

# MONTHLY REPORT

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October 2023



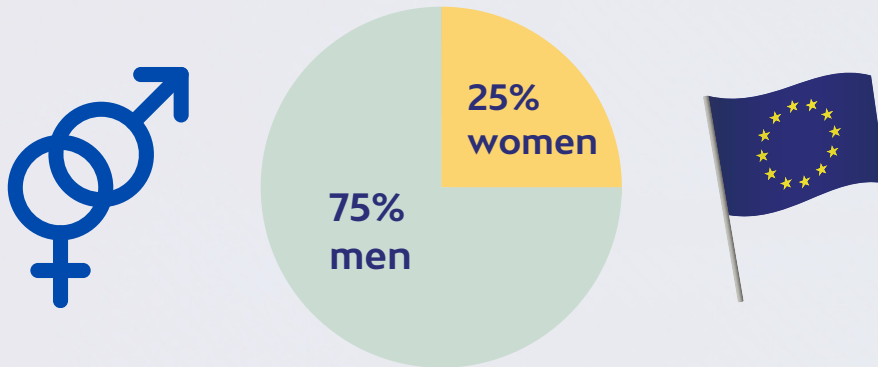
EUROPEAN  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEES



**EU**  
Office

### Gender Equality Index 2023

Percentage of members in highest decision-making bodies of national Olympic sport organisations in 2022 on average in the EU



Source: [Gender Equality Index 2023: Towards a green transition in transport and energy](#)



In this regard, the **#GAMESPROJECT** aspires to change the status quo and create pathways for women to get into leadership and decision-making positions in sport across the EU.



The EOC EU Office was thrilled to join the Expert Group on **#GreenSport** meeting! Congratulations to our partner **@CEVolleyball** for presenting the exciting Green Sports Hub project **@GreenSportsEuro**

Stay tuned for the Expert Group's forthcoming recommendations **@EuSport**

12:39 PM · Oct 17, 2023



This weekend, the EOC EU Office's team attended the 52nd **@The\_EOC**'s General Assembly in Istanbul for two days! The office's ongoing projects **#OCEANPROJECT** and **#GAMESPROJECT** were showcased to the European sports movement

**@TOC\_Olympic @iocmedia @EuSport @EUErasmusPlus**



1:45 PM · Oct 9, 2023

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### EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The recent deadly attack in Brussels, which tragically claimed the lives of two Swedish football fans, illustrates once again how random victims are selected and that there is no absolute security for anyone in any place. In view of the situation, security precautions at major sporting events will have to be regularly checked and adapted if necessary. This also applies to the Olympic Games in Paris, whose open concept aims to allow a large part of the population to get involved in the Games.

The European Union is also in a very tense situation. In addition to the foreign policy challenges, financial policy issues are also playing an increasingly important role. Support for Ukraine is becoming a point of contention and both the heads of government among themselves and the persons acting at the top of the EU institutions, von der Leyen and Michel, do not make a consensual impression. The discussions about a future EU enlargement will also determine the discussion about the next EU financial framework after 2027 and question traditional transfer payments in the area of agricultural and structural policy. The extent to which programmes such as Erasmus+ will be caught up in the new financial realities will become clear in the upcoming negotiations. Given the strong increase in demand for the Erasmus+ Sport programme and the many socio-political projects that have been implemented so far, a continuation of the programme would be more than justified.

With the announcement that it will publish its decision in the legal dispute between UEFA and the European Super League on 21 December 2023, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) will put a large number of sports associations and many lawyers into pre-Christmas turmoil. There has already been speculation in recent months as to whether the long consultation period could be an indication of differing views within the body. As the Grand Chamber will also deal with the pending cases of the International Skating Union, and Royal Antwerp against UEFA, there are expectations that the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Justice will make a fundamental decision on the competences of sports federations.

On a personal note, Francesca Carnio will join the EOC EU Office team on 15 November. Her main task will be to support Carlotta Giussani in all matters related to EU funding. Francesca brings with her professional experience from the European Commission and the Council of Europe. We wish Francesca all the best in her new role and look forward to her support.

The team of the EOC EU Office wishes all partners of the Office and readers an enjoyable reading of the Monthly Report!

With kind regards,



Folker Hellmund

Director EOC EU Office



### EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

## European Union accelerates pace to conclude discussions on energy-environment legislation

In its final year before the European Parliament elections in June 2024, and the renewal of the College of Commissioners in autumn 2024, EU institutions are trying to wrap up as many legislative files of the European Green Deal as possible. Adding up to the urgency of timing, huge disagreements between the different political groups on energy-environment-related legislation are also adding tension and interfering in the discussions on these files. This article aims at providing an update on some of the most relevant ongoing developments.

### New Commissioner for Climate Action

This month, former Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister Wopke Hoekstra was officially appointed Commissioner for Climate Action, following his compatriot Frans Timmermans' resignation to go back to national politics. Hoekstra's nomination at the forefront of the European Union's climate legislative arsenal aroused controversy, considering his past as a commercial director for fossil fuel company Shell. He will remain in charge until the end of the Commission's term of office on 31 October next year.

### Renewable energies

One of the [Fit for 55](#) package's cornerstone, the updated [Renewable Energy Directive](#), was officially adopted on 9 October. The RED II includes provisions for society as a whole, from which sport organisations are not except. Under the next Directive, all organisations will be encouraged to use renewable energy for their facilities, thanks to faster authorisation processes for wind and solar project. This will be part of a general objective for the EU to increase the binding renewable energy target for 2030 from 32% to 42.5% in 2030.

### Microplastics

Following the adoption of the ban on the sale of microplastics infill granules for sport pitches in September (see previous Monthly Report edition), as part of a set of measures targeting intentionally added microplastics, the European Commission now intends to [target pollution originating from unintentionally released plastic pellets](#). In a proposal to reduce pellets loss by 74% by 2030, the European Commission proposes best practices for operators to reduce the release of microplastics particles into the environment and our bodies. While not targeting sport, contrarily to the ban for artificial turf pitches, this is another step towards reduced pollution of the environment we practice physical activity in.

### European Declaration on Cycling

The European Commission put forward a non-legislative [European Declaration on Cycling](#) at the beginning of this month. In a dynamic to boost sustainable mobility modes, the European Commission aims at providing a political impetus to the development of cycling. Proposed measures include the additional financial support to develop a safe and accessible cycling infrastructure, particularly from the Cohesion Fund, the Social Climate Fund, and the European Regional Development Fund as well as the deployment of charging stations for e-bikes.

### Expert Group Green Sport moving towards the finish line

The European Commission's Expert Group on Green Sport came together on 17 October gathering representatives of the European Commission, EU Member States and sport organisations. The overall objective of the meeting was the imminent dissemination of the soon-to-be-published Recommendations of the Expert Group.

These Recommendations represent the culmination of 2 years of continuous work in several sub-groups discussing and envisioning green sport infrastructure, sport events but also awareness-raising through sport about the importance of environmental sustainability. The EOC EU Office, alongside the IOC, has contributed actively to all chapters and put forward good practices from its partner NOCs and federations. Once the Recommendations are approved for publication by the new Director General Pia Ahrenkilde and new Commissioner responsible for Sport, Iliana Ivanova, the EOC EU Office will duly inform its partners.

With further pending publication of the Recommendations, the meeting also offered the chance to present case studies, including the circular sustainability strategy of Decathlon, a proposal for climate-smart sport leagues and the [Green Sport Hub](#) Erasmus+ project. Vuk Karanovic (Head of Development, CEV) presented the project as member of its Steering Committee. The project is concluding in December 2023 having created an analysis of the State of Play concerning green initiatives and existing barriers, a green sports self-assessment tool, the Green Sport playbook and recommendations for policy and decision-makers.

The topic of green sport will not vanish with the publication of the Expert Group's Recommendations from the EU's agenda. The sport sector is affected by climate change and has its part to contribute to the EU Green Deal and therefore environmental sustainability is expected to feature again in the next EU Work Plan for Sport, including a potential new discussion forum to keep exchanging good practices.

### European Commission presents its Work Programme for 2024

Like every year in October, the European Commission announced its intentions for the year to come in its annual Work Programme. This year's edition is marked with the expected renewal of the whole College of Commissioners in a year's time and is also an opportunity to take stock of progress achieved on the big priorities announced at the beginning of the five-year term in 2019. While no initiatives are planned regarding sport specifically, several of the scheduled discussions will have an impact on the sport sector, notably in the field of environment and social responsibility.

In its [Work Programme for 2024](#), the European Commission foresees [18 policy initiatives](#) to be launched under the six headlines of this term:



source: European Commission

A European Green Deal, A Europe Fit for the Digital Age, An Economy that Works for the People, A Stronger Europe in the World, Promoting our European Way of Life, A New Push for European Democracy. Among the 18 initiatives are notably a "2040 climate target" and an initiative for water resilience, a Recommendation on integrated child protection systems or a Joint European degree.

On top of the foreseen new initiatives, it is not less than 154 proposals that are still pending approval and should reach the finish line next year. Environmental and energy legislation are numerous on this list, with initiatives on the use of plant protection products, nature restoration, and unintentionally added microplastics, but also on air quality and corporate sustainability due diligence, among others. Protection of minors should also be on the agenda with the regulation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse to be adopted.

Looking back at progress achieved to this day, the European Commission estimates that 90% of the commitments made in 2019 have been delivered. However, the proceeding of the numerous initiatives planned for the year to come, including controversial files, will certainly be affected by the elections of the European Parliament in June 2024.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Commission Work Programme 2024](#)

[Annexes to the Work Programme 2024](#)

## Gender Equality Week 2023: Promoting inclusivity in Sports

During the last week of October, the European Parliament held the European Gender Equality Week 2023, an endeavour to shed light on the ongoing efforts to position women at the core of legislation. All parliamentary committees and delegations, as well as numerous major partners of the Parliament, were invited to host events addressing gender equality issues in their areas of expertise.

### • Gender mainstreaming in the EU budget

Following up on the 2020 Interinstitutional Agreement, which requires the Commission to create a method for assessing expenses related to gender issues within specific budget streams, the [meeting's](#) goal was to ensure that the methodology is developed and put into action. Members from the OECD and UN Women attended in addition to the European Commission and MEPs from the FEMM, CONT and BUDG Committees. As 73% of the budget for gender mainstreaming remains unknown, data collection for gender budgeting has to be improved to include gender equality indicators in all EU programmes. Several MEPs (Katalin Cseh, Renew and Isabel Garcia Munoz, S&D) and rapporteur (Irène Tolleret, Renew) requested a plenary debate for gender mainstreaming in the EU budget.

### • Publication of the EIGE Gender Equality Index 2023

On 24 October, the FEMM Committee of the European Parliament invited the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) to present the results of the [Gender Equality Index 2023](#) for the EU. This year's Gender Equality Index gave updates on gender equality development in the EU and investigated the linkages between gender equality and the European Green Deal and more specifically to create a more inclusive sustainable transition. Sport is mentioned twice in the [report](#): in the sub-domain of social activities, where the gender equality index remains almost the same as in 2015 and in the sub-domain of social power, which includes data on “decision-making” in the most popular national Olympic sport organisations, among other entities. Progress in this domain is slowed by the particularly unequal representation of women and men in sports: in 2022, on average in the EU, only 25 % of members of the highest decision-making bodies of national Olympic sport organisations were women. Despite some positive indicators, gender inequalities in sport persist, and more efforts should be taken to guarantee that women have equal access to opportunities as men both on and off the pitch.

- **Combating violence against women and domestic violence**

Taking stock that 33% of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence and 55% of women have been sexually harassed, the [Directive](#) aims to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence in order to ensure a high level of safety and full enjoyment of fundamental rights within the Union, including the right to equal treatment and non-discrimination between women and men in all aspects of social life.

- **Gender pay gap**

The FEMM Committee held a discussion on "Pay Transparency, Gender Pay and Gender Pension Gap" on 24 October. In light of the EU Equal Pay Day on 15 November and the implementation of the [Pay Transparency Directive](#), concrete measures to narrow the gender pay gap are to be created. Since December 2022 EU companies are required to disclose information that makes it easier to compare salaries for those working for the same employer.

- **EOC and GEDI supports the Gender Equality Week**

Throughout the week, several organisations reaffirmed their commitment to gender equality. Among others, the European Olympic Committees (EOC) encourages equal representation across member NOCs and has itself attained gender equality across the board of its Executive Committee.

Additionally, while discussing the work of the Olympic Movement towards gender equality, Annamarie Phelps, Chair of the EOC's Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, described on [Twitter](#) the GAMES' project – Erasmus+ funded and coordinated by the EOC EU Office – as a "example of gender equality programmes aiming to approach imbalances through structural, cultural, and pathway approaches: and to fix the system, not the women." Ms. Phelps recognizes the great progress in European sport organisations over recent years while reminding that more cooperative can be achieved to reach gender equality in NOCs across Europe.



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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Gender Equality Index 2023](#)

[Joint Meeting on gender mainstreaming in the EU budget](#)

[EOC on the Gender Equality Week](#)

## Members of the European Parliament on participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes at the Olympic Games 2024

Since the end of the summer break, a persistent group of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) has maintained their vocal criticism concerning the potential participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the upcoming Olympic Games in 2024. Even though the scenario under consideration would involve only individual neutral athletes, this group, led by MEP Michaela Šojdrová of the European People's Party (EPP), has been actively pursuing various initiatives aimed at tightening the admissibility rules for these athletes.

Their goal is to ensure that participation in the Olympics requires a statutory declaration expressing unequivocal disapproval of the Russian aggression.

One of the initiatives undertaken by this group was a photo action during a session of the European Parliament. However, despite their efforts, only 25 MEPs joined in the photo action and failed to attract any significant attention from major social media platforms or the public at large.





Similarly, a petition launched by the group also struggled to gain significant recognition and remained relatively unnoticed.

Since the 141st IOC Session, in which the Russian Olympic Committee was suspended, no further statements have been made by MEPs.

## EU Commission and EUIPO hold conference on their recommendations in the fight against online piracy of sport and other live events

On 10 October, a high-level conference entitled "Stepping up the fight against online piracy of sport and other live events" took place at the headquarters of EUIPO (European Union Intellectual Property Office) in Alicante, Spain.

The conference aimed to present and exchange views on the [EU Commission's recommendations](#) published in May to fight online piracy of sport and other live events.

The Commission recommends the following measures in the fight against online piracy:

- Prompt treatment of notices related to live events: the Commission stresses the importance of urgent action from providers of hosting services in order to minimise the harm caused by illegal streaming.
- Dynamic injunctions: based on the remedies provided in the [Enforcement Directive](#) building on experiences in some Member States, the Recommendation encourages the use of blocking injunctions.
- Commercial offers and awareness: it recommends live and sports event organisers and broadcasters to increase the availability, affordability and attractiveness of their commercial offers to end users across the Union.

The Commission's recommendations are not legally binding. The effectiveness of the recommendations is to be analysed via a monitoring system with [key performance indicators \(KPIs\)](#), defined by EUIPO:

- KPI 1: volume of unauthorised retransmission of sports and other live events in Member States
- KPI 2: prompt treatment of notices related to unauthorised retransmission of live sports events and other live events
- KPI 3: Use of dynamic injunctions for live events
- KPI 4: Availability, affordability, attractiveness and awareness raising of the legal offer

At the conference in Alicante, representatives of the EU Commission, the EUIPO, sports federations (including the IOC and UEFA), broadcasters and streaming server providers discussed the way forward, particularly on the provision of data. The EU Commission will assess the impact of the recommendations by 17 November 2025. On this basis, the Commission will decide whether further measures at EU level, e.g. legally binding provisions, are necessary. Data collection is scheduled to start in April/May 2024. First interim results should be available in autumn 2024.

In a [statement](#), the Sports Rights Owners Coalition (SROC) welcomed the publication of the recommendations but called on the Commission to take stronger and faster action in the fight against online piracy in order to achieve concrete results.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Commission recommends actions to combat online piracy of sports and other live events](#)

[EUIPO and European Commission step up in the fight against live event piracy](#)

## EOC EU Office attends European Olympic Committees 52nd General Assembly in Istanbul

On 6-7 October, the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of Europe gathered in Istanbul, Türkiye, for the 52nd General Assembly of the European Olympic Committee (EOC), taking stock of progress on major sports events (European Games, EYOF, Olympic Games), activities of EOC Commissions and institutional changes in the governance of the continental organisation.

As a highlight of these two days, the General Assembly approved changes to the EOC Articles of Association, including a limit of three consecutive mandates for all members of the Executive Committee, guidelines for a more efficient Bureau, and the recruitment of a CEO.

Annual activity reports were provided to the assembly by all Commissions of the EOC. Most notably, the [GAMES Project](#) coordinated by the EOC EU Office was mentioned by Annamarie Phelps, Chair of the Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Commission as a best-practice example to improve the access of women to leadership positions in sport organisations. Berit Kjoll, Chair of the Sustainability and Active Society Commission, strongly called on representatives of European sport to “take the lead” on climate action and to be “part of the solution”. The EOC is currently working on a Sustainability Agenda, which is to be discussed with all NOCs at the EOC Seminar 2024. Taking the responsibility to guide NOCs in their sustainability transition, the EOC EU Office was also praised by IOC Olympic Solidarity for its [OCEAN project](#) which involves 18 NOCs in a training programme to measure and reduce their carbon footprint.



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The activities and services of the EOC EU Office for European NOCs and partner federations in the realm of EU policymaking and EU funding were presented and complimented by several speakers. The EOC EU Office offered participants an opportunity to learn more about EU funding for sport and ongoing projects during a coffee break presentation and exchange, and presented its main achievements in the year 2022-2023 to the General Assembly, which included:

- EU projects: successful applications of the EOC EU Office (SIGGS 3.0, a new self-evaluation tool for Good Governance), its partners and the organisations it provided support to: European Games Krakow-Malopolska, EYOF Maribor, 5 European NOCs, FIBA and ENGSO
- EU funding: numerous webinars on EU funding and an in-house training for writing project proposals, provided to 14 representatives of 11 NOCs
- EU sport policy: several thematic roundtables, namely on the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in international sport events, and gender equality



The 52nd General Assembly was a great opportunity for the EOC EU Office to connect with European National Olympic Committees and encourage them to get active in EU funding and policy making.

The next General Assembly will take place in Bucharest, on 6-7 June 2024.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[EOC News Article](#)

## OCEAN project: Module 2 completed

The OCEAN project moves forward after completing its 2nd Module of the Training Course for Climate Action Officers. For four consecutive weeks, Climate Action Officers from each partner NOC had the opportunity to receive advice from Climate Executive Coaching's experts as well as from special guests about leadership in sustainability. OCEAN was honoured to host Nigel Topping, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, Julie Duffus, IOC Sustainability Senior Manager, and Jon Wyatt, Sport and Sustainability Director of the International Hockey Federation (FIH). At the end of the Training Course, each Climate Action Officer has a better picture of what their sustainability strategy should look like to then implement it in their respective NOCs.

For the first session of the Training Course, Climate Action Officers shared their visions regarding the environmental future of their NOC as well as the challenges posed by climate change. Coaches presented the "leadership value chain" to identify the available options towards a more sustainable governance in sport. A "coaching approach" including core leadership skills was presented to Climate Action Officers as a governance strategy to take climate action in sports governing bodies.



During the second session of the Training Course, OCEAN received Jon Wyatt, Sport and Sustainability Director of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), who provided its expertise on management and emphasized on the importance of effective communication across the different levels of sports organisations, especially between athletes and leadership boards. In addition, Climate Action Officers were taught about the different personality types and how to use communication tools to address each personality type, thanks to practical sessions.

The third session of the Training Course aimed at providing Climate Action Officers with guidance to introduce a culture of change towards greener sport. OCEAN had the honour to host Nigel Topping, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, who highlighted the importance of positive storytelling and alignment of interest between different stakeholders when addressing sustainability strategy in sports.



In the fourth and last session of the Training Course, Climate Action Officers had the chance to exchange with Julie Duffus, IOC Sustainability Senior Manager, who discussed the business aspects of sustainability in sports, together with Manuel Parga, NOC of Spain, and Climate Executive Coaching experts. Climate Action Officers discovered the positive impact that investment in sustainability can constitute for sport governing bodies and the diversity of opportunities for sustainability that sport offers. Finally, Climate Action Officers could reflect on ways to engage with stakeholders, as cooperation in climate advocacy is fundamental.

The OCEAN project is grateful for the intervention of Climate Executive Coaching in this Module 2 whose experts will individually coach Climate Action Officers in the upcoming weeks. The journey of OCEAN Climate Action Officers throughout the OCEAN project will continue with Module 3 in March 2023 where the consortium will meet in Lausanne at the IOC and ANOC headquarters. Meanwhile, Seminar 2 on carbon footprint measurement will take place in December with the Öko Institute.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Climate Executive Coaching](#)

[OCEAN Project](#)



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**14 - 15 November 2023**

GAMES Transnational Project Meeting (EOC EU Office, Prague)

**23 - 24 November 2023**

Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council Meeting (Council of the EU, Brussels)

**29 - 30 November 2023**

Special Competence Seminar (EOC EU Office, Brussels)



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