

EOC

Liaison Office at the European Union



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

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Sport

News from the Institutions

1st Meeting of EU Sports Directors in Bonn

The EU Sports Directors met in Bonn from 1 – 2 February to discuss the subjects of sport and the economy, sport and integration and anti-doping policies. The European Commission's White Paper on Sport was also on the agenda, which is to be adopted in June 2007.

The talks concentrated on the economic impact of major sports events such as the Olympics and the World Cup. In addition, the German Presidency of the European Council will continue the work of the Austrian Presidency of the Council to create a "European satellite account for sport". This account is intended to supplement the national accounts by generating detailed information on the connection between sport and the economy, thereby enabling a comparison of statistics and sports-economy interactions across the EU.

The exchange of views in the field of "Sport und Integration" focused on social integration in clubs, while the discussions on the subject of anti-doping policies dealt with the promotion of cooperation between national anti-doping-agencies through an EU network.

The EU Ministers of Sport will convene from 12–13 March 2007 for a



discussion of these subjects.

2nd European Parliament: Public health and food safety

The European Parliament (EP) debated a report by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety on 1 February at a two-day plenary conference. The Committee aims to lay down the commitment to a healthy diet and physical exercise as a political priority of the European Union and the Member States in future. The EP appealed to the EU Member States to recognise obesity as a chronic illness in order to enable the best possible treatment and support to be provided by health insurance companies. In order to raise an awareness of what constitutes a balanced diet, particularly among children, the soft drinks on offer in schools and television advertising for unhealthy products targeted at children should also be limited.

In addition, the Members of the European Parliament discussed making higher education and life-long learning more accessible to women. The Parliamentarians proposed a number of measures, such as improving access to education and career prospects in particular of girls and women who belong to an ethnic minority or have a migration background.



3rd European Parliament: Public hearing on sport in education

On 28 February, the European Parliament's (EP) Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport held a public hearing on the role of sport in education.

In connection with the growing debate on obesity among children and the health risks in later life, the discussion at European level of the role of schools in encouraging young people to take more exercise is gaining significance.

The EU has no special competencies in the field of sport. However, Art. III-282 of the constitution, which has currently been shelved, says that the EU should contribute to improving the quality of sports lessons through supporting and supplementary measures. A study commissioned by the EP recommends at least two hours of compulsory sports lessons per week in schools. Also, school curricula should be modernised in order to arouse more enthusiasm for physical activities among young people.

At the public hearing, the European Commission's anticipated White Paper on Sport and the Commission's approach to sport in education were also presented. According to the competent Commissioner Ján Figel', the White Paper will discuss the amount of time allocated to sports lessons in curricula, the quality of training and possibilities of exchanging the best experience at EU level.



Legal Questions

4th Amendment to the firearms directive

In 2001, the EU signed the UN Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms and Ammunitions with a view to better fighting transnational organised crime.

This accession also demands some minor technical amendments to EU directive 91/477/EG on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.

While the European Commission's relevant proposal leaves the character of the directive unchanged, it does involve a number of changes. In particular, they concern the definition of the term "illicit trafficking in firearms", emphasis on the need to label firearms, an increase in the minimum period a weapons log has to be kept and a more precise specification of the sanctions to be imposed in case of a breach. The European Parliament has the right of co-decision concerning these questions. The Committee on Internal Market is competent to deal with them. A first draft report has already been submitted to it by the Green rapporteur Gisela Kallenbach (Germany).

Many hunters, target shooters and other legitimate weapon owners are concerned that this report could lead to an unjustified stiffening of national arms law.

The deadline for applications for amendments is 28 March.



Aid Programms

5th EU funding for the Alpine World Ski Championships in Åre in 2007

Åre in Sweden organised the 39th Alpine World Ski Championships from 3 to 18 February. Åre is one of Sweden's most important skiing venues and it has a long tradition of winter sport. Åre used funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounting to some EUR 200,000 for its candidacy for organising the World Ski Championships in 2007. The monies from the ERDF Structural Fund are to be used primarily to realise the aims of the Lisbon Strategy (economic growth within the EU). In particular, projects are funded that serve the development and structural adaptation of regions that are lagging behind, strengthen the competitiveness and attractiveness of certain regions, cooperate in trans-national regions and within networks and exchange experience within the EU. A budget totalling EUR 335.1 billion is available for the structural funding period 2007–2013.

6th Handbook on “Youth in Action” published

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture has published a handbook on the funding programme “Youth in Action” that was launched at the beginning of the year. Total funding of EUR 885 million is being made available for the programme, which runs from 2007 to the end of 2013. The programme's main target group is young people aged between 13



and 30.

One of the programme's priorities is to raise an awareness of Europe among young people. They are to be encouraged to think about European issues, including civic participation, and to bring these subjects into the discussion on the development and future of the European Union.

The project organisers and young people interested in setting up a project have to fill in the relevant application forms and adhere to the following deadlines:

Five application deadlines apply each year to projects selected at national level:

Projects beginning between	Application deadline
1 May and 30 September	1 February
1 July and 30 November	1 April
1 September and 31 January	1 June
1 December and 30 April	1 September
1 February and 31 July	1 November



Three application deadlines apply each year to all projects selected at European level:

Projects beginning between	Application deadline
1 July and 30 November	1 February
1 November and 30 March	1 June
1 January and 31 July	1 September

7th European Conference – Development opportunities through sports events

On 22 March 2007, the consulting group AMNYOS will be holding a European Conference in Angoulême (France) entitled “The impact of major cultural and sporting events on tourism-oriented SMEs” with support from the European Commission.

The aim of this conference is to agree on guidelines to optimise the long-term benefit of cultural and sporting events.

Ten selected events were examined in order to be able to define the key factors for success.

Participation in the conference is free of charge but registration is required:

kbernardeau@comaga.org



8th Appeal in the field of public health

On 16 February an appeal to submit proposals for the Community action programme for public health (2003–2008) was published. The deadline for proposals is 21 May 2007.

The action programme for public health (2003–2008) is guided by three general goals: “Improving information and knowledge for the development of public health”, “Enhancing the capability of responding rapidly and in a coordinated fashion to health threats” and “Promoting health and preventing disease through addressing health determinants across all policies and activities”. Networked activities, coordinated reactions, an exchange of experience, training and dissemination of information and knowledge are linked. The aim is to achieve an integrated concept to protect and improve health.

Effective cooperation of the Member States is required to achieve the programme’s overall objective, i.e. dialogue with all the major parties involved. Institutions, federations, organisations and health sector bodies are called upon to submit projects.

The area of action 2.1.3. “Promoting health and preventing disease through addressing health determinants across all policies and activities” provides sports organisations with very good potential. It promotes integrative approaches for a healthy lifestyle, in particular including the area of nutrition



and exercise. Another possibility for getting involved is programme item

2.1.3.4. “Preventing disease and injury.”



http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/howtoapply/call_for_propal_en.htm

Miscellaneous

9th German Olympic Sports Confederation initiative europa(S)meister: Presentation of first projects

The German Olympic Sports Confederation is supporting the German EU Council Presidency with its national campaign “europa(S)Meister” under the patronage of German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The first projects are now being presented in the context of local events.

Rhineland–Palatinate

The number of migrants into the EU has steadily risen. Of these, some 54 per cent are women. The female members of the family in particular play an important role in successfully integrating the second and third generations of immigrants. In its project “Sport and Language”, a combined swimming and language course for German and Muslim women, the Land Sport Federation of Rhineland–Palatinate promotes dialogue among the participants, thereby promoting the active integration of Muslim girls. Angela Maurer, reigning



European swimming champion from Rhineland–Palatinate, is the project’s patron.

Lower Saxony

Sport increases children’s motivation to learn. That is particularly the case among disadvantaged young people. Sports clubs offer possibilities for three–quarters of all children and young people to become socially integrated. They are an important place of socialisation alongside the parental home and school. That is indicated among other things by a 2006 study co–financed by the EU. This potential of sport is being used by the Land Sport Federation of Lower Saxony, the Lower Saxon Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs and the Lower Saxon Boxing Federation with their “Boxing in Schools” project. The campaign offers interested young people the opportunity to learn boxing on an extra–curricular basis. The outstanding effect of training in this sport and its positive effects on young people’s attention span, as well as on their technical, tactical and strategic skills strengthen their self–confidence and their social competence. The patron of this project is the European trampolining champion Dennis Luxon.

Bremen

Overcrowded children’s rooms, media stimulation and a growing amount of traffic limit our children’s space to move. According to an EU–funded study,



approximately two thirds of young Europeans do not take enough physical exercise, often leading to them being overweight.

In Bremen, the club “kinder.leicht.gesund“ (i.e. children.light.healthy) is trying out new ways of promoting healthy eating and physical activity and overcoming stress for children up to the age of ten. The activity “Kinderbewegungslieder” (i.e. children’s movement songs) is part of this network of different partners, including the Land Sports Federation of Bremen. The texts of the songs are short narratives especially composed to playfully support the physical education of the youngest children. Norman Junge, European squash champion, is presenting the project.

10th European Athletic Association is new EU Office partner

On 8 February DOSB President Dr. Thomas Bach and EAA President Hansjörg Wirz have signed the cooperation agreement in Lausanne.

The EU Office will advise and assist EAA in developing the relevant fields of European athletics.

Besides positioning itself in European politics, EAA aims to focus in particular on qualifying national member organisations to participate in EU funding programmes.



www.european-athletics.org