

– The Voice of the Olympic Sports Movement in Brussels –

Tweets of the month



Tibor Navracsics

@TNavracsicsEU June 1

Happy to meet Thomas Bach, President of #IOC @Olympics, in Lausanne today

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice June 16

@EU_Commission calls for applications for high level groups on Sport Diplomacy and Grassroots Sport

http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/2015/0615-high-level-group-sport_en_en.htm ...

@TNavracsicsEU

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice June 17

@EOCEUOffice is attending the hearing on the #visa package in @Europarl_EN organised by @EP_Justice

Sport Intergroup EP

@sportintergroup June 30

@sportintergroup: Sport Intergroup today with

@TNavracsicsEU

@marctarabella

@SantiagoFisas

@Europarl_FR #sport #eu.

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The summer is now vigorously claiming its rights and it will soon be time to surrender to its appeal. But before, let us take a look at what is ahead of us in the second semester of 2015.

Every year, the 1st of July marks the beginning of a new Presidency of the EU Council. Latvia now gives way to Luxembourg. Among its priorities for sport (see our article in this monthly report), the Luxembourgish Presidency has decided to start with a discussion on the relationship between the EU and the Sports Movement. The informal meeting of EU Sport Ministers will discuss with the Sports Movement's representatives on Tuesday 7 July. Such an initiative appears very relevant in order to analyse the different forms of cooperation in place (Structured dialogue, Expert Groups, EU Sport Forum, European Week of Sport, etc.) and the EOC EU Office looks forward to the discussions.

Luxembourg has also announced its upcoming signature of the Council of Europe's Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions. This is a positive sign and the EU and all EU Member States, who have not signed yet, should proceed towards signature and ratification in order for the Convention to enter into force as soon as possible.

The next half year will furthermore see the challenge of the final negotiations on the Data Protection Reform. The Luxembourgish Presidency has announced that it will aim to conclude it by the end of 2015 and the Olympic Sports Movement remains adamant that the fight against doping and match-fixing relies on a strong legal basis.

The next semester will be very busy leading up to the first edition of the European Week of Sport between 7 and 13 September, featuring many activities in Brussels and in the Member States (follow it on the [website](#) or on Twitter with [#BeActive](#)).

In the European Parliament, the Sport Intergroup, which just held its first meeting (see our article in this monthly report), will continue its work and will hopefully be able to bring an added value to the EU sports policy.

Enjoy your read and enjoy the summer.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Folker Hellmund'.

Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

Launch event for the communication campaign of the European Week of Sport

On 2 June 2015, the European Commission gathered both the partners of the European Week of Sport (EWOs) and the appointed national coordinators in Brussels, in order to launch the Communication Campaign for the week. The European Week of Sport is a new initiative that will take place for the first time in September 2015. It aims to inform on the benefits of practising sports or physical activity and motivate citizens to take up a regular activity.

After a welcome speech by Antonio Silva Mendes, Director Youth and Sport of the European Commission (DG EAC), the [#BeActive](#) Communication Campaign was presented. This included the launch of the [EWOs website](#) and the presentation of several campaign tools. These comprise a number of videos (a documentary, an inspirational video and an animation to be presented in September), a booklet of [#BeActive](#) messages and a number of infographics with

statistics on the activities of European citizens and the economic value of sport. Some of these are already uploaded on the website mentioned above; others will be announced soon.

Subsequently, the national coordinators and partners could attend workshops on their involvement in the media campaigns, before Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, signed the new partnership agreements with a number of organisations. He furthermore announced the first four ambassadors for EWOs, who will be promoting the event: Footballers Clarence Seedorf and Steven Gerrard, skeet shooter Danka Barteková and Paralympic alpine skier Marie Bochet.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Website of the European Week of Sport](#)



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Council Expert Group on Good Governance – Third meeting

On 9 June 2015, the third meeting of the Council Expert Group on Good Governance took place in Brussels. This meeting served to continue the work on two of the four deliverables: guiding principles related to democracy, human rights and labour rights in the context of awarding major sport events; and recommendations or guidelines on gender equality in sport.

Major sport events

A first draft of the recommendation for guidelines was already sent to the observers prior to the meeting, providing the opportunity to hand in written contributions. This initial draft set out the scope and the status of the deliverable, stressing the autonomy of sport and presenting possible further policy opportunities through the Council structures. In the document, a distinction was also made between the organisations or entities that the Expert Group would like to address: awarding entities (e.g. sport organisations) and hosting/bidding entities. Specific principles and requirements were drafted for these target groups.

The EOC EU Office welcomed the work previously done by the Lead Expert in this first version of the Recommendations. In particular, the EOC EU Office highlighted the recognition of the autonomy of sport, the acknowledgement of various activities already undertaken by the Olympic Sport Movement, for instance through the Olympic Agenda 2020, and the recognition of the international scope of the awarding process of major sport events. The Chair thanked the observers for their contributions and encouraged them to provide more examples and material to the Commission. One interesting point of discussion was the use of soft power by sport organisations, when interacting with hosting entities, especially regarding the question, whether sport organisations lose their leverage once the host contract is signed and if this power

only relates to the sport event or to society at large.

In addition, the deliverable also covered the topic of legacy. The EOC EU Office took the opportunity to stress that the Olympic Sports Movement has already undertaken various initiatives in this field and that legacy is an integral part of the Olympic Agenda 2020, for instance through recommendation 4. The EOC EU Office also stressed that the Expert Group on the Economic Dimension of Sport is tackling the issue of legacy and that the duplication of work should be avoided.

Gender equality

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to the discussion on the draft “**Recommendation on Gender Equality in Sport**”. The EOC EU Office together with ENGSO, EWS, and a number of Member States experts welcomed the structure of the document, which follows the logic of the Commission Group of Expert “Call for Strategic Actions 2014-2020” – a structure and a follow-up we had advocated. The draft text covers four main areas – decision-making, coaching, gender-based violence, and media – and proposes a set of recommendations, which are divided into “minimum-standard measures” and “other actions”. In its intervention, while reiterating the importance of national-level action plans and recalling that gender equality is an integral part of good governance of sport organisations, the EOC EU Office supported this priority setting and proposed that the selection of recommendations be subject to further discussions.

The discussion was rather consensual and the interventions of both observers and Member State experts were to a large extent complementary. It was agreed that the Lead Expert would prepare a list of priority recommendations for each chapter, based on the draft text. These recommendations

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would then be cross-linked to good practice examples, which are to be collected. When asked about the development of the foreseen pledge board, the Commission representative noted that it should serve as a platform for organisations and institutions to publicly express their commitment to gender equality in sport, in particular through the implementation of the forthcoming Recommendations. Therefore, an in-depth debate on the form and the content of the pledge board will be discussed at the next meeting of the Expert Group, which will take place on 10 November 2015.

In the meantime the representatives of DG Education and Culture of the European Commission will be working with their colleagues of DG Justice on the post-2015 “Strategy on Equality between women and men” to make sure that sport-related issues are duly taken into account (this is not the case in the [2010-2015 Strategy](#)). Sport organisations and other stakeholders can also play a role in this process by replying to the [public consultation](#) recently launched by the European Commission. The deadline for contributions is 21 July 2015.

Council Expert Group on Human Resources Management in Sport - Third meeting

Member States’ experts and observers, including the EOC EU Office representative, gathered in Brussels on 16 June 2015 for the meeting of the Expert Group on Human Resources Management in Sport (XG). The XG is to produce five deliverables by 2017, three of which – volunteering, qualifications, and youth employability - were on the agenda of its 3rd meeting.

The work on the “**Recommendation to encourage Volunteering in Sport**” which is to be presented to the EU Council Working Party on Sport at the beginning of next year has advanced significantly. It was agreed that the scope of the recommendation would be narrowed down to cover only those issues directly relevant to volunteering in sport, notwithstanding transversal matters such as legislation, tax incentives, or insurance. It was furthermore agreed to stress the advantages that volunteering brings to people. The focus would then be shifted to the issue of long-term volunteering, which was identified as the most challenging part by a number of Members States. Echoing this message, the EOC EU Office furthermore highlighted the crucial importance of sustainable financing of sport for

the development of volunteering, and proposed that a recommendation on the use of all chapters of the Erasmus+ Programme as well as of other (EU regional) funding instruments be promoted as possible sources for sport volunteering-related projects. Finally, it is important to note that good practice examples supporting each recommendation as well as a summary of the EU Preparatory Action projects on volunteering will be listed in an annex to the document.

A significant step forward was also made in the field of qualifications in sport. After a rather difficult discussion during the second meeting of the XG in Riga, where no consensus on the aims and targets of the “**Guidance on the Compliance of national qualifications with international qualifications standards**” was reached, the experts and observers finally agreed on its scope and on the main rationale. The document should provide a practical guidance to Member States and European/International federations on how to efficiently cooperate on the matter of sport qualifications, and how to link the existing and future federations’ qualifications systems to the methodology of the [European Qualifications Framework](#) (e.g. using the learning outcomes

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approach); a step that would increase the transparency, understanding and clarity of those systems for all stakeholders. This could have a positive impact, for instance on mobility. In order to back the Guidance document up with sufficient background data, the European Commission had also commissioned a short study on the existing qualifications standards of international sport federations, which was presented during the meeting.

Still in the area of qualifications, the Commission (DG GROW) shared the latest news regarding the system of mutual recognition of qualifications for the profession of ski-instructors. Building on a Memorandum of Understanding in this area, signed by several EU Members States, the Commission has proposed to set up a Common Training Test for ski instructors, which is currently under development. The EOC EU Office will follow the process.

The third deliverable, **“Recommendation on the contribution of sport to the employability of**

young people”, was debated for the first time. While all participants agreed that sport can be “an effective tool in fighting against unemployment of young people”, and that the area is “ripe for research”, Marc Theeboom, professor at the Brussels Free University (VUB), warned against having excessive expectations, adding that sport cannot solve everything, but can play a role. This potential was illustrated by a representative of ENGSO Youth who presented their successful project “Sport Employs YOUrope!” The members of the expert group then nominated Professor Theeboom (proposed by Belgium-Flanders), who is to prepare the first draft of the document. Experts as well as observers were invited to contribute to this work by sending in concrete proposals for recommendations.

The next meeting of the XG will take place on **19-20 November in Luxembourg**. It will be connected to the EU Presidency Conference on dual careers, which will focus on the mobility of high-level athletes in Europe.

Council Expert Group on HEPA – Third meeting

Member States’ experts on Health Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA) met in Lisbon on 25-26 June 2015 to finalise their work on the **“Recommendations to encourage physical education in schools”**, and to discuss the content of the forthcoming deliverable focusing on the **“Coordination of the Implementation of the Council Recommendation on HEPA”**. The meeting was preceded by an annual gathering of the HEPA Focal Points, a group of Member States’ representatives established by the above mentioned Council Recommendation to monitor its implementation in the respective countries.

The first point on the agenda was a discussion on the HEPA deliverable. Lead expert Reka Veres (HU) presented a draft concept which foresees to structure the coordination and implementation process into three levels: development of cross-

sectorial HEPA strategies, development of corresponding action plans, and, finally, implementation of concrete actions. It was stressed during the meeting that a clear distinction needed to be made between the work of the Expert Group and the activities of the national HEPA Focal Points. Experts agreed that the document should focus primarily on the actual implementation of the strategies and action plans, and should provide guidance on achieving a real cross-sectoral implementation. Examples of such cross-sector cooperation, in particular in the school and pre-school environment, were presented by [Austrian](#), [Belgian](#), and [Croatian](#) experts respectively.

The second part of the meeting was opened by a presentation of the **Luxembourg Presidency priorities in the area of sport**, which include the

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promotion of physical and motor activity during early childhood.

In examining and reviewing the draft recommendations in detail, experts agreed on the crucial importance of quality physical education in schools for the improvement of the levels of physical activity among children and young adults, and stressed the need for an enhanced cooperation between sport organisations, schools and public authorities in this regard. The discussion was challenging for many topics, including the recommended number of PE classes, but, in the end, a consensus was found on all points. The EOC EU Office contributed actively to the wording of the actual recommendations and particularly stressed the importance of the cooperation between schools

and sport organisations at local level, which however needs to be enabled by a favourable legal environment developed at national/regional level. It also provided clarification on topics such as dual careers and supported the inclusion in the text of the “active schools” concept (physical activity in other classes then PE and during breaks between classes).

Jean-François Toussaint, the Chair of the Expert Group, will present the final version of the Recommendations to the Council Working Party on Sport on 6 July 2015. The document should be published shortly thereafter. The Expert Group will meet again on **26 - 27 November in Brussels** to continue its work on the HEPA recommendations.

First Meeting of the European Parliament Sport Intergroup

On 30 June 2015, the Sport Intergroup of the European Parliament met in Brussels for its first meeting. Officially recognised by the European Parliament, the Intergroup’s aim is to assemble Members of the European Parliament from various political groups and committees to address themes relevant to sport.

After the opening of the meeting by the Intergroup co-president Santiago Fisas Ayxelà, Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, stressed that Europe and sport share the same values such as solidarity and fair competition, highlighting the importance of sport in the modern society for its capacity to build communities and support social inclusion. He subsequently announced the establishment of High Level Groups on Grassroots Sport and on Sports Diplomacy. Moreover, the Commissioner briefly presented the European Week of Sport and revealed the names of additional ambassadors: British long distance runner Paula Radcliffe, Danish tennis player Caroline Wozniacki, Austrian mountaineer Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner, Finish

javelin thrower Tapio Korjus, Spanish taekwondo practitioner Joel González and Belgian table tennis player Jean-Michel Saive joined Danka Barteková, Marie Bochet, Clarence Seedorf and Steven Gerrard (see article on EWoS in this report). Lastly, Mr Navracsics touched upon the topic of integrity and good governance in sport. He stated that the autonomy of sport has limits, insofar that “nobody should stay above the law”. Furthermore, he mentioned the work of the Expert Group on Good Governance. In the discussion, the Commissioner answered several questions on FIFA regarding the potential of sport in social inclusion or the financing of sport in the Erasmus+ Programme.

Subsequently, Robert Thillens, Commissioner for sport of the Luxembourg Presidency, presented their priorities for the second part of 2015.

Finally, Susanne Hollmann, deputy head of the Sport Unit of the European Commission presented the European Week of Sport (EWoS) by explaining the aim of the EWoS, its different

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focus days in September and informed about ambassadors and partner organisations. The meeting was closed by MEP Marc Tarabella, who announced that the next Intergroup meeting

will be held on 29 September and will deal with sport and ethics and more specifically with the awarding of major sport events.

Programme of the Luxembourg Presidency

On 1 July, Luxembourg took over the Presidency of the EU Council until the end of December 2015.

With regard to sport policy itself, the Presidency will focus on:

- Promotion of physical and motor skills. The Presidency will in particular aim at the age of early childhood.
- Dual career training. The previous work on the issue will be developed.
- Representation of the EU within the World Anti-Doping Agency. The Presidency will assess the future coordination.
- Sport-related professions. Their impact on the economy will be addressed.

A general objective related to sport will be the promotion of social inclusion and fight against radicalisation of young people within societies.

Other points relevant for sport are the following:

- Readjustment of Europe 2020 Strategy with priorities in education, training and qualifications.
- Promotion of gender equality at all levels and further efforts to adopt the proposal for a Directive on implementing the principle of

equal treatment of persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

- Acceleration of work on recasting the EU Visa Code and introducing a travel visa.
- Finalisation of the EU data protection reform with the aim to conclude the matter before the end of the year.
- Promotion of initiatives with a view to implementing a genuine Digital Single Market and removing barriers to cross-border digital trade.
- Follow up on reflections on modernising copyright.
- Advancement of discussions on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).
- Promotion of sustainable economic development including transition towards a green economy, review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and protection of forests.
- Update of the European Neighbourhood Policy on the basis of a Commission communication

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Luxembourg Presidency Programme](#)

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FUNDING PROGRAMMES, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

Erasmus+ Sport Project coordinators meet in Brussels

On 24 June 2015, coordinators of the first projects funded under the Erasmus+ Sport chapter gathered at the premises of the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) to learn more about the administrative and financial aspect of the management of their activities. Over 35 collaborative partnerships, whose eligibility periods run for up to three years from the beginning of January 2015 – including the EOC EU Office's [SIGGS project](#) on good governance– were represented at the event.

In his welcome speech, the new Head of the Unit for Sport, Youth, and EU aid volunteers, Georges Bingen, congratulated all present beneficiaries for having been selected and pointed out that the results and the success of the projects will play a key role in determining the future development of the Erasmus+ Sport chapter. Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit at the European Commission, further stressed the importance of the Programme's political rationale recalling that *"projects do not "live" independently; rather they correspond and support policy priorities."* Applying this rationale, the increased attention paid to the topic of integrity in sport at the EU level will

already be reflected in the 2016 calls for proposals.

However, the update on recent developments was only a small part of the agenda. One of the main aims of the meeting was to present and discuss the long-awaited **Erasmus+ Sport Project Handbook**, which should help applicants and coordinators with the preparation and management of their projects. The Handbook will be published shortly on [EACEA's website](#) together with templates of documents such as time sheets.

At the end of the meeting participants also learned about the newly developed [Erasmus+ Project Results Platform](#), which will have several functions including a library/database of all projects co-financed by Erasmus+ and their results, partner search, networking tool, and a best practice selection.

EACEA plans to organise such meetings for all new projects selected under the forthcoming Erasmus+ Sport calls.

European Commission presents 2015 Work Plan and call for proposals of Health Programme

The Directorate General Health and Food Safety of the European Commission has published the 2015 Work Plan for the 3rd EU Health Programme (2014-2020) on 2 June 2015 and subsequently opened a call for proposals on 5

June. The EU Health Programme is intended to encourage cooperation between Member States to improve their health policies. It contains four overarching objectives: promotion of health and healthy lifestyles; protection from health threats;

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contribution to efficient health systems and facilitation of access to better healthcare. Funding priorities are set out in annual work plans and the corresponding calls for proposals. The Health Programme is mainly managed by the Executive Agency for Consumer, Health and Food (Chafea), based in Luxembourg. As the EOC EU Office explains in its brochure “Funding for Sports in the EU”, sport related projects have chances to receive funding under priorities focusing on prevention and healthy lifestyles.

Looking at the 2015 Work Plan, sport related projects could possibly receive funding under the topic “Support for the implementation and scaling up of good practices in the areas of integrated care, frailty prevention, adherence to medical plans and age-friendly communities”. Sport projects have in the past worked on the topics of frailty prevention and age-friendly communities (for example the [PASEO project](#), which focused on activity for sedentary older people). Under this

action, which aims to identify benchmarks and support twinning, coaching, and/or scaling up of good practices, 2.5 of the 9 million € dedicated for this year’s Work Plan will be available.

The call for proposals for the Health Programme opened on 5 June and closes on 15 September 2015. The maximum rate for EU co-financing is 60 %. However, co-financing of up to 80 % is possible, if a proposal meets the criteria for exceptional utility. The projects are supposed to provide high added value at EU level, involve at least three partners from different countries, be innovative and normally last no longer than three years.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[The 3rd EU Health Programme – The 2015 Work Plan](#)

[The 2015 call for proposals](#)

EACEA Call for tenders: Study on Youth Work and Youth Entrepreneurship

The Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture (EACEA) has opened a call for tenders for a Study on youth work and youth entrepreneurship. Following the Council conclusions of 20 May 2014 on promoting youth entrepreneurship to foster the social inclusion of young people, the study is supposed to provide data by evaluating entrepreneurial learning in youth work activities. The outcomes of the study will support the discussion on the Youth Work Plan 2016-2018 and will help to define priorities and fields of actions of the future EU youth strategy. Even though the study is primarily focused on promotion of entrepreneurship, a part of the study might consider sport as a non-formal instrument which stimulates creativity or social cohesion. This role was already highlighted in the

“Council conclusions on the role of grassroots sport in developing transversal skills” adopted in May.

The study is supposed to analyse the collected information to provide insights on several topics such as non-formal learning methods and tools in entrepreneurial learning of young people or recognition and validation of non-formal learning (including transversal skills) in youth work. Applicants are asked to submit tenders by 30 July 2015.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Tender for a Study on Youth Work and Youth Entrepreneurship](#)

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A Beginner's Guide to EU Funding

In order to provide an introduction to the EU funding opportunities, the European Commission has presented “A Beginner's Guide to EU Funding”. This 36-page publication offers basic guidance on the application procedures regarding the current EU programmes for the financial period 2014-2020.

Firstly, the Guide gives a general overview of the EU funding, but does not specifically refer to funding for sport. It specifies the main types of funding, i.e. grants and public contracts, and highlights the practical rules applying. It also distinguishes between direct and shared management of the EU funds and programmes and clarifies, who the relevant managing authorities are. Moreover, the Guide stresses the main principles of transparency, accountability and control and mentions how they are secured.

Secondly, the publication provides specific information on six main categories of potential applicants: small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs),

young people, researchers, farmers and public bodies. For each category, the Guide specifies what main and other funding sources in different fields exist and provide other useful information along with the relevant links.

The Guide summarises where potential applicants may find further information, presents the budgets of the 2014–20 programmes and explains the meaning of certain EU funding terms. Overall, the guide can be useful for an overview of the programmes and applications procedures.

Looking at EU funding for sports, the EOC EU Office has published a specialised brochure “Funding for Sports in the European Union 2014-2020”.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[A Beginner's Guide to EU Funding](#)

INTERNAL AND VISITS

First European Games took place in Baku

The first edition of the European Games was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 12 to 28 June 2015. The event, which is an equivalent of other already existing continental Games such as the Asian Games or the Pan American Games, was created by decision of the General Assembly of the European Olympic Committees in 2012.

The Games were opened by a stunning ceremony at the newly built Olympic Stadium. The audience,

which included EOC President Patrick Hickey, IOC President Thomas Bach and around 60 IOC members, attended the two-hour show, which presented the Azerbaijani history and culture and featuring 2,000 dancers and artists. Afterwards, President Hickey addressed the audience with a speech, in which he called the event “*the proudest moment in the history of the European Olympic Committees*” and “*the missing fifth ring to the Continental Games of the world*”.

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During the Games, which were broadcasted in 145 countries, more than 6,000 athletes from 50 European countries competed in 20 sports. In 11 sports, participants had the opportunity to qualify for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. Overall, more than 800 medals were won, with the most successful countries being Russia, Azerbaijan, Great Britain, Germany and France.

The next edition of the European Games is planned for 2019. The host city is supposed to be announced by the end of 2015.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Baku 2015](#)

PARTNERS' CORNER

NOC*NSF: Developments regarding Dutch Remote Gaming Bill

Many European Countries have dealt or are dealing with the regulation of online gambling. This is the case in the Netherlands, where the government is currently working on a Remote Gaming Bill. Draft legislation has been sent to Parliament, with the proposal being quite similar to the one implemented in Denmark.

NOC*NSF closely follows the developments on this Gaming Bill, as it can affect the integrity of sports and the financial allocations from lotteries to sports. NOC*NSF would like to share some experiences and impressions concerning the debate about this Gaming Bill, which have received much attention in the Netherlands and could probably be useful for the debate in other countries.

Income for sports from Lotteries and Betting

In the Netherlands, there is an ongoing debate on how to regulate online gambling and at the same time keeping contributions from lotteries to sports organisations and other beneficiaries on at least the current level. The Dutch Lottery for sports (LOTTO) handed out 43 million € to sports organisations in 2014 (53 million in 2011). Its contribution is important to finance the national

sports federations that organise sports in the Netherlands.

Dutch lotteries and beneficiaries of lotteries have organised themselves in a platform, to be able to speak with one voice. The platform has expressed concerns over the draft legislation, amongst others based on developments in Denmark. In Denmark the contribution to sports dropped by 20% between 2011 and 2014 after the new legislation came into force. New income, via sponsoring of large online betting companies, was often temporary and did not compensate for the loss of income.

The platform is still arguing for a so-called "controlled expansion" of the online gambling market in the Netherlands. The underlying thinking of controlled expansion is that the current licensed companies and the online betting companies all receive a limited number of licenses to offer online games. In this way it would be possible for the gambling authority to control the market and the government to adjust their policy if there are any unwanted effects of the new Gaming Bill. This approach also takes into account the contribution of several charities to society and the importance of the income they receive from the Lotteries.

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The Dutch government has been sensitive to the argument that the NOC*NSF has to protect the contribution from lotteries to charities and sport. They have therefore proposed measures to strengthen the current lotteries. The upcoming merger between LOTTO and the Dutch State Lottery is one of these measures. At the same time, the contribution to charities of some of the other lotteries will be reduced from 50% to 40%, which will allow them to increase their marketing budget, realising a higher turnover and enabling them to keep the contribution to the beneficiaries at the current level. However, the government did not adopt the idea of controlled expansion.

Integrity of sports, prevention of match fixing

Matches should be decided in the sports arena and not in the gambling market. Match fixing is a serious threat for sport and the integrity of the athletes, trainers and coaches. NOC*NSF has therefore developed several tools to prevent match fixing and developed rules that prohibit match fixing and betting, a “speak up point” (hotline) to report match fixing and an e-learning tool. NOC*NSF also educates its talents and athletes on the risks of match fixing and how to deal with them.

In this regard, the Gaming Bill also provides an important chance to prevent match fixing. It is important to have a debate on the type of games that can be offered. NOC*NSF has asked the government only to allow bets on the match results, amount of scored points/goals, athletes who score the points/goals, pool winners and finalists (1/16, 1/8, 1/4, 1/2). Bets should only be offered on games that are regulated in a proper manner and are registered via video. These

measures help to prevent spot fixing, negative betting (betting on red and yellow cards), spread betting, betting on competitions for players under 18 and for people that play sports on nonprofessional or recreational levels. For sports with a high risk of match fixing and for sports with expected high volume on betting, NOC*NSF suggested to develop a specific list of the types of bets and events that are. The French Online Gaming Regulatory Authority ARJEL, developed a list for most of the sports that is published on its [website](#).

Other points that are important to address in the debate are:

- A contribution to sports from government or betting companies to finance the program to prevent match fixing.
- Possibilities to exchange information on athletes that gamble on their own matches between gambling companies and sports federations.
- The development of an internationally acknowledged system to monitor movements in gambling.
- An obligation for gambling companies to report suspicious movements in gambling to sports federations and gambling authorities.

NOC*NSF finds it necessary to conduct more research on a European level on the consequences of the regulation of online gambling for the financial support from lotteries to sports and the integrity of sports.

*Emiel Krijt, writing for NOC*NSF.*

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Dates in July 2015

6	<i>Council Working Party on Sport, Brussels</i>
6-7	<i>Informal Meeting of Ministers of Sport, Luxembourg</i>
9	<i>European Week of Sport Web Conferences</i>
9	<i>SIGGS Steering Committee meeting at EOC EU Office, Brussels</i>
14	<i>EOC EU Office Sports Day, EOC EU Office closed</i>
21	<i>Belgian National Holiday, EOC EU Office closed</i>
25-01/08	<i>EYOF Summer Edition, Tbilisi</i>