

MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 2021



EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES

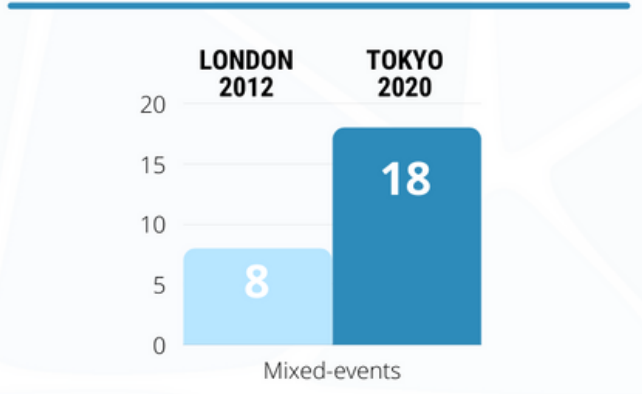


EU
Office

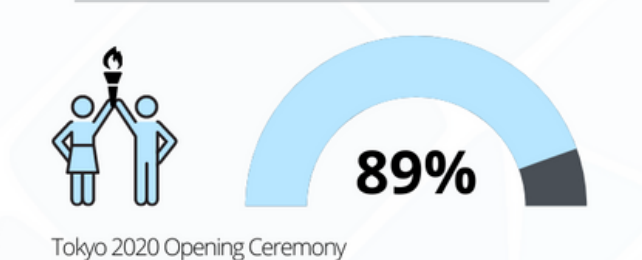


FACTS & FIGURES

TOKYO 2020: ANOTHER STEP FORWARD TO SHOWCASE WOMEN ATHLETES EQUALLY ON THE WORLD STAGE



Tokyo 2020 will feature **18 mixed events** compared to **8** at London 2012.



89% of NOC athlete delegations were led into the Olympic Stadium by **both women and men.**

- Editorial 4



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

- Slovenia takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union 5
- EOC EU Office participates in the Stakeholder Consultation of the EP Report on the Future of Sport in the EU 6
- The European Parliament calls for a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Olympics 7
- The European Commission proposes a set of legislations for a climate-neutral economy in 2050 8
- The European Commission releases a study on performance enhancing drugs in the EU 9
- Briefing: fighting discrimination in sport 10
- Artificial turf pitches: Commission adopts restriction of PAHs found in rubber granules and mulches 11



PARTNERS' CORNER

- DOSB: open letter for equality in sports coverage 12
- RINGS project meeting 13
- Upcoming events 14



EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

While political Brussels is slowly taking its summer break and the Slovenian EU Presidency, which has just begun, is already shifting down a gear, the world of sport is still on fire. After the European Championships in football, the Olympic Games have started in Tokyo. The challenges posed by the worldwide pandemic are obvious and have been the subject of much controversy. Opinions are not uniform, even among athletes. The Japanese population is also clearly divided into supporters and opponents of hosting the Games. However, if a sporting event of this dimension were to be successful in terms of hygiene and safety, the Olympic Games could also provide important insights for all future major sporting events.

Another important issue that all sports federations have to face up to is the mental stress that top athletes are exposed to. The withdrawals of Simone Biles and Naomi Osaka give an idea of the pressure top athletes are under. The high expectations of the public, the sporting and private environment and the special role of social media represent an enormous challenge for all top athletes. The special living conditions due to the pandemic, which increases isolation, is certainly an additional burden. EU-funded projects have also addressed the issue of athletes' mental health in the past. There is a case for increasing efforts in this area.

The European Parliament will adopt its report on the future of sport in the EU in autumn. In the past, the EP's reports from Fisas and Takkula have provided some impetus, including the initiative for the European Week of Sport. It would be desirable for the report to focus on new approaches of cooperation between European institutions and sports federations. Many topics such as sustainable sports infrastructures, dual careers, integrity of sport or the fight against racism and anti-discrimination can only be achieved in close cooperation between politics and sport.

Another announcement on our own behalf: The EOC EU Office also follows the rhythm of the EU institutions and goes into summer break. The next monthly report will reach you as usual at the end of September. The entire EOC EU Office wishes all partners and readers a relaxing summer holiday and looks forward to further cooperation in the coming months!

Stay healthy and all the best for 2021!



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

Slovenia takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union

On 1 July, Slovenia took over the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU until 31 December 2021. The Presidency had been held by Portugal for the previous half-year and will be followed in 2022 by France.

The Council is the EU Institution that brings together responsible Ministers from the EU Member States intending to coordinate policies in specific fields. To achieve this goal, 10 different Council configurations are covering different subjects, including the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council configuration (EYCS).



In light of the impacts the Covid-19 pandemic has had on health, economies, social life and restricted travel, the Slovenian Presidency has chosen the motto “Together. Resilient. Europe” and has declared **four priority areas** to build a resilient Europe that is better prepared for the challenges ahead. The **focus** will be on recovery and resilience, translating ambitious green goals into binding legislation, strategic autonomy, the digital transition, rule of law and the protection of external borders.

“The Slovenian Presidency comes at a critical moment for Europe, as we look to rebuild our Union after the Covid-19 pandemic” - President of the European Parliament David Sassoli.

SPORT UNDER THE SLOVENIAN COUNCIL PRESIDENCY

More interestingly for the sport sector, holding

the Council Presidency also means chairing the meetings of the different Council configurations and the Council's preparatory bodies. This includes the **Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council** and its preparatory body, the **Working Party on Sport**. Slovenia will therefore take on a prominent role in leading and shaping the agenda of these meetings.

As part of the **EU Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024**, the Slovenian Presidency will cover the European Model of Sport, Promotion of lifelong physical activity and Athletes' Dual Careers.

Furthermore, the **programme of the Slovenian Presidency** includes one sub-chapter that is dedicated to sport.

“The Slovenian Presidency intends to prepare a Council Resolution on the European model of sport,...”. This will also include the impact of closed sport competitions on the system of organised sport.

An additional set of Council Conclusions is planned for the promotion of lifelong physical activity. “The Slovenian Presidency will work to establish and implement the concept of lifelong physical activity,..”. Moreover, the “Healthy Lifestyle 4 All”-seminar, hosted by the European Commission, which is also the opening of the European Week of Sport will take place during the Slovenian Presidency

Furthermore, the “Slovenian Presidency, together with the Member States and the European Commission, will examine the possibilities of revising the 2019 WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) Resolution..”.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Official website of the SI Presidency](#)

[Official programme of the SI Presidency](#)

EOC EU Office participates in the Stakeholder Consultation of the EP Report on the Future of Sport in the EU

On 29 June, the first stakeholder consultation concerning the European Parliament's Report "EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward" took place. Starting with a study on EU sports policy, the stakeholder consultation is another milestone in the development of the EP Report. Happening once per Parliamentary term, the publication of such a report is an important opportunity for the European Parliament to address its views, but also to the sports movement, to have their interests being heard and included in the document. Consequently, the interest to participate in the stakeholder consultation was so big, that a second part of the meeting needed to be scheduled for 1 July.

Before the sport's stakeholders were asked to make their statements with remarks and recommendations to be considered in the report, Luka Živić representing the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, shortly introduced the sport-related priorities of the Presidency including the promotion of lifelong physical activity in light of the impact of Covid-19 on physical activity levels, European Sport Model with the focus on impact of closed competitions and sport in the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Floor van Houdt, Head of Sport Unit from the European Commission added that the re-opening of sport and re-gaining connections to sports clubs ought to be among the priorities for the months following the Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, she raised awareness about the "HealthyLifestyle4All" – Campaign. It will be a holistic campaign combining initiatives from diet to health policies to transport. Lastly, she called on the sports movement as part of the civil society to engage in green sport.

Participants in the stakeholder consultation were ranging from representatives of sport umbrella organisations, international federations, leagues, athlete representative bodies, cultural organisations, NGOs to school sports organisations, sports goods industry and fans. Each of the representatives was given 5 minutes to state all of their recommendations, wishes, concerns or exemplary cases for the report but were also invited to send written contributions to the rapporteurs' office.

The majority of the present stakeholders could agree with the EOC EU Office's Deputy Director Heidi Pekkola, who underlined that in general, a collaborative approach between the European Parliament and the sport movement would be beneficial for sport in Europe. In line with this a further mainstreaming of sport was requested to foster synergies of sports and other policy fields but also to mutually enlarge areas for activity.



Furthermore, she stressed the importance to safeguard the European Sport Model, take sustainability and climate action high on the agenda, continue to work on the integrity topics as well as the importance of recovery and resilience of the sport movement from Covid-19 including grassroots sports and the role of sports clubs. Also ensuring EU funding for sport from different funding programmes was part of the EOC EU Office's requests.

The most mentioned topic over the two days was the European Sport Model. This model reflects the specific organisation of sport in Europe and is characterised by a pyramidal structure and the principle of solidarity, one federation per sport and per country, open competitions and is a value-based model.

Kamil Novak, Executive Director from FIBA Europe impressively described the threat of commercialisation on the European Model of Sport using the example of European basketball

and reinforced the need to safeguard its principles in his intervention. Nevertheless, some stakeholders pointed out that besides the fundamental values of the Model it would be useful to assess the model's suitability against current challenges.

Furthermore, for instance the following topics were raised during the event: professionalisation of the sport sector including structures and processes; and innovation and digitalisation.

The draft report is to be submitted by mid-July and the MEPs can propose amendments until mid-September.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[EU Sports Policy Study](#)

The European Parliament calls for a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Olympics

On 8 July, the European Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) on Hong Kong and the Chinese government, in which Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) call for a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. The resolution states: "the European Parliament calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to decline invitations for government representatives and diplomats to attend the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics unless the Chinese Government demonstrates a verifiable improvement in the human rights situation in Hong Kong, the Xinjiang Uyghur Region, Tibet, Inner Mongolia and elsewhere in China".

The resolution was adopted by 578 votes in favour, 29 against and 73 abstentions. This text is legally not binding, however, reflects a current trend among a number of MEPs

The day before the adoption of the resolution, an event was organised by MEPs about "the Beijing Olympics and Human Rights". MEPs Viola Von Cramon (Germany, The Greens), Reinhard Bütikofer (Germany, The Greens) had invited Raphaël Glucksmann (France, S&D) as well as representatives of EU Athletes and the NGO Human Rights Watch. Speakers called for a diplomatic boycott of the Beijing Olympics, and the IOC was asked to review rule 50 of the Olympic Charter.

The Olympic Movement will remain in close exchange with the European Institutions in order to exchange views on the future roles of governments and sport organisations in the field of human rights and sport.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Parliament resolution](#)

The European Commission proposes a set of legislations for a climate-neutral economy in 2050

In line with the official publication of the [European Climate Law](#) earlier this month, on 14 July the European Commission put forward a dozen of legislative proposals under the “[Fit for 55 package](#)”. This package was designed to align the EU’s climate legislation (and policies) with the objectives of a 55% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, and climate neutrality in 2050, set by the Climate Law.

With the Fit for 55 package, the European Commission notably proposed the adoption or revision of legislation on:

- [Renewable energy](#)
- [Energy efficiency](#)
- [Energy taxation](#)
- [The Emissions Trading Scheme \(ETS\)](#) and the [Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism \(CBAM\)](#)
- [Land use and forestry](#)
- [CO2 emissions](#) and [alternative fuels infrastructures](#)

Some of the new objectives include an increased target of 40% of European energy produced from renewable sources (up from 32%), the renovation of 3% of public sector buildings each year, all new cars to be zero-emission by 2035 and charging points for electric vehicles every 60km.

A [Social Climate Fund](#) was also proposed, to provide Member States with additional resources to support their citizens’ investments in renovation, new heating and cooling systems, and cleaner mobility. If adopted, this Fund of €72,2 billion for 2025-2032 would be financed from the EU budget, including revenues of emissions trading for building and road transport.

Following the publication of the proposals, the Vice-President for the European Green Deal,

Frans Timmermans, stated: “This is the make-or-break decade in the fight against the climate and biodiversity crises. Getting to a green and healthy future for all will require considerable effort in every sector and every Member State. Together, our proposals will spur the necessary changes, enable all citizens to experience the benefits of climate action as soon as possible, and provide support to the most vulnerable households”.

The European Commission’s proposals will now be debated, amended and later adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, a process that will take a few years before the texts are effectively implemented. Public consultations on nine of the texts are open until 10 September and all EU citizens and organisations are welcome to share their feedback.

The same week, on 16 July, the European Commission published its new [EU Forest Strategy for 2030](#), which completes the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) and is aimed at contributing to the Fit for 55 package’s objectives. A non-binding document, this strategy sets a vision and actions to increase the quantity and quality of European forests and improving their protection, restoration and resilience to new climatic conditions.

While the sport sector is not explicitly included in these proposals, [most of them are relevant for sport organisations](#) (e.g. renovation of sport infrastructure, phasing out of combustion engine cars, use of forests for the practice of sport etc.), as all sectors of the economy will need to comply to the binding (legal) targets and take part in the transition into a less resource-intensive model.

The EOC EU Office will analyse the proposals in detail and evaluate their potential impact on the sport sector in the coming weeks. The respective topics will be further discussed during the next webinars of our series on “the Olympic movement and climate action” with the IOC.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Delivering the European Green Deal](#)

[Public consultations](#)

The European Commission releases a study on performance enhancing drugs in the EU

The European Commission released a [study on the fight against anabolic steroids \(AAS\), human growth hormones \(HGHs\) and prohibited methods in sport](#). With this study, the European Commission aimed at evaluating the legislation in place at national and European levels, regarding the possession, production, importation, trafficking, distribution, use and sale of AAS, HGHs and prohibited methods such as blood transfusions. The study also looks at the actors of enforcement, investigation and implementation of the legislation (ministries, customs, justice, police, etc.).

A significant increase of the trade of performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) is to be noticed, including online, with a growing presence of unregulated online pharmacies on the dark web and cryptocurrencies to purchase supplies. The majority of steroids usage takes place at lower levels (in regional or local competitions or in recreational settings such as gyms or fitness centres), the authors state. A cited study on young amateur athletes showed that 18,3% of respondents had used PEDs at least once. At professional level, 46% of anti-doping violations related to steroids were detected among bodybuilders, weightlifters or powerlifters, another study reported.

After an evaluation of existing EU and national legislation on the matter, the authors identify a number of limits that hinder a fully efficient fight against PEDs. The first barrier is that the EU does not have the legal means to adopt legislation that address the use of steroids in sport. PEDs are addressed by 51 different pieces of legislation related to medicines, food, health, customs, drugs, etc., that do not focus on those substances and their use in sport. At national level, a certain heterogeneity is noted. Not all countries have legislation covering anti-doping among amateurs and only four (Austria, France, Germany and Sweden) have a single overarching anti-doping legislation. In some countries, doping among professionals is considered to be a criminal offence, while others list it as civil offence.

This lack of coherence in legislative frameworks and political priority is combined with a lack of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of legislation, a lack of resources in enforcement agencies and a lack of information sharing and cooperation, whether it is between national actors or among Member States.

The study concludes by a set of recommendations that include:

- Better monitoring and evaluation procedures to assess the implementation of EU legislation
- The amendment of EU medicines legislation to include the WADA list of prohibited substances (including AAS, HGHs)
- Awareness raising and education of actors in the field, government, athletes, users, of the health risks, at EU and national level
- The harmonisation of sanctions for the use, sale, possession, distribution, trafficking of those substances
- Better coordination among Member States and cooperation with WADA, the Council of Europe, etc.
- At national level, a specific focus on the sale of prohibited substances on the Internet.

The fight against doping is at the core of our work at the EOC EU Office, alongside other good governance principles, as illustrated notably by our EU-funded projects S4GG, SIGGS, POINTS and RINGS. Our team cooperates closely with the Council of Europe and the World Anti-Doping Agency and welcomes the recommendation to enhance coordination with such international institutions.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Commission's webpage on the study](#)

Briefing: fighting discrimination in sport

On 9 July, the European Parliament published a briefing on 'Fighting discrimination in sport' that provides information on the state of play of discrimination in sport, with a focus on racism and homophobia.

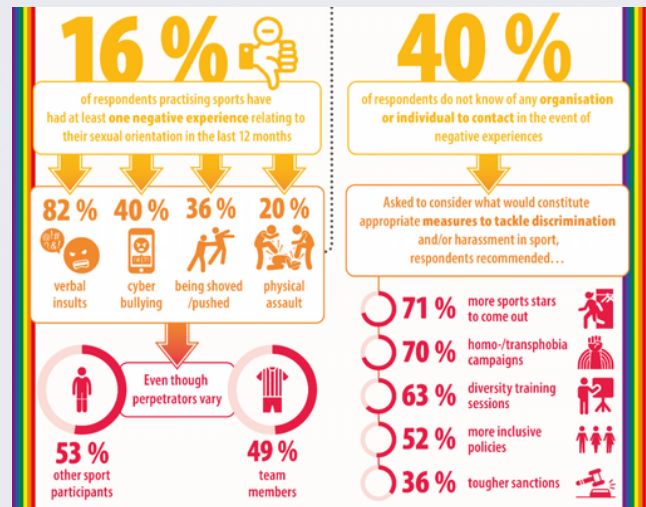
DISCRIMINATION IN SPORT

While an extensive framework of legislation built by the European Union condemns all types of discrimination (see chapter on 'Legal and policy framework'), a survey published in 2018 showed that 90% of the respondents perceive homo-/transphobia to be a problem in sport, while almost one in five respondents had refrained from participating in a sport that they felt attracted to as a result of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity (2018 Outsport, 'The relevance of sexual orientation and gender identity in sport in Europe').

Furthermore, according to another survey published in 2017, 3% of respondents had experienced racist violence in 2016, with another 24% having been exposed to racist harassment in that period (2017 FRA 'Minorities and Discrimination Survey').

Worryingly, 'hate-motivated violence and harassment often go unreported', making these numbers very likely to be underestimated.

The study also addresses gender equality and underlines that woman are still under-represented in leading and coaching positions. Only 14% of all top decision-making positions in EU individual sports federations were occupied by women in 2015, the study also states.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN SPORT

In the past, numerous projects focused on combatting violence, discrimination and intolerance in sport, or promoting social inclusion and equal opportunities in sport were granted by the Erasmus+ Programme: €7.5 million in 2014, and €8 million in 2019. It is worth noting that Erasmus+ in the 2021-2027 period offers opportunities to engage towards discrimination through **small-scale partnerships**, **cooperation partnerships** and **not-for profit sport events**.

Moreover, the promotion of inclusion in sport is also eligible to several **Pilot projects and preparatory actions**. For instance, the European Gay and Lesbian Sports Federation (EGLSF) runs a **series of projects and actions** financed by preparatory actions. The EOC EU Office stands at the disposal of its partners wishing to start projects on minorities rights protection and fight against discrimination in sport.

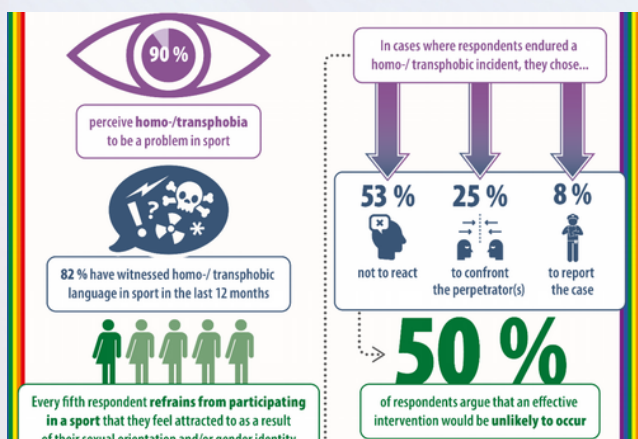
FURTHER INFORMATION

Briefing: Fighting discrimination in sport

The relevance of sexual orientation and gender identity in sport in Europe, Outsport 2018

Minorities and Discrimination Survey, FRA 2017

EuroGames



Artificial turf pitches: Commission adopts restriction of PAHs found in rubber granules and mulches

The European Commission has adopted a restriction of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) found in rubber granules and mulches used as infill on artificial sports pitches and playgrounds.

The allowed concentration limits for eight PAHs will be lowered to 20 mg/kg as recommended by ECHA's scientific committees. The current limits are 100 mg/kg or 1 000 mg/kg following entry 28 of the List of restrictions (Annex XVII).

The current concentration limits were considered too high to ensure adequate protection of human health. Particular reference was made to the increased cancer risk from PAHs. The restriction would render 5 % of the currently produced granules in compliance if the application of the restriction were to become effective immediately. Therefore, a 12-month transitional period has been proposed and the restriction initiated by the Dutch authorities will thus apply from 10 August 2022.

Specifically, the regulation states:

“10. Granules or mulches shall not be used as infill material in synthetic turf pitches or in loose form on playgrounds or in sport applications if they contain more than 20 mg/kg (0,002 % by weight) of the sum of all listed PAHs.”

Likewise, a ban on the placing on the market of PAHs in the concentration mentioned applies.

In the second ECHA procedure related to artificial turf pitches, the restriction of microplastics, the EOC EU Office expects the Commission proposal on restrictions in September. This proposal will then have to be adopted in the comitology procedure.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Commission Regulation on PAHs on artificial turf pitches](#)

[ECHA – PAHs restriction documentation](#)

[ECHA – PAHs info page](#)



PARTNERS' CORNER

DOSB: open letter for equality in sports coverage

Against the background of the Olympic Games in Tokyo, the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) has sent an open letter to German media institutions drawing attention to the unequal treatment of female athletes compared to their male colleagues in sports reporting and encouraging balanced and equal sports coverage. The letter was addressed to the German Newspaper Publishers and Digitalpublishers Association (BDZV), the ARD chair, the ZDF director and the VAUNET-Verband Privater Medien e. V. (Association of Private Media).

In concrete terms, DOSB Vice President Women and Equality Dr. Petra Tzschope called for ensuring balanced and equal sports reporting - without stereotypical and discriminatory portrayals of female athletes in words and pictures. The DOSB called on those responsible to take this demand into account in future editorial decisions.

Currently, with the exception of major events such as the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games, female athletes receive on average only 10 per cent of the media attention in sports coverage.

The [#ShowUsEqual](#) - For Equality in the (Sports) Media initiative was accompanied by Team Germany athletes and other supporters on various digital channels such as Instagram and TikTok.



FURTHER INFORMATION

[Gleichstellung: ShowUsEqual](#)

[DOSB Press Release](#)

[To the Open Letter](#)

RINGS project meeting

The first part of the [RINGS project](#) comes to an end, and the different tools - Public Affairs Guidelines, Handbook on Strategic Management, and the design of the Stakeholder Tool - are about to get finalised. Therefore, on 6 July, the RINGS project consortium met online and had fruitful discussions on the state of the play with the different tools as well as on the planning of upcoming events.

After the Opening by EOC EU Office Director, Folker Hellmund, RINGS Project Manager Heidi Pekkola, RINGS Project Manager, reminded that the second part of the project - being the testing, dissemination, adoption and the final launch of the tools - was about to begin. This is the reason why all project partners were invited to share their inputs on the different tools and to share their point of view on the next partners meeting organisation.

Currently, several lists of actions dedicated to 10 different stakeholder groups are being developed for the RINGS Stakeholder Tool. Partners were asked to provide their feedback and comments. Regarding the Public Affairs Guidelines Mikkel Larsen, Danish NOC, updated the partners on the latest developments. The Guidelines are divided into 10 different elements, and all case studies are to be analysed under the prism of these elements. With regard to the Handbook on Strategic Management, Dr. Holger Preuss, University of Mainz, updated the partners and invited them all to contribute by sharing case studies and also to give their comments on the current draft.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The EOC EU Office hopes that the COVID-19 evolution and the travelling conditions will permit the mid-term conference as well as the next upcoming meetings to take place physically. The provisional programme of the mid-term conference was shared and discussed with the partners. Furthermore, Heidi PEKKOLA introduced the next steps to follow regarding the national training workshops: each partner NOC will be hosting one national training workshop with inviting the national federations and member organisations to participate. RINGS project will be running until the end of 2022, as the Final Conference being the last event planned in the end of 2022.



UPCOMING EVENTS

8 - 9 September 2021

Q&A session for applicants on the LIFE 2021 Call for proposals (European Commission - EU)

22 - 23 September 2021

Sport Directors Meeting (Council of the EU)

23 September 2021

Launch of the HealthyLifestyle4All initiative (European Commission - EU)

24 September 2021

Slovenian Presidency Conference “Lifelong Physical Activity” (Council of the EU)

23 -30 September 2021

European Week of Sport (European Commission - EU)



EOC EU Office
71, Avenue de Cortenbergh
1000 Brussels, Belgium



+32 2 738 03 20



info@euoffice.eurolympic.org



www.euoffice.eurolympic.org



EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



EU
Office