



2020/2073(INL)

2.10.2020

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Legal Affairs

with recommendations to the Commission on the challenges of sports events' organisers in the digital environment
(2020/2073(INL))

Rapporteur for opinion (*): Tomasz Frankowski

(Initiative – Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure)

(*) Associated committee (Rule 57 RoP)

PA_INL

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs, as the committee responsible:

- to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:
 1. Recalls that sport makes significant contributions to social inclusion, education and training, job creation, employability and public health in the Union¹;
 2. Recalls also that sport promotes and teaches values such as tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, and civic engagement;
 3. Acknowledges that sport is a growing economic sector, which represents 2,12% of Union GDP and 2,72% of employment within the Union (representing an estimated 5,67 million jobs)²;
 4. Considers that broadcasting rights to live sport events constitute the primary source of income for professional sport in the Union and that such events represent an important source of content for media operators; Notes that such income is vital for the development of grassroots sports given that in many European countries redistribution to grassroots sport depends directly on revenue from sports broadcasting rights;
 5. Notes that the main challenge faced by sport events' organisers in the digital environment is the online piracy of live broadcasts of the events they organise;
 6. Recalls that the upsurge of unlicensed live transmission of sports events is detrimental to both professional and grassroots sports and threatens the organisation and sustainability of sports events as well the financial stability of the whole sport sector;
 7. Notes that sport events' organisers invest significant financial, technical and human resources to address online piracy and engage with service providers;
 8. Stresses that COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on sports events organisers, especially on ticketing revenues, thereby increasing the dependence of sports events' organisers on broadcasting revenues;
 9. Underlines that online piracy of live sports broadcasts happens irrespective of whether the sport event is available on free to air television or through subscription services;
 10. Underlines that the legal offers of sports content should be better promoted in the Union and calls on the Commission to take measures that make it easier to find legal

¹ [Communication of the Commission of 18.1.2011 on Developing the European Dimension in Sport](#), COM 2011(12)
[European Parliament Resolution of 2 February 2012 on the European dimension in sport](#) (OJ C 239E of 20.8.2013, p. 46)

[European Parliament Resolution of 2 February 2017 on an integrated approach to Sport Policy: good governance, accessibility and integrity](#) (OJ C 252 of 18.7.2018, p. 2)

² [European Commission Study on the Economic Impact of Sport Through Sport Satellite Accounts](#), 2018.

offers of sports content and to regularly update the list of such offers on Agorateka.eu;

11. Recalls the statement of the Commission included as an Annex to the Resolution of the European Parliament on Copyright in the Digital Single Market adopted in March 2019 according to which “the Commission will assess the challenges of sport event organisers in the digital environment, in particular issues related to the illegal online transmissions of sport broadcasts”³;
12. Calls on the Commission to present without delay a legislative proposal to address the problem of online piracy of sports broadcasts;
13. Stresses that sport content is usually distributed on an exclusive basis and very often watermarked and/or fingerprinted which means that there is no doubt about who has the right to broadcast that sports content online, and that notices sent by sports events organisers to intermediaries regarding illegal streams or clips are almost never challenged;
14. Calls for the removal of, or blocking of access to, infringing live sport broadcasts from online intermediaries to be immediate, or within a maximum of 30 minutes, after the receipt of notification from rights holders in order to be effective;
15. Insists that providers of streaming servers and streaming platforms should implement a real-time take down tool to remove or disable access to illegal live sports broadcasts available on their services;
16. Considers that Member States and stakeholders should continue promoting among consumers a responsible online consumption of sports content;
17. Calls on stakeholders in the sport sector, broadcasters, online intermediaries and national authorities to continue collaborating and exchanging information on good practices in order to tackle the problem of online piracy of sport broadcasts.

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0231_EN.pdf (not yet published in the OJ).