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COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND MEDIA

Written declaration on Sports policies in times of crisis

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The Covid-19 pandemic has turned the entire sports ecosystem upside down, with severe consequences on the sports movement: loss of revenue, cash flow difficulties, unemployment and lack of financial support. Grassroots sport has been brought almost completely to a standstill. European sport largely relies on a fabric of small non-profit clubs and associations which allows so many citizens to enjoy sport and physical activity on a daily basis; and they are at the greatest risk of bankruptcy and closure due to the crisis. This might lead to the collapse of the sports associative fabric of our countries.

Sport could help soften the negative effects on the sanitary crisis contributing to people's health, socialisation, education and mental and physical wellbeing. Therefore, the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media urges public authorities to give sports the necessary attention when considering anti-covid measures, and to work with the sports movement to find new ways to mitigate the damaging impacts of the crisis, preserve the sustainability of the European sport sector and make sure that sport continues to deliver its benefits to individuals and to society.

Decision makers should:

- recognise sport as a structural element of pandemic recovery and include sport and physical activities as priorities in national recovery and resilience plans with tangible strategic and duly budgeted measures;
- take into due account the expansion of sporting events leading to overlapping and overload of the European and international sports calendar, and adopt an integrated multi-agency and harmonised approach to hold sustainable competitions that are safe, secure and welcoming for athletes, fans and other participants;
- uphold decisions on resumption, cancellation and postponement of sport activities, from grassroots to elite sport, on public data and tangible evidence on the protection of health, safety, integrity and human rights of athletes, workers, citizens and fans.