

MONTHLY REPORT

January 2022



EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



EU
Office



We are pleased to see the Arrangement for Cooperation between @EOCmedia and @EU_Commission adopted. Thanks for the open and constructive discussions @EuSport!

Eurolympic @EOCmedia

Happy to announce that arrangement for Cooperation between the EOC and @EU_Commission has been adopted yesterday.

We highly appreciate this decision and are looking forward to bringing it to life with the common activities, e.g. related to the European Youth Olympic Festivals.



3:18 PM - Jan 21, 2022

13 Reply Copy link

Explore what's happening on Twitter



Mariya Gabriel
@GabrielMariya

The #EuropeanYearOfYouth portal kicks off today!

It will act as a co-creation space which we will grow together 🙌

A place where you can share your event, get inspired & share your views 🗣️

Check out how you can get involved!

👉 europea.eu/youth/year-of-...



12:23 PM - Jan 12, 2022

123 Reply Copy link

Read 1 reply

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Thomas Weikert - President German Olympic Sports Confederation



Source: DOSB/Michael Reichel

"We must give sport a strong voice in society. A voice that is clearly heard at the political level [...]."

See full interview on page 5



EOC EU Office
@EOCEUOffice

Today, together with @DOSB, we organized a webinar on @EUErasmusPlus #Sport for German sports. Thanks to more than 100 German sports clubs and federations for participation! More information in German on @DOSB website: bit.ly/3fp8rlz Good luck to all in @sportDland!

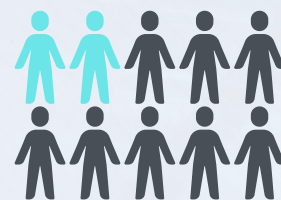
FACTS & FIGURES

European Year of Youth 2022

The 15-29 year olds to support, encourage, and inspire.



of total European population



highest % in population:
23% French Guiana and Mayotte (both in France)

Source: Eurostat

- Editorial

4



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

- Thomas Weikert – President German Olympic Sports Confederation

5



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

- France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the EU

8

- Online piracy of live sports broadcasts: EU Parliament adopts position for digital services act

9

- Political discussions on the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing

10

- Erasmus+ Sport: Online Sport Info Day 2022

11



PARTNERS' CORNER

- EOC EU Office continues the Webinar Series on EU Funding: Erasmus+

13

- Upcoming events

15



EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

With the presidential elections taking place in the middle of their EU Presidency, the new French government faces a particular challenge to ensure the necessary continuity during the six-month term from January to June 2022.

One of the priorities which the French Presidency has identified is the link between sustainability and sport. There will be Council conclusions on this topic and two ministerial conferences in February and early March will also be conducted in this regard.

The study launched by the EU Commission on the European Model of Sport is expected to be published in April. It will then be subject to further discussions in the Council under French leadership.

Despite the number of issues raised by the Coronavirus pandemic, the 2022 sports calendar is still filled with a number of major sporting events. The difficulties that organisers had to face implementing these events was shown by the European Men's Handball Championship, which concluded recently.

It was remarkable not only that the teams were affected in very different ways with regard to infected players and team members, but also that the event nevertheless provided a consistently high sporting standard. From an economic point of view, large events of this kind are vital for indoor sports such as handball, basketball and volleyball. Those responsible for these latter sports will certainly draw optimistic conclusions from the experiences now made in handball.

The fiercely debated Winter Olympics in Beijing begin this week. Not least because of the strict Coronavirus measures, these Winter Games will not be comparable to previous Games. The political boycott called for by the European Parliament for months because of the human rights situation in China is officially supported by only a few governments. The European Union is also divided on this issue.

However, the pandemic gives many government representatives a welcome alibi to cancel their trip anyway. Sufferers are also the athletes, who on the one hand are happy that the Olympic Games are taking place at all and that they can live the highlight of their sporting career. However, on the other hand, the political discussions and the fear of being tested positive do not leave them completely unscathed.

The European Year of Youth 2022 should also be used by sport to review and improve its offers. This is particularly important after two years of pandemic-related restrictions. With its European Youth Games, which will take place in Vuokatti, Finland in March and in Banska-Bystrica, Slovakia in July, the EOC will provide opportunities for young athletes to compete and exchange unforgettable sporting experiences.

It is to be hoped that the many sports projects funded by the European Union through Erasmus and other programmes will also be implemented with personal contacts again soon.

Stay healthy and all the best for 2022!



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



Source: DOSB/Michael Reichel

Thomas Weikert was elected as President of the German Olympic Sports Confederation in December 2021. He previously served as both president of the ITTF, the International Table Tennis Federation, and president of the DTTB, the German Table Tennis Federation. In his active career, Weikert played in the German Table Tennis Bundesliga..

1. Dear Mr Weikert, first of all, congratulation on your election as new President of the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB). Less than two months after entering the office, what is your first impression of your new job?

Thank you! The first weeks of my tenure in office have been busy and very constructive. Following my election, I firstly spoke to the DOSB employees to substantiate my commitment to leading the confederation with a high degree of cooperation, trust and open-mindedness. They are all highly motivated to use their skills to tackle today's challenges in sport governance and I look forward to supporting our member organisations with this dedicated team. At the same time, I had fruitful discussions with several important stakeholders, ranging from the members of your general assembly to political decision-makers of the new federal government.

Last, but not least, I was eager to directly engage with our athletes to fully understand their needs first-hand from an NOC point of view and holistically represent their interests at the policy-making level. With the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Games coming up right after Tokyo, we have joined forces to prepare for this endeavour in the best possible way and collectively apply lessons learnt from performing at the top of our game during a pandemic.

2. In which way would you like to develop the DOSB, what are the main elements and priorities of your strategy?

My strategy is based on four pillars:

- We must give sport a strong voice in society. A voice that is clearly heard at the political level in Berlin and among decision-makers.
- We must strengthen and live the diversity and unity of sport.
- We need clear, common goals in all areas sport can have a positive impact for a better post-COVID future through sport.
- We must build a modern, credible and honest umbrella organisation. An association that people in Germany can trust.

3. As President of the International Table Tennis Federation you have worked on the international level. In which way can the DOSB benefit from these experiences. Do you intend to strengthen the European and international work of the DOSB?

I very much enjoy working and exchanging ideas with international partners, many of whom have become friends over the years. The DOSB is working with the IOC, other National Olympic Committees, and many other organisations within the Olympic Movement and beyond. This is a great network to benefit from through mutual exchange. In Beijing, there will be numerous DOSB meetings with representatives of the international sports family, including many important partners of the EOC EU Office.

At the same time, we are committed to engaging with our international partners and to contributing to the international sport development. Furthermore, together with the Federal Ministry in charge of sport, we adopted a national strategy for major sport events in Germany last year which is now up for implementation. This strategy also includes a strengthening of DOSB's international network.

4. France has taken over the EU Presidency and is expected to take up the topic of the “European Model of Sport” from the Slovenian Presidency. How do you perceive the dispute on the European Super League in football and the ongoing problems in basketball on the sporting calendar preventing the best players to play for their national teams?

We aim at protecting the European Model of Sport. Merely profit-driven actors without democratic legitimation through membership should not gain control over the most important sports competitions. Any organisation hosting major sport events should follow certain standards in governance, participation, representation of interests and accountability.

There should be a levelling of interests for all parties involved. Organised sport must face these difficult questions and find answers, but I am convinced that the current model of European and International Federations governing most larger competitions should remain.

5. Sport, like other sectors, is facing a number of challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Do you have the impression that the important societal role of sport has been sufficiently taken into account from politicians? What does sport concretely need?

First and foremost, sport is a highly effective and outstandingly low-cost tool for health and social inclusion. The pandemic has made this phenomenon more obvious than ever, and our responsibility now is to advocate for holistically integrating sport and physical activity in sustainable post-COVID recovery programs, thereby mainstreaming the cross-sectoral benefits that sport can leverage in materializing overall policy goals.

This requires increased awareness and appreciation within the political landscape, which has tangibly been growing as the pandemic proceeds. Compared to the first COVID winter, we have been able to prevent another blanket ban of club activities and implement creative solutions to uphold the important societal role of sport. For the upcoming challenges, the political support on all levels and trust in the autonomy of sport will be of vital importance.

6. In a couple of days the Olympic Games in Beijing will be opened under very specific circumstances. What are your expectations for the German Team and for the event as such?

The DOSB is prepared for a challenging Olympic Winter Games. The ongoing pandemic obviously has a major impact on these Games, and this will be the case for each and every one participating, most notably the athletes

We are working hard to provide the best possible support for our athletes of Team Deutschland so that they can perform at their very best. In various personal exchanges with our athletes, I have gained the impression that there is a lot of excitement and high motivation for the upcoming Games.

7. Especially in Germany, there are critical discussions on the situation in China, in particular on human rights or the freedom of speech. How does the German Team deal with it and to which extent are you in exchange with your athletes on it?

The IOC and the Organizing Committee have guaranteed freedom of speech during the Games. We as DOSB have met with numerous organisations such as Human Rights Watch to discuss these issues. Consequently, we invited experts from a range of relevant backgrounds to the digital preparatory meetings with our athletes and staff travelling to Beijing.

We are convinced that we have offered a solid foundation of information for our entire team so that everyone participating has a good level of background knowledge and can form their own opinion. Of course, we stand by our athletes if they wish to express themselves before, during or after the Games.

The EOC EU Office is thanking Thomas Weikert for his interview and contribution to the monthly report.



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the EU

On 1 January, France began its Presidency of the Council of the EU, a six-month term during which the country will set the political priorities and lead the discussions among all Member States of the European Union.

The programme of the French Presidency follows three overarching priorities: “a more sovereign Europe”, a “new European model for growth”, a “humane Europe”.

Sport under the French Presidency

When it comes to sport, France is intending to promote sport as a lever for sustainable development and transformation and better recognise its role in achieving the United Nations’ [sustainable development goals](#) (SDGs). The overall objective is to encourage Member States and sport organisations to better take into account the sustainability and social responsibility aspects of sport.

In this regard, two events will take place:

- Ministerial Conference on “Sports and Sustainable Development Goals in Childhood: Societal issues regarding appropriate physical activities” (7-8 February, online). Speakers will discuss the societal aspects of sport and physical activity in the development phases of children in terms of health, integrity and education to sustainable development.
- Ministerial Conference “Towards a Green and Sustainable Deal for Sport” (4-5 March, online). The French Presidency hopes to bringing policy-makers and the sport movement together to agree on a common base of environmental and sustainability goals to achieve in the sports sector.

The European Sport Model will be another important topic of this semester, building upon the discussions held under the Slovenian Presidency and the upcoming European Commission study expected to be published this Spring. France will also make the piracy of live sporting events a priority.

Whether the EU Sport Forum, organised annually by the European Commission, will take place under the French Presidency is still uncertain given the Covid-19 situation, as the European Commission is aiming to hold it as a face-to-face event.

The French Presidency will be punctuated with the Presidential elections of the country in the second half of April. After France, Czech Republic will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU for another six months, followed by Sweden.

The EOC EU Office is very pleased by the good cooperation with the French Presidency so far and wishes the French the very best of luck in achieving their objectives.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Website of the French Presidency](#)

[Programme of the French Presidency](#)

Online piracy of live sports broadcasts: EU Parliament adopts position for digital services act

On January 20, the EU Parliament adopted its position on the digital services act (DSA) with 530 votes in favour, 78 against and 80 abstentions. The adopted [text](#) is the Parliament's mandate for negotiations with the French Presidency, which represents the Member States.

In essence, the digital services act aims to establish new rules for all digital services such as social media, online marketplaces and other online platforms. This should also include rules for online intermediaries that make copyright-protected content accessible without permission. Therefore, from a sports perspective, the regulation is relevant in the fight against online piracy of live sports.

The European Commission had presented its proposal for the DSA in December 2020, and the Member States had agreed on their position in November 2021. Now that the Parliament has also defined its mandate, the trilogue procedure can start in which the three institutions negotiate the final text of the regulation.

Voting in the EU Parliament and the position of sport

The Internal Market Committee was in charge of the file in the Parliament. During the negotiations within the Parliament, Sport, together with other affected rights holders, had advocated for the inclusion of a provision to tackle internet piracy of "time-sensitive" live content (e.g. live sports broadcasts) in the regulation. This should oblige hosting providers to block illegally broadcasted live content "expeditiously". The corresponding proposal for a recital 22 was unfortunately rejected in plenary by 229:427 votes.

On the contrary, the adoption of Article 14 (3) (a) could make the fight against internet piracy even more difficult. The passage would allow hosting service providers to leave content reported as illegal accessible until it has been checked. This would be a major problem in the fight against illegally streamed live sport broadcasts, where every minute counts and no assessment is necessary. Content can be clearly identified as legal or illegal by watermarks.

Still in May 2021, in its [resolution](#) on the "Challenges of sports events organisers in the digital environment", the EU Parliament had called for illegal streamed sports content to be blocked as quickly as possible and after 30 minutes at the latest.

From the sports and sports rights owners' point of view, the developments to date on the DSA are disappointing. After all, the provisions so far do not offer any improvements in the fight against online piracy of live sports broadcasts.

In the coming weeks, negotiations will be launched in the trilogue process. The final text of the regulation is expected in the coming months during the French Council Presidency.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[News EU-Parliament: Digital Services Act: regulating platforms for a safer online space for users](#)

Political discussions on the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing

With the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics approaching, political discussions on the diplomatic boycott continue and reveal that the European Union is divided.

After the United States started the initial call for a diplomatic boycott, aligned with the UK, Canada and Australia in December 2021, the European Union (EU) has sought a common position regarding the boycott, with some EU countries stepping forward to officially boycott the competition, namely Lithuania, Belgium, Estonia and Denmark. French President Emmanuel Macron has described the diplomatic boycott as "insignificant" and other EU leaders have distanced themselves from the initiative, hindering any chances for the European Union to agree on a common stance.

The most recent action from the European Parliament (EP) comes in the shape of a [Joint Motion for a Resolution on violations of fundamental freedoms](#), adopted on 20 January, with the document and its signatories reiterating that the European Commission, the Council and Member States should imperatively "decline invitations for government representatives and diplomats to attend the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics", given that the Chinese Government has not manifested a "verifiable improvement in the human rights situation in China", following the [resolution](#) by the EP from 8 July 2021 calling EU leaders to apply a diplomatic boycott in case no improvement will be testified.

In an intervention in the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the EP on 26 January, the Executive Director of Human Rights in China, Sharon Kang Hom, addressing the situation in Hong Kong, expressed her concerns stating that "Now is the time to act in the face of human rights."

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Joint Motion for a Resolution on violations of fundamental freedoms](#)

Erasmus+ Sport: Online Sport Info Day 2022

The European Commission and European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) organised the 9th edition of the Erasmus+ Sport Info Day on 31 January and 1 February 2022. This provided future applicants with key information on the different facets of the Erasmus+ sport programme as well as being a unique opportunity for participants to network.



Day 1

The Erasmus+ Sport Info Day was opened with the remarks of Mariya Gabriel (European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, responsible for sport) and Tomasz Frankowski (Member of the European Parliament). Mariya Gabriel highlighted the role of Erasmus+ as bridge between elite and grassroots sport. Besides, she thanked the European Olympic Committees, among some other sport organisations, for its pledge in support of the HealthyLifestyle4All initiative.

After which, Tomasz Frankowski advocated for the role of sport in boosting health, social and economic benefits across Europe. Accordingly, he proposed to allocate an equal budgetary value for each chapter of the Erasmus+ programme – sport, youth, education and training – in future.

The Info Day continued with insights into the structure and objectives of the Erasmus+ Sport. Yves Le Lostecque (Head of Erasmus Mundus and Sport Unit, EACEA) and Gael Broze (Head of Sport Sector, EACEA) proposed an overview of this new generation of the Erasmus+ programme (2021-2027) and the key actions in sport including Cooperation Partnerships, Small-scale Partnerships, Not for Profit European Sport Events and the newly launched action Capacity Building in the Field of Sport. Hence, they presented the foreseen deadlines for sport-related actions and overall timeline for sport-related events organised by the European Commission in 2022.

Moderated by the Head of the Sport Unit, Florencia Van Houdt, the round table on programme priorities showcased the synergies existing between the EU priorities and the sport-sector notably in terms of promoting the socio-economic and environmental dimensions of sport, boosting integrity and values in sport, as well as encouraging participation in sport and health enhancing physical activity. A series of external speakers - including Jean Gracia from European Athletics and Iva Glibo from ENGSO Youth - shared their experiences and successes in promoting positive and lasting impacts on different topical matters for sport via the Erasmus+ Programme.

Day 2

The second day was opened by Yves Le Lostecque (Head of Erasmus Mundus & Sport Unit, EACEA) and Guillaume Arduin (Permanent Representation of France to the EU). Both reiterated the cohesion of the EU institutions in the realm of sport whilst Guillaume Arduin also provided an overview of the key activities and objectives of the French Presidency for the upcoming months. Accordingly, he reiterated the vital role of the Erasmus+ programme in supporting sport stakeholders and their initiative across the EU.

After which, a series of working sessions were moderated by Luciano Di Fonzo (Deputy Head of Erasmus Mundus & Sport Unit, EACEA). These provided attendees with technical information regarding acquiring the Partner Information Code (PIC) and identifying sport-actions via the Funding and Tender Portal. Accordingly, these provided insights on how to appropriately complete each part of the application form and related annexes. Subsequently, the financial and administrative aspects were presented including an explanation of the different lump sum models and their applicability in sport-related calls. Also, the evaluation process and related criteria were showcased (admissibility, eligibility, exclusion, selection and award criteria).

Most remarkably, throughout the working sessions practical tips and concrete examples were shared regarding the “common errors” emerged at the application and submission stages at Erasmus+ 2021. These highlighted the importance to select the correct action, adhere to the relevant criteria as well as allocating adequate resources to the project activities, ensuring concreteness in the project proposal and coherence within/between the application and submission forms. Hence, the Erasmus+ Info Day was concluded by Luciano Di Fonzo, Deputy Head of Erasmus Mundus & Sport Unit, EACEA who thanked participants and encouraged them to actively engage with the Erasmus+ Sport for 2022.

Presentations and web streaming of the Sport Info Day 2022 will be available on the [EACEA website](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#)

[Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal](#)



PARTNERS' CORNER

EOC EU Office continues the Webinar Series on EU Funding: Erasmus+

On 13 January 2022, the EOC EU Office continued its series of webinars on EU funding; with the second webinar dedicated to the Erasmus+ 2022 Programme. The second webinar aspired to provide attendees with information on the Erasmus+ Programme, its structure, priorities and suitability of different project proposals, as well as promoting understanding on the technical aspects of the application and submission procedure.



The webinar was divided into two separate but complementary sessions:

- Part I: Raise awareness on the Erasmus+ Programme, its structure, priorities and suitability of different project proposals;
- Part II: Promote understanding on the technical aspects of the application and submission procedure, as well as awarding criteria and reporting obligations for Erasmus+.

The second webinar “Erasmus+ 2022 Programme” brought together more than 80 attendees from 30 National Olympic Committees and 10 sport federations.

Part I: Erasmus+ Programme 2022

The webinar was opened by EOC EU Office Director Folker Hellmund who warmly invited partners and European NOCs to engage with the financial support available through the Erasmus+ 2022 Programme. They were invited to start working on the project proposals at their earliest convenience.

Subsequently, the EOC EU Office provided a brief introduction on the Erasmus+ sections - Education & Training, Sport and Youth - its horizontal priorities and the eligibility of countries. Further information was provided by Yves Le Lostecque, Head of Unit Erasmus Mundus & Sport, EACEA, who highlighted the deadlines for the Erasmus+ 2022, as well as some features of the new/forthcoming calls in sport and expected number of projects to be financed in sport in 2022. He also provided an update on the Erasmus+ sport 2021 call results; in which he mentioned that 1298 project proposals in sport were submitted in 2021, which represents an increase of 13% compared to 2020. He concluded by mentioning that just over 200 projects are expected to be selected, with an average success rate of 16% for sport-related calls in 2021.

The session concluded by showcasing the key elements, requirements and expectations for sport-related calls; including, Partnership for Cooperation, Not for Profit European Sport Events and Capacity Building in the Field of Sport. The Lithuanian Olympic Committee – represented by Agnė Vanagiene (Deputy Director for Sport) – and FIBA Europe represented by Kamil Novak (Executive Director) shared their experience with the Erasmus+ programme.

They showcased how they build knowledge and capacities within the organisations to successfully engage in Erasmus+ funding and the role of the EOC EU Office in providing valuable support, guidance and knowledge.

The Education & Training and Youth segments of the Erasmus+ Programme were also briefly showcased in connection with the testimonial of ENGSO – represented by Sara Massini (Secretary General) who explained how ENGSO has taken advantage of the available opportunities within both the sport, as well as the youth segments.

Part II: Insights Application & Submission Procedure

The second part of the webinar was designed to promote understanding on the technical aspects of the application and submission procedure, as well as on the implementation obligations for Erasmus+ projects. Accordingly, the EOC EU Office provided an overview of the entire application process from the project idea to the project start.

Most remarkably, the EOC EU Office provided concrete guidance regarding the completion of the technical and budgetary forms for Erasmus+ projects, including examples. The aim was to promote a shared understanding regarding the writing of project applications. Subsequently, attendees were shown the submission procedure and key functionalities of the Funding & Tender Portal. The awarding criteria and reporting obligations for Erasmus+ Programme were also mentioned.

The session concluded with partners and NOCs using the webinar as a platform to present their project ideas and identify suitable partners for the Erasmus+ 2022:

- NOC of Bosnia and Herzegovina presented its project idea for the new call “Capacity Building in Sport”;
- NOC of Azerbaijan introduced its project idea for a Cooperation Partnership;
- NOC of Slovenia presented its project proposals for the Cooperation Partnership and Not for Profit European Sport Events;
- EOC EU Office also introduced its project proposal for the Cooperation Partnership regarding the topic of climate action.

Upcoming webinars

The webinar was concluded by the EOC EU Office Director, Folker Hellmund, who provided an overview of the EOC EU Office’ upcoming activities and services in the realm of EU funding. The EU Funding webinars are expected to continue throughout 2022 on the following dates:

- Webinar 3: “European Structural and Investment Funds” on the 28 April 2022
- Webinar 4: “EU’s External Action Funds” (date to be decided)

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

4 - 20 February 2022

Olympic Winter Games Beijing

7 - 8 February 2022

French Presidency of the Council of the European Union:
Sports and Sustainable Development Goals in Childhood: Societal issues regarding appropriate physical activities

19 February 2022

139th IOC Session

25 February 2022

EOC Executive Committee Workshop - Lillehammer, Norway



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