



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

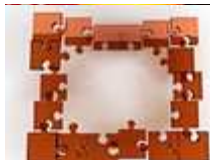
EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE

Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update

18.06.10

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... *European Council*

European Council adopts EU2020 Strategy

The European Council (which is made up of the 27 heads of state or government, its President Mr van Rompuy, and the President of the Commission, Mr Barroso) met in Brussels yesterday whereby they adopted the following conclusions:

- **Adoption of "Europe 2020"**. The Europe 2020 Strategy is the framework that will enable the Union to mobilise all its instruments and policies, and enable the member states to act with greater coordination, promoting structural reforms and unblocking the potential for growth. The emphasis must now be on its implementation and monitoring.

The European Council confirmed the five EU headline targets (Annex 1 of the Conclusions) which will constitute shared objectives guiding the action of Member States and the Union as regards promoting employment; improving the conditions for innovation, research and development; meeting climate change and energy objectives; improving education levels and promoting social inclusion in particular through the reduction of poverty.

Agreement was reached on the quantification of the education and social inclusion/poverty indicators.

- **Fiscal sustainability**. The reaffirmation of a collective determination to ensure fiscal sustainability, including by accelerating plans for fiscal consolidation.
- **Financial sustainability**. The commitment to ensure financial stability by addressing the gaps in regulation and supervision of financial markets, both at the level of the EU and at the G20.
- Agreement on the urgent need to reinforce the **coordination of economic policies**.
- Agreement on first orientations as regards the **Stability and Growth Pact and budgetary surveillance** as well as broader macroeconomic surveillance.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/115346.pdf



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...Parliament

Sport Players' agents should be subject to EU rules

According to a resolution approved in Parliament, the activities of sport players' agents should be regulated by the EU, and include a licensing system, to improve the transparency of their activities and player transfer transactions.

A recent study by the European Commission shows that sport players' agents are central in financial streams that are often not transparent, making them prone to illegal activities and even organised crime.

Player transfers

MEPs believe that such illegal activities are detrimental to the image of sport, its integrity and ultimately its role in society. The opacity of player transfer systems, particularly in team sports, which are conducive to illegal activities where agents as well as clubs and players are involved, was particularly criticised by MEPs.

Money laundering, match fixing, and human trafficking

Parliament asked the Council to step up its co-ordinating efforts in the fight against criminal activities linked to agents' activities, including money laundering, match fixing and human trafficking. Underlining the specific vulnerability of young players and the risk of them becoming victims of human trafficking, they call for a ban on remuneration to players' agents related to the transfer of minors.

Although in some sports disciplines, agents' activities are already extensively regulated by sporting bodies internationally and nationally, very few EU Member States have specific laws on sports agents.

Licensing system

MEPs called for an EU initiative to:

- set strict standards and examination criteria before anyone could operate as a players' agent;
- ensure transparency in agents' transactions and introduce an EU-wide licensing system and register for players' agents. They nonetheless acknowledge that doing away with the existing FIFA licence system without setting up a robust alternative would not be appropriate.