Six-Monthly Report on Developments in the EU
by
Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, John O'Donoghue, T.D.

01 January 2005 – 30 June 2005

Scrutiny Review

The Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism submitted the following proposal for scrutiny in the period 1 January - 30 June 2005:

Arts and Culture

Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing for the period 2007-2013 the programme "Citizens for Europe" to promote active European citizenship

This proposal is being dealt with by the Cultural Affairs Working Group Committee

Previous Presidency

During the Luxembourg Presidency the Education, Youth and Culture Council met in Brussels on 23-24 May 2005 to consider items relating to cultural co-operation and audiovisual matters.

Arts and Culture Items

The Council of Ministers exchanged views

- on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing for the period 2007-2013 the programme "Citizens for Europe" to promote active European citizenship and
- on the mobility of European museum collections in readiness for the subsequent preparation of an action plan.

Further details of the above resolutions and conclusions can be found on the European Union website: www.europa.eu.int/pol/cult/index_en.htm

Audiovisual Items

The Council of Ministers exchanged views

- on the Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the implementation of a programme of support for the European audiovisual sector (MEDIA 2007).

Sports

The Luxembourg Presidency hosted an informal EU Sports Directors Meeting as well as an informal EU Sports Ministers Meeting which took place from 27th April 2005 to 29th April 2005. Matters addressed included anti-doping policy, lottery games in Europe, possibilities of the future European sports policy, freedom of movement of sportsmen/women and training of sportsmen/women.

The Luxembourg Presidency made substantial progress in achieving agreement on a new programme of work in the area of sport. This new approach, developed under the Irish Presidency, has received unanimous endorsement from the member states.

Member states were also represented on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and work proceeded on the preparation and agreement on a new world anti-doping convention under the aegis of UNESCO.

Tourism

At its meeting on 18 April 2005, the Competitiveness Council of Ministers adopted a number of conclusions in relation to the sustainable development of European Tourism. These conclusions were based on the recommendations emerging from a Commission Communication entitled "Basic Orientations for the Sustainability of European Tourism" which sets out a series of measures which the Commission will undertake to facilitate and promote, insofar as it can, the development of European tourism in a sustainable manner. It also invites other key stakeholders, including member states and the industry to promote sustainable development measures in the sector. A key measure being proposed is the establishment by the Commission of a European Tourism Sustainability Group comprising key stakeholders, both public and private, in the tourism sector. This Group would agree a framework for action, and report and evaluate progress. The intention here is to place the onus on the industry to consider the issue carefully and take ownership of the various measures required to address it.

Tuairisc Leathbhliana ar Imeachtaí san AE

ón

Aire Ealaíon, Spóirt agus Turasóireachta, Seán Ó Donnchú, T.D.,

01 Eanáir 2005-30 Meitheamh 2005

Athbhreithniú Scrúdain

San tréimhse 1 Eanáir-30 Meitheamh 2005, do mhol an Roinn Ealaíon, Spóirt agus Turasóireachta go ndéanfaí scrúdan ar an dtogra seo leanas:

Ealaíon agus Cultúr

Togra do chinneadh ag Pairlimint na hEorpa agus ag an gComhairle ag bunú don tréimhse 2007-2013 an clár "Saoránaigh don Eoraip" chun saorántacht ghníomhach Eorpach a chur chun cinn.

Tá an togra seo faoi chúram coiste den Ghrúpa Oibre um Gnóthaí Cultúrtha.

An tUachtaránacht Deireannach

Le linn Uachtaránacht Lucsamburg, bhí cruinniú sa Bhruiséil ag an gComhairle Oideachais, Óige agus Cultúir ar 23-24 Bealtaine 2005 chun míreanna maidir le comhoibriú cultúrtha agus closamhairc a mheas.

Míreanna maidir le hEalaíon agus Cultúr

Do dhéan Comhairle na nAirí plé ar

- togra do chinneadh ag Pairlimint na hEorpa agus ag an gComhairle ag bunú don tréimhse 2007-2013 an clár "Saoránaigh don Eoraip" chun saorántacht ghníomhach Eorpach a chur chun cinn agus
- soghluaisteacht bhailiúcháin mhúseim na hEorpa le súil ar ullmhúchán plean gníomhaíochta amach anseo.

Tá sonraí breise ar na rúin agus conclúidí thuasluaite ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin an Aontais Eorpaigh: www.europa.eu.int/pol/cult/index_en.htm

Ceisteanna Closamhairc

Do dhéan Comhairle na nAirí plé ar

- Togra do Chinneadh ag Pairlimint na hEorpa agus ag an gComhairle maidir le cur i bhfeidhm an clár tacaíochta don earnáil closamhairc Eorpach (MEDIA 2007).

Spóirt

D'eagraigh Uachtaránacht Lucsamburg cruinniú neamhfhoirmeálta do Stiúrthóirí Spóirt an AE maraon le cruinniú neamhfhoirmeálta d'Airí Spóirt an AE a tionóladh ó 27 Aibreán go dtí 29 Aibreán 2005. I measc na n-ábhar a pléadh bhí polasaí frithdhópála, cluichí crannchuir san Eoraip, féidireachtaí do pholasaí spóirt na hEorpa amach anseo, saorghluaiseacht do lucht spóirt agus oiliúint do lucht spóirt.

D'éirigh le hUachtaránacht Lucsamburg dul chun cinn suntasach a dhéanamh maidir le comhaontú ar chlár nua oibre i réimse an spóirt a bhaint amach. D'aontaigh na baill stáit d'aonghuth leis an gcur chuige nua seo a forbraíodh le linn Uachtaránacht na hÉireann.

Bhí ionadaíocht chomh maith ag na baill stáit ar an nGníomhaireacht Dhomhanda Frithdhópála (WADA) agus leanadh le hobair ar ullmhú agus comhaontú ar choinbhinsiún frithdhópála domhanda nua faoi choimirce UNESCO.

Turasóireacht

Ag a cruinniú ar 18 Aibreán 2005, do ghlac Comhairle na nAirí um Iomaíochta le conclúidí áirithe maidir le forbairt inbhuanaithe ar Thurasóireacht na hEorpa. Bhí na conclúidí seo bunaithe ar mholtaí a d'eascair ó Theachtaireacht ón gCoimisiún dar teideal "Basic Orientations for the Sustainability of European Tourism" a leagann amach gníomhartha áirithe atá beartaithe ag an gCoimisiún chun forbairt inbhuanaithe ar Thurasóireacht na hEorpa a eascú agus a fhorbairt, dá mhéid agus is féidir. Tugann an Teachtaireacht cuireadh chomh maith do pháirtithe leasmhara ríthábhachtacha eile, ina measc baill stáit agus an tionscail, chun bearta d'fhorbairt inbhuanaithe an earnáil a chur chun cinn. Beart tábhachtach atá á mholadh ná go mbunódh an Coimisiún in earnáil na turasóireachta Grúpa um Inbhuanaitheacht na Turasóireachta Eorpaí le hionadaíocht de pháirtithe leasmhara ríthábhachtacha, idir príobháideach is poiblí. Thiocadh an Grúpa seo ar chomhaontú maidir le clár gníomhaíochta agus thabharfaidís cuntas agus measúnú ar dhul chun cinn. Tá sé i gceist an cúram do leagadh ar an tionscail an cheist do mheas go grinn agus freagracht do ghlacadh dos na bearta éagsúla a bheidh riachtanach chun aghaidh a thabhairt uirthi.