

Sports Confederation of Denmark

Culture Questions

- *How important is EU funding to the UK Cultural sector? And how beneficial to the UK is the EU's focus on a shared cultural heritage?*
- *Are EU cultural programmes effective and how can they be improved?*

General Questions

- *What evidence is there that EU action in the areas of Culture, Tourism and/or Sport benefits or disadvantages the UK?*
- *Do you think the EU should do more, or less in relation to Culture, Tourism and Sport, and why?*

Answer

The EU should do more in relation to sport. One advice could be to foster a platform for real genuine partnerships between member countries and sports organisations with the objective to use the best experts, competences and available knowledge to drive forward more participation in sport in Europe across the EU member states. Such an effort requires that EU will start to recognize that some member countries and sports organisations are better than others when it comes to drive forward an agenda, which could result in a more active European population.

Furthermore a more active EU when it comes to provide partnerships in the world of sport could be an asset related EU's relations to third countries. One can expect that the current BRIC countries with its growing middle class, which for the majority is physical inactive, will start to ask for initiatives, which can grow a more active population. Comparatively speaking the population in the EU countries are more physical active than the population in the BRIC countries. Advice about driving forward more participation could be an export opportunity for EU to pursue if EU is able to exploit the knowledge in the member countries and sports organisations that have the most competence, when it comes to promote physical activity.

- *What are the benefits or disadvantages of directing funding through the EU rather than national arrangements?*

Answer

The benefits of direct funding is the opportunity to unite the most competent member countries and sports organisations and let them come up with solutions, which can develop sport and participation in Europe

The disadvantages of the direct funding is that the EU Commission show no signs of being willing to exploit the opportunity to fund such partnerships, where it requires that the funded member countries and sports organisations is the most competent. So far the EU Commission has been too passive and just published project guidelines instead of actively trying to secure that the most competent organisations also are the ones that are getting

the funding.

- *Have you noticed any change in EU activity or emphasis since the 2009 Treaty of Lisbon and is this welcome?*

Answer

As sport was first mentioned in the Treaty of Lisbon as an EU Competence. Sport has noticed the change that it is now a part of the whole EU bureaucratic machinery including council working group meetings and formal council meetings. This whole bureaucratic process has been challenging especially the minor EU member states to participate in, because their sports departments do only have very limited resources. That means that there is only a weak politic influence on the development of sport in the EU, while the Commission has a relative big influence on the agenda discussed on sport in the EU. Finally one can notice that more money have been allocated to sport due to the fact, that it has become a EU competence in the Treaty of Lisbon

- *What other areas of EU competence or activity impact on your sector and how?*

Answer

As EU can't make legally binding decisions under the article 165 in the Lisbon Treaty. Sport has only felt a minor impact on our sector. The impact has been mainly positive due to the financial resources, which have been allocated to sport since article 165 went into force. The major impact on sport in the EU is regulated mainly by the Common Market regulations as the Bosman verdict is an example of, because those decisions are legally binding

- *What international bodies or arrangements are important to your sector beyond the EU?*

Answer

The International Olympic Committee and the European Olympic Committee are other important international bodies for sport.

- *How could the EU co-ordinate its activity in these areas of competence to greater effect?*

Answer

The EU should be more strategic and focused when it comes to how the allocated projected funds are donated and spend. So far it seems that EU is more occupied with quantity instead of quality, which means that the number of projects that the EU can start is more important than the quality of the projects funded.

Furthermore EU must mainstream its funding opportunities even more and thereby not only restrict sport to funding from the money that is specifically allocated to sport. EU must coordinate this even better, so funds meant to improve health in the EU can be used to sports projects, which wants to activate more people into sport. A mainstreaming between the different funds in the EU will all things being equal secure a more effective way of allocate the funds, and even more importantly result in more long term developments, which can make a profound change for sport in the EU.

Sport Questions

- *To what extent should the EU be exercising its supporting competence for sport to add value at a European level?*

Answer

There is a fundamental question about how EU should exercise its supporting competence for sport to add value at a European level. And that is if EU should act as a police officer, who is the regulator of sport or if EU should act as the visionary consultant, which should provide the opportunity for member states and sports organisations to develop European sport from securing more medals to European athletes to foster more participation in sport and physical activity among the European population. So far EU have taken the role as the police officer and by that EU has missed the opportunity to make the foundations for a more integrating cooperation between member states and sports organisations to develop sport in Europe.

To add value in the future for sport at a European level, EU should exercise its supporting competence for sport by providing the following opportunities to develop sport in Europe not try to regulate it:

- enter into specific dialogues with member states and sports organisation that have proven records and competence in the areas, where an EU supporting competence is defined in the EU work plan on sport
- make sure that the ERASMUS+ program will have funds for supporting three to seven projects a year with a minimum of one million euro. The aim of these selected projects should be to develop specific solutions to different European challenges in the sporting sector
- make sure that sport is mainstreamed into other EU funding programs, so sport will be able to exercise its potentials across the policy spectrum in the EU
- be the host, supporter and the intermediary of best practices examples of innovative initiatives made in sport in the member countries and sports organizations.

- *What value have you seen from the 2011-14 EU Work Plan on Sport, and what should be the EU priorities for sport in the future?*

Answer

The most prominent value of the 2011 – 2014 EU Work Plan on Sport is the formation of the six different expert groups, because the expert groups have been able to secure a visionary dialogue between the member states and the sports organisations. The dialogue has been full of content and if one look at the recommendations and deliverables from the expert groups, one will find suggestions, proposals and conclusions, which are for the majority trying to develop European sport in a necessary and specific cooperation between the member states and sports organisations. Furthermore by bringing experts together instead of politicians and professionals from the ministries the discussions are made visionary and forward looking from the perspective of a sports organisation.

The EU priorities for sport in the future should be:

- bring together the most competent member states and sports organizations when it comes to sport and participation and let them work out a common proposal on how Europe fundamentally can engage more people in sport and physical activity. Furthermore EU should let this group of countries and sports organisations be the drivers for a future cooperation with countries outside EU that are requesting advice and specific help on how they can engage their populations in more sport and physical activity. EU should look at this as an export and income opportunity, because many of the growth economies are looking for ways to make their growing middle class more physically active

- make sure that expert groups can still be formed, be able to discuss and come up with specific recommendations on how EU can foster development and innovation with the sporting sector in Europe

- concentrate on finding European solutions in the following policy areas: Fight against doping, fight against match fixing, recognition of sport owner's rights in relation to online gambling, promoting sports participation, promote models integrating more sport and physical activity into the school day, secure an implementation of the ERASMUS+ programme that will foster genuine development and growth in sports participation in Europe