

– The Voice of the Olympic Sports Movement in Brussels –

## Tweets of the month



### Claudia Bokel

@ClaudiaBokel

May 6

Talking about [#inclusion](#) in sports beats start of the football match [@EOCEUOffice](#) [@DOSB](#) [#WirfuerD](#) [#EuropeanEvening](#)

### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice

May 15

F Hellmund informs European NOCs about EU's "European Week of Sport" 7-13 Sept 2015. [@EOCmedia](#) is official partner of the Week [#BeActive](#)

### EOC-COE

@EOCmedia

May 17

The [#EOC](#) has approved in principle the Netherlands as hosts of the second European Games in 2019

### ENGSO

@ENGSOsport

May 31

ENGSO ExCom member [@MattssonWeijber](#) leaves Presidency of [@RFidrotten](#) after 10 successful years. New President [@RFidrotten](#) is Björn Eriksson.

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## EDITORIAL

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Dear readers,

Sport organisations face numerous challenges, with the improvement of their governance being undoubtedly their biggest internal challenge. The Olympic Movement, under the leadership of IOC President Thomas Bach, is moving forward with the Agenda 2020. Among other priorities, the Olympic Agenda aims at improving the sustainability of sport events on all aspects: societal, environmental and economic; and to support the implementation of good governance principles within the Olympic Sports Movement.

The EOC EU Office is currently implementing a project called SIGGS (Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport), supported by the IOC and the European Commission, to develop practical guidance for NOCs and national federations to improve their governance.

But other threats are menacing sport, such as doping and match-fixing. Recent revelations have been made in the European Parliament regarding fixed matches in the Belgian, German, Italian, Spanish, Greek or Portuguese second or third football leagues, involving vast amounts of money. In the fight against match-fixing, the exchange of information is key. All relevant actors (sports organisations, betting operators, regulating authorities, police and judicial authorities) must take part in legally established mechanisms to ensure the detection and sanction of match-fixing. In that perspective, the adoption in 2014 of the Council of Europe's Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions is a step in the right direction. It should be signed by all EU Member States and the EU itself as soon as possible.

Yet, the fight against doping and match-fixing requires even more legal attention. For instance, the current EU reform of the Data Protection framework could hinder the processing and transferring of data related to doping and match-fixing. Of course, all EU institutions recognise that it is clearly not the intention behind this reform. Therefore the Olympic Sports Movement calls upon the EU institutions to raise the issue during the final negotiations starting in July and to provide a sound legal basis for data transfers in the fight against doping and match-fixing.

Enjoy your read!

Sincerely yours,

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

Folker Hellmund  
Director EOC EU Office

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## EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

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### National Coordinators meet for Kick-Off for the European Week of Sport

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The National Coordinating Bodies (NCBs) of the European Week of Sports met in Brussels on 7 May 2015 to launch their activities and receive further information from the responsible service of the European Commission (DG EAC). The European Week of Sport (EWOs) is a new initiative that will take place for the first time in September 2015. It aims to inform about the benefits of physical activity and motivate citizens to take up a regular activity.

In addition to events planned in Brussels, the NCBs have been appointed to organise and coordinate activities on the national, regional and local levels. Among these, National Olympic Committees were chosen in seven Member States.

At the meeting, the Commission presented the latest developments around EWOs including the

topic of this year's flagship event, which will focus on the "Role of sport in promoting tolerance and open societies in Europe". Additionally the NCBs were presented with details on the registration of national events. Event organisers will be able to register to the "European Week of Sport events" (taking place between 7 and 30 September 2015) and "#BeActive Events" (taking place during the rest of the year) over an online registration form. Subsequently events will be displayed on a map on the European EWOs website and organisers can use the EWOs Communication material. Finally, DG EAC also presented a first impression of the Communication Campaign, which will focus on the Hashtag [#BeActive](#) as a verbal brand.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

[European Week of Sport on the Commission website](#)

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### Council on Grassroots Sport and Physical Activity in Education

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On 18 and 19 May 2015, the EU ministers for education, youth, culture and sport gathered in Brussels to discuss the current topical issues.

In the field of sport, the Council debated the role of grassroots sport in society. The ministers adopted the Council conclusions on maximising the role of grassroots sport in developing transversal skills, especially among young people. The conclusions are in line with other relevant EU documents such as the Europe 2020 Strategy and recognise that grassroots sport, although being

primarily a physical activity, also brings additional added-value with regard to a healthier and more inclusive and sustainable society in Europe. The conclusions especially highlight that by means of grassroots sport, young people gain the abilities to think critically, take initiatives, solve problems and work collaboratively, which are valuable for personal and professional development, including on the labour market and in lifelong learning. The Council therefore invites the EU Member States and the European Commission to create more awareness of the added-value of these

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transversal skills, to promote self-assessment of such skills or to integrate their positive outcomes in national and European policies and strategies. The sport movement is asked to consider investing in competent staff so that they are able to fully benefit from the additional values of sport, as well as to exchange good practice.

Additionally, the ministers held a debate on physical activity as part of quality education. Based on the structured dialog with the sport movement's representatives among whom the EOC was present, the Ministers recommended measures to increase participation in physical activities both within the education and beyond the school day. They particularly called for proposing a greater range of activities in schools, developing sporting opportunities at education institutions or adapting school curricula and schedules to support the progress of young athletes. The Presidency then informed the Council on the state of play regarding the signing of the Council of Europe Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions. The Convention has been signed by 18 countries but

has only been ratified by Norway and is expected to come into force by 2016.

Furthermore, the Council was briefed by the EU representatives on the outcome of the WADA meetings which took place in Montreal on 12 and 13 May 2015 and addressed the issues of the budget, data protection and the Anti-Doping Code.

At the end of the meeting, the Luxembourg delegation presented the main priorities, which the country will have in the field of sport during its upcoming Presidency. The key topics will be promotion of physical activity in schools, dual careers in sport, EU representation and coordination at WADA and the adoption of Council of Europe Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions.”

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Council Report on Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council, 18-19/05/2015](#)

## European Commission publishes Consultation on EU nature legislation

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The European Commission has published a Consultation on two directives dealing with EU nature legislation: the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive. The consultation is part of the Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT) that assesses the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and EU added value of the current regulatory framework. As the two directives are designed to protect the habitats of wild birds and other species, **their implementation could have an effect on the practice of outdoor sports.**

Adopted in 1979, the Birds Directive is designed to protect all wild birds and their most important habitats across the EU, while the Habitats Directive, adopted in 1992, introduces similar

measures for some 230 habitat types and 1000 species of wild animals and plants — collectively referred to as 'species of EU interest'. The online questionnaire raises questions on both the effects of these directives and on the costs these incur for economic or social activities around the protected habitats. Participation in the consultation is possible in all EU languages (link provided below) until the 24.07.2015

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Public consultation as part of the 'fitness check' for EU nature legislation](#)  
[Further Information on the Birds and Habitats Directives](#)

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## Flash Eurobarometer “European Youth” published

The Directorate-General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (DG EAC) of the European Commission has published a Flash Eurobarometer on the topic “European Youth”. Among other questions, the survey asked 13,454 participants between 15-30 years old on their activities in various organisations and on voluntary activities.

Regarding participation in organisations, the most popular activity was in a sports club (29%). However, like all other activities, sports experienced a decrease in participation compared to the last survey in 2013 (35%), with a decline most notable in the Netherlands, Slovakia and Spain. Men were found to be more likely to be part of a sports club than women (36% to 21%), while the group of 15-19 year olds showed higher participation rates than their older peers (38%). Additionally, differences according to the level of education were observed: 17% of those who finished their education at the age of 15 or under - 30% of those who finished their education at the age of 20 or over.

Regarding voluntary activities, one quarter (25%) of young people in the EU say that they have been involved in an organised voluntary activity in the past 12 months. Socio-demographic analysis shows that higher education is a relevant factor (26% of people who finished their education at the age of 20 or over compared to 20% of those who

ended education at the age of 16-19 and 15% ending at the age of 15 or under), while young people living in a rural environment are more likely to be active than those in towns (29% vs. 24%).

Considering the focus of voluntary activities, sport is part of one of the main areas (40% education, training and sport, with 44% in charity, humanitarian and development aid). Again, similar socio-demographic variations can be observed, with men being more likely to be involved than women (42% compared to 38%), more highly educated people being more likely to be involved (45% of those who ended education at the age of 20 or over, compared to 35% of those finishing education at 16-19 and 28% of those ending education at the age of 15 or under), and young people in a rural environment are more likely to participate (43% compared with 40% of those in a small/midsize town and 36% living in a large town).

Additionally, information was collected regarding the recognition of voluntary activities, with 27% of voluntarily active young people receiving formal recognition through diplomas or certificates.

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Flash Eurobarometer 408 Executive Summary](#)

## European Parliament pushes Commission to present new Alcohol Strategy

In a European Parliament (EP) resolution (legally not binding for the Member States) of 29 April 2015, Members of the EP (MEPs) called for the European Commission to “immediately begin work on the new EU Alcohol Strategy (2016-

2022)”. In the resolution, the MEPs demand that the strategy include not only collecting reliable data, improving prevention and treatment, reducing accidents caused by drinking and driving and analysing various drinking patterns, but also

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call for “Member States to monitor alcohol advertising and its effect on young people and to take appropriate action with a view to limiting their exposure to it”. This could play a role for a potential ban of advertising of alcoholic beverages with regards to television, internet and sport events in the future. The producers of alcoholic beverages often appear as sponsors of teams, events or stadiums in amateur and professional sport.

The former EU Alcohol Strategy came to an end in 2012 and has not been updated since. The Commission was expected to publish a proposal for a new strategy in 2015, but has not yet presented a document in this regard.

The Lithuanian Commissioner for Health & Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, spoke at the plenary meeting of the European Alcohol and Health Forum (EAHF) in Brussels on 18 May 2015, saying that he “would [...] envisage shaping a framework of action to which the Commission, the Member States, the European Parliament, civil society and industry can all contribute”. He furthermore stated that he “would like to have more focus on health promotion and disease prevention [...] [and] to place action on the main

causes of chronic diseases, including alcohol but also tobacco, nutrition and physical inactivity” and that “it is less important for me what word we are using to define the paper setting out such a joint commitment”. This could mean that alcohol would rather be part of an overarching proposal instead of a single strategy document, but for the moment no official announcement regarding a new strategy has been made.

As a reaction to the Commissioner’s speech, 22 Public Health NGOs resigned from the European Alcohol and Health Forum (EAHF) on 2 June, citing the Commission “ignoring calls from the European Parliament and Member States to develop a new EU Alcohol Strategy” and “Commission plans to include alcohol within a wider framework for tackling chronic disease” as main reasons for their withdrawal.

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Text of the resolution on Alcohol Strategy](#)  
[Commission Website on Alcohol Policy](#)  
[Speech of Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis](#)  
[Open Letter regarding the Resignation of 22 NGOs from the EAHF](#)

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## INTERNAL AND VISITS

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### European NOCs gathered in Belek for 36th EOC Seminar

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On 15-16 May 2015, the 50 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of the EOC gathered in Belek, Turkey, for the annual EOC Seminar / IOC Solidarity Forum. A total of 180 delegates attended the event. Among them were the representatives of the NOC of Kosovo, who participated in the EOC Seminar for the first time.

The agenda of the first day featured various reports on recent activities of the EOC, IOC and

ANOC as well as a technical workshop on the preparation of NOCs for the Rio 2016 Games. Folker Hellmund, Head of the EOC EU Office, also provided an extensive update on EU affairs. During his address, he touched upon some recent developments regarding the Erasmus+ Sports Programme, the European Week of Sport, Visa policy and the reform of the EU Data Protection framework. Furthermore, he mentioned a number of recent events including: the European Evening



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of Sports of the EOC EU Office and the first meetings of the Council Expert Groups. He also took the occasion to provide an update on the SIGGS Project, managed by the EOC EU Office together with 8 European NOCs.

During the second day, some good practice examples for the implementation of the recommendations of Olympic Agenda 2020 were presented. Furthermore, the EYOF 2015 in Tbilisi and the Games of the Small States of Europe (GSSE) 2015 in Iceland demonstrated to the delegates that they have made the final preparations to host successful sport events.

The EOC Seminar was followed by an EOC Extraordinary General Assembly. The Assembly was devoted entirely to the European Games. First, a comprehensive overview of the Baku 2015

European Games was provided by the EOC Coordination Commission and the Baku European Games Organising Committee (BEGOC). Secondly, the hosting country for the second edition of the European Games in 2019 was discussed. Following a proposal by the EOC Executive Committee, the NOC of the Netherlands was asked to present their multi-city bid to the delegates. One of the core elements of the bid was the idea to exclusively make use of existing sport venues. Following this presentation, the 50 NOCs unanimously approved in principle the Netherlands as host of the second edition of the European Games, but it is still subject to ongoing negotiations.

Next year, the 37th EOC Seminar will be organised in Tarragona, Spain.

## European Evening of Sport highlights sport as a means to tackle societal problems

The fourth edition of the European Evening of Sports on 6 May 2015 brought together over 300 participants, including key figures from the world of sport, the EU and national politics. Organised by the EU representation of the European Olympic Committees (EOC EU Office) and co-hosted by the Representation of the State of Hessen, the aim of the event was to discuss the role sport of sport in society and its potential to contribute to cohesion, reconciliation, and social inclusion.

Opening the Evening with **Peter Beuth**, Minister of the Interior and for Sports of the State Hessen, **Patrick Hickey**, the President of the EOC and Member of the IOC Executive Board, emphasized that sport is a means which *“can help us with the numerous challenges that our society faces today: better integration, better health, better living environment”* and added that *“sport cannot solve all problems but it can – and should – contribute”*.



In his keynote speech, the president of the European Parliament, **Martin Schulz**, insisted on the added value that sport can bring to society, stressing that *“in the 21st century, sport has a social responsibility stronger than ever before. In times of disintegration of traditional social structures, sport can provide the sense of*

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community European citizens seek and therefore fulfil a crucial integrative function in our society". Martin Schulz recognised this as an immense task and called on political decision makers to support the sports sector in realising this potential.



With only five weeks to go to the inaugural European Games, **Azad Rahimov**, Minister of Sports of Azerbaijan, the host country, provided an extensive update on the latest developments, and ensured participants that Baku is ready to welcome top-level European athletes for a historical event.

How and to what extent can sport tackle societal problems? What can be done to fully tap into its potential? And how can the EU institutions, Members States, and umbrella sport organisations enhance the societal role of sport? These and many more questions were addressed by a high-level panel during a lively, insightful and interesting discussion moderated by Knut Pries.

**Marite Seile**, Latvian Minister of Education and Science, opened the debate by stressing that the European sports policy should focus on supporting grassroots sport and sports' capacity to promote social integration. She was supported by **Jens Nyman Christensen**, Deputy Director-General of European Commission DG Education and Culture, who emphasised that "sport has the economic capacity to generate jobs for young people in Europe".

**Michael Vesper**, Chairman of the executive board of the DOSB, welcomed the new EU Erasmus+ funding programme for sport, insisting on the fact that procedures should be made easier in order for small grassroots sport associations to be able to apply for funding.

**Cathy van Remoortere**, social manager of BX Brussels, a project which aims at helping children defining their life project through football, explained that "a project like BX Brussels does not receive a lot of public support as it is at the cross roads of various policy fields such as education, welfare, integration and not just sports."

**Marc Theeboom**, Professor at the Free University of Brussels, put the discussion into perspective, stressing that "the core business of sport organisations is to organise sport competitions in a healthy way. The other elements are not part of the core business. To exploit the full potential of sports regarding welfare, employment, social inclusion, education and so on, you need the connections with the other sectors".

Questioned on the European Games, Patrick Hickey, President of the EOC, gave more details on their philosophy, explaining that they will be based on sustainability, with "a tailor-made approach, depending on the characteristics and needs of each host city".



However, it would not have been a true European Evening of Sport, if sport activities were not part of it. This year, participants had the great opportunity to witness an impressive show-case of karate, one of the twenty sports which will



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feature at the European Games in Baku, by a team of top-level athletes featuring Virginie Delrez (Belgian runner-up at the world championships – wheelchair users), Ilja Smorguner (German

runner-up at the Kata world championships) and Michael Schölz (German national team coach).

## EOC EU Office hosts its Annual Partner Meeting

On 27 May, the EOC EU Office organised its Annual Partner Meeting gathering representatives of its partner organisations. This year, 12 partner organisations attended the meeting.

The working day was divided in two parts; the morning was dedicated to the Erasmus+ Sport programme while the afternoon focused on specific policy fields and discussions regarding the Council Expert Groups 2014-2017. Following an assessment of the results of the first year of Erasmus+ Sport, possible changes to the implementation of the Programme were discussed in order to facilitate the access of grassroots sports. Even though the Programme is designed for the benefit of grassroots sports, no more than 7% of the organisations involved as partners or applicants in the first year were grassroots sports actors. Changes that were discussed included the acceptance of voluntary work as contribution in kind, the possibility of smaller projects and the increase of the percentage of pre-financing. The EOC EU Office will continue to voice these concerns with the relevant actors at the EU institutions.



The agenda also featured an exchange of views with two external speakers from the Sport Unit of the European Commission: Natalia Salas Castillo, presenting the European Week of Sport, and Michal Rynkowski, providing more information on Erasmus+ Sport. Especially on Erasmus+ Sport, a lively debate took place. Michal Rynkowski explained that the Commission is currently working on its annual work plan for 2016 that would set the outlines of the future calls of Erasmus+ Sport. This document will be discussed by the Erasmus+ Programme Committee on 15-16 July. There might be changes to the current implementation based on the experience of the first calls although nothing is certain at this stage.

During the second part of the meeting updates on several European policy fields such as the EU Visa Policy, the Data Protection reform, Copyright and TTIP were addressed, encouraging partners to raise these concerns to all relevant actors within the Member States (MS). Some partners raised their concerns over the liberalisation of the sports gambling market that is being discussed or carried out in some Member States. On the one hand, this liberalisation puts the revenues of the lotteries, which in most MS provide considerable funding to sport, under pressure. On the other hand, there is only limited if any financial return foreseen from the betting companies to sport organisations.

The EOC EU Office thanks its partner organisations for their participation and contributions during the meeting. The next partner meeting of the EOC EU Office will take place in autumn.

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## Joint meeting EPAS Consultative Committee and Governing Board gathers in Strasbourg

On 21-22 May, the annual joint meeting between the EPAS Governing Board of the Council of Europe and the EPAS Consultative Committee took place in Strasbourg. The EOC as member of the EPAS Consultative Committee took part in the two-day meeting. The state of Lithuania joined EPAS last year and attended the meeting of the Governing Board for the first time. In addition, Stanislas Frossard, Executive Secretary of EPAS, announced that three states (Italy, Turkey and Belgium) were close to joining EPAS, although nothing has been decided at this stage.

On the agenda were various reports and presentations on ongoing and future activities of EPAS and of the Council of Europe. Stanislas Frossard provided the status quo on the Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions. Currently, 17 states have signed the Convention and 1 has ratified it. EPAS is responsible for the promotion of the Convention. Once it enters into force (minimum of 5 ratifications including 3 member states of the Council of Europe), the Sports Conventions Division of the Council of Europe becomes responsible for the monitoring of the Convention. Stanislas Frossard also provided some more information on the discussions within the EU on the Convention, including the pending Malta case and the legal uncertainty with the signature of the European Commission. He also announced that the Luxembourg Presidency of the EU has taken up the Convention as one of its priorities and that the formal Sports Ministers Council meeting in

November therefore might be an important point in time for a decision.

Furthermore, it was announced that EPAS will organise an informal Ministerial Networking Event in Baku on 13 June with the title “How to promote the social sustainability of major sport events”. Another element on the agenda was the presentation by Kevin Carpenter, who provided an overview of the activities by the European Union in the field of sport and by the members of the Consultative Committee. In this regard, Mr Carpenter also referred to the SIGGS Project, carried out by the EOC EU Office in the field of good governance, and to the recommendations of the Olympic Agenda 2020 of the IOC.

Finally, the renewal of membership of the Consultative Committee was discussed by the member states. Eight out of nine organisations asked for a renewal, which was granted. The European Judo Union that did not ask for renewal is no longer part of the Consultative Committee. A more in-depth discussion took place on the “terms of reference” for Consultative Committee members, including criteria on participation, although no formal decision was taken in the end.

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

[State of play on signatories of Convention on manipulation of sports competitions](#)  
[EPAS Informal Ministerial Networking event in Baku](#)

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## Dates in June 2015

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- 2** *Launch Communication Campaign European Week of Sport, Brussels*
- 9** *Council Expert Group on Good Governance, Brussels*
- 12-28** *1st European Games, Baku*
- 16** *Council Expert Group on Human Resources Management in Sport, Brussels*
- 23** *Olympic Day*
- 25-26** *Council Expert Group on HEPA, Lisbon*
- 30** *First meeting of the European Parliament Sport Intergroup, Brussels*