financial incentives and quotas ([8668/16](#)).

These issues are also a priority in the Commission's copyright initiatives⁵ and in accompanying measures in the framework of the Creative Europe Programme.

At national level, member states are also evaluating and adapting various policies for European audiovisual production and distribution.

⁴ OJ L 95, 15.4.2010.

⁵ Proposal for a regulation on ensuring the cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market ([15302/15](#)).
Communication "Towards a modern, more European copyright framework" ([15264/15](#)).

Any other business

- European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018)
 - Information from the Commission
- Interoperability of digital content
 - Information from the French delegation
- Cultural projects implemented under the ERDF 2014-2020
 - Information from the Polish delegation
- Work programme of the incoming presidency
 - Information from the Slovak delegation

SPORT

Good governance in major sport events

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on enhancing integrity, transparency and **good governance in major sport events**. The text proposes several measures to implement these principles at national and European level during all stages of such events (feasibility, bidding, preparation, organisation, evaluation, legacy), including after their closure.

The conclusions also underline the need for a regular dialogue between member states, the Commission and the sports movement and the role of national, regional and local public authorities in financing, infrastructure, environmental protection, safety and security aspects, as well as in planning and ensuring the sustainability of major sport events.

Major sport events are excellent opportunities to celebrate the performance, values and benefits of sport in a national and international context. They can be a positive showcase for sport, attracting huge attention and they also have the potential to inspire adults and children to participate in sport.

Furthermore, major sport events can play an important role in the development of a region or city and have very positive effects in terms of economic, social and environmental impact, if they are carefully planned from the earliest possible stage. The legacy and sustainability of major sport events can significantly contribute both to their legitimacy and to support for them.

The Council has been following the issue of good governance very closely. In 2011, it adopted an EU Work Plan for Sport ([9509/1/11](#)) that established integrity of sport (including the promotion of good governance) as a priority.

As a follow-up, the Council set up an expert group "Good governance in sport" to address this issue and to develop principles of transparency. Input came from member states, as well as from good practices collected among sport entities and other organisations. These principles represent minimum standards that can be met by a variety of sport bodies.

The second EU Work Plan for Sport (2014-2017)⁶ underlined the need to work further on this important topic. Therefore, a joint expert group (member states and the Commission) was established to prepare guiding principles relating to democracy, human rights and labour rights, in particular in the context of the awarding procedure for major sport events. This work was completed in early January 2016 so that its key findings could be addressed in these conclusions.

These issues will also be addressed in the framework of the 'structured dialogue' meeting between representatives of the sports movement (IOC, EOC, FIFA and UEFA), all EU sport ministers and Commissioner Navracsics that will take place after the formal Council session.

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OJ C 183, 14.6.2014.

Improving governance in sport: the role of governments

In the follow-up, ministers will hold a public debate on **improving governance in sport**, on the basis of a presidency background paper ([8367/16](#)).

Sport embodies many positive values, such as enjoyment, pride, performance, cohesion and fraternity. Sport has positive effects on welfare, health, education and the economy. At the same time, there are still too many serious issues which tarnish the positive image of sport, such as doping, match-fixing, violence, human trafficking, and money laundering.

In recent decades the sport sector has changed. More spectators are attending major sport events, while media coverage has expanded considerably, leading to a huge increase in viewers. The market has become a global one with increasing cross-border activity. These developments have led the sport sector to become more dependent on sponsoring and merchandising.

Due to the rising financial stakes, sport has become more vulnerable to issues of integrity, with new scandals regularly dominating the news and with the consequent negative impact on the credibility and trust of the public in the positive values of sport.

The sport sector has been essentially self-regulated, with sport organisations enjoying a great deal of autonomy. But this autonomy can only be maintained if high standards of good governance are applied. The recent corruption, money laundering and bribery scandals have made it crystal clear that sport organisations alone are not equipped to combat these phenomena.

Governments have supported the concept of self-governance for a long time. However, the threats which the sport sector is increasingly facing require support from, cooperation with, and in some cases the intervention of national governments.

Sport organisations must manage their sports in accordance with the basic principles of good governance, such as skilled management, sustainable financing, accountability of members and transparency of actions.

In order to steer the debate, ministers are invited to reflect on the following questions:

- As a sports minister, how do you see your role regarding the governance of sport and in particular the promotion of sport integrity at a national level?
- What are the possible instruments that can be used to tackle the different challenges sport faces and what are your experiences regarding these instruments?
- What could be the role of the EU in relation to a coordinated approach among member states?

Any other business

- World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) meetings
 - Information from the EU member state representatives
 - European Week of Sport
 - Briefing by the Commission
 - Recent Commission studies
 - Information from the Commission
 - Work programme of the incoming presidency
 - Information from the Slovak delegation
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