



Events of major importance for society in European audiovisual law

Note

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Events of major importance for society in European audiovisual law

Diego de la Vega



Foreword

As the legend goes, in the 5th century BC, a Greek man called Pheidippides ran approximately 40 kilometres from Marathon to Athens with only one goal in mind: to announce the defeat of the Persians in what would become known as the Battle of Marathon. According to the myth, shortly after completing his daunting task, Pheidippides died of exhaustion.

This story, whose historical basis is somewhat shrouded in mystery, inspired French philologist Michel Bréal to create the marathon, one of the original events of the modern Olympic Games that began in Athens in 1896, and the most eagerly awaited of every edition ever since. Indeed, the marathon is one of those not-to-be missed events that many rave about, alongside the FIFA World Cup or the Wimbledon tennis finals.

Very often, the only thing that stands between a sports fan and such an event is a broadcaster's paywall. Or, even worse, the absence of a broadcaster transmitting the event at all. For this reason, European audiovisual law has long paid attention to people's appetite to watch events of particular importance – and what to do about it. From its early inclusion in the 1997 Television Without Frontiers Directive (TWFD) (paralleled by the 1998 adoption of the Protocol amending the European Convention on Transfrontier Television) to the current Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD), regulation of events of major importance for society has been enshrined in European law as well as in the national laws of most European countries.

Almost 30 years have passed since the TWFD was first revised in 1997, and reality shows that, even if public interest in such events remains intact, the ways in which people access and participate in them are changing at a very fast pace. The forthcoming review of the current AVMSD therefore appears to be an opportune moment to examine how legislation can effectively guarantee that European citizens can continue to enjoy major events.

The national overview is based on a dataset managed by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and created in collaboration with the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA). Special thanks go to Emmanuelle Machet for facilitating access to this information.

Enjoy the read!

Maja Cappello

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1. Introduction

1.1. Context and scope

In May 1937, the coronation of King George VI took place in London. Photographers who attended proved not only that people in interwar Britain were thrilled to get involved in one of the most important occasions of the decade, but also that certain events stood out more than others. It was clear that they deserved extra attention from both citizens and media alike.¹²

This feeling was shared by the new BBC television service, for which the 1937 coronation was remarkable in two particular ways: it was the first royal coronation ever broadcast on television and the first time an outside broadcast van had been used to facilitate broadcasts from outside a studio.³ The 1953 coronation of Queen Elizabeth II helped raise awareness of media participation across European borders and is still considered a key event in the early development of the European Broadcasting Union.⁴

Since the late 1990s, European audiovisual legislation⁵ has paid attention to such events of major importance for society, especially in the field of sport. These events were initially referred to as “outstanding events which are of interest to the general public in the European Union or in a given Member State or in an important component part of a given Member State and are organised in advance by an event organiser who is legally entitled to sell the rights pertaining to that event”.⁶

¹ Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson, [Henri Cartier-Bresson – The Other Coronation](#), exposition, May – September 2023. At the time, radio broadcasts were already a common practice and press coverage was widespread.

² Innovations in the field of events of major importance for society included the presence of commentators. Audience figures in Britain and abroad broke the world records at the time. See [The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, BBC](#).

³ [Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, BBC](#).

⁴ The coronation was broadcast not only in Britain, but also – for the first time for an event of this kind – in France, Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. It had a major influence on the consolidation of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). See Bignell J., Fickers A., *A European television history*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2008.

⁵ As will be explained in the following chapters, both the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe have shown great interest in the audiovisual regulation of such events.

⁶ Recital 21 of [Directive 97/36/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 1997 amending Council Directive 89/552/EEC on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities, OJ L 202, 30 July 1997.



From early regulation to the present day, with a review of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD)⁷ in sight by the end of 2026,⁸ much has happened in terms of how European citizens follow these events as spectators. New players have appeared on the scene, markets have become much more competitive and linear television, as well as on-demand services and all types of platforms, play the crucial role of allowing citizens to participate in what the AVMSD nowadays describes as “events which are regarded (...) as being of major importance for society”.⁹ The multiplication of players from both the public and private sectors, as well as the numerous events that can be considered “of major importance for society”, certainly form a different landscape to the one in which the AVMSD first appeared.

Events of major importance for society are still mainly covered by Article 14 AVMSD, which ensures that broadcasters do not exercise their rights on an exclusive basis “in such a way as to deprive a substantial proportion of the public (...) of the possibility of following such events by live coverage or deferred coverage on free television”.¹⁰ Along with other complementary provisions on the matter,¹¹ the legal treatment of the broadcast of events of major importance has remained unaltered, whereas reality has paved the way for a possible review of the provisions of Article 14 AVMSD. In the latest revision of the AVMSD, adopted in 2018, new audiovisual business models such as on-demand audiovisual media services and video-sharing platform services were already contemplated.¹²

This Note provides a legal analysis of the concept of events of major importance for society, how it is treated under European law and the challenges currently faced in view of the technological advances that have taken place since the current provision was first included in the AVMSD.

It seeks to answer the question whether, 15 years since its entry into force, the AVMSD is capable of adapting to a quickly evolving media landscape in Europe.

⁷ Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services ([Audiovisual Media Services Directive](#)), consolidated version, OJ 02010L0013, 8 February 2025.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Article 33: “by 19 December 2026 at the latest, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council an *ex post* evaluation, accompanied where appropriate by proposals for its review, of the impact of this Directive and its added value”.

⁹ *Ibid.*, Article 14(1).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*, Articles 14(2) and 14(3) and, only indirectly and solely for information purposes, Article 15.

¹² See [Directive \(EU\) 2018/1808](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 amending Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive) in view of changing market realities, OJ L 30/69, 28 November 2018. Recital 1: “(...) Since then [2007], the audiovisual media services market has evolved significantly and rapidly due to the ongoing convergence of television and internet services. Technical developments have allowed for new types of services and user experiences. Viewing habits, particularly those of younger generations, have changed significantly. While the main TV screen remains an important device for sharing audiovisual experiences, many viewers have moved to other, portable devices to watch audiovisual content. Traditional TV content still accounts for a major share of the average daily viewing time”.



It analyses the provisions of Article 14 and their position in today's market context in order to offer a snapshot of current provisions concerning events of major importance for society in the EU and of the main issues that might affect their regulation in the future.

To that end, it aims to identify why major events exist today, the different types of major events that member states have decided to regulate, and what can be learnt from the different types of events according to their very nature.

1.2. Broadcast of events of major importance for society: the new players

Recital 1 of the 2018 AVMSD explained that the audiovisual media services market had evolved significantly and rapidly due to the ongoing convergence of television and internet services, and that technical developments had allowed for new types of services, players and user experiences.¹³ Viewing habits, particularly those of younger generations, had changed significantly over time.

This trend has continued and events such as those described in this Note are no longer only a matter for TV broadcasters. Studies show that the viewing of sports on a daily and weekly basis is still an important activity for a significant part of the European population¹⁴ and that frequent sports consumption is closely linked to frequent social media use.¹⁵

However, as the latest European Media Industry Outlook shows, an important segment of the audience (39% of sports event viewers) remains indifferent to the platform when it comes to choosing between streaming and TV,¹⁶ privileging the content over the medium, a choice that did not exist when events of major importance for society were first introduced in European legislation.

On the streaming side, sports-oriented platforms have emerged in the European landscape, offering various online services, while traditional TV broadcasters also have their own platforms to show events that might be classified as events of major importance for society.

Already in 2017,¹⁷ the European Parliament acknowledged the changing reality and recognised that major sports events were no longer being offered only through live broadcasts, but also through webcasting (anticipating the rapid growth of major platforms),

¹³ European Commission, [Study on audiences, consumer behaviour and preferences relating to the consumption of media content](#), Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT), 2025, p. 175. The study shows that new technologies such as virtual and augmented reality play an incipient role in the viewing of sports, with 11% of respondents having used these technologies for that purpose.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 22. This study shows that daily sports consumption is common among 13% of respondents, while 45% watch sport at least once a week.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 66.

¹⁶ European Commission: Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, [The European media industry outlook – September 2025](#), Publications Office of the European Union, 2025, p. 41.

¹⁷ European Parliament, [Audiovisual rights in sports events. An EU perspective](#), Briefing, March 2017.



delayed broadcasts, streaming and packaging of highlights.¹⁸ The European Media Industry Outlook shows that there is now an increasing convergence in content offerings between streamers and broadcasters.¹⁹

Some audiovisual services have a paywall, while others offer content for free, but the TV sector has seen enormous growth in the offer of such broadcasts in recent years, especially during the past decade, with expansion to new areas of the audiovisual sector. Players such as BEIN²⁰ or DAZN²¹ are now key to sports content dissemination and represent a new era compared with when events of major importance for society were first regulated.

In 2024, for example, the Paris Olympic Games were offered to viewers by Warner Bros. Discovery on Max, Discovery+ and Eurosport, breaking viewing records across streaming platforms in Europe,²² while important influencers were engaged by broadcasters like NBCUniversal to boost views in a move that was repeated during the 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Italy.²³

In important European football markets, platforms are also increasing their presence, such as in Spain, where Movistar+ and DAZN have acquired rights over La Liga (the national football championship) for the 2027-2032 period,²⁴ or Germany, where Paramount+ has broken into the market with the acquisition of rights for certain UEFA Champions League games.²⁵ Other players like Amazon Prime Video are also reporting record spending on sports rights, including important competitions in European countries.²⁶ More recently, in the United States, Apple has also joined the sports market by acquiring Formula 1 rights.²⁷

Meanwhile, as the 2025 European Media Industry Outlook suggests, although young Europeans consume more media content than the rest of the population, their consumption of sports events is below average. Young people's audiovisual consumption patterns are characterised by a shift towards on-demand, digital-first viewing and away from traditional broadcasting,²⁸ not necessarily consuming full-match broadcasts but preferring highlights

¹⁸ Service offered to online users who can view their preferred highlights of a given event on demand.

¹⁹ European Commission, [The European media industry outlook – September 2025](#), op. cit., p. 6. See also, European Board for Media Services, [The Media Board's contribution to the AVMSD ex-post evaluation and review](#), 19 December 2025.

²⁰ Owned by the [BEIN Media Group](#), this platform also offers complementary services such as streaming, podcasts and short videos through its [YouTube](#) channels.

²¹ Owned by the [DAZN Group](#), also present on [YouTube](#).

²² This is the most recent example of a series that includes the streaming of the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing and previous editions. See [The Home of the Olympics in Europe](#), *WBD Sports*, consulted in March 2026.

²³ [NBCU's 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy Will Feature On-the-Ground Coverage From More Than 20 YouTube, Instagram, TikTok Creators](#), *Variety*, 2 December 2025.

²⁴ [Movistar+ y DAZN tendrán los derechos de TV de LaLiga hasta 2032 y Tebas asegura 6.135 millones](#) (Spanish) [Movistar+ and DAZN will hold the TV rights to LaLiga until 2032, and Tebas confirms a figure of €6.135 billion], *El Confidencial*, 28 November 2025.

²⁵ [Paramount+, Prime, Netflix – wo Sie künftig Fußball gucken können](#) (German) [Where you can watch football in the future], *Spiegel Sport*, 21 November 2025.

²⁶ Clover J., [Amazon Prime Video overtakes DAZN as top sports rights spender in 2026](#), *Broadband TV News*, 2 February 2026.

²⁷ [Apple is the exclusive new broadcast partner for Formula 1® in the U.S.](#), *Apple Newsroom*, 17 October 2025.

²⁸ European Commission, [The European media industry outlook – September 2025](#), op. cit.



in the form of shorter videos.²⁹ Social media platforms have already made some attempts to enter this market themselves.³⁰

While the 2018 AVMSD contemplated on-demand services through various platforms, the introduction of the regulation of video-sharing platform services reflected the fact that some events were being retransmitted directly on YouTube and other platforms. For example, YouTube introduced its live video service back in 2011, following an experimental phase in which certain one-off events were streamed.³¹ This has now become common in many fields, such as sport or live concerts. In March 2026, FIFA announced a partnership with YouTube in the context of the FIFA World Cup 2026 to offer football fans new ways to experience football matches, including extended highlights, behind-the-scenes footage, shorts and specific video-on-demand content. Also, FIFA's partners will be allowed to stream the first 10 minutes of every match on YouTube and even certain matches in full.³²

In another twist to traditional TV broadcasting, influencers are acting as sports commentators in a model that has some resemblance to traditional radio, but in which the value for viewers lies in the influencer and the experience offered rather than the actual images of the event being covered.

In 2021, for example, Spanish influencer Ibai Llanos made history through his Twitch channel by retransmitting commentaries on La Liga football matches listed in Spain's catalogue of potential events of major importance for society.³³ In cooperation with Movistar, owner of the broadcasting rights, he commented on matches while the images were being broadcast live on Movistar. During the matches, Movistar enabled viewers to listen to Llanos' Twitch commentary while watching the live images that were being broadcast.³⁴ Twitch is becoming a prominent platform in the field of sports, as it not only enables traditional broadcasters to offer their content on its platform, but also accommodates new models with huge audience potential, such as influencer commentaries on sports events.³⁵

Other relevant examples include Mark Goldbridge, an influencer first known for his football match "watchalongs" who was recently awarded rights to broadcast German Bundesliga matches on his YouTube channel,³⁶ and Gary Neville, who was also awarded Bundesliga streaming rights for his "The Overlap" channel.³⁷

²⁹ Fabiani A., [Comment: It's time to bring more influencers into sport broadcasting](#), *Broadcast Now*, 15 November 2024.

³⁰ Although not in Europe, examples include Facebook's purchase of the 2019-2022 rights for the South American Copa Libertadores. See [Facebook buys rights to broadcast select Copa Libertadores matches from 2019-22](#), *ESPN*, 5 October 2018.

³¹ Hamilton C., Siegel J., [YouTube is going LIVE](#), *YouTube Official Blog*, 8 April 2011.

³² [FIFA and YouTube team up in game-changing FIFA World Cup 2026™ Preferred Platform agreement](#), Press release, *Inside FIFA*, 17 March 2026.

³³ His [Twitch channel](#) has almost 20 million followers (in March 2026).

³⁴ [El último pelotazo de Ibai Llanos: va a narrar partidos de LaLiga](#) (Spanish) [Ibai Llanos' latest coup: he's set to commentate on LaLiga matches], *La Razón*, 20 May 2021.

³⁵ Minor J., Moore B., [How to Stream on Twitch](#), *PC Mag*, 16 September 2022.

³⁶ Harris, R., [Viral YouTuber on the path to become one of football's most powerful men](#), *Sky News*, 22 August 2025.

³⁷ [The Overlap](#), YouTube channel.



Although these trends are particularly important in the field of sport, other events are also experiencing changes in viewing. The Eurovision Song Contest is a good example, since it has its own YouTube channel on which viewers can watch the event.³⁸

During the 2024 edition, held in Malmö and listed as an event of major importance in some countries, 7.3 million unique viewers watched the Eurovision live shows on the official YouTube channel, either as they happened or on replay, while concurrent views of the Grand Final on YouTube peaked at 1.6 million.³⁹

All these examples show that traditional broadcasting, even though it remains important for the retransmission of events of major importance for society, is no longer alone in the European audiovisual landscape, and that the convergence of different service types, particularly digital, is also playing an increasingly important role in the context of Article 14 AVMSD.

³⁸ [Eurovision Song Contest](#), YouTube channel. According to the European Media Industry Outlook, YouTube is now capturing almost as much viewing time as the entire Subscription Video on Demand (SVoD) sector.

³⁹ European Broadcasting Union (EBU), [Eurovision Song Contest 2024 breaks new records as hundreds of millions watch, listen and engage on TV and digital platforms](#), press release, 23 May 2024.



2. Regulating events of major importance for society

2.1. The rationale behind the regulation of major events

The rules on events of major importance for society have remained unaltered for two decades since they were first introduced in the Television Without Frontiers Directive (TWFD) in 1997 and subsequently in the European Convention on Transfrontier Television (ECTT) as a result of developments in the media sector, especially in the field of audiovisual sports rights.⁴⁰

In 1996, the United Kingdom passed new legislation introducing the concept of a “listed event”, i.e. “a sporting or other event of national interest which is for the time being included in a list drawn up by the Secretary of State”.⁴¹ The concept of a pre-drafted list is central to the concept of major events, allowing legislators to adopt measures in respect of events included therein.

However, the immediate precedent of the 1997 text introduced in the TWFD can be found in a 1996 European Parliament resolution.⁴² This resolution explained that the European Commission’s position at the time was that exclusive TV broadcasting rights for sports events should only be for a limited duration, while long-term contracts “constitute the best guarantee for free-to-air channels to broadcast major sports events in a manner accessible to the population as a whole”.

The resolution also distinguished between an event organiser (normally the owner of television rights) and broadcasters who could be granted exclusivity, but recognised that some broadcasters might only make their broadcasts available under subscription.

The resolution recognised the value of pluralism and therefore the role of both public and private media. As a general principle, the European Parliament considered “that broadcasting rights for certain sports events which are of general interest in one or more Member States must be granted to channels which broadcast in non-encrypted form so that these events remain accessible to the population as a whole”.⁴³

At Council of Europe level, as detailed in the Explanatory Report to the ECTT,⁴⁴ the question was closely linked to the fact that the public in specific countries had been

⁴⁰ Cabrera Blázquez F. J., Cappello M., Fontaine G., Valais S., [Audiovisual sports rights – between exclusivity and right to information](#), IRIS Plus, European Audiovisual Observatory, Strasbourg, 2016, p. 36.

⁴¹ See, [legislation.gov.uk](#), [Broadcasting Act 1996](#), Part IV.

⁴² European Parliament, [Resolution on the broadcasting of sports events](#), *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 166/51, 22 May 1996.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, paragraph 5.

⁴⁴ Council of Europe, [Explanatory Report to the European Convention on Transfrontier Television](#), European Treaty Series - No. 132, Text of the Report amended by the provisions of the Protocol (ETS No. 171) which entered into force on 1 March 2002, Strasbourg, 5.V.1989, paragraphs 64-68.

deprived of images of a major event by foreign broadcasters that had acquired exclusive rights to the event for a particular geographical zone which included the country in question.

From this perspective, the Council of Europe decided to align the ECTT to the TWFD. The Explanatory Report carefully avoided mentioning only sports events, demonstrating that a shift to a broader concept of “major events” had already taken place.

2.2. European approaches to regulation

The two main texts at European level covering events of major importance for society are Article 14 AVMSD and Article 9a ECTT.

While the former incorporates the original wording introduced in the 1997 TWFD,⁴⁵ the latter was introduced in 1998 through a protocol amending the convention. However, it did not enter into force until 1 March 2002.⁴⁶

While the AVMSD is applicable in all 27 EU member states and the three EFTA countries bound by the EEA Agreement (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), the ECTT is applicable in all 35 states that have ratified it.⁴⁷ However, Article 9a ECTT, as a further addition pursuant to the 1998 Protocol, is applicable only in the 24 jurisdictions that have ratified it, which account for less than the geographical scope of the AVMSD. Portugal, Sweden, Greece, Belgium, Czechia and Romania are not covered by this protocol and are therefore only covered by Article 14 AVMSD.

2.2.1. European Union: Article 14 AVMSD

Article 14 AVMSD has remained unaltered since its introduction in 1997, including the 2018 revision of the AVMSD. Although Directive (EU) 2018/1808 was adopted on the basis of “changing market realities”, the European legislator did not consider events of major importance for society to require new regulation. It nevertheless considered that the audiovisual media services market had evolved significantly and rapidly due to the convergence of television and internet services, and that technical developments had allowed for new types of services and user experiences.⁴⁸

⁴⁵ [Directive 97/36/EC](#), op. cit.

⁴⁶ Council of Europe, Treaty Office, [Protocol amending the European Convention on Transfrontier Television](#) (ETS No. 171).

⁴⁷ Council of Europe, Treaty Office, [Chart of signatures and ratifications of Treaty 132 \(ECTT\)](#), status as of 17 November 2025. For the Protocol amending the European Convention on Transfrontier Television, [Chart of signatures and ratifications of Treaty 171](#) and, therefore, introducing Article 9a of the ECTT on events of major importance for society, the total number of ratifications is 24.

⁴⁸ [Directive \(EU\) 2018/1808](#), of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 amending Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative



Article 14 AVMSD falls under Chapter V of the AVMSD, “Provisions concerning exclusive rights and short news reports in television broadcasting”. According to Articles 1(e) and 1(f) AVMSD, television broadcasting activities are defined as the simultaneous viewing of programmes on the basis of a programme schedule, and Article 14 AVMSD was intended at the time to regulate the market of traditional television events. This interpretation was recently confirmed by the Council of the European Union, which expressed concern that events of major importance were no longer being consumed only through linear audiovisual media services, and warned that other types of services needed to be taken into consideration.⁴⁹ In parallel, in 2022, the European Parliament emphasised the importance of “free-to-air TV broadcasts” as a means of upholding the spirit of Article 14 AVMSD.⁵⁰

2.2.2. Council of Europe: Article 9a ECTT

Article 9a ECTT closely mirrors the provisions of Article 14 AVMSD. The fact that both articles were introduced at around the same time, with some states sharing these two important pieces of legislation, explains their similar spirit. In fact, the Protocol amending the ECTT acknowledges that it was drawn up taking into consideration the latest developments in EU legislation.⁵¹

Even though the ECTT was revised with a view to aligning with EU legislation, certain nuances were introduced to take into account the specificities of the Council of Europe.⁵² The intention was to ensure broad public access to television coverage of national or non-national events considered of major importance for society. As the Council of Europe explained, “certain events may be of such importance to society as a whole, that more far-reaching measures to protect access by the public to information on these events is justified”.⁵³

In this regard, the ECTT establishes an optional regime in which parties are free “to take measures to ensure that a broadcaster within its jurisdiction does not broadcast on an exclusive basis events which are regarded by that Party as being of major importance for society in such a way as to deprive a substantial proportion of the public in that Party of the possibility of following such events by live coverage or deferred coverage on free

action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive), PE/33/2018/REV/1, Recital 1.

⁴⁹ European Union, [Council conclusions on the assessment of the legal framework for audiovisual media services and video-sharing platform services](#), C/2025/2954, OJ C, 26 May 2025.

⁵⁰ European Parliament, [Implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive](#), 2022/2038(INI): “The Commission is invited to monitor closely the implementation of the rules in order to ensure that events of major importance remain accessible to as many people as possible in free-to-air TV broadcasts”.

⁵¹ Recital 5 of the [Protocol amending the European Convention on Transfrontier Television](#): “Bearing in mind, in this regard, the adoption by the European Community of Directive 97/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 June 1997 amending Council Directive 89/552/EEC on the co-ordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in member states concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities.”

⁵² Council of Europe, [Explanatory Report to the European Convention on Transfrontier Television](#), op. cit.

⁵³ Ibid.

television”. The ECTT provides detailed rules and guidelines⁵⁴ for the implementation of Article 9a. The guidelines were published in 2002⁵⁵ and remain crucial for interpreting the rules on events of major importance for society under the ECTT.

These guidelines clarify the provisions of Article 9a ECTT, focusing on the “mutual recognition” principle with regard to other parties’ lists and defining “free television” in the context of events of major importance for society, understood as the broadcasting of programme services which have near-universal coverage and are accessible to the public in their own language(s) without payment in addition to the modes of funding of broadcasting that are widely prevailing in each party (such as licence fee and/or the basic tier subscription fee to a cable system).⁵⁶ Further to that, the guidelines detail the information⁵⁷ that parties should include in their notifications to the Standing Committee.⁵⁸

2.3. The concept of events of major importance for society

In today’s European audiovisual law, there is no legal concept of events of major importance for society. Neither the AVMSD nor the ECTT defines them. The approach to the concept of events of major importance for society must be based on the characteristics of events that have traditionally been considered of major importance for society at national level.

Recital 52 AVMSD acknowledges the existence of certain criteria.⁵⁹ Three principles arise from a joint reading of Article 14 and Recital 52 AVMSD:

- Events must be outstanding.
- They must be organised in advance by an event organiser.
- The event organiser must be legally entitled to sell the rights pertaining to the event.

In 1991, before the current regulations were brought in, the Council of Europe published a recommendation on the right to short reporting on major events,⁶⁰ defined therein as any event in which a broadcaster holds the exclusive rights for its television

⁵⁴ Council of Europe, Treaty Office, [Protocol amending the European Convention on Transfrontier Television](#), op. cit., Article 9a, last paragraph.

⁵⁵ Council of Europe, [Guidelines for the implementation of Article 9a](#), Standing Committee on Transfrontier Television, T-TT(2002)018rev1, 4 December 2002.

⁵⁶ Ibid., paragraph 9.

⁵⁷ Ibid., Appendix.

⁵⁸ Just as the AVMSD establishes a Contact Committee, Article 20 ECTT introduces a [Standing Committee](#) in which each member of the ECTT is represented by one or more delegates. The Standing Committee fulfils specific tasks foreseen in the ECTT, such as the publication of a consolidated list of events and corresponding legal measures notified under Article 9a. However, the Standing Committee has remained at a standstill since 2010 in the context of overlapping competences with the AVMSD.

⁵⁹ Recital 52 of the AVMSD: “Events of major importance for society should, for the purposes of this Directive, meet certain criteria, that is to say be outstanding events which are of interest to the general public in the Union or in a given Member State or in an important component part of a given Member State and are organised in advance by an event organiser who is legally entitled to sell the rights pertaining to those events”, op. cit..

⁶⁰ Name usually still used today to refer informally to events of major importance for society.



broadcast and which is considered by one or more broadcasters from other countries as being of particular interest for its (their) public.⁶¹

In other areas, such as news reporting (Article 15 AVMSD), provisions refer to concepts including “events of high interest for the public”⁶² and “events of high public interest”,⁶³ neither of which are defined.

According to the ECTT Explanatory Report, an “event of high public interest” is any political, social, cultural or sports event regarded by one or more broadcasters in other parties as being of high interest to the public in one or more other parties. At least some aspects of such an event justify short footage in a television programme providing information to the public.⁶⁴

The Council of Europe’s Guidelines for the implementation of Article 9a of the ECTT also offer a precise approach to the concept of events of major importance for society,⁶⁵ with wording very similar to the guidelines drafted by the Contact Committee set up under the AVMSD.⁶⁶

2.4. The acquisition of broadcasting rights for major events

Broadcasting rights are typically owned by event organisers, which tend to be either public institutions or private companies. The organisers can sell these rights to one or more interested broadcasters, usually for sums that can represent very high direct and indirect value.⁶⁷

In some cases, these contracts are managed by organisations such as the European Broadcasting Union (EBU)⁶⁸ or international organisations such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC),⁶⁹ which may have specific guidelines or requirements for the formalising

⁶¹ Council of Europe, [Recommendation No. R \(91\)5](#) of the Committee of Ministers, adopted on 11 April 1991.

⁶² Article 15 of the AVMSD: “Member States shall ensure that for the purpose of short news reports, any broadcaster established in the Union has access on a fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory basis to events of high interest to the public which are transmitted on an exclusive basis by a broadcaster under their jurisdiction”.

⁶³ See Council of Europe, [Explanatory Report to the European Convention on Transfrontier Television](#), op. cit.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, paragraphs 176 and 177.

⁶⁵ For a full description, see paragraphs 10 ff. of the [Guidelines for the implementation of Article 9a](#).

⁶⁶ The Contact Committee guidelines are set out in an unpublished Working Document CC TVSF (97) 9/3, Implementation of Article 3A of Directive 89/552/EEC, as modified by Directive 97/36/EC: Evaluation of National Measures. This document cannot be publicly accessed, but its content is reflected in the European Parliament’s March 2017 briefing [Audiovisual rights in sports events – An EU perspective](#) and in paragraph 33 of the EFTA Court’s judgment of 3 October 2014 in case of [FIFA v EFTA Surveillance Authority](#), E-21/13, concerning the adoption of the Norwegian list.

⁶⁷ For example, the EBU estimates that the sports broadcasting activities of EBU members’ public service media are worth €4.9 billion to Europe’s GDP. See EBU, [EBU report shows free-to-air sport broadcasting worth EUR 4.9 billion to European economy](#), press release, 19 April 2024.

⁶⁸ In addition to the Eurovision Song Contest, the EBU handles the rights to the [Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra’s New Year Concert](#) (listed in Austria’s national list of events of major importance).

⁶⁹ See Article 48 of the [Olympic Charter](#), in force as from 3 February 2026: “The IOC takes all necessary steps in order to ensure the fullest coverage by the different media and the widest possible audience in the world for the Olympic Games”, p. 93.



of related contracts through their own bidding processes. Recital 51 AVSMD also assumes that broadcasting rights are purchased under contracts between the organisers of the event in question and the broadcasters concerned.

These contracts are governed by provisions that normally include rules on exclusivity, the territorial scope of the broadcast and the timeframe in which broadcasts can take place, including the possibility of live coverage. This does not mean that the AVMSD precludes exclusivity. Rather, it regulates the way in which it must be exercised.⁷⁰

In this vein, one situation that can occur is when a pay-TV provider or a free-to-air provider with limited geographical coverage acquires the rights to a listed event and limits public access to it. In such cases, the provider may be required to resell the rights to a qualified operator to ensure adequate audience coverage, while still retaining the ability to broadcast the event to its own subscribers.

In such cases, each jurisdiction must address important questions such as the minimum percentage of the population that must be able to view the event, how and when new events can be added to the list, and how an event's inclusion on the list can be justified.⁷¹ Each jurisdiction must also decide how to resolve conflicts in case broadcasters do not agree to the proposed rights-sharing schemes.⁷²

In its 2023 report on the implementation of the revised AVMSD, the European Parliament considered that, in relation to the broadcasting of events of major importance and the general public's ability to watch them, some jurisdictions, when implementing the AVMSD, "have adopted disproportionate rules on the volume of events covered, negotiations with qualified bidders, qualifying criteria and their overall fitness for the current competitive landscape, for example vis-à-vis the online availability of events".⁷³ The online availability of events (simulcasting, catch-up, etc.) is another aspect that is normally regulated in broadcasting contracts.

⁷⁰ For example, Spanish law pays less attention to exclusivity than to the fact that the events listed in the national catalogue must be offered free-to-air by broadcasters covering the whole territory. See Article 146 of the [Ley 13/2022](#), de 7 de julio, General de Comunicación Audiovisual (Spanish Audiovisual Act). In France, Article 20-2 of [Loi n° 86-1067](#) of 30 September 1986 relative à la liberté de communication (Loi Léotard) makes it evident that exclusivity is not derogated, but regulated: "*Les événements d'importance majeure ne peuvent être retransmis en exclusivité d'une manière qui aboutit à priver une partie importante du public de la possibilité de les suivre en direct ou en différé sur un service de télévision à accès libre*" (French) [Major events may not be broadcast on an exclusive basis in a way that results in a significant proportion of the public being deprived of the opportunity to follow them live or on a delayed basis on a free-to-air television service].

⁷¹ A good example can be found in Italy, where AGCOM has the powers to resolve these matters: [Delibera 326/25/CONS](#), Approvazione definitiva della lista degli eventi di particolare rilevanza per la società di cui è assicurata la diffusione su palinsesti in chiaro [Final approval of the list of events of particular relevance for the company, for which broadcasting on free-to-air channels is ensured], AGCOM, 15 March 2012.

⁷² In Spain, for example, this role is attributed to the CNMC by virtue of Article 12 of [Ley 3/2013](#) de 4 de junio, de creación de la Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia [Act 3/2013 of 4 June 2013 creating the National Markets and Competition Commission]. According to this provision, the CNMC resolves "disputes arising between agents involved in the audiovisual communication markets concerning matters in respect of which the Commission has competence". This includes conflicts regarding the national list of events.

⁷³ European Parliament, [Report on the implementation of the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive](#), Procedure [2022/2038\(INI\)](#), 12 April 2023.



All these aspects need to be taken into account in the different bidding procedures established by event organisers and, ultimately, in the contracts entered into by broadcasters acquiring the rights to an event and its organiser.

2.5. Intersections with competition law

Fair competition is one of the foundations of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). According to the Advocate General in *UEFA/FIFA v European Commission*,⁷⁴ a restriction on the freedom to provide services such as Article 14 AVMSD is understood as an inherent consequence of the power conferred on member states to draw up national lists. The Advocate General considered this restriction justified and, therefore, proportionate, subject to compliance by member states with the conditions laid down for drawing up national lists.

The Advocate General was also of the opinion that the EU has justified powers in imposing limitations or restrictions on the right to property, understood as property over sporting events, either on the basis of the fundamental rights of others, such as the right to information, or on the basis of the public interest. In this sense, he did not consider that a provision such as Article 14 AVMSD, according to which the exclusivity of the right of the organiser of a sporting event may be limited, is an obstacle to the peaceful enjoyment of possessions or an unlawful control of their use.⁷⁵

The Court, in its final findings, also agreed that such obstacles are justified by the objective of protecting the right to information and ensuring wide public access to television coverage of those events.⁷⁶ Accordingly, the lists that are published also contain a justification by the European Commission on this matter, as well as a brief analysis of their possible impact on competition.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ Opinion of the Advocate General in case [UEFA/FIFA v European Commission](#), C-201/11 P, 18 July 2013, paragraph 31.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*, paragraph 43.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, paragraph 10.

⁷⁷ For example, in the case of the Austrian list: “The Austrian measures are compatible with EC competition rules in that the definition of qualified broadcasters for the broadcasting of listed events is based on objective criteria that allow actual and potential competition for the acquisition of the rights to broadcast these events. In addition, the number of listed events is not disproportionate so as to distort competition on the downstream free television and pay television markets.” See European Commission, [Decision of 25 June 2007](#) on the compatibility with Community law of measures taken by Austria pursuant to Article 3a(1) of Council Directive 89/552/EEC on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities, 2007/477/EC.

3. Major events under the AVMSD

3.1. The scope of Article 14 AVMSD

Article 14 AVMSD enables member states to ensure that broadcasters under their jurisdiction do not broadcast events of major importance for society on an exclusive basis. It does not forbid exclusivity, but member states can impose conditions on how it can be exercised in order to fulfil the purpose of the provision.

More specifically, as provided by Article 14(1) AVMSD, member states may take measures to ensure that broadcasters under their jurisdiction do not broadcast on an exclusive basis events which are regarded as being of major importance for society in such a way as to deprive a substantial proportion of the public in that member state of the possibility of following such events by live or deferred coverage on free television.

Each member state that decides to follow the provisions of Article 14(1) AVMSD draws up a list of designated events, national or non-national (normally when the event involves the national team in an international sports event), which it considers to be of major importance for society. However, as exclusivity is not banned, the member state concerned determines whether these events should be made available by the broadcaster owning the rights by means of whole or partial live coverage or, where necessary or appropriate for objective reasons in the public interest, whole or partial deferred coverage. The fact that a jurisdiction has a national list does not mean it has to apply Article 14 AVMSD.

If member states decide to address this question pursuant to Article 14(1) AVMSD, they must immediately notify to the European Commission any measures taken or to be taken as provided by Article 14(2), so that the latter, with the opinion of the Contact Committee,⁷⁸ can verify that the measures are compatible with Union law and officially communicate them to the other member states.

Finally, Article 14(3) contains specific rules for broadcasting activities between different jurisdictions designed to prevent a substantial proportion of the public in another member state being deprived of the possibility of following events of major importance for society.

3.2. Events under the scope of Article 14 AVMSD

Article 14 AVMSD focuses on events of major importance for society, a notion that is not defined in Article 14 AVMSD but in Recital 52 AVMSD.

⁷⁸ The Contact Committee is established according to Article 29 AVMSD and composed of representatives of the competent institutions of the member states.



Recital 52 AVMSD refers to outstanding events which are of interest to the general public in the EU or in a given member state (or in an important component part of a given member state) and are organised in advance by an event organiser who is legally entitled to sell the rights pertaining to those events. The term “organised” suggests that one-off, unforeseeable events are outside the scope of Article 14 AVMSD.

The provisions of Article 14 AVMSD are based on the concept of a list of designated events notified by member states to the European Commission. The purpose of this list, as underlined by the Advocate General in the ECJ’s seminal case *UEFA/FIFA v European Commission*, is to ensure that a wide audience may follow a listed event via live or deferred coverage on free television.⁷⁹

3.3. The mechanisms of Article 14 AVMSD

Under Article 14(1) AVMSD, the first set of provisions apply at national level and involve national authorities. Member states are free to designate their own events of major importance for society.⁸⁰ If they decide to do so, they must draw up a list of designated events in a clear and transparent manner in due time and indicating the coverage (full or partial) that should not fall into exclusive hands.

The duration of the list is not specified, which means that member states are free to define it as they wish. The latest list to be officially updated was that of Italy in 2025, whereas the earliest ones (AT, BE-VL, BE-FR, FI, DE) date back to 2007.⁸¹

The guidelines for implementing Article 14 AVMSD, set out in an unpublished working document of the Contact Committee,⁸² identify four indicators for assessing whether an event is of major importance for society. According to this document, an event may be included in a national list if at least two of these indicators are met:

Indicator	Content
1	The event and its outcome have a special general resonance and are not simply of significance to those who ordinarily follow the sport or the activity concerned.

⁷⁹ See [UEFA/FIFA v European Commission](#), op. cit..

⁸⁰ Ibid. See paragraph 15, where the ECJ admitted that there was a high degree of discretion in the drawing up of the list.

⁸¹ [National measures](#) taken pursuant to Article 14(1) AVMSD, verified by the European Commission for their compatibility with European Union law and published in the Official Journal of the European Union in accordance with Article 14(2) AVMSD, are updated by the European Commission and can be accessed online.

⁸² European Commission, Working Document CC TVSF (97) 9/3, Implementation of Article 3A of Directive 89/552/EEC, as modified by Directive 97/36/EC: Evaluation of National Measures. This document cannot be publicly accessed, but its content is reflected in the European Parliament’s March 2017 briefing [Audiovisual rights in sports events – An EU perspective](#) and in paragraph 33 of the EFTA Court’s judgment of 3 October 2014 in the case [FIFA v EFTA Surveillance Authority](#), E-21/13, concerning the adoption of the Norwegian list.



Indicator	Content
2	The event has a generally recognised, distinct cultural importance for the population, in particular as a catalyst of its cultural identity.
3	The event involves the national team in the sport concerned in a major international event.
4	It has traditionally been broadcast free-to-air and has commanded large TV audiences.

Following these rules, the ECJ has confirmed that the European Commission has the right to conduct a three-step test to assess if the national measures designating events as being of major importance for society are compliant with AVMSD rules. The steps to be analysed are:⁸³

Step	Content
1	The event concerned has been added to the list provided for in Article 3a(1) of Directive 89/552 ⁸⁴ in accordance with a clear and transparent procedure in due and effective time.
2	Such an event may validly be regarded as being of major importance.
3	The designation of the event concerned as being of major importance is compatible with the general principles of European Union law, such as the principles of proportionality and non-discrimination, with the principles of the freedom to provide services and the freedom of establishment, and with the rules of free competition.

Also, according to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in case *UEFA/FIFA v European Commission*, “given their relatively imprecise nature, it is for each Member State to give substance to the criteria and to assess the interest of the general public in the events concerned, taking account of the social and cultural particularities of society in that Member State”.⁸⁵

After the list is drafted, member states can adopt any measure that can guarantee the fulfilment of the objectives of Article 14 AVMSD. Although these measures are not listed or defined, this does not exempt member states from justifying the inclusion of a given event in the list.⁸⁶

⁸³ See judgment in case [UEFA/FIFA v European Commission](#).

⁸⁴ Reference to the current version of the AVMSD.

⁸⁵ See [UEFA/FIFA v European Commission](#), paragraph 15.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, paragraph 25 in connection with and following the principles of Article 296 TFEU: “Legal acts shall state the reasons on which they are based and shall refer to any proposals, initiatives, recommendations, requests or opinions required by the Treaties”.



The second set of provisions concerns the procedure between the member states and the European Commission. According to Article 14(2) AVMSD, measures adopted pursuant to Article 14(1) are notified to the European Commission and then published in the Official Journal of the European Union. There is a difference between the number of lists of events only enshrined in national laws and the number of lists published in the Official Journal of the European Union pursuant to Article 14 AVMSD:

List	EU member states
List published by EU under Article 14 AVMSD ⁸⁷	10 AT, BE(VL, FR), FI, FR, DE, DK, HU, IE, IT, PL
Approval of a national list ⁸⁸	21 AT, BE(VL, FR), BG, HR, CZ, DK, FI, FR, DE, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, ES
No list	6 BE(DE), CY, EE, GR, LU, SK, SE

Finally, Article 14(3) regulates the specific case in which a broadcaster under a given jurisdiction might exercise exclusive rights “in such a way that a substantial proportion of the public in another Member State is deprived of the possibility of following events which are designated by that other Member State”, that is, a foreign broadcaster acquiring rights to a major event in another jurisdiction.

In this case, the burden of the regulation is borne by the member state in which the broadcaster is based, which is determined according to the general rules set out in Article 2 AVMSD and the country-of-origin principle.

⁸⁷ The publication of these lists can be found here: [AT](#), [BE\(VL\)](#), [BE\(FR\)](#), [DK](#) (repealed internally as of 2019), [FI](#), [FR](#), [DE](#), [HU](#), [IE](#), [IT](#), [PL](#).

⁸⁸ Source: [List](#) of Events of Major Importance for Society, developed by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) in collaboration with the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA), accurate as of November 2025.

4. Events of major importance at national level

4.1. National legislation: a question of national taste

Since Article 14 AVMSD provides for an optional regime, each member state may take measures to ensure that broadcasters under its jurisdiction do not broadcast events of major importance for society on an exclusive basis. The mechanism introduced by Article 14 allows for notified lists to produce effects in other member states. This implies that broadcasters falling under the jurisdiction of other member states are also bound by a notified list if they acquire exclusive rights to an event included in the list in the country concerned.

At the same time, member states are free to draw up their own lists without referring to the system enshrined in Article 14 AVMSD if they do not want a cross-border effect. For example, the Netherlands⁸⁹ and Spain⁹⁰ have national lists but have not opted for the regime of Article 14 AVMSD and have therefore not notified them at EU level. Their lists therefore only have national effect and apply only to broadcasters falling under their jurisdiction.

Accordingly, and regardless of the provisions of the AVMSD, many jurisdictions have national lists, although with significant nuances, particularly regarding the nature of the major events covered,⁹¹ which reflect their own views on which events need to be regulated.

However, national rules on events of major importance show that member states have an interest in regulating events of major importance, since they form an important aspect of national audiovisual markets.

Some member states (Austria, Czechia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia and Spain) have decided to regulate specific events of major importance in their transposition laws, while others regulate them in other ways, normally via secondary law. Some, including Belgium (for the French and Flemish communities), France, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland and Poland, have also notified lists under Article 14 AVMSD.

⁸⁹ Overheid.nl, [Evenementenlijst](#), Mediabesluit 2008.

⁹⁰ Ley 13/2022, [Article 146](#) *Catálogo de acontecimientos de interés general para la sociedad* [A catalogue of events of general interest to the public] *General de Comunicación Audiovisual*, 7 July 2022.

⁹¹ For full details on national transpositions of Article 14 AVMSD, see the European Audiovisual Observatory's [AVMS Database](#).



4.2. Overview

A total of 21 EU member states⁹² have drawn up a national list of events of major importance for society. The lists of ten of them have been officially notified under Article 14 AVMSD and published in the Official Journal of the EU.⁹³

The lists are similar in content and include various types of events, although sports events are by far the most common. Recent changes show a trend to include the Paralympic Games as well as women's sports events.

Portugal's national list, for example, which is renewed annually, now explicitly includes women's sports in most listed events.⁹⁴ Spain included women's teams and the Paralympic Games in the potential catalogue of events of major importance in its 2022 revision of the national audiovisual law,⁹⁵ while France updated its national list to include women's sports and the Paralympic Games in 2024, coinciding with the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The European Commission Decision on the French list notes that, "as demonstrated by the French authorities, the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games have a special general resonance in France and are not only important for those who usually follow them". It also refers to women's sports events, recognising that they also have a special general resonance in France and are not only important for those who usually follow them, since they involve the participation of the national team and have traditionally been broadcast on free-to-air television in France, commanding large television audiences.⁹⁶

A similar trend can be observed outside the EU, where the UK adopted an updated list in 2022 on the grounds of inclusivity and a commitment to greater participation, employment, commercial opportunities and visibility in the media.⁹⁷

The annex to this chapter lists the most relevant events across Europe and, where available, the scope of their coverage.

⁹² The German-speaking community of Belgium does not have a list.

⁹³ The lists published by the EU are available here: [AT](#), [BE\(VL\)](#), [BE\(FR\)](#), [DK](#) (repealed internally as of 2019), [FI](#), [FR](#), [DE](#), [HU](#), [IE](#), [IT](#), [PL](#).

⁹⁴ See [Despacho n.º 13692/2024](#) (in Portuguese), Diário da República n.º 225/2024, Série II de 2024-11-20, 20 November 2024.

⁹⁵ See [Ley 13/2022](#), [Article 146](#), op. cit.

⁹⁶ European Commission, [Decision of 24 June 2024](#) on the compatibility with Union law of the measures to be taken by France pursuant to Article 14(1) of Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, C/2024/4423. OJ C, C/2024/3936, 28 June 2024.

⁹⁷ Gov.uk, [Government adds women's international football tournaments to listed events regime](#), Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, 25 April 2022.



4.3. Sports events

Events of major importance for society can be divided into two main groups: sports events and other kinds of events. National lists of such events, whether notified to the EU or not,⁹⁸ include a total of 107 competitions in 17 disciplines, without counting the Olympic Games and associated competitions, which can include many of these disciplines.

Listed sports events can be divided into different categories, either by sport or by competition. The Olympic Games in their different forms are included in virtually every list, with the Summer Olympic Games appearing in every one. Football is the undisputed king, with some of the world's most famous competitions included in the vast majority of national lists. These include the FIFA World Cup, the UEFA European Championship, national tournaments, the UEFA Champions League and the national leagues of most member states.

The lists are rather varied: some only include certain parts of these competitions (such as the opening ceremony, opening match, quarter-finals, semi-finals, third-place match and final), but the vast majority include at least one FIFA event and many UEFA events. For example, Finland's list, which has been notified to the EU, only considers the opening match, quarter-finals, semi-finals and final of the FIFA World Cup, as well as the matches played by the Finnish team in the tournament, as events of major importance for society.⁹⁹ The participation of national teams in matches or competitions can be an indicator of an event's importance, even if they do not reach the final stages.

Other sports, such as basketball, are less prominent, with Eurobasket only listed in certain countries, including Croatia, France, Lithuania and Slovenia. Tennis also deserves a mention, with events such as Wimbledon, Roland Garros and the Davis Cup listed in countries including France, Croatia and the Netherlands.

Otherwise, sports events are listed mainly on the basis of their national character. These include competitions such as the Tour de France (listed only in France, its country of origin, the Netherlands and Slovenia) the Giro d'Italia (only listed in its home country, Italy) and the Ice Hockey World Championship (only listed in Czechia and Finland). A few countries also include motor sport events such as the Rally de Portugal (part of the FIA World Rally Championship) and Formula One races (Belgium, France, Hungary, Spain and Italy).

Some countries list strictly national sports such as wrestling (World Wrestling Championships in Bulgaria), sailing (March and September regattas in Malta) and canoe/kayak (Slovenia).

⁹⁸ EU 27 + Albania, Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine and UK.

⁹⁹ European Commission, [Decision of 25 June 2007 on the compatibility with Community law of measures taken by Finland pursuant to Article 3a\(1\) of Council Directive 89/552/EEC on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities](#), OJ L 180, 10 July 2007.



Outside the EU, listed events include the *Fête fédérale de lutte et de jeux alpestres* (Switzerland), the World Boxing Championships in various weight categories (Ukraine) and various high-level cricket and horse racing events (United Kingdom).

4.4. Non-sports events

A few countries have included non-sports events in their lists, and these events vary hugely. They are normally a mix of consolidated cultural events and popular culture events, including song contests such as the Eurovision Song Contest.

Eurovision is the most commonly listed non-sports event, with EU member states Malta and the Netherlands (and non-members Moldova and Ukraine) including the famous European song contest in their lists. Italy's list includes the San Remo Festival, while other countries have listed events of local relevance. Malta, for example, has included the Saturday Carnival for Children, Carnival Sunday and the Tuesday Floriana Carnival.

Purely cultural events include the Goya Awards (Spain, as a possibility), the Vienna Opera Ball and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra New Year's Concert (Austria). These events are extremely important in their respective territories, although the New Year's Concert, for example, attracts a very broad audience and resonance that extends beyond Austrian borders.¹⁰⁰ Other types of event include the national armed forces' military parade in Latvia.

Outside the EU, other listed events include the inauguration of the President of Montenegro and extraordinary parliamentary sessions in Montenegro. As well as the inauguration, addresses and press conferences of its president, Ukraine's list includes various elements of the Eurovision Song Contest, such as performances by Ukrainian participants and contest winners, the awards ceremony and the final press conference of Ukraine's participants.

¹⁰⁰ EBU, [Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra New Year's Concert](#), 4 February 2025.

Annex – Main events in lists adopted at national level

1. Lists¹⁰¹ of events of major importance¹⁰² in the European Economic Area (EEA)¹⁰³

Type of coverage (where available):

<i>Live and full</i>	<i>Partial live</i>	<i>Live/deferred – full/partial</i>	<i>Live or deferred</i>
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	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Austria	✓	✓	✓ Opening match, semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team (men)	✓ Opening match, semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team (men)		✓ Final (men)	✓ FIS Alpine World Ski Championships FIS Nordic World Ski Championships	✓ Vienna Opera Ball Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra New Year's Concert	10 July 2007

¹⁰¹ Sources: [Audiovisual Media Services Directive - application & implementation](#), European Commission and [Dataset](#) on events of major importance for society developed by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) in collaboration with the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA), accurate as of November 2025 (including links to national acts).

¹⁰² Extra information provided in each cell when necessary.

¹⁰³ Additional information on type of coverage for EU notified lists (where available).

¹⁰⁴ Selection of events.

¹⁰⁵ Selection of events.



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Belgium (FR and VL)	✓		✓ Final tournament (men)	✓ Final tournament (men)		✓ Belgian Cup Final (men)	✓ Football: all matches involving the Belgian men's team Tennis: Roland Garros and Wimbledon quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals involving a Belgian player; Davis Cup and Fed Cup quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals involving the Belgian team. Belgian Formula 1 Grand Prix	✓ Final of the Concours Reine Elisabeth	10 July 2007 Amended 28 February 2014



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Belgium (VL)					✓ Matches involving Belgian clubs, finals and semi-finals		✓ Belgian and world men's cyclo-cross championships Tennis: Australian Open and US Open quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals involving a Belgian player		<i>See Belgium (FR and VL)</i>
Belgium (FR)		✓			✓ Matches involving Belgian clubs		✓ World Athletics Championships involving Belgian athletes Ivo Van Damme Memorial		<i>See Belgium (FR and VL)</i>



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Bulgaria	✓	✓	✓ Opening match, semi-finals and final (men)	✓ Semi-finals and final (men)		✓ Final (men)	✓ International matches of the national men's basketball and volleyball teams FIS Alpine Ski World Cup World Wrestling Championships Gymnastics World Championships		



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Croatia	<p>✓</p> <p>Opening and closing ceremonies, all finals, all competitions involving national athletes</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Opening and closing ceremonies, all finals, all competitions involving national athletes</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Opening match, final and all matches involving the national team (men and women)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Opening match, final and all matches involving the national team (men)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>All matches (including qualifiers) involving Croatian clubs (men)</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>Football: all national team matches</p> <p>Basketball and handball: semi-finals, finals and national team matches in World and European Championships</p> <p>Tennis: finals of US Open, Australian Open, Roland Garros and Wimbledon involving Croatian players; finals of ATP and WTA tournaments held in Croatia</p> <p>Ski World Cup races held in Croatia</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Opening ceremonies of Split and Dubrovnik Summer Festivals</p>	
Cyprus	<i>No list</i>								



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Czechia	✓	✓	✓ Semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team (men)	✓ Semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team (men)			✓ Ice Hockey World Championship semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team (men)		
Denmark	✓ Games in their entirety, including the opening and closing ceremonies	✓ Games in their entirety, including the opening and closing ceremonies	✓ All matches involving Denmark, plus semi-finals and final	✓ Final tournament (men): all matches involving Denmark, plus semi-finals and final			✓ World and European Handball Championships: all matches involving Denmark, plus semi-finals, finals and qualifying matches (men and women)		8 July 2015, repealed internally in 2019 ¹⁰⁶ (previously 19 January 1999 – repealed 19 February 2002)
Estonia	<i>No list</i>								

¹⁰⁶ See Danish Ministry of Culture, [Bekendtgørelse om ophævelse af bekendtgørelse om udnyttelse af tvrettigheder til begivenheder af væsentlig samfundsmæssig interesse](#) (Danish) [Order repealing the Order on the exploitation of television rights to events of major public interest], BEK nr 1266 af 12/11/2018, 12 November 2018.



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Finland	<i>No list</i>	✓	✓ Opening match, semi-finals, final and matches involving the Finnish national team	✓ Opening match, semi-finals, final and matches involving the Finnish national team			✓ Men's Ice Hockey World Championships semi-finals, final and matches involving the Finnish national team		10 July 2007
			Quarter-finals	Quarter-finals			Men's Ice Hockey World Championships (other matches) Nordic World Ski Championships World and European Athletics Championships		



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
France	<p>✓</p> <p>May be limited to representative moments reflecting the diversity of sporting disciplines and participating countries, and may include recorded material when events take place at the same time.</p> <p>Including Paralympic Games as of 2024.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>May be limited to representative moments reflecting the diversity of sporting disciplines and participating countries, and may include recorded material when events take place at the same time.</p> <p>Including Paralympic Games as of 2024.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Opening match, semi-finals and final (men). Semi-finals and final (women). Matches involving the national women's football team in the FIFA calendar as of 2024.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Semi-finals and final (men and women)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Final (men and women)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Final (men and women)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Six Nations Rugby (men and women)</p> <p>Rugby World Cup semi-finals and final (men and women)</p> <p>Tennis (Roland Garros): singles finals and semi-finals involving a French player</p>		24 June 2024
							Tour de France		



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Germany	✓	✓	✓ Opening match, semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team (men)	✓ Opening match, semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team	✓ The final of any European club competition involving a German club	✓ German Cup semi-finals and final	✓ German national football team's home and away matches		10 July 2007
Greece	<i>No list</i>								
Hungary	✓ Competitions involving national teams or athletes	✓ Competitions involving national teams or athletes	✓ Opening match, quarter-finals, semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team (men)	✓ Final and matches involving Hungarian clubs (men)	✓ Opening match, quarter-finals, semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team (men)	✓ FIFA World Cup and UEFA European Championship qualifiers, and official friendly matches (men)	✓ F1 GP Hungary		4 July 2017
Iceland	<i>No list</i>								



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Ireland	✓		✓ Opening match, semi-finals, final and any national team matches (men)			✓ Ireland's home and away qualifiers in the UEFA European Championship and FIFA World Cup (men)	✓ Ireland's matches in the Rugby World Cup final tournament Irish Grand National and Irish Derby		11 January 2018



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Italy	<p>✓</p> <p>Including Paralympic Games as of 20 January 2026</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Including Paralympic Games as of 20 January 2026</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Final and all matches involving the Italian national team</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Final and all matches involving the Italian national team</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League finals and semi-finals involving Italian clubs</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Coppa Italia final</p> <p>Supercoppa di Lega final</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>All Italian national football team home and away matches in official competitions</p> <p>Giro d'Italia</p> <p>Italian Formula One and Moto GP Grand Prix</p> <p>Finals and semi-finals of basketball, water polo, volleyball and rugby world championships, Six Nations Rugby, Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Italian Open and UCI Road World Championships involving Italian national teams or athletes</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>San Remo Festival</p> <p>Opening night of the opera season at La Scala in Milan</p> <p>New Year's concert at La Fenice in Venice</p>	<p>17 July 2012 – Updated 20 January 2026¹⁰⁷</p>



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Latvia	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓ Ice Hockey World Championship	✓ Baltica international folklore festival National armed forces' military parade	
Liechtenstein	<i>No list</i>								

¹⁰⁷ See European Union, [List of national and non-national events considered to be of major importance for society which media service providers must ensure are broadcast on free-to-air schedules](#), EUR-Lex, C/2026/384, 20 January 2026.



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Lithuania	<p>✓</p> <p>Opening and closing ceremonies, semi-finals and finals of the basketball and football tournaments, and competitions involving Lithuanian athletes</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Opening and closing ceremonies, and competitions involving Lithuanian athletes</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Semi-finals and final (men)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Semi-finals and final (men)</p>			<p>✓</p> <p>Championship semi-finals and final, and all matches involving the Lithuanian national men's basketball team</p> <p>Olympic Games basketball qualifying matches</p> <p>Basketball World Cup and EuroBasket</p> <p>ULEB men's basketball league matches involving Lithuanian teams</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Lithuanian Song Festival</p>	
Luxembourg	<p><i>List of key public non-sports events that Luxembourg broadcaster RTL Télé Lëtzebuerg is required to broadcast</i></p>								



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Malta	<p>✓</p> <p>Opening ceremony and competitions involving Maltese teams or athletes</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>Opening ceremony, opening match, quarter-finals, semi-finals, third-place match and final (men)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Opening ceremony, opening match, semi-finals and final (men)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Semi-finals and final (men)</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>Opening ceremony and finals taking place on the last day of the Games of the Small States of Europe</p> <p>March and September regattas</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Eurovision Song Contest final and qualifying event if Malta is involved</p> <p>Malta Song for Europe final and qualifying nights</p> <p>Saturday Carnival for Children, Carnival Sunday and Tuesday Floriana Carnival</p>	



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Netherlands	✓	✓	✓ All matches (men) All matches involving the national team plus semi-finals and final (women)	✓ All matches (men) All matches involving the national team plus semi-finals and final (women)	✓ Final and matches involving Dutch clubs (men)	✓ Semi-finals and final (men)	✓ Wimbledon and Roland Garros singles matches involving Dutch players, plus semi-finals and finals (men and women)	✓ Eurovision Song Contest Pinkpop Festival	
Norway	✓	✓	✓ All matches and qualifiers involving the national team (men)	✓ All matches and qualifiers involving the national team (men)		✓ Final (men)	✓ Skiing World Cup (Holmenkollen Race)		
Poland	✓	✓	✓ Semi-finals, final and matches involving the national team	✓ Semi-finals, final and matches involving the national team	✓ UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League matches involving Polish clubs		✓ Football matches involving the Polish national team in official tournaments		3 February 2015



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Portugal			✓ Semi-finals, final and matches involving Portuguese teams	✓ Semi-finals, final and matches involving Portuguese teams	✓ Semi-finals, final and matches involving Portuguese teams	✓ Final	✓ Rally de Portugal		
Romania	✓	✓	✓ Matches involving the national team, including qualifiers	✓ Matches involving the national team, including qualifiers				✓ George Enescu Festival	



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Slovenia	✓	✓	✓ All matches involving Slovenian teams (including qualifiers), opening match, semi-finals and final. If the Slovenian team fails to qualify: 10 selected matches	✓ All matches involving Slovenian teams (including qualifiers), opening match, semi-finals and final. If the Slovenian team fails to qualify: 10 selected matches			✓ Cycling World Championships Tour de France Climbing World Championships and World Cup (all disciplines)		
Slovakia	<i>No list</i>								



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹⁰⁴	Non-sports events ¹⁰⁵	EU notification (where relevant)
Spain ¹⁰⁸						<p>✓</p> <p>Copa del Rey final and semi-finals (men and women)</p> <p>One match per matchday in the top division of the national football league (men and women), designated at least 10 days in advance.</p>			
Sweden	<i>No list</i>								

¹⁰⁸ The Spanish audiovisual law, in force since 2022, provides a detailed catalogue from which the government can draw up an official list of events of major importance. This catalogue includes the Olympic and Paralympic Summer and Winter Games, the main world, European and national football competitions, women's sports competitions and cultural events such as the Goya and MAX Awards. However, the list has not yet been drafted, so transitional provisions apply. These only concern the Copa del Rey and the top division of the Spanish football league, which are therefore the only events currently considered as events of major importance for society in Spain.

2. Non-EEA jurisdictions:¹⁰⁹

	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹¹⁰	Non-sports events ¹¹¹
Albania	✓	✓	✓ Final and all matches involving the national team (men)	✓ Final and all matches involving the national team (men)			✓ World Gymnastics Championships (Rhythmic and Artistic)	✓ Albanian Song Festival Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra New Year's Concert Gjirokastër National Folk Festival

¹⁰⁹ Source: [Dataset](#) on events of major importance for society developed by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) in collaboration with the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA), accurate as of November 2025 (including links to national acts).

¹¹⁰ Selection of events.

¹¹¹ Selection of events.



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹¹⁰	Non-sports events ¹¹¹
Moldova	✓	✓	<p>✓</p> <p>All matches plus qualifying matches involving the national team (men)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>All matches plus qualifying matches involving the national team (men)</p>	<p>✓</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>Eurovision Song Contest</p>	
Montenegro	✓	✓	<p>✓</p> <p>Opening match, semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team (men)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Opening match, semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team (men)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Semi-finals, final and any match involving Montenegrin clubs (men)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Final (men)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Handball: any semi-finals and finals involving the national team (men)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Inauguration of the President of Montenegro</p> <p>Extraordinary parliamentary sessions</p>



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹¹⁰	Non-sports events ¹¹¹
North Macedonia	✓	✓	✓ Opening match, semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team (men)	✓ Opening match, semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team (men)	✓ Semi-finals, final and any match involving North Macedonian clubs (men)		✓ Volleyball World Championship semi-finals, final and any match involving the national team as well as qualifying matches involving the national team (men)	
Serbia	✓ Including Paralympic Games	✓ Including Paralympic Games	✓ Semi-finals, final and all matches and qualifiers involving the national team (men)	✓ Semi-finals, final and all matches and qualifiers involving the national team (men)	✓ All matches and qualifiers involving Serbian clubs (men)		✓ Tennis semi-finals and finals involving the national team	✓ EGZIT music festival Guča music festival Bitef theatre festival FEST international film festival Kustendorf international film and music festival



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹¹⁰	Non-sports events ¹¹¹
Switzerland	✓	✓	✓ Semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team, including qualifying matches (men)	✓ Semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team, including qualifying matches (men)	✓ Finals involving Swiss clubs (men)		✓ Ice Hockey World Championship Fête fédérale de lutte et de jeux alpestres	
Türkiye	✓	✓	✓ Semi-finals and final (men)	✓ Semi-finals and final (men)	✓ Semi-finals and final (men)		✓ Tennis: semi-finals and final of Australian Open, Roland Garros, Wimbledon and US Open (men)	✓ Mevlana commemoration ceremonies (Şeb-i Arus) Yunus Emre and Hacı Bektaşî Veli commemoration ceremonies Nevruz activities



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹¹⁰	Non-sports events ¹¹¹
Ukraine	<p>✓</p> <p>Competitions involving national teams or athletes, including Paralympic Games</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Competitions involving national teams or athletes, including Paralympic Games</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team, including qualifying matches (men)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Semi-finals, final and all matches involving the national team, including qualifying matches (men)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Final (men)</p>		<p>✓</p> <p>Fights involving Ukrainian athletes at the World Boxing Championships (various weight categories) and championships of the leading boxing associations</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Ukrainian Independence Day (August 24)</p> <p>Inauguration, addresses and press conferences of the President of Ukraine</p> <p>Eurovision and Junior Eurovision song contests (performances by participants from Ukraine, performances by contest winners, award ceremony, and final press conference of participants from Ukraine)</p>



	Summer Olympic Games	Winter Olympic Games	FIFA World Cup	UEFA European Championship	UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League	National football cups/ competitions	Other sports events ¹¹⁰	Non-sports events ¹¹¹
United Kingdom	✓ Including Paralympic Games	✓ Including Paralympic Games	✓ Finals (men and women)	✓ Finals (men and women)		✓ Final (inc. Scottish Cup in Scotland) (men)	✓ Golf: Ryder Cup and Open Golf Championship (British Open) Cricket: World Cup semi-finals, final and matches involving the Home Nations (men) Horse racing: Derby and Grand National	

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