



Brussels, 21 November 2012

## **BACKGROUND NOTE<sup>1</sup>**

### ***EDUCATION, YOUTH, CULTURE AND SPORT COUNCIL***

**Brussels, 26-27 November 2012**

*The Council will start at 10.00 on Monday with the session on **Education**. **Audiovisual and culture** matters will be dealt with in the afternoon, beginning at 15.00.*

*Over lunch, Education Ministers will have an exchange of views relating to the Copenhagen Process which was launched 10 years ago". The social partners, who are usually involved in a separate event in the Council margins, will on this occasion be invited to the ministerial lunch.*

*At 10.00 on Tuesday, the Council will proceed with **Youth**-related issues and the afternoon session, starting at 15.00, will be devoted to **Sport** matters.*

*Before the Youth session (around 8.30), the usual informal meeting ("structured dialogue") will take place between representatives of European youth organisations and the President of the Youth Council configuration, the Commissioner for Youth, Ms Androula Vassiliou, and ministers from the expanded troika (DK, CY, IE, LT).*

*The afternoon session on Sport will be preceded by a lunch, in the framework of the structured dialogue between representatives of the sports movement and ministers from the member states of the expanded troika.*

*On both days the Council sessions will be chaired by the Cypriot Minister for Education and Culture, Mr George DEMOSTHENOUS.*

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<sup>1</sup> This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

## **Education**

*In public deliberation, the Council will be briefed by the Presidency on the state of play concerning the proposal for a **regulation establishing the "ERASMUS FOR ALL" programme.***

*The Council is expected to reach political agreement on a proposal for a **recommendation on the validation of non-formal and informal learning.***

*The Council is also due to adopt **conclusions on literacy and on the contribution of education and training to economic recovery and growth.***

*Finally, ministers will have a policy debate on **improving teacher quality and status.***

## **Culture and Audiovisual**

*In public deliberation, the Council is expected to reach a partial general approach on the proposal for a **regulation establishing the "Creative Europe" programme.***

*In public deliberation, Ministers will also take note of a **progress report** from the Presidency on the proposal for a decision establishing a Union action for the **European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033.***

*The Council is also due to adopt **conclusions on:***

- **cultural governance and**
- **a European strategy for a better Internet for children, which will be followed by a policy debate on the subject.**

## **Youth**

*The Council is expected to adopt a **resolution** on the overview of the **structured dialogue with young people on youth participation in democratic life in Europe.** In this context, ministers will also take note of information from the Cyprus Presidency on the outcome of the **EU Youth Conference.***

*The Council is also due to adopt the 2012 **joint report** of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the **renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)***

*Furthermore, the Council will adopt **conclusions** on the participation and **social inclusion of young people with the emphasis on those with a migrant background, which will be followed by a policy debate on " Mobility and diversity: How to ensure social inclusion?" .***

## **Sport**

*The Council is due to adopt conclusions on:*

- *strengthening the **evidence base for sport policy-making**;*
- *establishing a strategy to **combat the manipulation of sports results**;*
- *promoting **health-enhancing physical activities**, which will be followed by a policy debate on the future establishment of an Annual European Week of Sport.*

*The Council will also designate the three **EU representatives on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Foundation Board (2013-2015)**. In this context, ministers will be briefed by the Presidency on the outcome of **the World Anti-Doping Agency's recent meetings** in Montreal.*

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**Press conferences:** *Monday at +/- 13.00 and  
Tuesday after lunch (+/- 14.30)*

***Press conferences and public events can be followed by video streaming:***  
<http://video.consilium.europa.eu/>

***Video coverage will be available for preview and download in broadcast quality (MPEG4):***  
<http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu>

## **EDUCATION**

### **"ERASMUS FOR ALL"**

In public deliberation, the Council will be briefed orally by the Presidency regarding the state of play on the proposal establishing the "ERASMUS FOR ALL" programme for the period 2014-2020 ([17188/11](#)), one of a number of proposals linked to the adoption of next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

The proposal brings together in a single programme activities previously covered by a number of separate programmes (including the Lifelong Learning Programme, Erasmus Mundus and Youth in Action) and also includes activities in the new area of European competence, sport. The proposed budget for the programme is EUR 19 billion and its main operational priorities are streamlining, simplification and performance-based allocation of funds, continuing to focus on three types of key actions, namely:

- the learning mobility of individuals;
- cooperation on innovation and good practices, and
- support for policy reform.

There are also a number of innovative proposals, such as the Erasmus Master's degree student loan guarantee scheme - aiming to promote mobility and access to affordable finance for students taking their Master's degree in another member state regardless of their social background, knowledge alliances and sector skill alliances.

At the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on 10 and 11 May 2012 (see press release, [9362/2/12](#)), EU education ministers unanimously adopted a partial general approach on the proposal ([9873/12](#)), i.e. they reached preliminary agreement on the whole text, with the exception of any provisions with budgetary implications pending negotiations with the European Parliament on the next MFF. The provisions outstanding concern the total budget for the Programme, the breakdown between the various sectors and the Master's student loan guarantee scheme.

The Cyprus Presidency had originally hoped that it could make significant progress before the end of the year in informal negotiations with the European Parliament, but voting by the competent EP Committee (CULT) on the rapporteur's final report - originally scheduled for 6 November - was postponed until 27 November. Therefore, further work on the proposal will be carried out after the Council, in the light of the amendments adopted by the Parliament's Committee.

### **Literacy**

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on literacy ([15888/12](#)), one of the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency in the field of education and training. The conclusions invite member states to improve literacy, combining specific contributions from all relevant actors, organisations and authorities, educational and non-educational, as part of broader skills strategies; and, where relevant, to strengthen cooperation on literacy initiatives between local, regional and national authorities, social partners, teachers and parents.

The conclusions also call on member states and the Commission to use all the relevant actions of the current Lifelong Learning Programme and the future EU programme on education and training, as well as the resources of the European Social Fund, to support and disseminate innovative approaches to improving literacy attainment across the EU.<sup>2</sup>

Literacy encompasses both reading and writing competences for understanding, using and critically evaluating different forms of information, including written, printed and electronic texts and images. Literacy is not solely an educational issue but also a personal, economic, cultural and social one. It is a crucial life competence which allows citizens to develop capacities of reflection and critical thinking and to fully participate in a digital and knowledge economy and society.

Low literacy levels hold back economic growth and reduce its sustainability. Alarming, the latest results of the OECD's worldwide PISA survey<sup>3</sup> on the performance of 15-year-olds in reading, maths and science show that one in five pupils has low reading skills. The need for action is equally urgent for adults: almost 80 million adults in Europe – a third of the workforce - have only low or basic skills, including poor reading and writing skills.

Although Europe has slightly improved since 2000, greater efforts will be needed by EU countries to achieve the target they set themselves under the 2009 strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ("ET 2020")<sup>4</sup>, namely fewer than 15% of low performers in reading, maths and science by 2020.

### **Validation of non-formal and informal learning**

The Council is expected to reach political agreement regarding a recommendation on the validation of non-formal and informal learning<sup>5</sup>, which invites member states to put in place arrangements for validating these types of learning no later than 2018 - in accordance with national circumstances and specificities, measuring them against a relevant standard that should be confirmed by an authorised body.

Non-formal learning concerns learning that takes place through planned activities where some form of learning support is present (e.g. student-teacher relationships). Very common cases of non-formal learning include in-company training, structured on-line learning (e.g. by making use of open educational resources), and courses organised by civil society organisations.

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<sup>2</sup> See also report of the EU High Level Group of experts on literacy ([http://ec.europa.eu/education/literacy/what-eu/high-level-group/documents/literacy-final-report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/literacy/what-eu/high-level-group/documents/literacy-final-report_en.pdf))

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/pisa2009keyfindings.htm>

<sup>4</sup> [OJ C 119, 28.5.2009, pp. 2-10](#)

<sup>5</sup> See also:

- Council conclusions on the modernisation of higher education ([OJ C 372, 20.12.2011, p. 36-41](#));
- Resolution on a renewed European agenda for adult learning ([OJ C 372, 20.12.2011, p.1-6](#))
- Resolution on the recognition of the value of non-formal and informal learning within the European youth field ([OJ C 168, 20.7.2006, pp. 1-3](#))

Informal learning is learning or skills resulting from daily activities related to work, family or leisure. Examples are project management skills or ICT skills acquired at work; languages learned and intercultural skills acquired during a stay in another country; ICT skills acquired outside work, skills acquired through volunteering, cultural activities, sports, youth work and through activities at home (e.g. taking care of a child).

In today's situation of rising unemployment - particularly acute among young people - and lack of economic growth, making use of new learning opportunities and making the most of knowledge, skills and competences acquired outside formal education can play an important role in enhancing employability and mobility, as well as increasing motivation for lifelong learning, particularly in the case of the socio-economically disadvantaged or low-qualified groups.

### **Contribution of education and training to economic recovery and growth**

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on the contribution of education and training to economic recovery and growth ([16137/12](#)), which seek not simply to underline but also to strengthen the key role of education and training in the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy. The European Council has consistently emphasised the need for member states, while pursuing the consolidation of public finances, to ensure efficient investment in education and training as a "growth-friendly area".

Insofar as education and training are concerned, the Europe 2020 country-specific recommendations (CSRs), adopted by the Council on 10 July 2012, focus on issues such as reducing the number of early school-leavers, facilitating the transition of young people from education and training to the labour market, reinforcing vocational education and training, modernising higher education, and improving access to education for disadvantaged groups.

At national level, the conclusions furthermore emphasise the need to ensure targeted and efficient investment, to improve the quality and status of teachers, and to develop skills in line with labour market requirements.

At European level, they encourage the education and training sector to play a more prominent role in implementing the education and training aspects of Europe 2020, by ensuring that education ministers regularly debate European Semester-related issues and by promoting cooperation between the Education Committee and the Employment Committee and other relevant committees.

## **Improving teacher quality and status**

Ministers will have a public debate - on the basis of a background paper prepared by the Presidency ([15852/12](#)) - on how to enhance the quality, competence and status of teachers at a time of scarce financial resources.

Teachers are at the core of all education and training systems and are widely acknowledged to be a determining factor in educational success. To respond adequately to the many socio-economic, demographic, environmental and technological challenges facing European citizens today and in the years ahead it is necessary to continually upgrade teachers' skills and competences.

Improving the quality and the status of teachers has always been a major consideration for the member states. However, financial constraints are seriously affecting the teaching profession: in many education systems, cuts have been made in teacher salaries and benefits or else a salary freeze has been imposed in response to the current economic difficulties.

## **AUDIOVISUAL AND CULTURE**

### **"Creative Europe" Programme**

In public deliberation, the Council is expected to reach a partial general approach on the proposal for a regulation establishing the "Creative Europe" Programme for the period 2014-2020, presented by the Commission in December 2011 ([17186/11](#)), and bringing together the three current independent programmes: CULTURE, MEDIA and MEDIA MUNDUS. The Commission proposes a budget of EUR 1,8 billion, of which 15 % would be allocated to the cross-sectoral strand, 30 % to the CULTURE strand and 55 % to the MEDIA strand.

This is a second partial general approach on this text: the first one was reached at the May EYCS Council (see press release, [9362/2/12](#)) and did not include the provisions with budgetary implications ([9097/12](#)), pending the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020). In particular, the aim of this partial approach is to reach agreement on the provisions relating to the Guarantee Facility which proposes to improve access to financing for small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the cultural and creative sectors.

The "Creative Europe" programme has a two-fold objective: promoting cultural diversity and enhancing the competitiveness of the cultural, audiovisual and creative sectors. It provides EU support for non-profit organisations (mostly beneficiaries of the CULTURE programme) and for commercial enterprises (mostly beneficiaries of the MEDIA programme), and also works with partners in other EU member states and in third countries, thus integrating international aspects of audiovisual cooperation from the MEDIA MUNDUS programmes.

"Creative Europe" consists of three strands:

- a cross-sectoral strand which includes a financial facility for the cultural and creative sectors (CCSs) and transnational policy cooperation;
- a CULTURE strand;
- a MEDIA strand.

Furthermore, the programme aims to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and its flagship initiatives. The actions and activities it supports should present potential European added value.

## **European Capitals of Culture**

In public deliberation, ministers will take note of a progress report from the Presidency ([15848/12](#)) on the proposal for a decision establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 ([12558/12](#)).

The current decision establishing a Community action for the European Capitals of Culture<sup>6</sup> establishes the order of entitlement to nominate a European Capital of Culture until 2019. Since the application, evaluation and selection process takes about 6 years, it is necessary to launch negotiations now on the continuation of this action beyond 2019 in order to have a framework ready by 2013.

The Commission proposal, submitted in July 2012, retains the general structure of the current action as well as a number of existing elements, such as the chronological order of the member states entitled to host a European Capital of Culture, a selection based on year-long cultural programmes created specifically for the event, eligibility of cities which may involve the surrounding region, if they so wish, and a two-stage selection process.

The main changes proposed to the current system are the following:

- strengthening selection criteria by increasing the number from two to six and by making their description more detailed;
- establishing a single European panel responsible for both selection and monitoring procedures which would no longer be composed of national experts but exclusively of experts nominated by EU institutions;
- opening participation in the event to cities from candidate and potential candidate countries. An open competition would be organised every 3 years for cities from those countries which would be allowed to host the event.

The European Capitals of Culture initiative was launched in 1985 and over 40 cities have been designated since then. Its aim was to promote greater mutual understanding between European citizens and strengthen a feeling of European citizenship, simultaneously highlighting the richness of European cultures and both their diversity and their shared features.

## **Cultural governance**

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on cultural governance ([15849/12](#)), which is a tool that can help governments both to deliver cultural policies and to implement integrated policies in order to put culture at the heart of the public policy agenda.

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<sup>6</sup> Decision 1622/2006 ([OJ L 304, 3.11.2006](#)).

To this end, the conclusions recommend that new methodologies in cultural research should be adopted so that not only quantitative but also qualitative data are included. This approach would guarantee that cultural policy will not lose sight of the intrinsic value of arts to individuals and society. Member states are also invited to promote synergies and develop integrated strategies at local, regional, national and European level.

Together with the Commission, member states approved the creation of an “information sharing system” which would allow early and regular information on EU activities and policies having an impact on cultural matters. Furthermore, member states agreed to take stock of the implementation of the conclusions by 2015.

## **Better Internet for children**

The Council will

- adopt conclusions on a **European strategy for a better Internet for children** ([15850/12](#)), responding to the Commission communication ([9486/12](#)) adopted in May 2012, which will replace the Safer Internet Programme as from 2013.

The Strategy proposes a series of actions to be undertaken by the Commission, the member states and the ICT industry, particularly in the following four areas:

- stimulating quality content on-line for children and young people;
- stepping up awareness and empowerment of children and their parents and teachers;
- creating a safe on-line environment for children, notably by encouraging age-appropriate privacy settings and wider use of parental tools;
- fighting child sexual abuse images, in particular through cooperation between industry, law enforcement authorities and hotlines.

These conclusions supplement the conclusions on the protection of children in the digital world adopted end of 2011 ([16155/11](#)), which dealt mostly with the third and fourth areas of the strategy. The present conclusions focus on promoting quality content on-line and on awareness-raising.

- hold a public debate, on the basis of a background paper prepared by the Presidency ([15846/12](#)), on a better and **safer Internet for children** as a result of a successful interplay between governments and industry.

Both policy-makers and the ICT industry face the same question: how to let children enjoy the benefits of Internet, but at the same time not let their innate curiosity lead them into harm. While in some areas it is relatively easy to identify who has a major role to play (governments/public authorities in education, industry in creating quality online content), there are other grey areas, such as privacy-by-default settings and parental control tools.

A variety of policies, initiatives and actions have already been developed in this field at European, national and industry level. In December 2011, for example, CEOs from all sectors of the ICT industry were invited by Vice-President Kroes to participate on a voluntary basis in a Coalition with the aim of making the Internet a better place for children.

## **YOUTH**

### **Structured dialogue with young people**

The Council is expected to adopt a resolution on the overview of the structured dialogue with young people on **youth participation in democratic life in Europe** ([15647/12](#)), which was the overall thematic priority for European cooperation in the youth field for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2012. The specific priority for the Cyprus Presidency was to promote youth participation and social inclusion of all young people, focusing on young people with a migrant background.

The aim of the structured dialogue is to serve as a forum for continuous joint reflection on the priorities, implementation and follow-up of European cooperation in the youth field, involving a diverse range of young people and youth organisations in the consultations, at all levels in the member states, at the EU Youth Conferences and during European Youth Week.

The 2009 resolution establishing a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010 - 2018)<sup>7</sup> sets out overall objectives, fields of action<sup>8</sup> and realistic and effective means for implementation and follow-up. This nine-year period is divided into three-year work cycles, each divided into two sub-cycles of 18 months each. For each work cycle a number of priorities for European cooperation are adopted by the Council.

The present resolution therefore evaluates the achievements of the current work cycle, incorporates key messages from the joint recommendations, and sets priorities for the next work cycle.

In this context, ministers will also take note of information from the Cyprus Presidency on the outcome of the **EU Youth Conference** which took place in Cyprus, in September.

### **EU youth report 2012**

The Council is expected to adopt the 2012 joint report of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the renewed **framework for European cooperation in the youth field** (2010 - 2018) ([15660/2/12](#)), the EU Youth Report, which covers the entirety of EU cooperation in the youth field, including the evaluation of the implementation of the structured dialogue with young people.

As well as reviewing the last three-year cycle, also known as EU Youth Strategy (2010-2012), the report proposes new policy recommendations and priorities for the next three years. It advocates a cross-sectoral approach at all levels in implementing the youth policy framework and recommends addressing in particular the medium- and long-term consequences of increasing youth unemployment.

The EU Youth Report also proposes that challenges facing young people should be better addressed in the future in key EU initiatives, such as the Europe 2020 strategy (including the Annual Growth Surveys, Youth on the Move and the Youth Opportunities Initiative).

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<sup>7</sup> [OJ C 311/1, 19.12.2009](#).

<sup>8</sup> Education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and well-being, voluntary activities, social inclusion, youth and the world, creativity and culture.

The Commission communication containing the draft joint EU Youth Report 2012 ([13707/12](#)) was adopted in September. It was based on the member states' national reports and on initiatives taken or planned between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2012.

### **Young people with a migrant background**

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on the participation and social inclusion of young people with the emphasis on those with a migrant background ([15652/12](#)). The conclusions underline that non-formal and informal learning has a key role to play as an instrument for supporting the social and economic inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities and in particular those with a migrant background; in this context, the work of youth workers and youth organisations with young migrants is of particular importance.

The age of immigrants varies across the member states. In 2011 more than half were between 20 and 34 years of age. The negative effects of the economic and financial crisis on growth and employment particularly affect young people with fewer opportunities. A growing number of studies have shown that young women and men with a migrant background continue to face major disadvantages in education, on the labour market, and in transition from education to the labour market, despite the fact that a high proportion of this group of people have been socialised in or born in their country of residence.

In public deliberation, ministers will hold a policy debate on "**Mobility and diversity: How to ensure social inclusion?**", on the basis of a background paper prepared by the Presidency ([15657/12](#)).

In view of growing mobility and diversity in the EU<sup>9</sup>, there is an urgent need to strengthen policies that enhance the social inclusion of all young people, based on mutual understanding and respect. Social inclusion is a two-way process: on the one hand it is about providing young people with the opportunities and resources necessary to participate fully in economic, social and cultural life and on the other it requires young people to be actively engaged in the society they live in, starting from their local community.

### **SPORT**

The Council is due to adopt **conclusions** on:

- strengthening the **evidence base for sport policy-making** ([15873/12](#)), which highlights the economic importance of sport and its significant contribution to achieving the Europe 2020 strategic goals, as an important driver of growth and employment, and also to ensuring social cohesion, skills development and well-being..

The conclusions also aim at promoting the role of Sport Satellite Accounts (a statistical framework to measure the economic importance of a specific industry in the national economy) which were established in 2006 and are a valuable tool to generate data for the formulation of sport policies.

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<sup>9</sup> Over recent years mobility within the European Union has increased significantly, especially among young people. According to Eurostat, 12.8 million EU citizens are living in a Member State other than their own, representing 2.5% of the EU 27 population.

Although research on the economic impact of sport has been carried out in many member states, the results of this research have generally not been comparable. The conclusions underline that enhanced cooperation for improving the level of knowledge on sport in the EU can best be achieved through cross-sectoral cooperation between academics, the sports industry, the sports movement, as well as national and European public authorities, including the statistical offices.

- establishing a strategy to **combat the manipulation of sports results**, emphasising that good governance principles such as sound financial management, transparency, and risk management plans and strategies at club, association and federation level are crucial to prevent fraud, notably match-fixing, and to safeguard the integrity of sport.

The conclusions also invite member states to support initiatives at national level aimed at raising awareness and educating sports participants, as well as law enforcement agencies, gambling regulators, betting operators and the general public about the risks involved in match-fixing. Close cooperation and information-sharing between the member states, the Commission and the sports world is also recommended.

In recent years, as a consequence of the rapid growth of on-line betting, sport in Europe has been confronted with several scandals relating to the manipulation of sport results. Many sports have been affected and no sport is immune from this potential risk, since people will bet on the outcome of any competition. This kind of fraud generally involves serious criminal activities, such as corruption, fraud and money laundering, with the resulting profits feeding other criminal networks.

The cross-border nature of match-fixing, and of the betting industry which is closely connected to the problem, means that this is clearly an area where EU action can bring real added value. The EU Work Plan for Sport for 2011-2014<sup>10</sup> already highlighted the fight against match-fixing as a priority topic.<sup>11</sup>

- promoting **health-enhancing physical activities** (HEPA) ([15871/12](#)), also one of the Cyprus Presidency priorities in the sport sector. The conclusions invite the Commission to urgently prepare a proposal for a Council recommendation in this field which should be based on the EU Physical Activity Guidelines<sup>12</sup> and on the findings of the Expert Group on Sport, Health and Participation, established in the framework of the EU Work Plan for Sport (2011-2014). The Work Plan also identifies HEPA among its priority themes and calls on the member states to “explore ways to promote health-enhancing physical activities and participation in grassroots sport”.<sup>13</sup>

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently identified insufficient physical activity as the fourth leading risk factor for disease and premature mortality globally<sup>14</sup>, causing about one million deaths per year in the European region alone.

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<sup>10</sup> [OJ C 162, 1.6.2011, p. 1.](#)

<sup>11</sup> See also the recent Commission communication: *"Towards a comprehensive European framework for on-line gambling"* ([15737/12](#)).

<sup>12</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/sport/library/documents/c1/eu-physical-activity-guidelines-2008\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/sport/library/documents/c1/eu-physical-activity-guidelines-2008_en.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> See also Commission communication: *"Developing the European Dimension in Sport"* ([5597/11](#))

<sup>14</sup> [http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global\\_burden\\_disease/global\\_health\\_risks/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/global_health_risks/en/index.html)

Despite increasing knowledge about the importance of health-enhancing physical activity for the individual and for the society, physical activity levels among the EU population are stagnant and even falling in some countries. EU-wide surveys, including the 2010 Eurobarometer on sport and physical activity, indicate that 60 % of EU citizens seldom or never engage in physical exercise. Data available at national levels confirm the general trend and the significant differences between member states.

In this context, ministers will hold a public debate on "**From virtual sports to real sports: A step from the sofa to the playing field**", on the basis of a background paper prepared by the Presidency ([15814/12](#)) which addresses in particular the future establishment of an Annual European Week of Sport, as a means of promoting the practice of sport, especially among children, teenagers and young adults.

### **Anti-doping**

The Council is expected to designate the three **EU representatives on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Foundation Board (2013-2015)** ([15720/12](#)).

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)<sup>15</sup>, set up in 1999, is a private law body whose mission is to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against doping in sport in all its forms. Its key tasks include scientific research, education, development of anti-doping capacities and monitoring of the World Anti Doping Code - the document aiming at harmonising anti-doping policies in all sports and all countries.

The WADA is composed of a Foundation Board, an Executive Committee and several Committees. The 38-member Foundation Board is WADA's supreme decision-making body. It is composed equal proportion of representatives from the Olympic Movement and from governments. The European continent has five representatives (three of them from the EU) on the Foundation Board.

In this context, ministers will be briefed by the Presidency on the outcome of the World Anti-Doping Agency's recent meetings in Montreal concerning the ongoing **WADA code review**.

The World Anti-Doping Code is the core document that provides the framework for harmonised anti-doping policies, rules and regulations within the sports organisations and among public authorities. The review procedure started in November 2011 and the final draft will be submitted to the WADA Foundation Board for approval at the World Conference on Doping in Sport in Johannesburg in November 2013. The new Code will then come into force as of 1 January 2015.

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.wada-ama.org>

### **Any other business**

The Council will take note of information on:

- **state aid for films and other audiovisual works**, from the French delegation;
  - the **European Capitals of Culture 2013**, Košice and Marseille, from the French and Slovak delegations;
  - the recent Commission communication: "**Rethinking Education: Investing in skills for better socio-economic outcomes**", presented by the Commission;
  - **Erasmus funding in 2012-2013**, from the Presidency;
  - the **work programme of the incoming Presidency**, from the Irish delegation.
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