

– The House of European Sport –

Tweets of the month



SIGGS Project

@SIGGS_EU 9 September

Check out the #SIGGS Project exhibition stand at European Week of Sport #BeActive Flagship Event on #GoodGovernance 15/09 Brussels @EuSport

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 14 July

Final meeting of #ExpertGroup #GoodGovernance today with Promotion #EU Principles and Protection of minors @EuSport

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 12 July

#FolkerHellmund @EOCEUOffice highlights importance of building on excellent @SantiagoFisas Report 2012 @EPCulture @HTakkula @sportintergroup

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 4 July

Slovak EU Presidency @eu2016sk started 1 July - #SportDiplomacy & #education in and through sport included as Priorities on sport @EuSport

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

With the start of September, the summer break in Europe comes to an end and the European Institutions resumed their work.

In the field of sport, the Slovak Presidency will finish its agenda by the end of the year. The Presidency is working hard to get Council conclusions on Sports Diplomacy adopted. The parallel initiative of Commissioner Navracsics from end of 2015 to set up a “High Level Group on Sport Diplomacy” is only partly linked to the work of the Council on this topic. The Commissioner has started an internal consultation process within the Commission on how the numerous recommendations of the High Level Group can be implemented. At this stage, it remains to be seen to which extent both initiatives on Sport diplomacy can be linked. Commissioner Navracsics intends to cooperate with Members States on Sports Diplomacy as he addressed all European Sport Ministers by letter at the end of August.

The discussion on the new Work Plan of the Sport Ministers (2017-2020) will start in late autumn after the European Commission has finalised its assessment of the current Work Plan 2014-2017. The EOC EU Office has already and will continue to contribute actively to the discussion on future structures and topics of the European sports policy. The Olympic Movement expects a future sports policy that is “solution-driven”. European Institutions and relevant sport stakeholders should commonly identify fields in which the EU can bring a real added value. More generally, the work of the EU should be focused on and limited to areas where concrete support can be given to sport actors.

September is also the month of the European Week of Sport #BeActive. The official opening ceremony of this second edition of the Week will take place in Kosice, Slovakia, on 10 September. The “Flagship-event” of the European Week will take place on 15 September in Brussels. The event is dedicated to the topic of Good Governance in sport. As one of the keynote speakers, Niels Nygaard, President of the Danish NOC and Member of the EOC Executive Committee, will represent the Olympic Movement. Similar to last year, the EOC is an official European partner of the Week and a number of National Olympic Committees are directly involved in the national activities as National Coordinating Bodies.

The SIGGS Project of the EOC EU Office, dealing with the implementation of Good Governance in Sport, enters its final phase. In September, a Strategic Workshop will be organised in Germany, together with a meeting of the Steering Committee. On 29 November, the Final Conference will be organised in Brussels to conclude the project and present the outcomes, including the final version of the self-evaluation tool. In case you are interested in the SIGGS Project, you are invited to visit the exhibition stand of the SIGGS Project at the Flagship Event of the European Week of Sport on 15 September.

Enjoy your read,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Folker Hellmund', written in a cursive style.

Folker Hellmund

Director EOC EU Office

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

Changes in the order of EU Council Presidencies

On 26 July 2016, the Council of the EU decided to change the order, in which Member States will hold their Presidencies until 2030 (the previous decision concerned only the period until June 2020). The new order is the consequence of the UK's decision to relinquish its Presidency which was scheduled for the second half of 2017, following the "Brexit" referendum. Additionally, Croatia was added to the list for the period January-June 2020 as it was not yet a Member State at the time of the previous decision.

It is worth mentioning that Estonia, which will assume its Presidency tasks on July 2017 (half a

year earlier than originally envisaged), has already published, in its "EU policy 2015-2019" document, a set of priorities for all policy sectors, including sport. According to this strategy, integrity of sport, including the promotion of the Council of Europe's Convention on the Manipulation on Sports Competitions, will be high on the Estonia's Presidency agenda.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Council-New order of Presidencies](#)

[Estonian's European Union Policy 2015-2019](#)

Malta	January-June	2017	Belgium	January-June	2024
Estonia	July-December	2017	Hungary	July-December	2024
Bulgaria	January-June	2018	Poland	January-June	2025
Austria	July-December	2018	Denmark	July-December	2025
Romania	January-June	2019	Cyprus	January-June	2026
Finland	July-December	2019	Ireland	July-December	2026
Croatia	January-June	2020	Lithuania	January-June	2027
Germany	July-December	2020	Greece	July-December	2027
Portugal	January-June	2021	Italy	January-June	2028
Slovenia	July-December	2021	Latvia	July-December	2028
France	January-June	2022	Luxembourg	January-June	2029
Czech Republic	July-December	2022	Netherlands	July-December	2029
Sweden	January-June	2023	Slovakia	January-June	2030
Spain	July-December	2023	Malta	July-December	2030

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CULT Committee meeting on the priorities of the Slovak EU Presidency

On 13 July 2016, the Ministers for Education, Science, Research and for Sport and Culture, Peter Plavčan and Marek Maďarič, presented the priorities of the Slovak Presidency in regards to Sport, Education and Culture to the CULT Committee of the EU Parliament.

Marek Maďarič first addressed the follow-up of the revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive and underlined the protection of minors as one of the top priorities of the Slovak Presidency. He added that the Slovak Presidency will lead the negotiations in the coming months and will present a progress report at the Council meeting in November.

Additionally, he pointed out that the Slovak Presidency's main focus within the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council will be on fostering and developing talents by introducing attractive approaches concerning the inclusion of children, working with high-achievers as well as the identification of special talents of children.

Among the other priorities during the Agenda, Plavčan also referred to the evaluation of the second EU Work Plan on Sport, as well as the possible drafting of a third one.



The issue of doping is also foreseen as one of the topics to be discussed during the second edition of the European Week of Sport (10-16 September 2016), which will be organised by the EU Commission. Commissioner Navracsics will officially open the Week during a starting event, which will be organised in Košice, Slovakia, on 10 September 2016.

On a final note, Peter Plavčan, informed that the formal Sports Ministers Council meeting will take place on 21-22 November 2016, during which the sport directors will discuss the results of the priorities of the Slovakian Presidency.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Videportal for the CULT Committee Meeting on the Priorities of the Slovak Presidency of the EU](#)

Presidency Conference on education and sport diplomacy in Bratislava

On 18-19 July 2016, the Slovak capital Bratislava hosted a Presidency Conference on "Education in and through Sport. Beyond Borders." Organised by the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU the title of the Conference reflected its priorities in the fields of education, science, research, sport and youth: "Fostering and development of talent", and adds a new dimension to the EU sport policy - sport diplomacy.

Topics and choice of speakers echoed the SK Presidency's focus on international affairs and values. Guests from New Zealand (Ian Culpan,

Director of the New Zealand Centre for Olympic Studies and the University of Canterbury), Mexico (Ivan Sisniega, former Sport Minister and Olympian), and the President of the Malawi Olympic Committee, Oscar Kanjala, spoke about values in sport, the impact of sport on personal development, or sport's potential for the integration in society.

The importance of an Olympic education and the education on Olympic values was reiterated by Yvan de Navacelle de Coubertin, nephew of the founder of the Modern Olympic Movement.

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Following this, the President of the Slovak Olympic Committee (SK NOC), Frantisek Chmelar, spoke about the close relationship between sport, culture and education and presented several activities of the SK NOC, which promote this natural partnership. Inclusiveness and sport's role in this regard was discussed by the President of the Slovak Paralympic Committee and famous Paralympian, Jan Riapos.

In his presentation, the German professor and lead expert on Major sport events in the Council Expert Group on the Economic Dimension of Sport, Holger Preuss, described those events as a good opportunity for “change management” in the field of education, whereby the increased visibility of sport and physical activity can allow for changes in policy which may normally take much longer or may not take place at all (e.g. the increase of the number of PE classes in schools). He also stressed that even though not a mandatory part of the process, the bidding committees should include education in their programmes and budget.

To complete the academic and institutional outlook with a personal perspective, Martina Moravcova, Slovak double silver medallist from the Sydney Olympics, shared her experience with combining education and a high-level sporting career and stressed the utmost importance of dual careers systems. Giovanni Di Cola, special advisor to the International Labour Organisation, then completed the discussions by looking at education in and through sport from a labour market perspective.

On the second day of the Conference, participants were brought together in a number of workshops, where the topics of the previous day were discussed in more depth. The Director of the EOC EU Office, Folker Hellmund, chaired a workshop on the topic of “*Education and sport diplomacy in the context of international sporting events*”, where the necessity of closer cooperation



between governments and the sport sector, and the crucial role of education at all levels, were stressed.

The recommendations from these workshops, as well as information and good practices presented by the European Commission and representatives of Finland, Latvia and Luxembourg, were reflected in the conference conclusions presented by Thierry Zintz, Vice-President of the Belgian Olympic Committee, and special advisor of the SK Presidency in the field of sport. Among other things, the conclusions included a recommendation to follow-up on the work of the Dutch Presidency on major sport events, or a re-initiation of a network of “National Ambassadors for Tolerance and Fair Play in Sport”, introduced originally at the end of 1990s by the Council of Europe.

The conference conclusions as well as the content from the deliberations will serve as a basis of the draft Council Conclusions on Sport diplomacy, which are to be adopted by the Sport Ministers in November 2016. Partners of the EOC EU Office will find them on the Intranet.

An informal meeting of Sport Directors took place right after the end of the conference. The following topics were on the agenda: Support to and development of talent in sport, education in and through sport, and sport diplomacy.

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European Sport Ministers publish statement on fight against doping

On 30 July 2016, 20 European Sports Ministers issued a statement on the fight against doping. The statement was initiated and circulated by the Danish Minister responsible for sport, Bertel Haarder, prior to the 2016 Rio Olympics.

The signatory countries state their support for the World Anti-Doping Organisation (WADA) and the rights of clean athletes, and call upon all state parties that have signed the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport to fulfil the requirements.

Sport organisations are asked to use their existing rules and regulations to fully comply with the WADA Code and to proactively promote initiatives and measures to protect the integrity of sport, the

credibility of WADA and the vast majority of clean athletes.

The following countries supported the statement: Austria, Belgium (the three Communities of Belgium), Bulgaria, Croatia, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden and United Kingdom.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press release of the Danish Ministry for Culture: “European ministers of sport issue anti-doping statement” – 30/07/2016](#)

Better regulation: Online possibilities to contribute to EU policy-making

As of 1 July 2016, the European Commission has opened up another part of the EU decision-making process for stakeholder input. Following the Commission’s “Better Regulation for Better Results Agenda” on 19 May 2015, with its main priority to improve the work of the EU, its institutions, and its body of law, towards providing better service to the EU citizens and businesses, this new online feedback tool is part of the Commission’s new web presence. Now, draft delegated and implementing acts will be put online and will be open for public feedback for a period of four weeks. This also allows sport stakeholders to comment relevant policy initiatives.

In his statement, the Commission’s First Vice-President Frans Timmermans announced that stakeholders will now be able to give their views for the first time on delegated and implementing acts, before they are adopted by the Commission.

Roadmaps for new initiatives, legislative proposals, public consultations and now draft delegated and implementing acts are all open for stakeholder comments and contributions. Citizens and stakeholders can also send their suggestions for administrative burden reduction under existing EU rules through the so-called *Lighten the Load* website.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Commission press release of 1 July 2016: “Better regulation: Commission offers new opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the law-making process”](#)

[European Commission’s information page on how to contribute to the EU law-making process](#)
[Communication from the Commission “Better regulation for better results - An EU agenda”](#)

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Meeting of working group on Migration crisis and football stakeholders

On 14 June 2016, the informal working group on “Migration crisis and football stakeholders” organised its fourth meeting in Brussels.

After an introduction given by Antonio Silva Mendes, Director of Youth and Sport at DG Education and Culture of the European Commission (DG EAC), representatives of several football organisations and of the Sport Unit of the European Commission discussed the study mapping best practices for the integration of migrants through sport and the new call for proposals “Promoting HEPA policy measures and actions for refugees”.

Marcelo Corrado, Policy Officer at the Sport Unit, presented the first results of the study on “Mapping of good practices relating to social inclusion of migrants through sport”. Conducted by Ecorys during the period April-May 2016, the aim of the study is to provide an overview of the different types of sport-related projects used to support the social inclusion of migrants, as well as identify the key elements leading to a successful project. Corrado’s presentation focused on the theoretical framework of the study, which classifies 61 projects based on desk research and interviews following a two-tier typology:

1. Function of sport in the project and
2. Objectives intended to be achieved.

Furthermore, he explained that the study identified several success factors for the efficiency of projects including a positive societal context, the engagement of the migrant population in the design of the project and the importance of encouraging cultural exchanges. The study also underlines the challenges for sport organisations, notably regarding cultural sensitivity as well as financial and administrative capacity.

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to the recent call for proposals “Promoting HEPA policy measures and actions for refugees”. (See the dedicated article in the monthly report of June). Marcello Corrado first explained the practical information on the call: the budget of 600.000 €, the maximum grant of 60.000 € and the need to have at least 100 refugees involved in the project. Then he stated that the main objective of the call is to support good practice at the national level as there is no need for a transnational partnership, which means that although European networks can apply, they are not the main target.

The informal working group will hold a fifth meeting in September.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Webpage Migrants and Sport of the European Commission](#)

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Ski instructors prominent on Commission’s “free movement” agenda

In a decision published on 22 July 2016, the European Commission announced that it would take Austria to the Court of Justice of the EU due to *“the restrictions some Austrian provinces still impose on ski instructors coming from other EU countries.”* The mutual recognition of professional qualifications of ski instructors has been on the EU’s agenda for a number of years (for more information, see the January issue of our Monthly report).

While many issues stemming from the complex and detailed national requirements for recognition of qualifications and especially from certain (mostly Alpine) countries have been solved, and/or are being dealt with through the process of setting-up a common training test for ski instructors, the Commission has concluded that some of the requirements in the Austrian regions of Tyrol and Styria discriminate against non-Austrian ski instructors without justification.

In Tyrol, for example, the Commission found that *“the regional legislation prevents foreign ski instructors from accepting clients already present in Austria, thus limiting their right to provide services to clients they accompany from the country where the respective ski school or ski instructor is established.”*

The European Commission already started investigating these cases more than two years ago. Following the *infringement procedure*, it first

raised its concerns in reasoned opinions in July 2014 and in June 2015. Only then, when it deemed that Austria had not adequately addressed these concerns and had not taken measures to remedy the situation, the Commission decided to finalise the procedure by referring the Austrian authorities to the Court of Justice of the EU.

The EOC EU Office will follow the Court’s procedure and report about the developments in the following Monthly Report issues.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press release: Freedom to provide services: Commission refers Austria to Court of Justice of the EU over restrictions on foreign ski instructors](#)

[Press release: Decisions of the European Commission in July 2014](#)

[Factsheet: Decisions made by the European Commission June 2015](#)

[EU Infringement procedure](#)

[Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications \(rules for the “Common Training Test”\)](#)

[Study to assess the state of play and map the current situation in all EU Member State EU](#)

EP: IMCO Committee votes on report on Firearms Directive

The European Parliament’s Internal Market Committee (IMCO) adopted its report on the reform of the EU Firearms Directive on 13 July 2016. The report amends several aspects of the European Commission’s proposal, notably regarding aspects of sports shooting.

In November 2015, the European Commission adopted a package of measures to strengthen the provisions on the acquisition, possession and import/export of firearms in the European Union. Having announced to review the existing firearms legislation in 2016, the Commission decided to

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accelerate this work in light of the terrorist attacks in Europe. Some of the provisions included in the Commission's proposal would have had an impact on sports shooting, in particular regarding the ban of certain categories of semi-automatic weapons – although none of these affected Olympic disciplines.

The IMCO committee notably added a new possibility for Member States to authorise acquisition and possession of firearms, under the conditions that marksmen are part of a recognised shooting club or taking part in officially organised shooting competitions (Art. 16a).

The IMCO report is tabled for a plenary reading and vote, which is expected to take place on 22 November 2016, opening the way for subsequent trilogue negotiations between

Commission, Council and Parliament. The Home Affairs Council had agreed its general approach on 8 June 2016.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Parliament Press release – 13/07/2016: “Gun control: MEPs clarify licensing rules and safeguards”](#)

[European Parliament Think Tank: Briefing on “Control of the acquisition and possession of weapons” \(May 2016\)](#)

[Commission Proposal on the “Firearms Directive” \(18/11/2015\)](#)

[General Approach of the Council of the EU regarding the “Firearms Directive” \(8/06/2016\)](#)

Sport stakeholder meeting on upcoming Parliament Report on sport

On 12 July, Mr. Hannu Takkula, Member of the European Parliament (ALDE Group, Finland) and Rapporteur of the upcoming own-initiative Report on an integrated approach to sport policy, organised an exchange of views with sport stakeholders. This meeting was part of the consultation process in the run-up of the presentation of the draft Report in the responsible Culture and Education Committee (CULT) scheduled for September 2016.

For the sport stakeholder meeting, two main speakers were invited to present their views and to start the debate: Mr. Humbert de Biolley, Deputy Head of the Council of Europe Office in Brussels, and Mr. Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office. Whereas Mr. de Biolley mainly focused on the Conventions of the Council of Europe and the Council's activities in the field of good governance, Folker Hellmund addressed the wider EU sport policy and the role that the European Parliament can play in this policy during his keynote address on the contribution of the

Olympic Movement. In terms of accessibility, he referred for instance to the sustainable financing of sport and to the access of grassroots sport actors to Erasmus+ Sport. Furthermore, Folker Hellmund also called upon the European Parliament to seize the opportunity of the Report to contribute to the promotion of the positive aspects of sport, to focus also on grassroots sports and to impact or to inspire upcoming initiatives such as the new EU Work Plan for Sport 2017-2020 of the Sport Ministers or the negotiations on the future EU Funding Programmes.

In the following debate, many sport stakeholders took the floor building on the three key topics that will be the basis for the report: accessibility, integrity and good governance. Among the sport organisations that expressed their views were the International Equestrian Federation, WADA, FIFA, UEFA, ENGSO and European Lotteries.

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NEXT MONTH

Dates in September 2016

7-18 September	<i>Paralympic Games, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)</i>
10-16 September	<i>European Week of Sport, Brussels</i>
15 September	<i>Flagship Event on “Good Governance” of the European Week of Sport, Brussels</i>
21 September	<i>Strategic Workshop SIGGS Project, Frankfurt (Germany)</i>
22 September	<i>SIGGS Steering Committee, Frankfurt (Germany)</i>
23 September	<i>3rd EOC Executive Committee Meeting, Bratislava (Slovakia)</i>
27 September	<i>Meeting EP Sport Intergroup: “Sport and Youth”, Brussels</i>
28 September	<i>Hearing EPP group in EP CULT Committee on “Erasmus+”, Brussels</i>