

# MONTHLY REPORT

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May 2023



EUROPEAN  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEES



**EU**  
Office

### Interview of the month

Hasan Arat – Chair of the Coordination Commission for the European Games Krakow-Malopolska 2023



"Krakow-Malopolska 2023 will reinforce the position of the European Games – as a leader of positive change and innovation in the Olympic movement, and as a major event on the global sports calendar."

See full interview on page 5

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#GAMESPROJECT Transnational Project Meeting.

After the opening of the event by [@EOCEUOffice](#) and [@HellenicOlympic](#), European NOCs presented their National Action Plans for greater #genderequality in sport.

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KRAKÓW MAŁOPOLSKA  
**EG2023**  
THE EUROPEAN GAMES



THE  
EUROPEAN  
GAMES

26 sports

12 days of exciting competition

7000 athletes

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European Games

Kraków-Małopolska 2023

21.06-02.07.2023

- Editorial 4



### INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

- Hasan Arat – Chair of the Coordination Commission for the European Games Krakow-Malopolska 2023 5



### EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

- EOC organises the 43rd EOC Seminar in Paris 7
- EU Sport Forum 2023 in Stockholm, Sweden 9
- Human Rights in international sports events and participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes discussed at EU Sport Council 12
- GAMES held the Transnational Project Meeting and Mid-term Conference 13
- OCEAN-projects enters into next phase with the first Seminar on carbon footprint measurement 15
- Non-binding recommendation on online piracy of sports events published by the European Commission 16
- Launch of the "All In Plus" joint EU-CoE project for better gender equality in sport 17
- Inaugural "Sport and Innovation Summit" hosted by the European Commission 18



### PARTNERS' CORNER

- DIF: European collaboration is key to countering Sportswashing 19
- Upcoming events 20





### EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,


The Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU is coming to an end and will organise on 14 and 15 June a meeting of Sports Directors in Stockholm. In the area of sport, the Presidency has refrained from adopting its own conclusions. On the one hand, this is understandable, as in the past years a lot of Council conclusions were produced, but their implementation never took place. On the other hand, it must be said that the Swedish Council Presidency was not very ambitious from the beginning.

The Spanish Presidency, which begins in July, will be confronted with General elections on 23 July. In this regard, we will have to wait and see how quickly the newly elected government will be able to act. The agenda for sport foresees a meeting of Sports Directors and a conference on "Safe Environment in Sport" in September and a conference dedicated to "Gender Equality in Sport" in November. Both topics are on the agenda of many sports federations and of the EOC EU Office.

In the month of June, the focus from the EOC's point of view will exceptionally not be on EU sports policy, but on the 3rd European Games in Krakow-Malopolska. The Games will take place in Poland and thus for the first time on the territory of the European Union. In this monthly report, you will find on page 5 an interview with Hasan Arat, Chairman of the EOC Coordination Commission, who together with the former President of the Polish NOK, Andrzej Krasnicki, has fought tirelessly for the success of the Games in recent years. We wish all 7000 athletes successful and peaceful Games!

Surprisingly for many, the EU Commissioner for Sport, Mariya Gabriel, has resigned from her position to take on the difficult task of forming a government in her home country of Bulgaria. We wish Ms Gabriel every success in her challenging task and would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her support of organised sport in Europe. The "Arrangement for Cooperation" between the EOC and the European Commission would not have been possible without her active support. Her advocacy of the European Model of Sport and her recognition of the autonomy of sports organisations will also be remembered positively. We hope that her successor will continue to pursue this line of sport policy. For the time being, the Vice-President of the EU Commission, Margaritis Schinas, is taking over the sports dossier and we are convinced that with him sport is in good hands.

With kind regards,



Folker Hellmund  
Director EOC EU Office



### INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



Hasan Arat is a Turkish Sports administrator, businessman and former professional basketball player. He was the leader of Istanbul's Bid to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. He is currently chair of the Coordination Commission for the European Games Krakow-Malopolska 2023, member of the European Olympic Committees Executive Board and vice-president of the Turkish Olympic Committee.

#### 1. Dear Mr Harat, in less than one month the 3rd European Games will take place in Krakow-Malopolska. What is your message to the participating athletes?

The first thing to say is “congratulations.” The European Games is a stage for the best of the best athletes of the continent. All those who have qualified can be sure that they are part of Europe’s elite. The Games will offer a platform to celebrate and showcase these athletes and their achievements.

As the European Olympic Committees, our commitment is not only to deliver the biggest and best European Games yet, but also to innovate in support of the athletes. For example, for the first time ever, we will be providing athletes with real-time, personalised highlights clips for sharing on their own social media.

#### 2. The European Games are paving the way to the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, how important are the European Games in athletes’ preparation for the Olympics?

Extremely important. The European Games Krakow-Malopolska 2023 are a qualification event across more than half of the sports programme for the Olympic Games Paris 2024. In total, 17 of the 18 Olympic sports on the programme will use the European Games as part of their qualification pathways to Paris 2024.

In 10 of those sports, direct qualification is at stake, meaning we will see athletes realise their Olympic dreams in Poland this summer. I am convinced that the European Games will be a key stepping-stone for athletes in all 18 Olympic sports on the programme, taking place just one year ahead of the Opening Ceremony in Paris.

#### 3. It was a long common journey with the Polish hosts in difficult times (e.g. Covid-19, war in Ukraine). What have been the biggest obstacles to overcome in the last years, and what remains to be done?

It goes without saying that the journey to these Games has been exceptionally challenging, with the backdrop of the global Covid-19 pandemic and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, just across Poland’s eastern border. Poland has had to deal with the impact of the war on a daily basis. The country has welcomed over two million refugees since the outbreak of the conflict, reinforcing the need to streamline resources dedicated to the European Games and to maximise positive impacts.

What helps is that these Games have been based on a pioneering, regional hosting model from the start. No new venue construction has been needed, with all the focus on Games experience and community legacy. And in the spirit of the Games slogan, ‘We are Unity,’ we have adopted a new, one-team approach across the traditional client groups and stakeholders – the European Federations, the National Olympic Committees of Europe, the commercial partners... Everyone understands that these are our Games, and everyone is bringing what they can to support their organisation.



With just under one month to go to the Opening Ceremony on June 21, we are on track to deliver a truly inspiring celebration of European solidarity and excellence.

#### 4. In comparison to the previous European Games in Baku and Minsk, what are the main differences and where do you see a positive development?

The most obvious advances are in the number of sports and the number of athletes participating. There will be 7,000 athletes competing across 26 sports in Krakow-Malopolska this summer. On top of the 18 Olympic sports, the programme includes some exciting new additions - like the fast-growing Padel and Teqball - as well as featuring esports for the first time. This is all part of our ongoing efforts to connect the European Olympic movement with the interests of emerging generations.

Another key difference is that Krakow-Malopolska 2023 will be the first edition of the European Games to take place in a member country of the European Union. This is an important first, which unlocks new opportunities in line with the shared priorities of the European Olympic Committees, the European Commission and our Polish partners.

Moreover, for the first time, we have in place an agreement with the European Broadcasting Union to provide free-to-air coverage of the Games throughout Europe.

In general, Krakow-Malopolska 2023 will reinforce the position of the European Games - as a leader of positive change and innovation in the Olympic movement, and as a major event on the global sports calendar. We see this reflected, for example, in the reinforced presence of Athletics, with the Games playing host to the biggest-ever edition of the flagship European Team Championship.

#### 5. For the first time, a Refugee team will participate at the European Games. Why it's important to have such a team and will such a team a regular part of future European Games as well?

Absolutely. We know the important role sport can play in helping displaced people to find a sense of normality and community in unfamiliar surroundings. This programme is a long-term commitment in partnership with the Olympic Refugee Foundation, which also reflects the very high proportion of the IOC Athlete Refugee Scholarship holders who are hosted and supported by National Olympic Committees (NOCs) within Europe.

In the case of the European Games Krakow-Malopolska 2023, there is a particularly meaningful link with the two million Ukrainian people currently living in refuge in Poland, and to the Ukrainian athletes training abroad with the help of European NOCs. We can see that 'We are Unity' is not merely a slogan. The European family will ensure that Krakow-Malopolska 2023 will be the closest thing possible to a home Games for Ukraine.

6. The European Commission has recognised the importance of the European Games by funding the event with a 1 million EUR grant from the Erasmus+ Sport programme. That was possible since the Games will take place for the first time at European Union territory. Could you imagine a stronger involvement of the European Union in the European Games in the future?

Indeed, this is an important first – and the product of close cooperation between the EOC, the EOC EU Office, the Polish NOC, the Polish Ministry of Sport and Tourism and the Krakow-Malopolska 2023 Organising Committee. We see it as a foundation stone for a long-term partnership, spanning not only future European Games but also European Youth Olympic Festivals.

The new Memorandum of Understanding between the EOC and the European Commission is underpinned by common values and goals, and provides great scope for future partnership.

The EOC EU Office is thanking Hasan Arat for his interview and contribution to the monthly report.



### Sports – rank of competition

#### Qualification to Paris 2024

1. Archery
2. Artistic Swimming
3. Athletics
4. Badminton
5. 3x3 Basketball
6. Boxing
7. Breaking
8. Canoe Slalom
9. Cycling BMX Freestyle
10. Cycling Mountain Bike
11. Diving
12. Fencing
13. Judo
14. Modern Pentathlon
15. Rugby Sevens
16. Shooting
17. Table Tennis
18. Taekwondo
19. Triathlon

#### European Championships

1. Athletics (TEAM)
2. Artistic Swimming
3. Badminton
4. Canoe Slalom
5. Canoe Sprint
6. Cycling BMX Freestyle
7. Cycling Mountain Bike
8. Diving
9. Fencing
10. Judo (TEAM)
11. Modern Pentathlon
12. Teqball

#### KRAKÓW

EG 2023  
12 DISCIPLINES  
OF 29



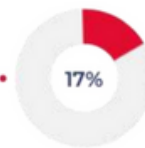
EG 2023  
19 DISCIPLINES  
OF 21



#### EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

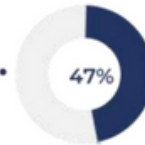
#### MINSK

MINSK 2021  
3 DISCIPLINES  
OF 23



#### OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION

MINSK 2021  
10 DISCIPLINES  
OF 21







## EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

### EOC organises the 43rd EOC Seminar in Paris

On 12 and 13 May, Folker Hellmund (Director of the EOCEU Office), Eva Rebmann (Acting Deputy Director and OCEAN Project Manager), and Carlotta Giussani (Funding Officer) attended the 43rd European Olympic Committees (EOC) Seminar in Paris.

The EOC Seminar covered a wide range of topics ranging from upcoming major events – among which the [European Games in Krakow and Malopolska in June 2023](#) to common challenges faced by European NOCs, such as social inclusion sustainability, and gender equality in sport.

#### Day 1

- **Panel discussion on sustainability in sport**

the panel discussion, Rikke Rønholt Albertsen (Member of EOC's Sustainability and Active Society Commission and NOC Denmark), Nils Holmegaard (Sustainability Senior Manager at IOC), Jana Janotova (EOC Sustainability and International Relations Manager at NOC Czech Republic) and Veronika Zemanova (Head of International Relations at NOC Czech Republic) gave an insightful overview of their respective organisation's state of play and experiences regarding sustainability strategies and practices. This included the presentation of IOC's "[Olympism 365](#)" strategy as well as the NOCs from Denmark and Czech Republic sharing their strategic approach to include sustainability in the organisation's strategies.



- **Presentation of the OCEAN project**

The EOCEU Office presented the OCEAN project (Olympic Committees of Europe Approaching Carbon Neutrality). Folker Hellmund introduced the project by describing the influence of EU legislation on sustainability as well as the current opportunities to receive EU funding for sustainability projects. Eva Rebmann presented the major objectives of the project, which are to support the 18 participating European NOCs in measuring and reducing their carbon footprint and simultaneously educating staff members as Climate Action Officers or sustainability managers in their NOC. The following discussion focused on current challenges for sports organisations in sustainability, such as the multiple crises or the development of event calendars that minimize the emissions caused by travel and transport.



- **EOC Gender Equality Commission**

After an introduction of the latest insights on the 2024 Games in Paris, and 2026 Winter Games in Milano-Cortina, Djordje Visacki (Chair of the Working Group) updated the audience on the EOC Strategic Agenda 2030. As a follow-up to his presentation, Annamarie Phelps (Chair EOC Gender Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Commission) shared up-to-date insights on the performance of European NOCs in terms of gender equality. Accordingly, the progresses and implementation of the GEDI Commission, the EOC Strategic Agenda 2023 in all EOC activities were presented. In this regard, it was confirmed that a report on the achievements and activities is expected to be published yearly.



Ultimately, the [GAMES project](#) (Guidance to Achieve More Equal Leadership in Sport) was showcased as a “good example” of cooperation and implementation among European NOCs in the realm of gender equality.



### Day 2

- **Upcoming Games editions**

On Day 2, all attendees were provided with updates on the 17th Summer European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) that will take place in Maribor from 23 to 29 July. Four European NOCs (NOC of Belgium, NOC of Georgia, NOC of Italy, and NOC of Luxembourg) were invited to share their experiences during a panel discussion on the evolution and challenges of the EYOFs.

The panel discussion was followed by a presentation on the Games of the Small States, that will take place in Malta, from 28 May to 3 June.

- **Refugees team and sports for everyone**

The 43rd EOC Seminar was concluded with an ultimate panel on the refugee crisis, and more specifically, on the access to sports clubs and the integration of refugees into the elite sport system. Following an update on the Refugee Olympic Team made by Jojo Ferris (Olympic Refugee Foundation), Peter Brull (EOC Sport Director) introduced the first-ever EOC Refugee Team that is to participate in including this year’s European Games in Krakow and Malopolska region. Then, the NOC of Germany, the NOC of Greece, and the NOC of Portugal shared their experienced and elaborated on the way they support access to sports for everyone at their national level.

- **44th EOC Seminar in 2024**

The next EOC Seminar is foreseen to take place in October 2024 in Montenegro.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[43rd EOC Seminar highlights](#)

[European Games 2023](#)

[IOC’s “Olympism 365” strategy](#)

[OCEAN project](#)

[GAMES project](#)

## EU Sport Forum 2023 in Stockholm, Sweden

The EU Sport Forum 2023 – on 2-3 May the European Commission’s annual flagship event on sport – took place under the Swedish Presidency of the EU Council in Stockholm.

The EU Sport Forum 2023 gathered approx. 400 participants representing sports organisations, representatives of the EU institutions and Member-States exchanging their views on current and future sports policies. Notably, representatives of the European Olympic Movement contributed to different sessions with the aim to further disseminate the ideas/recommendations of the organised sports movement among relevant stakeholders.

In 2023, the EU Sport Forum showcased topical issues in the sports sector, particularly in relation to integrity, good governance, and gender equality. Yet, the EU Sport Forum also addressed the sustainability of major sporting events, the relevance of sports for physical and mental health, as well as sharing insights to further support skills and qualifications acquisitions among athletes during and after their sports careers. Furthermore, the EU Sport Forum 2023 offered opportunities for networking, and exchanges with relevant stakeholders whilst laying the foundation for potential cooperation, in future.

### Opening remarks

The welcoming speech was given by Mariya Gabriel (Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth), Jakob Forssmed (Swedish Minister for Social Affairs and Health) and Tomasz Frankowski (MEP and co-chair of EP Sports Group) who highlighted the power of sports in promoting European values.

### Keynote Speeches

Philipp Lahm (UEFA, Tournament Director) and Célia Šašić (Event Ambassador) delivered keynote speeches to highlight the role of the UEFA EURO 2024 tournament as a celebration of European values, including sustainability, smarter planning, and inclusion of cultural, social and other values alongside the sports event.

Furthermore, Catherine Chabaud (MEP, former journalist and sailor) talked about raising awareness of the importance of sustainability and environmental preservation whilst presenting the Ocean and Climate platform.

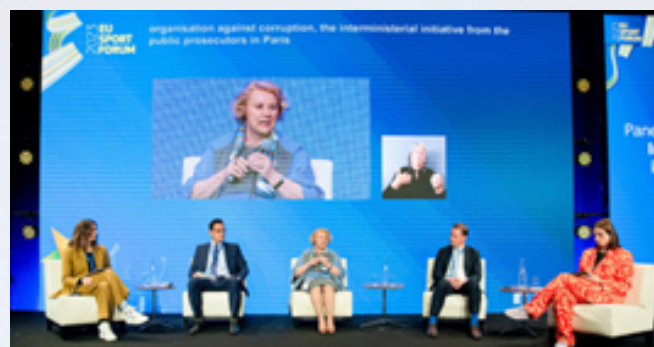
The Olympic Movement was represented in the keynote speeches by Maja Poljak (Project Manager, NOC of Croatia) and Cédric Van Branteghem (Secretary General, NOC of Belgium). They shared their experience in dual careers whilst showcasing their added value as former athletes and qualified professionals for their NOCs.

### High-level panel discussions

The EU Sport Forum 2023 featured a panel discussion on “Women in sport: from grassroots to leadership” which aimed to share good practices and valuable strategies at the European, national and organisational levels to boost gender equality in sport across Europe. The sport movement was represented in the discussion by Sarah Keane (President of the Olympic Federation of Ireland and former member of the High-Level Group on Gender Equality in Sport) and Stefan Bergh (Secretary-General of the Swedish Sports Confederation and ENGSO President).



Likewise, the Olympic movement was represented in the panel discussion on “Integrity of Sport” by Pâquerette Girard-Zappelli (Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, IOC). The discussion showcased a series of good practices and actions related to good governance in sports, particularly to encourage integrity, transparency, ethics, safeguarding, and accountability whilst tackling anti-doping, anti-corruption, anti-manipulation, anti-match-fixing and setting clear pathways for education, prevention and prosecution. Ms Girard-Zappelli underlined that the fight against corruption requires a multi-stakeholder's approach. In this regard, she underlined the excellent work of IPACS (The International Partnership against Corruption in Sport) that already gathers representatives of governments intergovernmental organisations and sport organisations.



### Parallel Sessions

Several parallel sessions provided the opportunity for participants to dive deeper into specific topics, such as the sport as a catalyst to boost health, the SHARE initiative, European Week of Sport, #BeActive and #HealthyLifestyle4All campaigns, sporting events, inclusion in sports, gender equality in sports, good governance in sport, athletes' rights, lifelong competencies, and dual careers.



The Olympic Movement was represented in the parallel session on “Good governance and athletes’ rights” thanks to the participation of Cédric Van Branteghem (Secretary General, NOC of Belgium), and Emma Terho (Chair of the IOC Athletes’ Commission). The parallel session on “Organising sustainable sport events in Europe” featured sports events organisers (e.g. UEFA Euro 2024) and representatives from the sport movement (i.e. Swedish Olympic Committee, SportMalta), discussing ideas, but also challenges, to make sports events more sustainable.

### European Commission’s initiatives

The EU Sport Forum 2023 continued with the presentations of Floor van Houdt (Head of the Sport Unit, DG EAC) and Luciano Di Fonzo (Deputy Head of Unit for Erasmus Mundus and Sport, EACEA) who provided key updates on the European Commission’s initiatives on sport in terms of policies, upcoming events and available EU funding programmes.

### #BEINCLUSIVE AWARDS



As a novelty, the 7th edition of the [#BEINCLUSIVE EU Sport Awards](#) Ceremony was hosted during the EU Sport Forum 2023.

Viviane Hoffmann (Deputy Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture) rewarded the achievements of sport organisations working to tackle barriers to participation in sport and to promote peace and gender equality.

The 7th edition of the #BEINCLUSIVE EU Sport Awards featured three categories; accordingly, the winners of each category received €10.000 each; accordingly, the finalists – those who ranked 2 and 3 – were awarded €2.500 each.

- [Be Equal](#). Aligned with the [Report of the High-Level Group on Gender Equality in Sport](#), this category rewards projects which provide concrete actions in promoting gender equality in sport; accordingly, empowering women and sport in the sport realm. Emine Bozkurt (Member of the High-level Group on Gender Equality in sport) awarded the prize to Kajak Klub Zlatorog, from Slovenia.
- [Sport for Peace](#). This category focuses on projects using sport as a catalyst to promote EU values and peace; accordingly, it targets initiatives enhancing the inclusion of refugees – i.e. from Ukraine. Andriy Chesnokov (Deputy Minister for Youth and Sports of Ukraine for European Integration) rewarded the winner of the category Sport for Peace: Youth Line, from Portugal whilst the NOC of Portugal was also a finalist with their project “Live Sport - Embrace the Future”.
- [Breaking Barriers in Sport](#). This category is designed to reward sport projects aimed to support disadvantaged and/or vulnerable groups; hence, project activities which encourage inclusion, dialogue, tolerance and enhance the participation of all. Tomasz Frankowski (MEP and co-chair of the European Parliament Sport group) announced the winner of this category: Free Movement Skateboarding from Greece.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[EU Sport Forum Programme](#)

[EU Sport Forum Recordings](#)

[#BEINCLUSIVE EU Sport Awards 2022](#)

### Human Rights in international sports events and participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes discussed at EU Sport Council

On 15 May, the [Education, Youth, Culture and Sport European Council](#) was held in Brussels.

Sport Ministers discussed the respect for human rights in the organisation of major international sports events and the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes. In addition to these two topics, EU Sports Ministers have also addressed the European dimension of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the representation of EU Member States in the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the Macolin Convention during the EU Sport Council.

#### Human rights in international sports events

In a background document shared before the Sport Council, Member States were invited by the Swedish Presidency to reflect on the two following questions before the Sport Council:

1. How can Member States strengthen international sports organisations to reinforce respect for human rights and openness and transparency in the awarding and running of international sporting events?
2. How can Member States and the EU work together to strengthen respect for human rights and openness and transparency in the activities of national, European and other international sports organisations?

During the discussion, the Sports Ministers agreed that human rights protection should be at the heart of awarding, preparing and delivering major international sports events. This process should consider all stakeholders in the sporting community, such as athletes, referees, volunteers, supporters but also the companies involved in the organisation of the event, the Ministers stated.

As a result, EU Sports Ministers signed a [statement](#) on transparency, democracy and human rights in the work of international sport federations, in which they 'call for more transparency, democracy and human rights in the work of international sport federations'.

Ministers also identified a 'clear need for international sport federations to reform their decision-making processes' and urge them 'to pay particularly close attention to the respect of fundamental human rights and labour standards when awarding international sport events.'

#### Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes

With regards to the participation of Ukrainian sport and the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes, Andriy Chesnokov, Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Youth and Sport depicted the situation of Ukrainian sport and noted the violation of Ukrainian athletes' human rights in the current context of Russian aggression. According to the Minister's data, 293 Ukrainian athletes and Ukrainian coaches were killed since the beginning of the war, 40.000 Ukrainian athletes forced to move abroad, 343 facilities destroyed or damaged in Ukraine.

Representatives of each Member State expressed their opinions, sometimes diverging, on the potential participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Paris 2024 Games. All of them however agreed on the need to support Ukrainian athletes.

EU Member States are currently discussing the adoption of the 11th package of sanctions against Russia.

#### Representation of EU Member States to the World-Anti Doping Agency (WADA)

EU Sports Ministers have addressed the representation of EU Member States in the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). They approved a [resolution](#) to review the representation of EU Member States in the WADA, with the aim of facilitating the process of selecting and replacing EU representatives at WADA meeting.

#### Macolin Convention

France, the Netherlands and Germany shared their willingness to ratify the Macolin Convention, a binding instrument overseen by the Council of Europe.



So far, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Moldova, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland and Ukraine have already ratified the Macolin Convention.

### Any other business: European dimension during the next Olympic and Paralympic Games

The French Minister for Sport expressed the objective of giving the next Olympic and Paralympic Games of Paris 2024 a European dimension by highlighting the associated values and symbols and working on popular enthusiasm, notably through European volunteering. To know more about it, we invite you to read the [information note](#) published on 11 May 2023 by the French delegation under the 'Any other business' section of the Sport Council meeting.

### New acting EU Commissioner for Sport

For future references, it is worth noting that EU Commissioner for Sport, Mariya Gabriel, has stepped down from her position, after being asked to form a new government in her country (Bulgaria). The Vice-President of the European Commission, Margaritis Schinas (Greece), with whom the EOC has a good relationship, will cover the sport portfolio until Bulgaria appoints a replacement for Ms. Gabriel.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Education, Youth, Culture and Sport European Council - Results](#)

[Background document prepared by the Swedish Presidency](#)

[Representation of EU Member States in the World Anti-Doping Agency \(WADA\)](#)

[Information note on the European dimension during the Olympic and Paralympic Games of Paris 2024](#)

[Joint statement on transparency, democracy and human rights in the work of international sport federations](#)

## GAMES held the Transnational Project Meeting and Mid-term Conference

The Transnational Project Meeting and Mid-term Conference of the GAMES project (Guidance to Achieve More Equal Leadership in Sport) have been hosted by the Hellenic Olympic Committee between 22-24 May.



### GAMES Mid-term Conference (MTC)

The MTC [GAMES](#) was organised in the framework of the project as a hybrid event on 23 May. It gathered approx. 100 representatives from the GAMES consortium, European NOCs, European and international Federations, experts and academics in gender equality and sports governance among others.

The primary scope of the GAMES' Mid-term conference was to present different strategies and steps that can be taken with regards to gender equality in sport leadership whilst showcasing the main activities and deliverables produced within the framework of the project.

Therefore, it involved various experts in the field of sport and gender equality with the aim being to promote a better understanding of common challenges and relevant actions to successfully promote gender equality in leadership positions among European NOCs and federations.

Notably, Mr. Spyros Capralos (President of the European Olympic Committees and Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC)) and Ms. Vasiliki (President of HOC's Gender Equality Commission) officially opened the MTC highlighting the relevance of gender equality for sports organisations and the topicality of the GAMES project to boost European NOCs' good governance standards in terms of gender equality.

Accordingly, the MTC continued showcasing the main aspects of the GAMES project and its deliverables, among which the "Baseline study on gender equality" carried out to better understand the current situation in terms of gender equality in the participating NOCs and the major National Federations. Besides, the relevance of the GAMES Pool of Actions as a tool to concretely overcome the current barriers (e.g. structural, organisational, cultural) to achieve gender equality was showcased.

After that, a panel discussion representatives of the partners NOCs provided valuable insights on the main achievements and challenges encountered in the development and implementation of their National Action Plans while discussing barriers in attaining leadership support, implementing training programs and gender-inclusive culture in the NOCs.

Ms Annamarie Phelps (Chair of the EOC's Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commission) presented statistics on the gender composition of sports bodies' leadership committees as well as the EOC's objectives, its strategies and concrete measures to improve gender equality among European NOCs and their members' organisations in future. Therefore, the role of the GAMES project in supporting the EOC's goal of making Europe the most equitable, inclusive and sustainable continent for sport was reiterated.

Ultimately, the MTC was concluded by Folker Hellmund (Director, EOC EU Office) and Emmanuel Kolympadis (General Secretary, Hellenic Olympic Committee) who mentioned that the GAMES project already delivered concrete results and thereby had an impact whilst hoping that the other organisations and federations can be further inspired by the GAMES project to further boost gender equality. Hence, the attendees and the Hellenic Olympic Committee were thanked for their time and commitment to gender equality in sports governance.

### Transnational Project Meeting (TPM)

Chaired by the GAMES project coordinator, Carlotta Giussani (EOC EU Office), the TPM gathered representatives of National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, North Macedonia and Turkey, experts on gender equality and sports governance such as Professor Kari Fasting (Equal Rights in Sports) and Rowland Jack (I Trust Sport), as well as the IOC.

The primary scope of the Transnational Project Meeting was to review the status of the project and discuss the NOCs' National Action Plan, NOCs' National Launching Event and the GAMES Pool of Actions. Besides, the Mid-term Conference was scheduled in concomitance with the TPM in the afternoon of 23 May 2023.

Notably, each partner NOC presented the extensive work carried out in the framework of the GAMES project to produce the NOC's National Action Plan. Accordingly, each NOC's representative delivered a brief presentation showcasing the vision, mission, and actions included in their National Action Plan, as well as showcasing the next steps in terms of implementation and related foreseen challenges.





After this, the TPM continued with a brief update on the National Launching Events (NLE) foreseen to occur in each NOC's countries between September and November 2023. Accordingly, the scope, timeframe, target groups and main elements of the NLE were discussed also in relation to identifying common strategies to overcome the main foreseen challenges related to the NLE. Remarkably, the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee gave a presentation regarding its experience in delivering the [National Launching Event](#) in April 2023.

Ultimately, the status of the Pool of Actions was discussed among the consortium in order to review the amendments carried out and discuss its publication in the [Good Governance Online platform](#) foreseen in February 2024.

Hence, fruitful additions were made towards the advancement of the Pool of Actions, as well as enhancing its comprehensiveness and accuracy.

The next TPM of the GAMES project is foreseen to be hosted by the Czech Olympic Committee in Prague (Czech Republic) on 14-15 November 2023; after which, the Final Conference is foreseen in Belgium in March 2024.

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



## OCEAN-projects enters into next phase with the first Seminar on carbon footprint measurement

On 31 May, the first online seminar on carbon footprint measurement of the [OCEAN project](#) was held. Measuring the carbon footprint of all 18 partner NOCs is one of the key objectives of the project. The process will last until 2024 and is accompanied by the [Öko-Institut](#) that provides know-how and experience in measuring carbon footprints for sport entities.

The first Seminar focused on the preparation of the measurement. In anticipation of the Seminar, all partner NOCs filled in a questionnaire about the structure of their respective organisations (e.g., number of staff, existence of subsidiary entities). After a short introduction to the basic principles of carbon footprint measurement and the different types of greenhouse gases, the findings of this questionnaire were presented by the Öko-Institut. These findings indicate a high level of heterogeneity between the participating NOCs which is an important factor for the process of measuring the carbon footprint. For the main part of the seminar, the experts from Öko-Institut discussed the scope of the carbon footprint, i.e., the different kinds of sources for CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent-emissions which are included in the calculation, with the participants.



As the process of assessing an organisation's carbon footprint and collecting data involves a consequent amount of work, the process is divided into smaller parts, namely emissions from headquarters, other locations, organisation of and participation to events and Olympic Games. The participants engaged in an intensive and productive discussions about elements that should be considered for the measurement. As every NOC is unique, the questions also covered a variety of topics. At the end of the discussion, the project-team got an overview of all the open questions, that need to be clarified to conduct the measurement in the best and most accurate way.

This measurement process was further presented by the Öko-Institut after the first discussion. The spreadsheet for collecting a first portion of data on business travels and energy consumption had been distributed before the Seminar. NOCs used the seminar to ask for clarifications and give feedback on the contents and the availability of the requested data within their organisations.

### Next steps

Eva Rebmann (Project Manager OCEAN-project) concluded the meeting by giving an overview of next steps within the project regarding the carbon footprint measurement as well as the training course for Climate Action Officers.

The training course will continue online in October 2023, before a physical meeting in Lausanne in March 2024 takes place. In the meantime, the data collection for the 18 partner NOCs' carbon footprint measurement will continue before the first results can be analysed in 2024.



## Non-binding recommendation on online piracy of sports events published by the European Commission

The European Commission has published its [Recommendation on combating online piracy of sports and other live events](#).

The Recommendation aims at providing national authorities, rightsholders and providers of online services the tools to take measures against illegal broadcasting of sports events online, with a focus on the following main priorities:

- Quick action against notified illegal live streaming of events
- Legal rights to sports events organisers to seek injunction
- Increased availability and attractiveness of sports events organisers' offers for consumers to easily find legal offers to watch sports events
- Better cooperation between national authorities, rightsholders and intermediaries

In order to follow the implementation of the Recommendation and assess the potential need for further measures, a monitoring system will be implemented with the support of the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights (EUIPO), including Key Performance Indicators.

The European Commission is currently organising workshops with rightsholders, online intermediaries and national authorities regarding the implementation of the Recommendation. A data collection on the volume of piracy of live streams of sports events will be conducted in October 2023. Information and consultation with the concerned stakeholders will continue with a European Conference, co-organised by the European Commission and the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), in October.

The European Commission will assess the effectiveness of the Recommendation and take action as of November 2025, if deemed necessary. This means that this will fall into the portfolio of the next Commissioner in charge, considering the start of the new EU Commission in late Autumn 2024.

The Sports Rights Owner Coalition (SROC) (gathering 50 sport bodies and event's organisers) welcomes the European Commission initiative. However, the SROC deeply regrets the non-binding character of the document, as well as the 2.5 years review period planned by the Commission before a review of the initiative, which is deemed too long.



“The Live Content Coalition is therefore calls on the European Commission to define clear KPIs and a robust monitoring system before the summer so the review of the effectiveness of its Recommendation can take place as soon as possible and subsequent steps are taken to create real change”, a [joint statement](#) by the SROC and the Live Content Coalition reads.

### Background

Sport organisations, mostly in the framework of the Sports Rights Owner Coalition, have long advocated for a legally binding initiative, taking part in the discussions around the European Parliament [resolution on the challenges of sport event organisers in the digital environment](#) (May 2021) and the European Commission’s stakeholders’ consultation in February 2023.

The EOC EU Office has closely followed the process through within the SROC. The result, i.e.. a non-binding Recommendation, is therefore not satisfying, however, it constitutes a first step in the right direction before a binding initiative could hopefully be adopted in 2025.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Commission Recommendation on combating online piracy of sports and other live events](#)

## Launch of the "All In Plus" joint EU-CoE project for better gender equality in sport

On 10 May, the Council of Europe and the EU launched their second cooperation project for gender equality under the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), following on from the first ["All In: towards gender balance in sport"](#) project. The new ["All in Plus"](#) project is a large-scale data collection campaign on gender equality in sport in strategic areas such as leadership, coaching, participation, media coverage, gender-based violence and gender equality policies and programmes. It will run until March 2025.

The project brought together a large number of stakeholders from the sports sector, including academics, athletes, journalists, as well as gender equality experts such as Annamarie Phelps (EOC GEDI Commission) and Violeta Birzniece (DG EAC, European Commission). All the speakers took stock of both organisational and cultural discriminations faced by women in sport, regardless of their role (referee, athlete, manager, journalist, etc.). Foreseeable challenges were then identified and solutions discussed that could be provided and implemented by sports organisations and public authorities to reduce gender inequalities.

The following topics were addressed:

### The position of women in sport

Violeta Birzniece (DG EAC of the European Commission) presented the main findings of the EU High-level Gender Equality Working Group 2022. [Recommendations](#) have been made in 6 main areas: participation, coaching, leadership, gender-based violence, social and economic aspects of sports and media coverage. Following upon this presentation, Charlotte Girard-Fabre (IFSO) and Anne-Flore Marxer (Feminist activist and Snowboarding World Champion) shared their experiences on the discriminations they faced throughout their career in sport.

### The role of the media in sport

Elsa Arapi (European Broadcasting Union), Hilmar Björnsson (Icelandic National Broadcasting Service), Mary Byrne (Olympic Channel Services), as well as Stéphanie Roque (journalist, co-author and co-director of the documentary “Sur la Touche”) and Mejdaline Mhiri (Sports commentator, journalist, handball player, and co-director of French association of women in sports journalism) underlined the role

media can play in developing women's sport, but also the obstacles lying ahead to give women's sport a greater place in media content.

### The power of data: presentation of data results and methodology

Francine Hetherington Raveney (EPAS, Council of Europe) presented the methodology and data collection results of the first “[All In: Towards gender balance in sport](#)” project. It is worth noting that in 2019, only 22% board roles in sport organisations were occupied by women and only 3 countries have at least one woman per board in sport organisations.

These results led to a discussion on the relevance of European cooperation projects, as well as the best practices already implemented in certain sports organisations.

The All In Plus project notably echoed the EOC EU Office's EU-funded [GAMES Project](#) (Guidance to Achieve More Equal Leadership in Sport), which aims to advance gender equality in the decision-making roles of sports organisations by paving the way for more women to hold leadership roles in sports governance and giving NOCs the opportunity to build capacity in gender equality.



### FURTHER INFORMATION

[ALL IN: towards gender balance in sport - report](#)

[Recommendations and action plan from the High Level Group on Gender Equality in sport \(2022\)](#)

[GAMES Project webpage](#)

## Inaugural “Sport and Innovation Summit” hosted by the European Commission

The very first “[Sport and Innovation Summit](#)” was hosted by the European Commission on 30 May in Brussels. The event was designed to facilitate and accelerate the dialogue between different stakeholders in the field of sports and innovation.

The summit kicked off with a closed session that consisted of participants from a variety of organisations (e.g., universities, sports organisations, start-up business and NGOs). They had the opportunity to engage with other participants and talk about potential cooperations or projects. Programme managers from the EU also presented different possibilities for funding and attendees were given the chance to raise questions about these programs.

The afternoon session was a hybrid event, that was composed of three panel discussions.

Margaritis Schinas and Tomasz Frankowski (MEP, sports group) highlighted the importance of cooperation between different interest groups in order to improve sports and innovation at the same time. Margaritis Schinas stated that the idea behind that was to catalyse innovation through sports on the one hand and on the other hand contribute to the ever-changing image of sports through innovations of all kinds.

The first high-level-panel saw representatives from the International Automobile Fédération (FIA), European Aquatics and La Liga discussing the impact of innovation of performance in sports. Natalie Robyn (CEO, FIA) expressed that most innovations that FIA imposes in the Formula 1 are security-driven, whereas teams and especially the automotive industry behind the teams aims to improve the performance of their cars by investing in research and development.



For European Aquatics, President Antonio José Silva explained that innovations can also be applied in sports where the used gear and material is limited. He referred to innovations in the design of swimming pools and the training practices with especially mentioning mental training as a key to success. Miguel Ángel Leal Góngora (Chief of Technology and Innovation, La Liga) described the different kinds of analytics available to football clubs and sporting staff, which improve the planning and organising of trainings as well as the prevention of injuries through load management in playing times. He also addressed the need for data protection solutions in order to prevent copyright infringements.

The second panel focussed on innovation in sustainable sports. Actors from textile industry, sports pitch production, Education and Research presented their contributions to a more sustainable sport.

The protagonists talked about sustainable ways for producing artificial turfs or recycled skiing boots, as well as advanced methods for image recognition, that can save a lot of work for sporting organisations. Another subject of the panel was a presentation of education for sustainability in sports in Bulgaria.

The summit ended with a third panel on digital solutions, better health and education that looked at different methods to promote physical activity and sports participation by using digital solutions. The panellists from Vrije Universiteit Brussel, CityLegends from the Netherlands and Lemon Gym from Lithuania shared their respective stories and how their organisations contribute to better health in Europe.



### PARTNERS' CORNER

#### DIF: European collaboration is key to countering Sportswashing

Sportswashing and soft power have become familiar topics in recent years. In order to propose another way, the Danish National Olympic Committee and Sports Federation (DIF) have launched recommendations on how to deal with the dilemmas that we will likely face in years to come when discussing where to hold future sports events.

The aim is to provide DIF's federations with concrete tools that enable sports leaders and other actors to safeguard Danish interests as best as possible and thus ultimately exert maximum influence on the process of selecting host countries and stipulating requirements for the preparation and execution of future international sports events.

The 26 recommendations are divided into three categories: Before the election process, during the election process and following the awarding of an event.

One of the key recommendations is to seek international alliances with fellow European countries to stand stronger. When forming alliances, it is advised, among other considerations, to consider referring to the joint declaration from 23 European governments that highlight the need for more transparency and democracy. Once a strong European alliance is formed, federations could furthermore start looking outside Europe to involve other likeminded countries in the push for more transparency.

Among other key recommendations from DIF are:

- Seeking openness about criteria and evaluation process in order to secure transparency
- Aiming for a small number of objective criteria for host countries such as respect for universal human rights
- Limiting the construction of new buildings and facilities to secure more sustainable sports events as well as securing that there is a long-term plan for the usage after the event

It is central to the recommendations that sport cannot or should not change everything at all levels but that areas should be prioritized where sport can make a difference, for example stadium construction and hotels, where it is possible to carry out due diligence and secure workers' rights.

Multiple organizations have been involved in the recommendations, among those Transparency International, Amnesty International and the Danish Ministry of Culture.

Danish sports federations have previously formed alliances in relations to international sports events. Leading up to the Football World Cup in Qatar, the Danish Football Union cooperated with Danish and international trade unions and ILO on conditions for migrant workers in Qatar and with Amnesty International on the general human rights situation in the country.

Contact: Nina Skyhøj Olsen, International Consultant at the Danish National Olympic Committee and Sports Federation, [nsko@dif.dk](mailto:nsko@dif.dk).

The full recommendations can be found [here](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**05 - 06 June 2023**

Annual Partners Meeting (EOC EU Office, Brussels)

**15 - 16 June 2023**

Meeting of Sports Directors (Council of the EU, Stockholm)

**21 June - 02 July 2023**

European Games (Krakow and Malopolska region)





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