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European Union and Sport

Results of Public Consultation on European Sports Policy Published

The European Commission has published the results of the EU-wide online-consultation on European sports policy. Carried out between April and June, the online-consultation was aimed at gathering the views and opinions of relevant stakeholders on the EU's future priorities in the field of sport.

According to the final report, the Commission received more than 1,300 responses. The overwhelming majority of submissions came from individuals. About 30 % of respondents filled out the questionnaire on behalf of their organisations. Sport organisations provided almost two-thirds of the responses. On top of that, the Commission received almost 50 position papers in the course of the consultation process. The EOC EU Office and some of its partners (IOC, ENGSO, CCPR, DOSB, CNOSF and NOC) have actively participated in the discussion on the shape of the future EU sports policy by providing their own written proposals.

According to the final report, the following areas were most frequently mentioned as

priority areas for future EU actions: the promotion of the social and educational function of sport, health-enhancing physical activities, a better integration of sport in education policies, recognition and support for volunteering in sport, the fight against doping and the promotion of fairness and openness in sporting competitions.

The European Commission will take account of the results of the online-consultation when drafting its communication on the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on Sport and its proposal for a future EU Sport Funding Programme (2012-2013). Both documents will be presented in early November.

Further Information:

The final report is available under the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/news945_en.htm

Independent Expert Group Presents Report on EU Sport Priorities

Led by Manolis Mavrommatis, a former member of the European Parliament, a "group of independent sport experts" has published a report containing recommendations for a future EU sports policy. The group of independent sport experts was convened by



Androulla Vassiliou, the Commissioner in charge of sports, earlier this year. The group consisted of 10 high-level independent

experts. Apart from Mavrommatis, Pietro Mennea, a former world-class sprinter, and Stefan Szymanski, professor for economics, were among the members of the group. According to these experts, the EU's future actions should concentrate on the following areas:

- Volunteering structures
- Fairness and Openness in sporting competitions
- Physical and moral integrity of sports-persons



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- Reinforcing the dialogue and cooperation with sport stakeholders
- EU Sport Funding Programme

The report forms part of the consultation process on the EU's future priorities in the field of sport. The process was launched by the European Commission early this year following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty which provides the EU with a new competence in sports (A. 165). The Commission will take the opinions of the experts into account when drafting the communication on the impact of the Lisbon Treaty on Sport ("White Paper II"). The Communication will be presented alongside a proposal for a fu-

ture EU Sport Funding Programme (2012-2013) in early November.

Further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/news940_en.htm

Sport Organisations Encouraged to Participate in "European Development Days"



The fifth edition of the "European Development Days" will take place in Brussels on 6-7 December 2010.

Organised by the Belgian Presidency in collaboration with the European Commission, the European Development Days are Europe's most important event in the field of development policy. The forum provides an excellent opportunity to discuss recent developments in a number of important areas, ranging from peace, security, human rights and good governance to fair trade and the impact of the financial crisis on developing countries.

More than 5,000 representatives from politics, business, civil society and academic institutions are expected. Given the important role sport can play in development cooperation – e.g. as tool for health or education campaigns or as an instrument for combating poverty, preventing conflicts or the integration of disadvantaged social groups – the European Commission has called on sport organisations to participate in the event.

Further information:

<http://eudevdays.eu>

EU-policy matters

European Year of Volunteering Takes Shape

To create better conditions for volunteering across the European Union – this is the major objective of the European Year of Volun-

teering (EYV) taking place in 2011 - the EU has earmarked a budget of 8 million EUR for different activities at European, national and



regional level. Meanwhile the European Commission has established a special "Task Force" within GD Communication in charge of the overall coordination of the European Year of Volunteering. The Commission also collaborates closely with the EYV2011 Alliance, a group of 24 European civil society organisations committed to promoting volunteering. To implement the year at national level, National Coordinating Bodies (NCB) have been set up in every EU Member State. Their responsibilities include drafting a national programme which has to be submitted to the European Commission for approval by 15 September 2010. Moreover, the EU will publish a separate call for proposals in the course of September, with a total budget amounting to 2 million EUR. In each Member State 1-2 flagship projects will be selected by the National Coordinating Bodies. As for activities at EU level, five major



events will be organised. To kick-off the EYV2011, a "Media Lunch" will take place in Brussels in December 2010 followed by an Opening Conference in Budapest in January 2011.

Other activities will be organized as well, such as an „EYV-Tour“ which will visit every EU Member State for about 10 days. The main content of the tour is a pavilion providing volunteers and volunteer organisations with an opportunity to exhibit their work and to engage with policy-makers and the general public. Sport organisations are encouraged to make use of the EYV Tour to fill the pavilions with concrete activities and to bring in the local and regional level. Sport organisations are also advised to contact their NCB to find out more about the activities planned in their respective country.

Further information:

www.eyvolunteering.eu

European Court of Justice Rules on Gambling Situations in Netherlands and Sweden

The European Court of Justice (CJEU) has published several judgments concerning the situation of gambling in the Netherlands (3 June 2010) and Sweden (8 July 2010). The judgements confirm the interpretation of the CJEU on gambling as set down in the ruling "Santa Casa" from September 2009.

Netherlands: Case C-203/08 and Case C-258/08

Netherlands legislation in relation to games of chance is based on a system of exclusive licences under which the organisation or promotion of games of chance is prohibited unless an administrative licence for that purpose has been issued, and only one licence is granted by the national authorities in respect of each of the games of chance

authorised. Furthermore, there is no possibility at all of offering games of chance interactively via the internet in the Netherlands.

According to the CJEU, "A Member State can prohibit the operation of games of chance on the internet. This prohibition may, on account of the specific features associated with the provision of games of chance on the internet, be regarded as justified by the objective of combating fraud and crime". The Court also added that "it is possible that a policy of controlled expansion in the betting and gaming sector may be entirely consistent with the objective of drawing players away from clandestine betting and gaming – and, as such, activities which are prohibited – to activities which are authorised and regulated. It is for the referring court [na-



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tional jurisdiction] to determine whether the national legislation may be regarded as forming part of a policy of controlled expansion, aiming, in fact, to channel the propensity to gamble into activities that are lawful (extracts from the CJEU press release).

Sweden: Joint Cases C-447/08 and C-448/08

Swedish legislation on gambling prohibits and penalises the promotion in Sweden of gambling organised outside that Member State. It reserves the right to organise gambling to operators pursuing socially beneficial objectives or those which are in the public interest.

The judgment of the CJEU and the press release entitled "Swedish legislation which prohibits the promotion of gambling organised on the Internet by private operators in other Member States for profit is consistent with Community law" also confirms the previous position taken of the CJEU in the ruling *Santa Casa*. The Court confirms that "Community law allows restrictions justified, inter alia, on grounds of public policy, public security or public health. In the absence of harmonization at European Union level as regards gambling, it is for each Member State to determine in that area, in accordance with

its own scale of values, how to protect the interests in question. The Member States are therefore free to set the objectives of their policy on gambling and, where appropriate, to define in detail the level of protection sought."

The Court also observes that it is clear that the exclusion of private profit-making interests from the gambling sector is, according to the referring court, a fundamental principle of the Swedish legislation in this field. The Court concludes that the Swedish legislation reflects the objective of the exclusion of private profit-making interests from the gambling sector and may be regarded as necessary in order to meet such an objective. Community law therefore does not preclude such legislation. Next series of cases to be issued by the CJEU on gambling concern the situation of gambling in Germany and Austria, which are foreseen in September 2010.

Further information:

(CJEU press releases and full text of the judgments): <http://curia.europa.eu>

Funding programs and studies

"Europe for Citizens": Structural Support for European Organisations

Within the framework of this call for proposals (EACEA 21/10), organisations pursuing an aim of general European interest can receive annual operating grants. The call for proposals is addressed exclusively to public policy research organisations, think tanks as well as civil society organisations active at

European level. In order to receive funding, applicants must be European umbrella organisations or European networks with members in at least eight eligible countries (EU Member States, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Albania). Funding will be awarded on the basis of the



applicant's work programme for the year 2011. Selected organisations receive an operating grant, also called "structural support", to cover a part of the running costs of their activities. To be eligible for a grant, the applicant's work program has to correspond to the objectives of the "Europe for Citizens" program and has to cover at least one of the following thematic priorities:

- The future of the European Union and its fundamental values
- Active European citizenship — participation and democracy in Europe
- Intercultural dialogue
- People's well-being in Europe, employment, social cohesion and sustainable development and the impact of EU policies

Examples from the field of sport: In 2008, ENGSO and the European Paralympic Committee (EPC) received a grant worth 110,000 and 60,000 EUR, respectively. This year, the overall budget earmarked for this call is 1 million EUR. The Executive Agency (EACEA) responsible for the call intends to grant financial support to 12 organisations. The maximal annual grant amounts to 100,000 EUR per organisation and may not exceed 80% of eligible expenses. The deadline for submitting applications is 15 October 2010.

Further Information:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/funding/2011/call_action2_1_12_en.php

European Commission Launches Study on Economic Impact of Sport

The Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) has published a tender for a study "on the contribution of sport to economic growth and employment in the EU". The main objective of the study is to provide solid information on the economic significance of sport in order to facilitate the implementation of a European sport policy. Reliable data on the economic impact of sport is scarce at EU level. The study will not only evaluate the direct contribution of the sport sector to macroeconomic output, but also the indirect impact through activities in other sectors (e.g. production, retail, tourism, infrastructure, education, media, betting). Apart from analyzing the current situation, the study will also evaluate the future potential of the sport sector and its contribution to the "Europe 2020 Strategy" –

the EU's overarching action plan for economic growth and employment for the next ten years. The launch of the study was already foreseen in the Commission's White Paper on Sport and the enclosed Action Plan "Pierre de Coubertin". The overall budget of the study amounts to 150,000 EUR. The deadline for submissions is 4 October 2010. Offers must be submitted directly to the Sport Unit of the European Commission. The study is likely to start at the end of November for a period of 16 months.

Further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/news948_en.htm



"Youth in Action": Structural Support for European Youth Organisations



Within the framework of this call for proposals bodies active at European level in the field of youth and pursuing an aim of general European interest can receive financial support for their operating costs in 2011. Applications may be submitted by European youth umbrella organisations or European networks (such as "ENGSO Youth"). Grants are awarded on the basis of an organization's work program for 2011. To be eligible for funding, the annual work program of an organization must contain a set of activities corresponding to the principles underpinning European Union action in the field of youth (e.g. youth exchanges, voluntary services, non-formal

and informal learning and activity programs or intercultural learning activities). Apart from annual operating grants, organizations can also conclude a "Framework Partnership Agreement" with the EU-Agency EACEA to receive funding for a period of three years. The maximum grant amounts to EUR 35,000 for an annual agreement and EUR 50,000 per year in the case of the Framework Partnership Agreement. The total budget earmarked for the call is EUR 3,580,000. The deadline for the submission of proposals is 15 October 2010.

Further information:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2011/c_all_action_4_1_en.php

At a glance

Important dates in September:

- 8. - 9. – Meeting of the EOC EU-Commission in Brussels
- 14. – Presentation of a declaration on grassroots sports at the European Parliament
- 17. – Meeting of the EOC Executive Committee in Berlin
- 21. - 22. – Meeting of the Council Working Party on Sport in Brussels
- 22. – Informal conference of Sport Ministers of the Council of Europe in Baku
- 27. - 28. – Meeting of the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) of the European Parliament

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