



---

# *EOC*

Liaison Office at the European Union



**Report on the impact of the activities  
of the European Union  
on sports**

**February 2003**



Error! Use the Home tab to apply Überschrift 1 to the text that you want to appear here. 2

<b>General policy</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1st Treaty of Nice enters into Force</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>News from the Institutions</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2nd Convention on the Future of Europe</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3rd Informal Meeting of the EU Sport Ministers</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Legal Questions</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4th New Tobacco Convention adopted</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Support Programmes</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5th Action Programme to combat Discrimination</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6th Small PHARE Projects</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7th DAPHNE II Programme</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>8th Italy: Tax 'Gift to Premiership Football Clubs</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>9th New e-learning Web Portal</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>10th Information Day on EU-Health Programme</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>13</b>



Error! Use the Home tab to apply Überschrift 1 to the text that you want to appear here. 3

## General policy

### 1st Treaty of Nice enters into Force

Two years after the European Council meeting in Nice, the treaty negotiated there on the way in which the European Union institutions should work in the future entered into force on 1st February 2003. "With the treaty, the European institutions will be made fit for enlargement," Commission President Romano Prodi said on the subject.

The institutional changes provided for in the treaty are intended to ensure that the European Union remains viable with what will soon be 25 members.

#### Institutional changes

The first tangible institutional changes will be evident in 2004. In the course of the EU enlargement, the citizens can designate 732 people's representatives instead of the previous 625 in the elections for the European Parliament set for June.

Furthermore, the European Commission will grow, in future, from currently 20 to then 25 members. In order to avoid the Commission becoming too large following the eastwards expansion, the five "big States" of the old members will relinquish one of their two Commission respectively. This means that also each of the new EU member will then send one Commissioner.

Changes will also affect the Council of Ministers, the body in which the governments of the individual Member States of the Union are represented-with voting entitlement tiered according to size of population. The unanimity



**Error! Use the Home tab to apply Überschrift 1 to the text that you want to appear here. 4**

constraint on decisions will be lifted for some areas (e.g. for the election of the Commission President and for industrial policy). At the same time, for a majority decision, two conditions have to be met: on the one hand, 72.27 per cent of the total votes in the Council ("qualified majority") must be achieved and, on the other, a resolution must also be carried by the majority of the Member States (i.e. in future at least 13).

In addition, as from May 2004, all formally determined EU summits will be held in Brussels and no longer, as previously, in the country holding the Council presidency.



Error! Use the Home tab to apply Überschrift 1 to the text that you want to appear here. 5

## Sports

### News from the Institutions

#### **2nd Convention on the Future of Europe**

During both of the February sessions of the Convention on the Future of Europe, the Praesidium presented the initial drafts of a constitutional treaty, after the last working group (Social Europe) had presented its report.

Under the “supporting measures”, in Article 15 of the draft, sport is also listed. This means that, in the area of sports, the European Union will be able to “take coordinating, supplementing or supporting measures”.

In addition to the supporting measures, the assignment of areas of competence also provides for exclusive and shared competences of the EU. In the next few weeks, the Convention members will, above all, discuss the assignment of individual policy areas to the various types of competence. Numerous amendment proposals can already be consulted on the Convention web site. Special meetings are therefore planned for 5th and 26th March for the purpose of discussing the draft articles and amendment proposals. Above and beyond this, it remains to be seen whether the preservation of the special characteristics of sport, as mentioned in the Nice declaration, will be taken up in another part of the constitutional treaty.

The complete draft is to be presented to the European Council at the summit meeting in June.



Error! Use the Home tab to apply Überschrift 1 to the text that you want to appear here. 6

### **3rd Informal Meeting of the EU Sport Ministers**

At the invitation of the Greek Council presidency, the EU Sport Ministers met informally in Brussels on 25th February 2003. The EU Commissioner for Education and Culture, Viviane Reding, was also present. Important issues on the agenda were the next steps to be taken in the fight against doping as well as the assembly's work on the incorporation of an article on sports in the future European constitution.

The conference participants emphasised once again their determination to keep sport free of doping at all levels. Owing to the cross-border nature of drug-taking, international agreement and cooperation is necessary for this at EU, Council of Europe and UNESCO levels. The Sport Ministers said they all shared the belief that an anti-doping code binding on all sportsmen and women and applicable worldwide must be drawn up, if possible before the 2004 Olympic Games. This common position is to be vigorously championed at the oncoming "World Conference on Doping in Sport" in Copenhagen (3rd-5th March 2003).

With regard to the work of the Convention, support for an article on sport in the constitution from the majority of the ministers was again apparent. Denmark and Britain, on the other hand, came out against it. Along with other colleagues, Federal Minister of the Interior Otto Schily, however, demanded that the Commission should not be allowed to interfere in national areas of competence regarding sports.



Error! Use the Home tab to apply Überschrift 1 to the text that you want to appear here. 7

## Legal Questions

### 4th New Tobacco Convention adopted

Under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the new, so-called Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) has been adopted in Geneva. The objective linked to this is to further reduce diseases and deaths caused by tobacco consumption. The EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection David Byrne welcomed this new agreement, in the drafting of which the EU had played a leading role. In the EU Member States, around 500,000 people die every year as a result of diseases caused by tobacco consumption.

This new global health agreement is intended to lay down international regulations concerning how tobacco is dealt with. At the same time, articles on advertising measures and sponsorship in particular could have repercussions for the area of sports.

Now, following the end of the last round of negotiations, the final text is to be presented to the WHO General Assembly in May this year.



Error! Use the Home tab to apply Überschrift 1 to the text that you want to appear here. 8

## Support Programmes

### 5th Action Programme to combat Discrimination

The European Commission will soon be appealing for the submission of project proposals to support non-governmental organisations operating at European level, which are dedicated to fighting discrimination for reasons of race or ethnic origin, religion or ideology, age and sexual orientation.

With these appeals, the Council resolution on the action programme to combat discrimination is being implemented. This provides for a contribution from the Community to the current costs of NGO networks operating at European level.

Funding will amount to 500,000 EUR, whereby a maximum of 90% of the total costs of a project will be subsidised. The Community subsidy is to be granted for costs connected to carrying out the annual working programme of the organisation. The projects run from September 2003 for 24 months. The Commission is intending to support around five organisations operating at European level.

It is expected that the appeal will be published at the end of March on the web site of the DG for Employment and Social Affairs.



[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/fundamental\\_rights/prog/calls\\_de.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/prog/calls_de.htm)



Error! Use the Home tab to apply Überschrift 1 to the text that you want to appear here. 9

## 6th Small PHARE Projects

As part of the PHARE programme , the Commission has invited the submission of proposals for small projects. On the territory of the European Union and of the countries eligible for assistance from the PHARE programme (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Hungary), conferences, symposia and workshops on the expansion of the European Union can be supported. The main emphasis of the events should be the admission criteria laid down in 1993 and Chapter 31 of the admission negotiations.

The projects are to be carried out within a maximum period of 12 months between 31st July 2003 and 31st July 2004. Applications may be made by non-profit organisations such as NGOs (e.g. associations), regional and local authorities, professional organisations, including trade unions and chambers of commerce, higher education institutions or research and development institutions.

The total budget for this appeal amounts to 2.1 Mio. EUR. Projects are supported with up to 80 % of the costs eligible for assistance, but with at least 15,000 EUR and at most 50,000 EUR per project.

The submission deadline for project proposals is 25th April 2003. Further details can be obtained from the applicants' guide, which is available from the EU

office.  [info@eu-sports-office.org](mailto:info@eu-sports-office.org)



Error! Use the Home tab to apply Überschrift 1 to the text that you want to appear here. 10

## **7th DAPHNE II Programme**

The European Commission is committed to the continuation of the Community programme DAPHNE (2000-2003) for the prevention of violence against women and children and the protection of victims and groups at risk. The draft of a corresponding resolution for a DAPHNE II follow-up programme running from 2004 to 2008 was put before the Council and Parliament on 5th February. As per the will of the Commission, the resources for the programme are to be increased from 20 to 41 million Euro, on the one hand, because of the good response to and success of the programme and, on the other, due to the higher number of participating countries following the oncoming enlargement of the EU.

As part of the DAPHNE programme, projects that tackle the subject of violence in general, regardless of the respective form it takes (e.g. violence in the family, at school, in the workplace, sexual exploitation for commercial purposes), will be supported. Because of their effective work, support went mainly to victim protection organisations in the past. However, educational establishments, higher education colleges, charitable organisations, research centres and local authorities are also being invited to submit project proposals.



[http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice\\_home/funding/daphne/funding\\_daphne\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/funding/daphne/funding_daphne_en.htm)



Error! Use the Home tab to apply Überschrift 1 to the text that you want to appear here. 11

## Miscellaneous

### **8th Italy: Tax 'Gift to Premiership Football Clubs**

The Italian chamber of deputies recently passed a law decree that allows top football clubs to write off their losses for the purchase of new players spread over ten years. This means that football clubs, most of which are deep in debt, can balance their books and avoid impending bankruptcy. This would then spare them from a fate such as that which befell the "Fiorentina" club, which, for financial reasons, was relegated to the third division.

In the last few years, clubs have spent large amounts of money on buying new players. On average, the value of those players has halved since then. According to the law in force at the time, that capital loss had to be itemised on the balance sheets. The new law, which still has to be examined by the Senate, gives football clubs an estimated tax gift of 855 million EUR.

Competition Commissioner Mario Monti has already called for an explanation, as this law could constitute a hidden State subsidy.

### **9th New e-learning Web Portal**

In the presence of the Commission Member for Education and Culture Viviane Reding, the European Commission presented its new web portal for e-learning. This new web portal on the subject of e-learning should enable the goal set by



Error! Use the Home tab to apply Überschrift 1 to the text that you want to appear here. 12

the European Heads of State and Government of securing a leading role for the European Union in the knowledge society to be achieved. "I hope that this web site constitutes, above all, a space for dialogue, to prompt government, businesses and the society of citizens to work together more closely and make more resources available for e-learning," Mrs Reding said.

The new web site is therefore intended for a broad public and is aimed at both users and suppliers of content. In this way, exemplary methods in the use of new communication technologies in the field of education can be disseminated. Furthermore, it will be possible to seek continuing projects and get in touch with those responsible for them.



[www.elearningeuropa.info](http://www.elearningeuropa.info)

## **10th Information Day on EU-Health Programme**

The European Commission organizes an Information Day on 23 March 2003 in Luxembourg for parties interested in the Community's Public Health Action Program (2003-2008). The event aims to provide clarity regarding the program's content and to present possibilities for project support. Furthermore, potential beneficiaries of the program are to be encouraged to submit project proposals.

Prospective participants can sign up for the event via email or to Ms Maria-Laura Pasquinelli or via fax until 14 March 2003 (email: [maria-laura.pasquinelli@cec.eu.int](mailto:maria-laura.pasquinelli@cec.eu.int), fax:+352-4301.33539) .



Error! Use the Home tab to apply Überschrift 1 to the text that you want to appear here. 13

## Glossary

### PHARE

The PHARE programme is part of the Community lead-up strategy for supporting the accession candidates in preparing for membership. When it was introduced in 1989, the programme was initially envisaged only for Poland and Hungary. Now Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and the Czech Republic are also part of the region receiving assistance. For the western Balkans region, a specific programme called CARDS was set up.

PHARE supports the candidate countries in

- restructuring and adapting the public administration
- aligning legislation and
- achieving social and economic cohesion.

The current programme running from 2000 to 2006 contributes 11 thousand million EUR to co-funding resources for “institution building” in the candidate countries.

## Symbols



You'll find further information on the Internet here.



Clarifications of this key word are provided in the glossary.



Please contact the EU office of German Sport.