

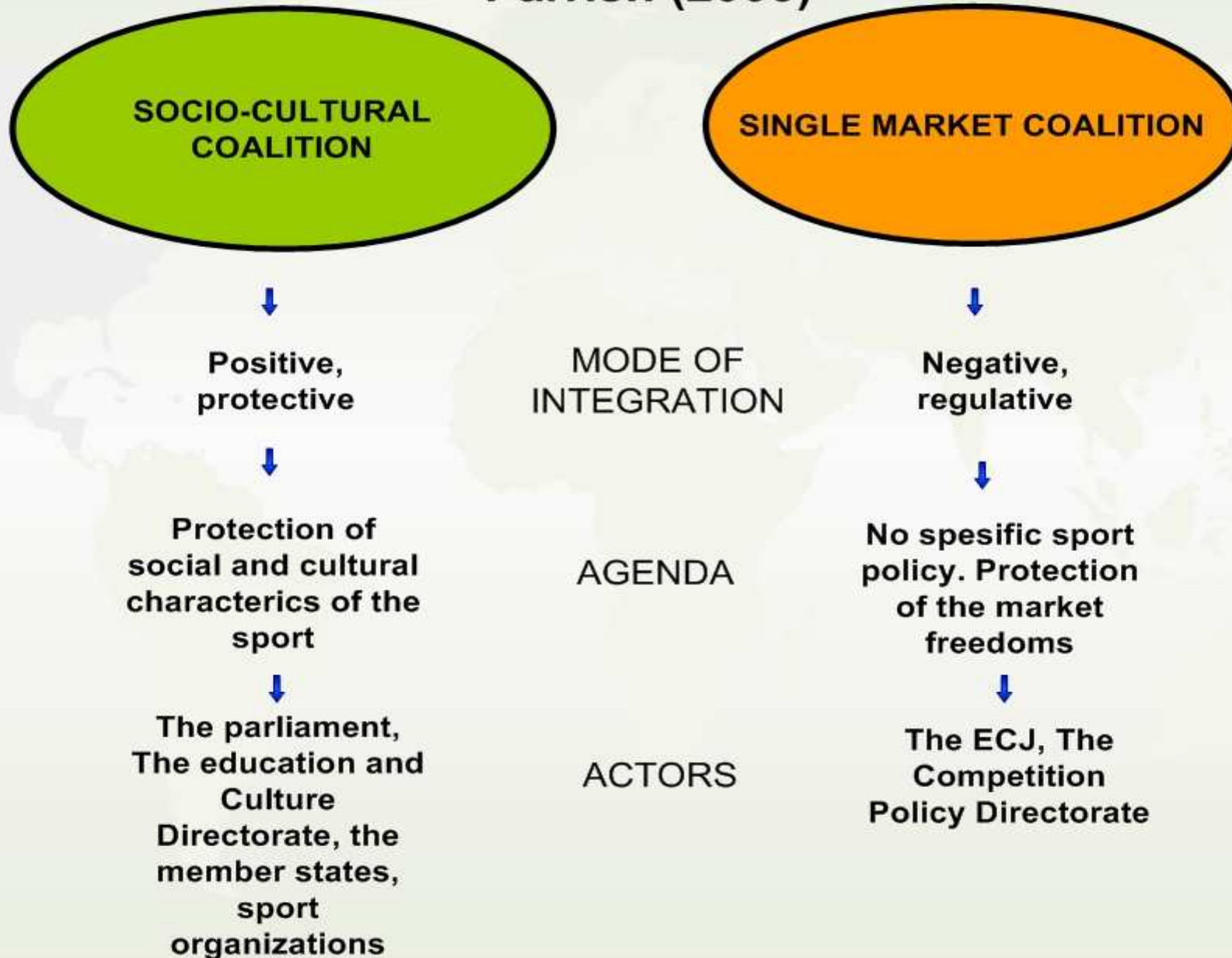


Current Issues in EU and sport

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The coalitions of the EU's sport policy by Richard Parrish (2003)

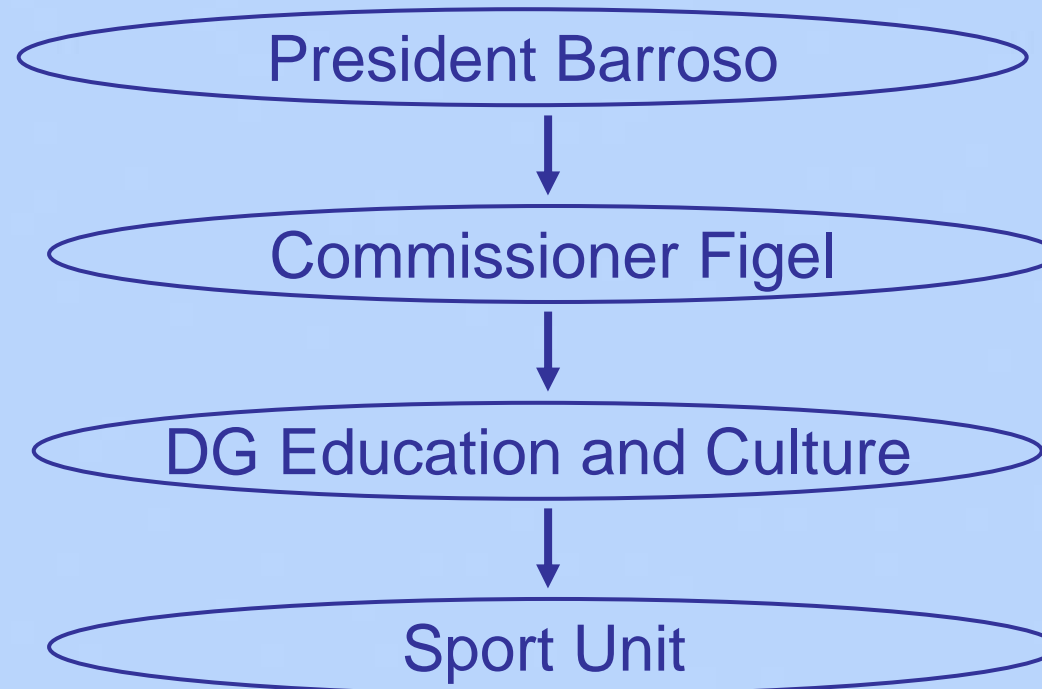


Role of Sport in EU

- Sport is generally a national issue (MS)
- Sport rules by international federations and associations
- EU have impact on sport in an indirect way
- The mission of the Commission: protection of competition, broadcasting rights and the internal market
- No sports policy in the EU
- Sport in the highest political level
 - the summit in Nice in 2000
 - the summit in Brussels 2008
- Now for the first time, there is a legal clause related to sport included in the text of the Lisbon Treaty in ratification -> an EU sports programme, policy and EU Ministerial Sports Council
- Implementation of the 2007 White Paper on Sport and preparing for future intensified cooperation.

(Jan Figel 2009)

The European Commission



Director: Michal Krejza

Nice Declaration on Sport, 2000

- The European Council Declaration on the specific characteristics of sport and its social function in Europe, of which account should be taken in implementing common policies.
- Stresses its support for the independence of sports organisations and their right to organise themselves through appropriate associative structures.
- Solidarity between the various levels of sporting practice.
- Protection of young sportsmen and women

European Council Declaration on sport 2008

- The European Council recognises the importance of the values attached to sport, which are essential to European society.
- It stresses the need to take account of the specific characteristics of sport, over and above its economic dimension.
- It welcomes the establishment of a constructive dialogue at the first European Sport Forum organised by the European Commission.
- It calls for the strengthening of that dialogue with the International Olympic Committee and representatives of the world of sport, in particular on the question of combined sports training and education for young people.

The Lisbon Treaty

- Proposal for Constitutional Treaty in 2004. FR and NL voted no in 2005
- Was opened again in July 2007
- Oct 2007: adoption of Lisbon Treaty by heads of 27 Member States
- Dec 2007: Signed in Lisbon by Heads of 27 Member States
- Ratification process: Irish referendum in Oct 2009
- Inclusion of sport in the Treaty: Article 149
- Content of the reference to sport remained the same
- If ratified an Official Sport Council and working groups to be established

Article 149 on Education, vocational training, youth and sport in the Lisbon Treaty

“The Union shall contribute to the promotion of European sporting issues, while taking account of the specific nature of sport, its structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function.”

Union action shall aim to:

“Developing the European dimension in sport, by promoting fairness and openness in sporting competitions and co-operation between bodies responsible for sports, and by protecting the physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen.”

Lisbon Treaty and Sports

- Qualitative changes
 - formal ministerial meetings
 - Council of sport ministers
 - EU-wide permanent sports programme & continuous budget
 - transfer of knowledge
 - formation of networks
 - exchange of best practice
 - mobility of sportsmen and women and trainers and young people
- Now informal activities, smaller projects

White Paper on Sport

- Published 7 / 2007.
- European sports movement regularly consulted
- Strategic orientation on the role of sport in Europe. First horizontal official paper on the EU sport policy.
- Includes Pierre de Coubertin Plan of Action with 53 proposed actions.
- To mainstream and support sport into other policies of the EU.
- Prepared by the Directorate Generals
- Approved by the whole European Commission.
- To be implemented in 2007-2012. If competence for sports, changes to the WP.

WP: 1. The Societal Role of Sport

- Enhancing public health through physical activity
- Fight against doping
- Enhancing the role of sport in education and training
- Promoting volunteering and active citizenship
- Social integrations, equal opportunities
- Fight against racism and violence
- Sustainable development

WP: 2. The Economic Dimension of Sport

- Evidence-based sport policies (statistics, surveys)
- Public support for sport on a more secure footing

WP: 3. The Organisation of Sport

- The specificity of sport
- Free movement and nationality
- Transfers, players' agents, protection of minors, corruption, money laundering, licensing system, media

EU funding and Sport

- €6 million this year for preparatory actions
- Sport has been supported through different programmes
 - Structural Funds
 - Projects like the fight against obesity
- Year on Education through Sport in 2004 (€12 million, 200 projects, networks)

EU Budget line for Sport in 2009

6 M € for preparatory measures

1.5 M € for the European Olympic Youth Festival in Tampere

a) 1 M € for studies, conferences and seminars

b) 4 M € for networks and good practices

- 15 projects that will test topics for a real sport program
- 4 fields: Physical activity, sport & training, disabilities & sport and volunteering in sport

c) 1 M € for the Mediterranean Games

- Publication in May 2009

Specificity of Sport

- not exclusion of sport from the laws of the EU
- not a bloc exemption
- Sport is not business as usual
- Specific features, characteristics

What are the specific features of the sport?

EU Presidencies

2008 Slovenia - France

2009 The Czech Republic - Sweden

2010 Spain - Belgium

2011 Hungary - Poland

2012 Denmark - Cyprus

Programme of the EU Presidencies, sport

France

- Sports Directors meeting 30-31 Oct 2008
- European Sports Forum 27-28 Nov 2008
- Informal Sports Ministers meeting 28-29 Nov 2008
- Themes: WP, Rolling Agenda, sport and health, financing, antidoping, education of young athletes

The Czech Republic

- Sports Directors meeting 28-29 April 2009
- Themes: autonomy and specificity of voluntary non-profit sports associations

Program of the EU Presidencies, sport

Sweden

- Sports Directors meeting 1-2 Oct 2009

Spain

- Sports Directors meeting
- Sport Ministers meeting
- EU Sport Forum

The Election of the members of the European Parliament

Next Elections

- In June 4–7, 2009 will be elected 736 MEPs according to the national rules of member countries (for example it is compulsory in Belgium, Greece, Cyprus and Luxemburg)
- To stand for election you must be a national of one of the 27 EU countries, but you can stand in a country other than your own, for example former Finnish world rally champion Ari Vatanen represents a constituency in France

The career of the MEP

- Many MEPs are members of parties that win general elections and are then called home to take on ministerial posts. During the current term for example, Alexander Stubb left to become Finland's foreign Minister and Cecilia Malmström became Sweden's Europe Minister. In 2006 Estonian MEP Toomas Hendrik Ilves departed to Tallinn to become President of his country.
- Some wanted to cool down the political career

Number of seats per political group (1 September 2007)

Political group	Abbreviation	No of seats
European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats	EPP-ED	278
Socialist Group	PES	216
Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	ALDE	104
Union for Europe of the Nations	UEN	44
Greens/European Free Alliance	Greens/EFA	42
European United Left/Nordic Green Left	EUL/NGL	41
Independence/Democracy	ID	24
Identity, Tradition and Sovereignty	ITS	23
Non-attached members and temporarily vacant seats	NI	13
Total		785

Number of seats per country

Austria, Bulgaria	18
Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Portugal, Hungary	24
Cyprus, Luxembourg, Estonia	6
Malta	5
United Kingdom, Italy, France	78
Denmark, Finland, Slovakia	14
Romania	35
Netherlands	27
Germany	99
Slovenia	7
Spain, Poland	54
Latvia	9
Ireland, Lithuania	13
Sweden	19
Total	785

Voting the election of the members of the European Parliament 1979-2004 (7.7.2004)

Member States	1979	1984	1987	1989	1994	1995	1996	1999	2004
DE	65.7	56.8		62.3	60			45.2	43
FR	60.7	56.7		48.7	52.7			46.8	42.75
UK	32.2	32.6		36.2	36.4			24	38.9
FI							60.3	31.4	41.1
PL									20.97
Average EU	63	61	/	58.5	56.8	/	/	49.8	45.6

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/elections2004/ep-lelection/sites/fi/results1306/turnout_ep/turnout_table.html

Why does the voting in the election of the members of the European Parliament decreased?

Do the MEPs have any possibilities to influence?

MEP

- Decision-maker (budget & EU-laws)
- They are open to new ideas “political house”
- The role of individual MEP is increased
- Quality not quantity
- Political opinion has more role than home country or language