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European Union and Sport

Principles of good governance in sport presented to the Council Working Party on Sport

On 10 October 2013, the “principles of good governance in sport” were presented to the Council Working Party on Sport. These principles make up one of the deliverables of the Council Expert Group on Good Governance. The Expert Group previously discussed the topic on three occasions in 2012 and 2013 and finally adopted the deliverables at their meeting in July 2013.

The principles

The main aim of the principles is to provide minimum standards on good governance that can inspire sport bodies at all levels. The recipients of the principles have been subdivided in three different categories: 1. grassroots sport organisations 2. national sports governing bodies and national umbrella sports organisations and 3. European and international federations. In total, 10 different principles were taken up including ethical standards, democracy, statutes and regulations, inclusivity, accountability and transparency.

The principles were complemented with an annex providing “facts and data” and “best practice examples”. This information is derived from the Preparatory Actions projects 2011 on the subject of good governance. The “Sport 4 Good Governance” project (S4GG), managed by the EOC EU Office, also contributed to the annex by providing several results of the

questionnaire, information on the educational toolkit and some observations for further steps in the field of good governance.

Implementation and follow-up

Although a paragraph on the implementation of the principles has been added to the document, some questions still remain open in this regard. During the last meeting of the Expert Group, some of the observers for instance raised their concern on the fact that it is unclear how the different principles apply to the three categories of recipients as listed above. Some of the principles could create additional administrative burdens thereby harming voluntary sport organisations at grassroots level. Many observers agreed that the so-called “one-size-fits-all” would not be applicable in this regard.

Also which role the European Union should play in the implementation of the principles is unclear. On the one hand, it has been clearly mentioned that “*autonomous self-regulation by the sport movement remains the best option*” and that the EU should assist and provide guidance to the sport movement. On the other hand, the deliverable discusses the possibility of monitoring and benchmarking activities and of even more stringent measures. In this regard, the possibility of making national and/or European public funding conditional to



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the implementation of principles has for instance been mentioned. Such conditionality could seriously undermine the autonomy of sport. The deliverable has now been presented to the Council Working Party and it will be up to the Member

States to decide on the follow-up of the deliverables.

Further information:

[Article website Sport Unit \(17 October\)](#)
[Principles of good governance in sport](#)
[Homepage Sport 4 Good Governance](#)

EP vote on Multiannual Financial Framework postponed

The Parliament's Budget Committee has decided to postpone the consent vote on the EU's 2014-2020 budget regulation, the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF), initially scheduled for October. MEPs estimated that conditions for the adoption were not met and that some of the points needed to be renegotiated. Initially the European Parliament had approved the political compromise on the 2014-2020 financial framework during its plenary session in Strasbourg on 3 July 2013.

In the meantime, on 23 October, the European Parliament voted on increasing the budget for 2014 by €1.3 billion, despite the Council having agreed on cuts. The budget

will now be discussed in conciliation committee. The first meeting of this committee will be held on 4 November. The negotiations are supposed to be finalized on 11 November.

Erasmus+ and all the other EU programmes cannot be fully finalised before the EU budget has been approved. Nevertheless, this should not cause delays in the release of calls for proposals foreseen for the end of this year or the beginning of next year.

Further information:

[Possible vote on MFF if Parliament's conditions are met by Council](#)
[Voting on MFF 2014-2020 postponed, conditions not met](#)

Data protection and sport

On 21 October the LIBE-Committee of the European Parliament voted on numerous compromise amendments of the data protection legislative package. These proposals consist of a regulation on general rules of data processing and of a directive dealing with the exchange of data within the context of law enforcement activities. For organized sport both legal acts are of high relevance. The future transfer of personal data of athletes in the fight against doping and the

exchange of data in the fight against match fixing could equally be affected. Several MEPs (e.g. Voss, Michel, van den Camp) have tabled amendments illustrating the potential impact on sport governance. Due to the fact that the Parliament abstained from a sectoral approach, none of these amendments have been adopted.

The overriding interest of the European Parliament is to agree on the entire legislative package still

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under its current mandate. Following the conclusions of the European Council from 25 October, this ambitious objective appears quite unrealistic. On this occasion, the Head of States targeted the year 2015 as a realistic time frame for the adoption of the legislative package. This timing takes into account the still existing huge differences between the Member States regarding content and formalistic questions. Eight Member States still prefer a directive to a regulation in order to safeguard more national margin in the implementation process. Knowing that the Member States have not yet agreed on one single article, neither in the

regulation nor in the directive, a fast agreement between Parliament and Council seems impossible. The last plenary session of the current European Parliament will take place in April 2014. Aiming at this date for the first vote in the EP, the Council's position would be required as of January 2014 in order to start the Trilogue procedure. In spite of high public pressure on new data protection rules, this timing seems far too ambitious for the Council. Organised sport should use the expected detention of the legislative process to once again raise concerns on the potential impact on sport governance.

Consultation on "Review of existing VAT legislation on public bodies and tax exemptions in the public interest"

On 14 October 2013, the European Commission launched a consultation on the "Review of existing VAT legislation on public bodies and tax exemptions in the public interest". Interested parties are invited to submit their contributions in response to the questions raised in the consultation document. This could be a good opportunity for the sports sector to contribute to the discussions.

One of the priority areas in this regard is the review and possible revision of the VAT rules of the public sector including special rules for public bodies and tax exemptions in the public interest. A revision could create a conflict for non-profit sport organisations providing activities that are provided by private companies as well. To prepare the ground for a

possible future legislative initiative in this area, the European Commission launched two economic studies and discussions in January 2013 with Member States on the future of VAT and within the VAT expert Group.

Already in December 2011, the Commission adopted a Communication on the future of VAT in which fundamental characteristics and priority actions were set up aiming at a simpler, more efficient and robust VAT system in the EU.

The period of consultation ends on 14 February 2014.

Further information:

The communication on the future of VAT is available [here](#)

The contribution paper is available [here](#)

To submit your contribution click [here](#)



Vote on the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive in EP

Following successful Trilogue negotiations, the European Parliament voted on 9 October 2013 in favour of the legislative proposal of the European Commission for modernising the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications.

The purpose of the Directive is to set a harmonised framework for regulated professions, in order to streamline their recognition when the persons move from an EU Member State to another. In December 2011, the Commission proposed a revision of the existing legislation on professional qualifications.

As the revised directive only covers regulated professions, just a limited number of professionals can benefit from it so far. A regulated profession implies that holding a specific qualification – such as a university diploma – is a prerequisite to practicing a profession. In the sport field several professions are listed as regulated professions such as ski instructors, sports managers, sports instructors and sports professionals.

The main elements of the modernised Directive are:

1. The introduction of a European professional card;
2. Common training principles;
3. Better access to information and access to e-government services;
4. Modernisation of harmonised minimum requirements;
5. Improving temporary mobility.

European professional card

One of the new features of the revised directive is the so called

“European professional card”. According to the European Commission, its introduction should help promote cross-border mobility in the EU, in particular by speeding up and simplifying recognition procedures. The card will be available on a voluntary basis for interested professionals, regardless if they intend to stay on a permanent or temporary basis in another EU Member State.

Common training principles

The directive also introduces the possibility to set up “common training frameworks” and “common training tests” to be organised by the respective professional organisation. A common training framework should be based on a common set of knowledge, skills and competences necessary to practice a profession. A common training framework or test could be set up if the profession is regulated in at least one third of the Member States. This system had already been tested in the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding on ski instructors’ qualifications.

EU Regulated Professions Database

Across the 28 Member States, so far 740 categories of regulated professions have been listed in the “Regulated Professions Database” which is compiled from information made available by the Member States. Among the professions listed in the database are the above mentioned ski instructors, sports managers, sports



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instructors and sports professionals. This tool allows interested professionals to check if their profession is regulated in another Member State.

Evaluation

In general, the modernisation of the Professional Qualification Directive can be assessed as positive. The question remains how many professionals are able to benefit from this facilitated mobility within the EU. Many sports professions have different legal requirements in the Member States (some are regulated, others are not). As Common Training Frameworks are exclusively available to regulated professions and it requires at least one third of the Member States to set up such a

framework, it will remain difficult for those professions to be granted recognition in a another country.

Next steps

The draft directive still has to be formally approved by EU Member States after which it will be published in the Official Journal of the EU. Member States will have two years time to implement the Directive into national law.

Further information:

Press release ["Commissioner Michel Barnier welcomes the European Parliament vote on the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive"](#)

Link to the [Regulated Professions Database](#)

Link to the [Call of expression of interest in the introduction of the European Professional Card](#)

Funding programmes, studies and projects

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) calls for experts in sport

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) has published a new call for expression of interest for experts in programmes delegated to the EACEA, including youth, sport, volunteering and citizenship. The task of the experts is to assist the EACEA in the framework of the management of EU programmes delegated to it.

The EACEA is part of the European Commission and it works under the supervision of its three Directorates-General (Education and Culture, Communication, and EuropeAid

Development and Cooperation). The EACEA is responsible for the management of the new sport chapter in the Erasmus+ programme.

The experts' input may be used to evaluate proposals, evaluate and monitor projects, conduct studies or analyses, translate or edit documents, and support the EACEA during public events.

The expert candidates are required to:

- have a high level of expertise in the programmes managed by the EACEA;



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- have good knowledge of English and/or French and/or German;
- be able to use IT tools;
- be available for occasional and short-term assignments.

Candidates are invited to acquire an ECAS account and register their

profile in the online application portal in order to express their interest. The call is open until 31 December 2020.

Further information:

[Call for experts](#)

EU Commission publishes perception survey on e.g. quality of sport facilities in 79 European cities

In October 2013, the EU Commission published a perception survey on the quality of life in European cities. This survey included cities in the 28 member states of the European Union, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey as well as 4 agglomerations.

A number of issues were addressed among which the satisfaction of citizens with their sport facilities. The results of the study conducted in the 79 cities and 4 agglomerations are illustrated below.

The survey shows that in most cities surveyed (72 out of 83), a majority of respondents were in general satisfied with their city's sports facilities. There was a high level of satisfaction (at least 70%) in 33 cities, whereby Oulu (87%), Groningen (86%) and Helsinki (84%) recorded the highest levels of satisfaction. The cities in which the majority of respondents reported to be dissatisfied with sports facilities are Napoli (60%), Palermo and Athens (both 59%), Bratislava (57%) and Kosice (50%).

Among all capitals included in the survey, Helsinki ranks first, while Athens and Bratislava have the highest dissatisfaction rates regarding

their sport facilities. In 7 European capitals, fewer than half of the respondents are satisfied with their city's sports facilities. These are Athens, Bratislava, Sofia, Vilnius, Bucharest, Valletta and Riga. According to the survey, respondents living in very large cities are least likely to be satisfied: only 4 out of the 27 cities of over 1 million inhabitants surveyed rank among the 40 most satisfied.

A comparison to the 2009 results shows positive evolutions in 59 cities. Citizens in Belgium and Hungary show a wide acknowledgement of improvements made to the quality of sports facilities especially in Liege (+26), Brussels, Antwerp (both +16), Miskolc (+21) and Budapest (+17).

The French and German cities with the highest satisfaction rate were Lille (87%), Rennes (81%), Bordeaux (77%), Strasbourg and Munich (both 75%). The ones with the lowest were Marseille (57%), Rostock (58%), Leipzig and Paris (both 59%), and Berlin (63%).

Further information:

[Perception survey on quality of life in 79 European cities](#)



Internal and visits

Play the Game Conference 2013 in Aarhus

On 28-31 October 2013, in cooperation with the Danish Institute for Sports Studies, Play the Game organised their biannual Play the Game Conference. This edition was held in Aarhus, Denmark. On the agenda were topics such as good governance, integrity issues (such as the fight against match-fixing, corruption and doping), democracy in sport and participation. The four day event featured many speakers including **Yves Le Lostecque**, Head of the Sport Unit of the European Commission, who provided a presentation on the role of the European Union in sports governance.

The agenda also included a session on the "EU projects in the field of good governance", during which the "Sport 4 Good Governance" Project (S4GG), managed by the EOC EU Office, was presented. Particular emphasis was put on the results of the

questionnaire. By applying the S4GG Index, particular strengths and weaknesses of the implementation of good governance principles by sport organisations at different levels were identified. This information contributed to a lively discussion on good governance in European sport.

Within the framework of the Conference, the winner of the "Play the Game Award 2013" was also announced. This year, the Award was handed to Richard W. Pound, IOC Member and former President of the World Anti-Doping Agency. He received the award for "*his uncompromising efforts in the fight for a cleaner and more democratic sports movement*".

Further information:

[Presentation of S4GG Project at Play the Game Conference](#)
[Website Play the Game Conference](#)

16th ENGSO Forum discusses Good Governance

The 16th ENGSO Forum took place on 21-22 October 2013 in Strasbourg. This two-day Forum allowed ENGSO member organisations to foster cooperation among sports organisations and to gain information on current sports-related developments in Europe, in particular on 'good governance in sport' and 'the integrity of sport'. After a welcome speech, an update on European sport policy developments was given by Deputy Head of the European

Commission's Sport Unit **Pedro Velazquez** and **Heather Stewart** from the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS Secretariat). The day continued with presentations and discussions on good governance in sport. To introduce this topic, **Sylvia Schenk**, Senior Advisor on Sports of Transparency International, gave a very interesting introduction to this topic, which was followed by a good practice example given by **Henriette Kievit** from NOC*NSF. The first day



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was concluded by introducing a good governance self-evaluation tool with the objective to equip member organisations with tools to pass on to their national and local levels. This tool was an outcome of the Sport4Good Governance project lead by the EOC EU Office. On the second day of the Forum possible solutions to fight against match-fixing and corruption in sport were presented, such as the European Lotteries Sports Integrity Action Plan, the IRIS project “What national networks to fight against match-fixing” and the Norwegian Action Plan.

The 16th ENGSO Forum concluded with a panel discussion on the European elections and the future EU sport policy at the European Parliament. This discussion was hosted by **Emma McClarkin**

(European Conservatives and Reformists, UK) with as panelists **Hannu Takkula** (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats Europe, Finland) and **Morten Lokkegaard** (Liberal Party, Denmark), Members of the European Parliament, as well as Danish candidate **Poul Erik Hoyer**.

As a conclusion, ENGSO encourages member organisations to step forward on the road to good governance and help raise awareness of the important issue to fight against match-fixing in their respective countries. Participants will discuss the upcoming elections of the European Parliament in 2014 and the future EU sport policy.

Further information:
More information and presentations on the [ENGSO website](#)

Dates in November

7	Expert Group Good Governance meeting on “Supervision of sports agents and transfers of players, Brussels
12-15	WADA World Conference on Doping in Sport, Johannesburg, South Africa
18-19	Special Competence Seminar of the EOC EU Office, Brussels
20	Preparation seminar on “European Week of Sport”, Brussels
21	EOC Executive Committee meeting, Rome, Italy
22-23	EOC General Assembly, Rome, Italy
26	Sports Minister Council meeting, Brussels

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