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STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE EFTA STATES

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SUBCOMMITTEE IV ON FLANKING AND HORIZONTAL POLICIES

EEA EFTA Comment on the Consultation on the EU's strategic choices for the implementation of the new EU competence in the field of sport after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty by the EFTA Working Group on Cultural Affairs

The EEA EFTA States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway, have studied with great interest the Commission's online consultation on the EU's strategic choices for the implementation of the new EU competence in the field of sport, and appreciate the opportunity to comment on the consultation. The main views of the EEA EFTA States are the following:

1. The EEA EFTA States find the areas identified as being the key challenges for sport in Europe to be appropriate.
2. In commenting on the EU's focus areas in the field of sport, the EEA EFTA States understand, from Articles 6 and 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), that the EU's role is to support, co-ordinate and supplement the Member States' actions in the field of sport.
3. Moreover, the EEA EFTA States welcome the clear statement in Article 165 TFEU on the co-operation with third countries and competent international organisations with regard to sport, and look forward to further developing the already excellent co-operation between the EU and the EEA EFTA States.
4. Following on from Articles 6 and 165 TFEU, and bearing in mind the EU's supporting, supplementing and co-ordinating role, the view of the EEA EFTA States is that the added value of an EU action might be strongest in the following areas:
 - promoting sport for all, and equal access to sport activities and facilities, including gender equality;

- strengthening the dialogue with sport organisations to provide guidance on the application of EU law in the sport sector;
 - fostering co-ordination and co-operation among member states and other actors in the field of sport, including good governance, as well as supporting networking and the exchange of best practices in the field of sport;
 - collecting and analysing comparable data on the impact of sport in economic and social terms;
 - promoting and encouraging voluntarism in sport and its valuable contribution to society and personal development;
 - contributing to the fight against doping in a co-operative and complementary manner, bearing in mind the Council of Europe's unique role and competence in this area;
 - promoting European values in sport (dignity, freedom, democracy, etc.) and supporting the prevention of and the fight against discrimination, racism, homophobia and violence in sport, bearing in mind the important work carried out by other organisations in this field, notably by the Council of Europe;
 - encouraging co-operation among national governing bodies and other relevant actors in order to fight corruption and financial crime in sport;
 - promoting social integration and inclusion through sport.
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