



European Union and Sport

<i>The new European Parliament elects its leaders</i>	2
<i>18 months programme of the "EU Trio-Presidency"</i>	3
<i>European Commission presents outlook of future European Week of Sport</i>	4
<i>IWG conference on Women and Sport in Helsinki</i>	6
<i>Council conclusions on nutrition and physical activity</i>	7

Funding programmes, studies and projects

<i>Deadline Erasmus+ Sport</i>	7
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Internal and visits

<i>EOC EU Office meets the Sport Unit</i>	8
<i>Dates in July and August</i>	9



European Union and Sport

The new European Parliament elects its leaders

Six weeks after the European elections the new European Parliament (EP) is taking shape. On 1 July 2014 the EP re-elected the German social-democrat **Martin Schulz** as its new President for the next two and a half years. For the second term of the five years period a candidate of the EPP group will take over the Presidency. Schulz, who is also the chairman of the S&D party, obtained a total majority of 409 out of 723 votes. Throughout the history of the EP, Mr Schulz is the first President to become re-elected.

The Parliamentarians also elected their 14 Vice-Presidents. Among them is Olli Rehn (Finland, ALDE), former EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs and former football player in Finland's top division. In 1996/1997 he was also the president of the premier division of Finnish football.

During the month of June, the formation of the new political groups and the distribution of seats took place. The European People's Party (EPP) will gain **221** seats, (in 2009: **274** seats), the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) **191** seats, (in 2009: **196** seats), the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) **70** seats, (in 2009: **57** seats), the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) **67** seats, (in 2009: **83** seats), the European United Left/ Nordic Green Left (GUE/ NGL) **52** seats, (in 2009: **35** seats) and the Greens/European Free Alliance (GREENS/ EFA) **50** seats, (in 2009: **57** seats).

Forming Parliament's committees

On 2 July the procedural steps in forming the composition of the 20 EP committees took place. Officially, committee chairs and vice-chairs will be elected at the committees' respective constituent meetings, scheduled for Monday 7 July in Brussels.



According to sources in the EP, **Silvia Costa** from Italy (S&D Group) will chair the CULT-Committee dealing with sport. She is a former Journalist and MEP since 2009. Up to now she has not been visible in the field of sport.

Please see below the division of chairs:

AFET	Elmar BROK (EPP)
AGRI	Czeslaw SIEKIERSKI (EPP)
BUDG	ARTHUIS (ALDE)
CULT	Silvia COSTA (S&D)
DEVE	Linda McAVAN (S&D)
ECON	Roberto GUALTIERI (S&D)
EMPL	Thomas HÄNDEL (GUE)
ENVI	Giovanni LA VIA (EPP)
IMCO	Vicky FORD (ECR)
INTA	Bernd LANGE (S&D)
ITRE	Jerzy BUZEK (EPP)
JURI	Pavel SVOBODA (EPP)
LIBE	Claude MORAES (S&D)
PECH	Alain CADEC (EPP)
REGI	MIHAYLOVA (ALDE)
TRAN	Michael CRAMER (GREENS)
AFCO	Danuta HUEBNER (EPP)
CONT	Inge GRÄBLE (EPP)



June 2014

PETI	Eleanora EVI (EFDD)
FEMM	Iratxe GARCÍA (S&D)
SEDE	Anna FOTYGA (ECR)
DROI	Elena VALENCIANO (S&D)

new Commission is then likely to start its work in November.

Support for sport

On several occasions, the newly elected Greek MEP Theodoros Zagorakis declared his intention to support organized sport in Europe. As former captain of the Greek national football team that won the European Championship in 2004, Mr Zagorakis stated on the EP News channel: "We need to see how we can act to offer real help in sports. We need to tackle violence and racism, which nowadays is a scourge and also to invest in sports infrastructure." The EOC EU Office will contact all MEPs interested in sport in the coming weeks in order to set up new or to strengthen already existing working relations.

Further proceeding

The newly appointed President of the European Commissioner, Jean-Claude Juncker, will be confirmed in the plenary session of the EP on 15 July.

The Member States are requested to nominate their candidates for the new EU Commission until 17 July. Mr Juncker will propose his team of Commissioners to the Parliament most likely after the summer break. The new Commissioner responsible for sport will be interviewed by the CULT-Committee. At the end of the procedure the European Parliament will vote on the approval of the Commission as a whole. The

Further information:
[Website EP elections](#)

18 months programme of the "EU Trio-Presidency"

The upcoming three EU Presidencies ("Trio") of Italy (as of 1 July 2014), Latvia (as of 1 January 2015) and Luxemburg (as of 1 July 2015) have adopted their 18 months programme. The overall objective is to overcome the economic and financial crisis and to boost the Union's growth.

The overarching priority regarding Sport will be to ensure the efficient implementation of the new Sport Ministers Work Plan (2014-2017) as agreed on 21 May 2014. The topics mainly focus on the important societal role of sport and on potential risks for sport, e.g.:

"The role of investment in sports facilities, the role of volunteering, the needs of disabled people and the need for an equal opportunities approach. Furthermore the Trio-Presidency confirmed to remain at the forefront of international efforts to find

practical and effective means to combat this threat to sporting integrity".

In the 104 page document, other policy fields have been listed that could exert an impact on sport, e.g.

- **Visa** (visa for athletes from third states)
 "Furthermore, due attention will be given to ensuring progress in visa dialogues and negotiations on visa facilitation agreements with a number of third countries of the Southern and Eastern neighbourhood..."
- **Fundamental rights and citizenship** (data protection related to the fight against doping and match fixing)
 "Work on the proposals for a Regulation on data protection and a Directive on the protection of personal data by competent authorities for the



June 2014

purposes of prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties will be pursued as a high priority...”

Public Health (acknowledgement of sport as the main driver for physical activity)

“...a special attention will be paid to the promotion of healthy life style, focusing on encouraging physical activity and healthy nutrition...”

- **Foodstuffs** (food supplements)

“The proper implementation of two important legal acts, the Regulation on food information to consumers ('Food labelling') and the Regulation on food intended for infants and young children, food for special medical purposes and total diet replacement for weight control ('Food for special purposes'), will be important as they create a framework of reinforced information, transparency, and high level of food safety for the Union citizens.”

- **Intellectual Property** (sport owner rights in sport)

“The three Presidencies will consider the legislative proposals that might be submitted by the Commission following the outcome of the review of the EU copyright framework which may lead to a possible revision of some aspects of the copyright acquis in the digital era.”

- **Telecommunication and the digital single market** (live streaming of sport events)

“...as well as guaranteeing data protection, and the free movement of

such data, adapting copyright rules, ensuring cross-border access to online services and content and the deployment of strategic technologies.”

- **Education and Training** (incorporation of sports diplomas in the national and European Qualification frameworks)

“To this end, the non-formal and informal learning settings are crucial for a wider validation and recognition of skills and competences and the three Presidencies will work for the recognition of non-profit organisations as natural suppliers of non-formal and informal education...”

- **Youth** (sport as a driver for skills development and social inclusion)

“..team Presidency will prioritise the implementation of the new EU Work Plan for Youth which the Council adopted in May 2014. In this context, the key role of youth work and non-formal and informal learning as a means of enhancing the skills development and employability of young people is a key priority. Youth work is able to reach the most socially disadvantaged individuals and those that are not in formal education and training.”

In this regard, the EOC EU will monitor the above mentioned policy fields in order to safeguard the interests of the Olympic Sport movement.

Further information:

[2014 Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#)

European Commission presents outlook of future European Week of Sport

During the Conference on the European Week of Sport “preparing the launch in 2015”, which took place on 11 June 2014 in

Brussels, the European Commission presented the outlook of this future initiative. The Conference was officially

June 2014



opened by Mrs. Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner, and Mr. Santiago Fisas Ayxela, Member of the European Parliament. In her keynote speech, Commissioner Vassiliou referred to the alarming figures of physical inactivity in Europe, which was confirmed by the recent Eurobarometer of April 2014, as one of the main motives for organising the European Week of Sport (EWoS) starting in September 2015.

The objective of EWoS is “to promote participation in and raise awareness about the importance of sport and physical activity”. The concept will be as follows:

- The EWoS will be organised on an annual basis in the second week of September dedicated to specific topics;
- An official opening will take place in Brussels as well as several events in the various Member States at national, regional and local levels;
- New and already existing initiatives could receive an EWoS label.

The coordination of the EWoS week at European level will be coordinated by the Sport Unit of the European Commission. In addition, a Steering Committee will be formed consisting of a number of stakeholders. As part of its main tasks and in coordination with stakeholders, this Steering Committee will facilitate cooperation and provide feedback. At national level, national sport coordinators will be appointed to implement national activities. These coordinators will be made up as either a Ministry or an umbrella organisation such as the National Olympic Committee.



Funding for collaborative partnerships and not-for-profit European sport events related to EWoS will be financed by Erasmus+ Sport. A respective call for proposals is announced for September 2015. The deadline of this call will be 15 January 2015. In addition, each Member State will receive an approximate amount of 67,000 EUR for the organisation of at least one national event and for the coordination of grassroots sport activities.

Although the Commission was able to provide some clarification on the overall concept and the different activities of the EWoS week, several questions still remain unclear, e.g. how the Commission intends to involve organised sport. As the objective is to build a sustainable event for the benefit of grassroots sport in Europe, it would be in the interest of the EU to work in close collaboration with organised sport in Europe.

Further information:

[Press release of the European Commission \(11 June 2014\)](#)

[Speech Commissioner Vassiliou during Conference](#)



IWG conference on Women and Sport in Helsinki

More than 800 participants from nearly 100 countries attended the conference, which was organized by the International Working Group on Women and Sport, in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the European Olympic Committees (EOC) under the patronage of UNESCO and many international and regional organizations, among which the European Olympic Committees and European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO).

The conference benefitted from the patronage of Former President of the Republic of Finland, Ms Tarja Halonen, and was run under the auspices of Mrs Androulla Vassiliou, the EU Sports Commissioner, and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mr Thorbjorn Jagland.



In his speech, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach reminded the public how women first competed at the Olympics

in 1900, but addressed further on how getting women into IOC leadership “took about 80 more years.” He then stressed his commitment to increasing the participation of women at all levels in the Olympic Movement and said that the Olympic Movement can serve as an example for others, and thus “Lead the Change” through sport.

Other speakers included Anita DeFrantz, a member of the IOC Executive Board and Honorary Member of the IOC Women and Sport Commission; Sir Philip Craven, IPC President and IOC Member; Peter Tallberg, IOC Member; Claudia Bokel, the IOC Athletes' Commission Chair and IOC Executive Board Member; and Beckie Scott, Chair of the Athletes' Committee for World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

The EOC was also presented with a speaker in a panel discussion on sustainable sport funding.

The participants, among others staff members of the EOC EU Office, celebrated the achievements in terms of positive changes experienced by women and girls in the field of sport and physical activity since the adoption of the 1994 Brighton Declaration on Women and Sport, but at the same time identified the persistent barriers which impede equal opportunities for women and girls to be involved in sport at all levels and in all functions and roles of sport and physical activity.

In closing, the participants called for the reinforcement of the Brighton Declaration and for the conclusions and recommendations on the conference to be endorsed as guidance for future developments, in order to accelerate positive change.

The next IWG World Conference on Women and Sport will be hosted in Gaborone, Botswana in 2018.

Further information:

[EOC website](#)

[IWG conference website](#)



Council conclusions on nutrition and physical activity

On 20 June 2014 the European Union's Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) adopted its conclusions on nutrition and physical activity. In the document, the Council notes with concern that according to the Body-Mass-Index (BMI) classification of the World Health Organization (WHO), more than half of the population in the EU is overweight or obese. In particular, the high level of overweight and obese children and adolescents is highly alarming.

Mainly responsible for these alarming results are malnutrition and a lack of physical activity. The lack of physical activity in the European Union became evident when a Eurobarometer published in March 2014 revealed that 59% of the EU-citizens seldom or never engage in some form of physical activity underlining the shift towards sedentary lifestyles.

The main messages of the Council conclusions on nutrition and physical activity are:

- To continue keeping healthy diet and regular physical activity a top priority;
- To support the development and/ or implementation of national Food and Nutrition Action Plans;
- To promote actions to reduce the exposure of children, toward advertising and marketing of malnutrition food;

- To continue to work with all stakeholders, including the industry, food business operators, health and consumer NGOs and academia;
- To make healthy dietary options easily accessible and affordable for all citizens towards reducing inequalities;
- To promote healthy environments, especially in schools, pre-schools and sport facilities;
- To engage in inter-sectoral and cross-policy actions for the promotion of a healthy diet and physical activity in all policies;
- To use the EU Action Plan on Childhood Obesity 2014-2020 as guidance
- To promote the implementation of the EU guidelines on physical activity for health.

The EOC EU Office welcomes the initiative of the Council to strengthen the efforts to fight the negative effects of malnutrition and physical activity. Nevertheless the EOC EU Office hopes that this initiative will bring an added value to e.g. the financing of sport facilities and activities promoting physical activity and that it will not remain just another political paper without any real impact.

Further information:

[Council conclusions on nutrition and physical activity](#)

Funding programmes, studies and projects

Deadline Erasmus+ Sport

The application deadline for the Erasmus+ Sport call for proposals came to a close on

June 26, 2014. In the public call, organisations had the opportunity to hand in



June 2014

their applications in order to receive funding for either collaborative partnerships or not-for-profit sport events. Overall more than 400 applications were submitted.

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) will now examine the eligibility of the applications. Independent experts will evaluate the quality of the proposed partnerships and events. Results are expected to be announced at the

earliest in October this year and the selected projects will start in the beginning of 2015.

The EOC EU Office submitted an application on good governance as an in depth continuation of the Sport 4 Good Governance project ENGSO handed in a proposal on gender equality in coaching.

Further information:

[Website of the EACEA](#)

Internal and visits

EOC EU Office meets the Sport Unit

On 30 June 2014, the EOC EU Office met with the Sport Unit of the European Commission in order to discuss recent developments in EU sport policy and to meet with some of their new staff members. The Sport Unit was represented by Yves Le Lostecque (Head of Unit), Florence Mondin, George Paterson and Marta Kucinska.

One of the topics on the agenda was the recently adopted EU Work Plan for Sport 2014-2017. Further clarification was provided on the working methods (e.g. observer status of sport organisations) and on a number of policy fields. Regarding the Sport Satellite Accounts in particular, the EOC EU Office stressed the importance of gathering reliable data on various aspects of sport. The first meetings of the new Expert Groups will take place in the autumn of 2014. Observers will most likely not be able to attend these first meetings.

Another topic discussed was the Erasmus+ Sport Programme. Both the EOC EU Office (on good governance in sport) and ENGSO (on gender equality in coaching) briefly

presented their project proposals submitted under the call for proposals of June 2014. Furthermore, a discussion took place on how to better ensure the participation of grassroots sports in the Erasmus+ Sport Programme. The EOC EU Office suggested several modifications to the funding criteria including the possibility of submitting smaller projects with fewer partners and a smaller budget, the eligibility of volunteering of own contribution as well as some administrative simplifications. However, no significant changes can be expected in the short run as the results of the first calls need to be analysed first.

Other announcements include the confirmation of the date of the next EU Sport Forum which will take place on 1-2 December 2014. The EOC EU Office also informed the Sport Unit about the activities of the IOC in the framework of the Olympic Day (23 June) and provided recent information on the first edition of the European Games of 2015. A promotional event will most likely be organised in Brussels in the near future.



Dates in July and August 2014

1-3/7	First plenary meeting of the new European Parliament, Strasbourg
8-9/7	IOC Executive Board Meeting, Lausanne
9/7	Erasmus+ Programme Committee, Brussels
11/7	Council Working Party on Sport, Brussels
21/7	Belgian National Day, EOC EU Office closed
22/7	First meeting of the new CULT Committee of the European Parliament, Brussels
16-28/8	Youth Olympic Games, Nanjing, China

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