

MONTHLY REPORT

April 2023



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COMMITTEES



EU
Office

GAMES Erasmus+ Project
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#GAMESPROJECT reached its half-way mark! What an eventful year it has been 🎉
The consortium 🇪🇺 🇩🇪 🇬🇷 🇮🇹 🇵🇹 🇷🇺 🇸🇮 🇸🇬 🇹🇷 remains fully committed to improving gender equality in the leadership of their NOCs! Stay tuned for more to come from us!
@EuSport @EUErasmusPlus @iocmedia @EOCmedia

HAPPY 1 YEAR TO THE GAMES PROJECT
THE FIRST HALF OF THE #GAMESPROJECT'S WORK MARKED BY KEY ACHIEVEMENTS!

- 79 Tweets on GAMES account
- 21 Tags in EOC EU Office Monthly Report & Weekly Update
- 2 Meetings of the EOC Director's General Assembly
- 8 National Action Plans being drafted
- 4 Deliverable produced including the baseline study and report on gender equality in sport governance
- 28 News published on project & partners' media channels
- 37 Recommendations & 26 best practices across 7 pillars listed in the GAMES Post of Action
- 6 Online & in-person consultation meetings held in Brussels, Dublin and Istanbul

...#GAMESPROJECT is committed to continue fostering gender equality in sport governance!

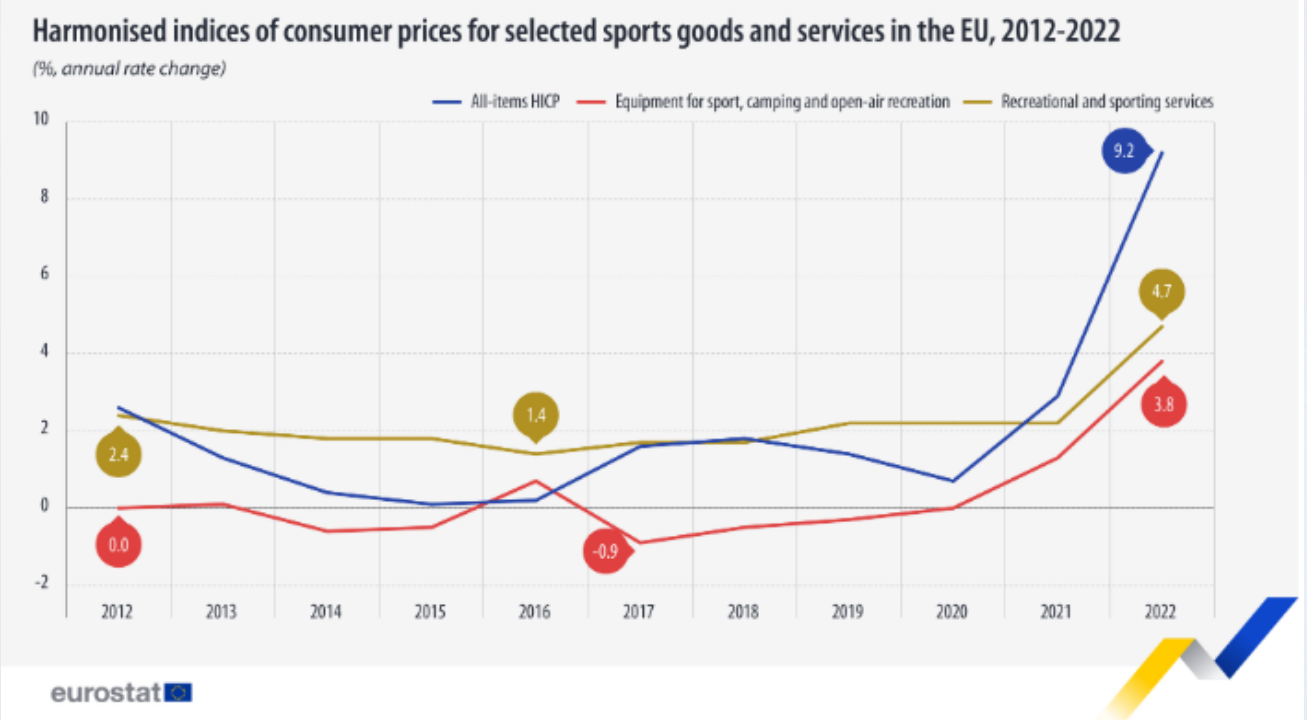
EOC EU Office
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The @EOCEUOffice, with the support of Olympic Solidarity @iocmedia, is delighted to welcome in Brussels 🇪🇺 the 14 selected NOC representatives 🇩🇪 🇬🇷 🇮🇹 🇵🇹 🇷🇺 🇸🇮 🇸🇬 🇹🇷 taking part in the 1 cohort of a 3 days training for writing projects proposals 📝

12:39 PM · Apr 24, 2023 from Brussels, Belgium

FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE MONTH

In 2022, the annual rate of change for prices of recreational and sporting services in the EU was 4.7% measured by the harmonised indices of consumer prices (HICP), which was the highest value in the last ten years.



Source: Eurostat

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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The EU Sport Forum is taking place on 2-3 May in Stockholm. Organised under the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and led by the European Commission, the event in Stockholm will discuss a number of important issues in the field of sport. These include the integrity of sport, women in leadership positions in sports federations (the EOC EU Office is organising the EU project GAMES on this topic with eight NOCs) or on the sustainability of sports events. The latter topic was already addressed a few years ago under the Dutch Presidency and was unfortunately not prioritised by subsequent Presidencies. In the meantime, the IOC has made important contributions to this with the New Norm and Agenda 2020+5 reform projects, which, however, would have to be discussed even more with EU Member States and other stakeholders in sport to get better understood and then implemented.



One more piece of information on my own behalf. After more than 8 years in the EOC EU Office, our colleague Jana Janotova is leaving our office to take over a new professional challenge in Switzerland. In the last few years, Jana has been working more and more intensively in the field of sustainability and climate change. Among other things, she managed the ASAP project for the Czech NOC and was also an integral part of the conception and implementation of the ongoing EU project OCEAN that the EOC EU Office is carrying out with 18 National Olympic Committees, the IOC, ANOC and the Öko-Institut on the carbon footprint of NOCs until June 2025. With Jana, we are losing a highly competent and valued colleague who, with her professional attitude, commitment, and expertise, has contributed greatly to the success of the EOC-EU Office in recent years. On behalf of all colleagues, I would like to express my sincere thanks for this and wish her all the best for her new job at the interface between environment and sport. I am sure that our paths will continue to cross in her new position with the EOC EU Office.

Vsechno nejlepší Jana, a brzy na videnou v Bruselu!

With kind regards,



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

EOC EU Office hosts the 1st in-house training for writing project proposals in the realm of sport



Between 24-26 April 2023, the EOC EU Office with the support of Olympic Solidarity hosted the 1st cohort for in-house training for writing project proposals. This training was organised to respond to the demands among European NOCs to further boost cooperation among them whilst empowering its staff capacity to develop, write and submit a project application under the Erasmus+ Programme and Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in Sport (PPPAs).

The 1st cohort of the in-house training was composed of 14 participants representing 11 European NOCs (Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, and Serbia).

The in-house training was structured in sessions covering a range of topics to ensure a concrete understanding of the required steps to transform a project idea into a successful project proposal for the Erasmus+ and PPPAs in the realm of sports. Accordingly, the participants had the opportunity to present and discuss their project proposals and boost cooperation whilst avoiding replications.

Besides, the in-house training included a complementary social programme in which participants had various opportunities to network so to further reinforce exchanges and cooperation among the various representatives.

Hence, the in-house training has promoted capacity-building among European NOCs to apply in the E+ and PPPAs, laid the foundation for an informed network within European NOCs of qualified experts in the realm of EU funding working together to boost knowledge exchanges and cooperation among European NOCs in this field while also boosting cooperation and exchanges among European NOCs in the realm of EU Funding, in future.

In terms of the next steps, the 1st cohort of the in-house training for writing project proposals is expected to hold an online meeting in the summer 2023.

Testimonials:



"The training created a platform for dialogue and collaboration leading to a more robust and collaborative NOC network. It had a tremendous impact on me and the NOC Romania."

Alina Isabela Gherghisan
NOC Romania



"The training provided us with structure and practical knowledge to prepare a project proposal. We look forward to gaining practical experience and sharing it with our National Federations."

Matea Horvat & Maja Poljak
NOC Croatia

Second Module of the Training Course for Climate Action Offers within the OCEAN project

On 18-20 April, the EOC EU Office hosted the second Module of the Training Course for Climate Action Officers in 18 NOCs. The education programme is a major part of the OCEAN project and aims at empowering employees of the participating NOCs to drive climate action, including the development of carbon reduction action plans or strategies in their respective organisation.

While the first module took place in Brussels in February, the second module was an online course. The module's topics were the job of a climate action officer or sustainability manager, communications inside and outside of the NOC, and staff engagement.

Day 1

On the first day a panel session with sustainability experts from different sport organisations such as international federations and worldwide NOCs provided the participants with insights to the role they are preparing for. The panellists were Bianca Quardokus (German Olympic Committee - DOSB), Trine Keinicke Sørensen and Lasse Lyck (Danish Olympic Committee - DIF), Marleen Wielemaker (Dutch Olympic Committee - NOC*NSF), Warwick Waters (Australian Olympic Committee - AOC), Riika Rakic (International Biathlon Union - IBU) and Jaime McKeown (World Rugby). The experts provided useful tips on how to cope with challenges such as the lack of involvement of colleagues, different levels of knowledge in the organisation and the importance of networks inside the organisation. The learnings from the panel session were used by the participants to create self-made job-descriptions for climate-action officers. Eventually, the participants exchanged the experiences they made working on climate action since the first module, as individuals but also part of their organisation.

Day 2

The second day's focus was on communication with different stakeholders. Matthew Campelli, an expert in sustainability communication in sport from "Touchline", guided the participants through the five fundamental rules of sustainability communication. The Climate Action Officers learned how to build a credible and effective communication around their climate action activities. Many examples of sustainability communication were used to analyse success factors in communication campaigns.



Day 3

On the third day, Eva Rebmann (EOC EU Office, OCEAN Project Manager) introduced the [RINGS Stakeholders Mapping Tool](#), which can be used to get an overview of different stakeholders and their interest for developing a sustainability strategy. Jana Janotova (EOC EU Office) then gave an overview of the general principles for staff engagement practices, before Lise Van Long from the IOC's Sustainability Department presented the IOC's activities on climate action. These include among others travel policies and awareness-building activities like a "Green Week". Presentations of best practices from four participating NOCs, namely Romania, Slovakia, Denmark and Bosnia-Herzegovina, completed the input on possible staff engagement activities.

While the training course will continue only in autumn Climate Action Officers will have the opportunity to apply their newly acquired knowledge during the carbon footprint measurement process which will start in the coming weeks.



GAMES project on gender equality in leadership positions in sport celebrates its halfway mark in April 2023

The [GAMES project](#) (Guidance to Achieve More Equal leadership in Sport) is a 24-month project co-funded by the European Union's [Erasmus+ Sport Programme 2021](#) with the aim to promote structural and cultural changes regarding gender equality in leadership and decision-making positions among National Olympic Committee (NOCs) and their member federations (i.e National Federations – NFs).

The EOC EU Office is the coordinator of the GAMES project which also involves 8 European NOCs (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, North Macedonia and Turkey) and renowned experts in the field of gender equality and good governance, including Professor Emerita Kari Fasting from Equal Rights in Sports and I TRUST Sport. Besides, the GAMES project is supported by the International Olympic Committee.

In April 2023, the [GAMES project](#) celebrates its halfway mark whilst 4 deliverables were produced in 12 months, among which:

The questionnaire to assess gender equality reviewed the situation in terms of gender equality at the leadership level among partners NOCs and a set of major NFs. Accordingly, it enquires on the organisational structure, current policies and procedures for gender equality and representation, as well as the socio-cultural context, the role of sport within the country and the main barriers to gender equality. Overall, the questionnaire has gathered responses from 110 NFs across 8 European countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, North Macedonia and Turkey) with a productive response rate of 89%.

The State of Arts Report provided an analysis of the baseline questionnaire in terms of women's representation at the leadership level within partner NOCs and NFs. Hence, it showed that 25% of NOCs and 42% of NFs surveyed had a gender equality or diversity and inclusion policy/strategy whilst quite a number were currently seeking to develop one. Notwithstanding, women appeared to be less represented in decision-making, senior management and executive roles currently. Yet the most widely adopted initiatives to help women reach decision-making positions among both NOCs and NFs included networks, mentoring and education programmes, as well as workshops/seminars for women in decision-making positions. Nevertheless, considerable caution is needed before attempting to extrapolate numbers and trends more widely.

Currently, the GAMES consortium is working on the Pool of Actions, as well as the NOCs' National Action Plans.

NOCs' National Actions Plan will be a strategic document approved by the NOC's leadership including the NOC's vision and concrete actions to reach set objectives to improve gender equality in the leadership within a set timeframe. Notably, the NOCs' National Action Plans are expected to be informed by the results that emerged from the report of the baseline study, as well as by the Pool of Actions.

GAMES Pool of Actions will be a manual of concrete actions to European NOCs – and sport organisations at all levels - to strengthen gender equality in leadership positions whilst considering the organisation's current "stage of readiness", political and socio-cultural barriers existing.

This is fully aligned with the EOC's [Gender Equality and Inclusion Commission](#), the IOC's [Gender Equality and Inclusion Strategic Framework 2021-2024](#) and the [EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#).

Moving forward, the GAMES project consortium is going to further discuss the Pool of Actions and NOC's National Action Plans during the GAMES mid-term (hybrid) conference scheduled on the 23 May 2023 in Athens. After which, the Pool of Actions and NOC's National Action Plans are foreseen to be presented by each partner NOCs during the National Launching Event scheduled between April 2023 and December 2023.

In this regard, the National Launching Event aims to further promote knowledge and information regarding NOC's National Action Plan while further informing member organisations, relevant national/regional sport organisations, as well as policy makers and civil society on gender equality in sport governance.

Stay tuned with the progress of the project via the [GAMES website](#) and the [Twitter account](#)!



EOC EU Office Roundtable on the participation of athletes with Russian or Belarussian passport in international sports competitions

On 19 April, the EOC EU Office, together with the IOC, held an online Roundtable on the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in international sports competitions.

European sanctions on Russia and Belarus

Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, introduced the meeting by providing all participants with a summary of the current European sanctions on Russia and Belarus, and their impact on sport. He also shared an overview of the positions that International Federations (IFs) and European Federations (EFs) have adopted on the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes. Following the publication of the IOC recommendations on 28 March 2023, 7 Olympic Federations lifted their ban on Russian and Belarusian athletes' participation in international sports events, whereas 8 decided to extend it until further notice (lastly updated on 26 April 2023).

IOC recommendations on the participation of athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport

Christian Klaue, Director of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs of the IOC, and Lenny Abbey, Head of NOC engagement at the IOC, introduced the rationale behind the latest IOC recommendations from 28 March 2023 made to IFs and international sports events

organisers on the participation of athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport in international sports competitions. They also explained the content of the IOC recommendations from 28 March 2023, before to participate in a Q&A session with all participants.

Q&A session

- **Decision on the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Games**

Following a question on when the final decision on the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Games would be taken, Christian Klaue repeated that no decision was to be expected before early fall.

- **Decision process within IFs/EFs and NOCs**

Representatives of European Athletics, FIBA Europe, European Volleyball Confederation, and the European Handball Federation shared a unanimous view: national Russian and Belarusian teams are not allowed to take part in competitions. Yet, international and European athletes are currently competing in Russian competitions, and Russian athletes contracted with European clubs can still play in Europe. The participating federations did not report any issues in visa issuance processes so far.

Furthermore, it was confirmed that no Russian and Belarusian athletes will compete at the European Games end of June 2023.

Representatives of NOCs raised different topics such as the impact on mental health of Ukrainian athletes competing against Russian athletes or the long term reintegration of Russia within the European sport movement. Another NOC stated that athletes were concerned about a level playing field with regard to Anti-Doping-regulations in Russia and Belarus. As an answer, Christian Klauwe reaffirmed that athletes from Russia were the most tested athletes. He revealed that the World Anti-Doping Agency would ensure that Russians are tested accordingly. To finish with, NOCs raised their concerns over the limited autonomy of sport and the positions taken by national governments that go against the positions adopted by NOCs.

Folker Hellmund concluded the meeting recognising that it is a controversial and difficult situation that sports organisations are dealing with, and that it would be a challenge to find a solution that satisfies everyone. There is no one-size-fits-all.

The EOC EU Office will continue monitoring the situation and inform its partners of the ongoing situation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[IOC issues recommendations for International Federations and international sports event organisers on the participation of athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport in international competitions](#)

Belgian Olympic Committee's GAMES project National Launching Event



On 20-21 March, the [GAMES project](#) (Guidance to Achieve More Equal Leadership in Sport) took another step forward in its implementation with the organisation of the National Launch Event organised by the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee (BOIC) followed by a workshop entitled "Unlocking the Potential of Leaders". By giving a voice to a wide range of stakeholders, such as BOIC President Jean Michel Saive and IOC member Ingmar de Voss, representatives of national and regional sports organisations, as well as policy makers, this two-day event aimed to give impetus to structural and cultural changes regarding gender equality in leadership and decision-making positions within the BOIC and its Member Federations.

Notably, Gwenda Stevens, President of the Royal Belgian Rowing Federation and Jean-Pierre Delchef, President of the Wallonia-Brussels Basketball Association, both members of the BOIC Gender Equity Commission and stakeholders of the [GAMES project](#) presented the National Action Plan.

Approved at the BOIC General Assembly of 20 March 2023, the Belgian National Action Plan include six clear and measurable objectives which lay the pathway to systematically reinforce gender equality in sport leadership across the NOC and member federations:

1. To achieve at least 30%-70% gender distribution among representatives of member federations at the 2025 General Assembly (GA) and parity at subsequent GAs
2. To achieve at least 30%-70% gender distribution among the candidates for board position presented by the member federations at the next 2025 elections and parity at the following elections
3. To achieve parity among Presidents and members of advisory commission by 2025
4. To achieve at least 40%-60% gender representations in management positions of the BOIC 2024 and among delegations' members in multidisciplinary competitions under the responsibility of the BOIC by 2025

5. To support initiatives of BOIC member federations that aim at gender equality in their decision-making bodies from 2023 onwards and more specifically support member federations that implement a policy by 2025.

On the second day, the Belgian National Action Plan started to be implemented with its first action being a workshop “Unlocking the Potential of Leaders”, aligned with the High-Level Group on Gender Equality in Sport (2022) and IOC’s recommendations. Hence BOIC organised a workshop to empower the communication and leadership skills of 30 women operating across various federations as part of its commitment to strength women’s opportunity for development and mentoring programmes in Belgium.



Background information

The [GAMES project](#) is a 24 month project co-funded by the European Union through the [Erasmus+ Sport Programme](#) 2021 and coordinated by the EOC EU Office. It promotes integrity and good governance in sports by advocating for structural and cultural changes regarding gender equality in leadership and decision-making positions among NOCs and their member federations. The EOC EU Office is implementing GAMES together with 8 NOCs (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, North Macedonia and Turkey) and renowned experts in the field of gender equality and good governance, including Professor Emerita Kari Fasting from Equal Rights in Sports and I TRUST Sport. Furthermore, the GAMES project is supported by the International Olympic Committee.

On 23 May 2023, the GAMES consortium will meet in person at the Transnational Project Meeting and mid-term Conference scheduled in Athens to review the progress of the project and its next steps. If you wish to attend, [please register here](#).



EOC EU Office welcomes participants of the DOSB LEAP programme for discussions on European sport policy

From 27-28 March, the EOC EU Office welcomed the participants of the DOSB Leadership Programme LEAP in Brussels. LEAP stands for “International LEAdership Programme”. The DOSB has developed the programme together with the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Home Affairs (BMI), which aims to qualify German candidates for leadership positions in international sports organisations. In four modules lasting several days, in Frankfurt, Berlin, Lausanne and Brussels, key competences such as presentation skills and campaigning as well as knowledge of international sports policy are acquired.

The module in Brussels was organised by the EOC EU Office. Accordingly, European sports policy was the focus of the module.

On the first day of the seminar, Folker Hellmund (Director EOC EU Office) and Andreas Bold (Policy Officer EOC EU Office) presented the basics of European sports policy. In particular, they addressed the impact of rulings of the European Court of Justice on sport, illustrating this with examples such as the ISU, Meca-Medina and MOTOE. They made clear that although sports federations are autonomous in their decisions, they are not outside European law. They also explained the EU’s funding possibilities for sport.



Afterwards, the Member of the European Parliament for the Greens, Viola von Cramon, was invited for an exchange with the LEAP participants. Ms von Cramon is intensively involved in international sports policy as part of her political activities, so that a valuable exchange developed, in which a possible Olympic bid for Germany was debated in particular.

The afternoon session was introduced by sports lawyer Benoît Keane, who spoke on the compatibility of the European sports model with European law. He referred in particular to the ISU case and the upcoming decision in UEFA's case against European Super League. Keane made it clear to the participants that although these cases concerned individual federations or sports (speed skating, football), they were transferable in principle to all sports.

Afterwards, Jana Janotova and Eva Rebmann (Policy officers at the EOC EU Office) informed about the impact of climate change on sport and clearly illustrated the compelling need for sports federations to define and implement concrete sustainability goals. In this context, they presented the [OCEAN project](#) of the EOC EU Office, in which 18 National Olympic Committees will measure their CO2 footprint and develop and implement CO2 reduction plans based on this.

At the end of the first day, Jean-Michel Saive (President of the Belgian Olympic Committee) gave personal insights into his life as an athlete, athlete representative and official. In his inspiring speech, he gave the participants valuable tips on how to act successfully in international sports politics.

On the second day of the module, the participants worked with a coach on their personal communication and leadership profile.

The EOC EU Office is pleased to have welcomed the DOSB LEAP Programme in Brussels and wishes the participants continued success for their future activities in European.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[LEAP participants](#)

Sport Shooting: ECHA recommends lead for required authorisation from REACH

To protect workers and the environment, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) recommends that the European Commission adds eight substances, including lead, to the REACH Authorisation List. Once substances are added to the list, companies will need to apply for authorisation to continue using them.

The European Commission will decide which substances are included in the Authorisation List and what conditions apply for each substance. If a substance is included in the Authorisation List, it can only be placed on the EEA market or used after a given date, if an authorisation is granted for a specific use.

The authorisation process aims at enhancing substitution of substances of very high concern when technically and economically viable alternatives are available. Until this is achieved, the goal is to ensure proper control of risks for human health and the environment.

This means that ECHA is starting to deal with lead from different angles within the REACH (registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals) regulation.

Lead was and still is in focus under the “restriction” angle. A [restriction on the use of lead in and around wetlands](#) has been agreed by the European Union in February, forbidding the use of lead in and around wetlands in order to protect animals (especially birds) and the environment.

A restriction of the [use of lead in ammunition used in sports shooting and hunting](#) is currently being discussed. More information was reported about the current restriction proposal of lead in sports shooting in our Monthly Report in March 2023. Now, ECHA also tries to remedy the negative effects of lead through the “authorisation” angle within the REACH restriction.

If the Commission decides to add lead to the authorisation list, it would not have direct consequences on sport shooting federations. However, it would have a direct impact on the producers of lead ammunition for sports shooting as they would need to apply for an authorisation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[ECHA recommends eight substances for REACH authorisation](#)

[ECHA main page of the restriction proposal \(incl. stakeholder comments\)](#)

[ECHA Lead Overview Page](#)

Artificial turf pitches: REACH Committee approves sales ban on microplastic infill granulate from 2031 onwards

On 26 April, the REACH Committee voted to adopt the EU Commission's current restriction proposal on intentionally added microplastics. Within the REACH Committee, the EU Member States are represented by experts from their chemical and/or environmental authorities.

Shortly before that, the EU Commission had increased the transitional period provided for in the restriction proposal until the ban on the placing on the market of microplastic infill granulate on artificial turf pitches from six to eight years.

A majority in the REACH Committee was now able to agree to this compromise proposal.

Next steps

The European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers now have three months, in accordance with the comitology procedure, to raise fundamental objections to the decision of the REACH Committee. It can be assumed that there will be no further changes and that the regulation will be adopted in its current form. The new regulations would then come into force throughout the EU in autumn 2023.

Relevance for artificial turf pitches

A transitional period of eight years would apply to the synthetic granulate used on artificial turf pitches. This means that the sale of synthetic granulate would be banned from autumn 2031. Manufacturers would have to switch to more sustainable alternatives from that date at the latest.

Background

It is assumed that there are more than 20,000 artificial turf pitches of large pitch size and more than 40,000 artificial turf pitches of small pitch size in the EU ([see ECHA Report](#)). According to studies, between 18 and 72 kilotons of infill material are released into the environment each year in the EU as a result. ECHA assumes that artificial turf pitches are the largest source of intentionally added microplastics released into the environment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Current restriction proposal by the European Commission](#)

[ECHA-Overview page](#)

[Voting info of the REACH Committee](#)

European Parliament Sports Group gathers sport stakeholders to discuss sustainability of the sector



On 26 April, the Sports Group of the European Parliament, led by MEP Tomasz Frankowski (EPP, Poland) organised a conference on “Environmental sustainability in sport”, with two panels dedicated respectively to “Good examples of greening in sport” and “Sustainability of sports events”.

Good examples of greening in sport

Opening this first panel, MEP Tiziana Beghin (NI, Italy), Vice-Chair of the Sports Group, highlighted the ability of sport to act as a platform to raise awareness and inspire a wide audience to change behaviour. The MEP then opened the floor for panellists to present the initiatives in place in their respective organisation.

Floor van Houdt (Head of Sport Unit, DG EAC, European Commission) presented some of the currently ongoing initiatives at EU level regarding green sport. A particular emphasis was made on the Expert Group Green Sport, which recommendations for political stakeholders and the sport movement alike will be published this Summer. The support provided by the EU through the funding of projects fostering sustainability in sport was also highlighted, such as the Erasmus+ Programme or the Pilot Project “Sport for People and the Planet - a new approach on sustainability through sport in Europe”.

Tiago Guilherme (Policy Officer, ENGSO Youth) started by some policy recommendations to ensure that the green transition involves and includes people of all backgrounds, with a focus on young generations, such as: a meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes, the use of clear language accessible to all, and better education for sustainability of all stakeholders. Guilherme showcased some of the actions taken by his NGO to move from words to action, such as the [Sport for Sustainable Development](#) or the [Move4Nature projects](#). “We have a responsibility to address sustainability challenges. Actions that we take now will affect future generation.”, he concluded, reminding the role of sport to lead change.

“One hour of live TV production emits as much as 3 households for one year”, Jennie Blackmore (Head of Production for Football & Boxing, Sky Sports) started. From that statement, she went on presenting some of the group’s actions to reduce its own footprint but also raise awareness among its viewers. Because one own’s house needs to be in order before asking others to change, Sky Sports has set the ambitious targets of achieving net-zero by 2030, namely through:

- In-house carbon literacy training programmes
- A 50% reduction of on-site staff covering sports events
- Use of low-emissions fuels for on-site vehicles (e.g. production trucks)
- Environmental and social sustainability criteria within procurement processes
- Mandatory carbon emission reporting from partner companies

Such measures have received very positive response from viewers, who are also encouraged to act through communication campaigns during events and collaborative challenges engaging all fans and viewers, Jennie Blackmore stated.

Asked about the most crucial actions or starting points, she mentioned carbon footprint measurement and reporting as an element that should be mandatory. Engaging athletes, who have an impressive communication platform, can also be an efficient way to promote climate action, she said.

Sustainability of sport events

In this second panel, moderated by MEP Viola von Cramon (Greens, Germany), three sports events organisers were asked to present their organisation's sustainability measures.

Because IBU is "committed to be a leader in climate action, in alignment with the Paris Agreement", IBU is involved in a number of projects in this regard, as Riika Rakic (Head of Sustainability, International Biathlon Union) stated. Most of the organisation's footprint lies in the organisation of events rather than the organisation as such (with 28 full-time employees), the biggest crux being snow management, the "lifeline of biathlon", she stated. In merit, IBU has created the "Snow Network", a dialogue platform for sustainable snow management, and coordinates the SIEPPUR EU-project, looking at how biathlon organisations (from grassroots to elite) can minimise the snow requirements (from production, to maintenance, through transport and storage). Riika Rakic also mentioned the full ban of fluor in ski wax which IBU, together with FIS, will implement starting from next season. Of course, travel remains "the biggest nut to crack", where events organisers often struggle to find sustainable solutions due to the lack of available options in often remote locations. Finally, she concurred with the statement that the platform that sport has should be used to engage fans and followers in climate action.

Asked about the impact of FIFA's events, especially the Qatar World Cup, Federico Addiechi (Head of Sustainability, FIFA) acknowledged the organisation's social and environmental impact, and consequent responsibility to: analyse and quantify this impact, use football to raise awareness on climate change throughout the world, but also to make football resilient to the consequences climate change has on the sport. FIFA's representative then clarified that lessons were learnt and that a number of sustainability requirements are now included in the bidding process for sports events. Referring to Qatar, he mentioned the "number of improvements that the country has achieved" recently, going from construction sites, requirements for buildings and transport infrastructures, social sustainability to education. Addiechi's intervention left MEP Von Cramon "surprised", as the MEP thought that sustainability criteria did exist at the time the World Cup was given to Qatar, to which he answered that no mandatory commitments were in place at the time.

Nicole Mündelein (Coordinator Host City Dortmund, Working Group Sustainability for UEFA EURO 2024) explained the objectives of UEFA 2024 in terms of social and environmental sustainability, in line with UEFA's requirements and presented some of Dortmund's activities, especially regarding fan travels, which usually represents 80% of an event's GHG emissions. To tackle this, Dortmund is working on measures to encourage fans to travel by public transport or bike (bike wardrobes, secured parking spots for bikes).*

The panel discussions were followed by a short Q&A session with the audience, after which MEP Viola von Cramon expressed her hopes for renewed discussion on the topic.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Recording of the event](#)

Significant legislative advances for the EU's just and sustainable transition towards climate neutrality

This month, the European Union went one step further in its commitment to reach climate neutrality by 2050 and reduce its CO₂ emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. Several files of the “Fit for 55” package have reached the final legislative stages before implementation. Although these laws are not specifically aimed at the sport sector, they will have an impact on it, as all economic activities in the EU are affected.

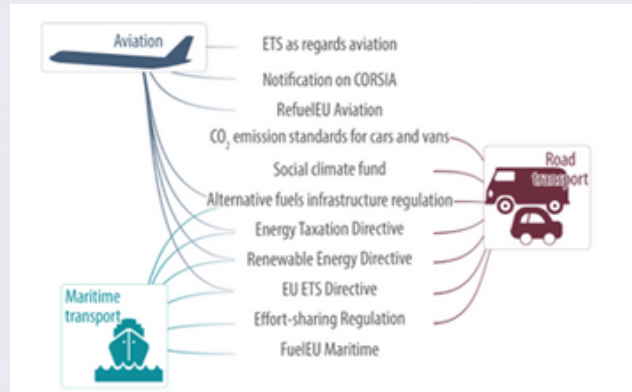
Transition to a cleaner EU and global economy

EU legislators have reached an agreement to update the [Emissions Trading Scheme \(ETS\)](#) to decarbonise the EU economy by reducing emissions by 62% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

As well as phasing out the free allocation of carbon emission allowances to European industry between 2026 and 2034, it will cover a wider range of fuels while creating a new ETS II for fuel for road transport and buildings in 2027.

While emissions requirements for European industry are getting tougher, legislators have also adopted a new instrument, the [EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism \(CBAM\)](#), to level the international playing field by subjecting non-EU manufacturers to the same rules. The CBAM (in other words a carbon “tax” or “duty”) aims to combat “carbon leakage” by covering a wide range of sectors including indirect emissions in certain cases, with full implementation by 31 December 2025.

To counterbalance the negative social effects of stricter rules on greenhouse gas emission reductions and ensure a fair transition, a [Social Climate Fund \(SCF\)](#) of 86,7 billion EUR will be set up by 2026 to address energy poverty among vulnerable households and micro-enterprises.



Source: European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)

Further efforts wanted by MEPs to achieve carbon neutrality

Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Besides the above “Fit for 55” files but with the same goal of fighting global warming, the European Parliament has allowed a new law on deforestation to enter into force. The Deforestation Regulation aims at countering biodiversity loss obliging importers to ensure products sold in the EU (e.g. soy, cocoa, beef, coffee etc.) have not led to deforestation and forest degradation. Before entering into force, the text still needs to be formally approved by the Council.

Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence

The EP's Legal Affairs Committee adopted its position on a [Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence](#) which, in the context of a fair and sustainable economy, would aim to hold companies responsible for the respect of human rights and the environment standards throughout their production value chains, including downstream activities such as sales and marketing (which can be relevant for the sport sector). After the European Parliament adopts its mandate in Plenary on 1 June, negotiations with the Council on the final text can begin. Under the Committee's proposal, the new obligations would apply after 3 or 4 years, depending on the size and turnover of the company.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press release on the Emissions Trading System \(ETS\) revision](#)

[Press release on the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism \(CBAM\)](#)

[Press release on the Social Climate Fund \(SCF\)](#)

[Press release on deforestation and forest degradation](#)

[Press release on Sustainable Carbon Cycles](#)

[Press release on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence](#)

[Press release on methane emissions](#)

EPAS: Webinar on protecting and promoting the human rights of intersex and transgender athletes in sport

On 24 April, the Enlarged Partial Agreement On Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe (CoE) hosted a webinar on protecting and promoting the human rights of transgender and intersex athletes in sport.

Council of Europe recommendations

This seminar is a follow-up to the last [Diversity Conference](#) on 20 September 2021, during which the CoE adopted concrete [recommendations](#) for sports organisations to protect the rights of intersex and transgender athletes in Europe. This new concern is aligned with the 2021 revised version of the [European Sports Charter](#) aiming to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world.

According to the [EPAS factsheet programme of the webinar](#), nowadays, most of sports competitions both at grassroots and elite levels are being organised following a binary approach that consists in splitting female and male competitors into sex-specific categories, based on clear-cut physiological criteria.

Yet, those categories include neither intersex athletes, 'who are born with sex characteristics that do not fit typical binary notions of female or male bodies', nor transgender athletes, 'whose gender identity does not align with what has culturally been associated with their sex assigned at birth'. Therefore, the exclusion of athletes from participation is considered discriminatory and is not aligned with international human rights standards.

The meeting gathered representatives of sports associations, researchers and experts, charities, as well as representatives of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and of the CoE, who presented the developments which have taken place since the 2021 Diversity Conference, including within Council of Europe bodies such as EPAS, the Sport Division and the SOGI Unit. The consortium also discussed the remaining challenges lying ahead in the protection and promotion of the human rights of intersex and transgender athletes in sport.

Panel 1: Key initiatives in combating discrimination against transgender and intersex athletes

During the first panel, Madeleine Pape, Inclusion Specialist at the IOC, presented the [IOC Framework on Fairness, Inclusion and Non-discrimination on the basis of gender equality and sex variations](#). Published in November 2021, the IOC Framework marked a turning point and took a clear stance for the Olympic movement to deal with the topic and ensure the respect of international human rights standards in sport. Madeleine Pape highlighted the very large impact international federations (IFs)' decisions on participation of intersex and transgender athletes can have on grassroots levels, and the relevance for IFs to gather and showcase good practices implemented at grassroots levels.

To comply with IOC's guidelines and protect the right to practice sport without discrimination, raising awareness among sports leaders and making concrete support and guidance available for various sports bodies have been mentioned as key initiatives by Lombe Mwambwa, Research Director at the Global Observatory on Gender Equality and Sport (GO). She also pinpointed the importance of fostering a common local language culture within sports organisations to understand the topic. To finish with, data collection, as well as safeguarding mental and physical safety have been highlighted as key initiatives in combating discrimination against transgender and intersex athletes.

Panel 2 - Ensuring that the human rights of transgender and intersex sports people are incorporated into educational tools

Speakers discussed the need for sports organisations to have guidance to protect athletes' rights, as well as money to produce and implement concrete strategies. They also regretted that the rising interest in the sports movement for the topic also comes along with strong backlashes undermining and slowing down sports clubs' efforts.

Hendrik Schällicke, Co-founder of Seitenwechsel Sports Club, reminded that to label a sports club as 'We are non-discriminatory' is not sufficient to make it a real safe place. Hugh Torrance, Co-President of the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF) added to that statement that concrete actions must be undertaken. He introduced practical examples of safeguarding measures implemented by the following organisations to protect intersex and transgender athletes: ENGSO (European Sports NGOs), the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation, as well as the NOCs of Norway and the Netherlands.

Educational Tool Kit

Francine Raveney, EPAS Deputy Executive Secretary, concluded the webinar by regretting [World Athletics' decision](#) to ban 'male-to-female transgender athletes who have been through male puberty from female World Rankings competition from 31 March 2023', while reminding that sport should be a driving force for change.

The public webinar was followed by a closed workshop for participants to further discuss, amend, and update the Council of Europe recommendations, as well as the 'Educational Tool Kit' due to be published by 2024.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[EPAS factsheet programme of the webinar on protecting and promoting the human rights of transgender and intersex athletes in sport](#)

[Diversity Conference 2021: Protecting and promoting the human rights of intersex and transgender athletes in sport competitions \(recommendations\)](#)

[Framework on Fairness, Inclusion and Non-discrimination on the basis of gender equality and sex variations](#)

[World Athletics' decision](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

08 - 09 May 2023

EU Legal Council Meeting (Frankfurt)

11 May 2023

EOC Executive Committee (Paris)

12 - 13 May 2023

EOC Seminar (Paris)

22- 24 May 2023

GAMES TPM & Mid-term conference (Athens)



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