

– The Voice of the Olympic Sports Movement in Brussels –

Tweets of the month



Helena Carlsson

@CarlssonHelena

Apr 02

.@ENGSOsport is now on twitter! Follow us! #sport #sportpolitics

European Athletics

@EuroAthletics

Apr 11

Svein Arne Hansen of Norway has been elected as the President of European Athletics.

SIGGS Project

@SIGGS_EU

Apr 29

SAVE THE DATE: Next #SIGGS Steering Committee will take place on Thursday 9 July in Brussels at @EOCEUOffice

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PARTNERS' CORNER

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EDITORIAL

While flowers are blossoming all over Europe, the EOC EU Office is on the starting line for an exciting period, which will bring us to Baku and the first edition of the European Games in June. It will be a historical moment both for Europe and for the sports world. The first-ever European Games, along with the societal role of sport, will be in the limelight during the 4th edition of the European Evening of Sports, organised on 6 May by the EOC EU Office and the Representation of the State of Hessen to the EU.

Our modern society faces many challenges, from social integration to economic sustainability and environment protection. By focusing our attention on the societal role of sport during the European Evening of Sport, which takes place every two years, the objective is to raise the public's attention to the fact that sport has been and remains an excellent tool for addressing a number of crucial problems in our society. The event is a major opportunity for sport stakeholders to exchange their views and concerns with decision makers from the European Union, starting with the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz. I will be delighted to count you among us in sharing a fruitful and enjoyable evening.

Once again, the EOC EU Office's Monthly Report's purpose is to provide the latest updates on sport at the EU level. This month you can read the most recent developments on the data protection reform or find more information on the IOC Women Leadership Seminar. The SIGGS Project, conducted by the EOC EU Office, and the ENGSO General Assembly, will also be featured this month.

Please continue to send your comments on our Monthly Report and enjoy the 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

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

Council Expert Group on the Economic Dimension

On 21 and 22 April, the second meeting of the Council Expert Group on the Economic Dimension of Sport (XG ECO) took place in

Vienna, Austria. Accepted as an observer, the EOC EU Office took part in the discussion on behalf of the Olympic and Sports Movement.

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Observers were only allowed to attend the first day as the second day was exclusively reserved for representatives of the EU Member States.

Meeting with the observers

During the meeting, the three deliverables were discussed: recommendations to measure the economic benefits of sport (deliverable 1), recommendations on the legacy of major sport events (deliverable 2) and practical guidance on how to encourage sustainable financing of sport (deliverable 3). Observers were also asked to provide some key issues related to the three deliverables before the meeting. These contributions comprised the basis of the discussion.

On the first deliverable, various observers stressed the need for more comparable and recent data on different aspects of sport. In this regard, many voiced their support for the work in setting up Sport Satellite Accounts (SSAs) in the EU Member States. So far, 7 Member States have managed to prepare these SSAs.

For the second deliverable, the EOC EU Office asked the Expert Group to acknowledge and to take into account the activities that the Olympic and Sports Movement is already undertaking and implementing. Besides various examples of legacies of previous events organised by the Olympic Movement, the recently adopted 20+20 recommendations of the Olympic Agenda 2020 together with the IOC's brochure on "Olympic Legacy" provided insight on what the Olympic

Movement considers to be crucial elements to build up a lasting legacy from a major sport event. This information was highly appreciated by the Chair and Member States.

And finally on the third deliverable, the observers raised various issues that could support the sustainable financing of sport: e.g. VAT derogations for grassroots sport clubs or a fair return from the gambling sector to grassroots sports. The discussion also touched upon the Erasmus+ Sports Programme as the current implementation still has significant shortcomings to ensure that grassroots sports can benefit from the Programme. The EOC EU Office also took the occasion to refer to the work of the previous Expert Group on the Sustainable Financing of Sport and in particular to the deliverable "2012 recommendations on sustainable financing of sport". The EOC EU Office urged the Expert Group to build upon this deliverable as it contains many useful recommendations that could be included in the work of the group (e.g. on the inclusion of sport in the Structural Funds and other EU Funding Programmes).

Follow-up

During the second day, the Expert Group discussed anew the three deliverables without the observers. The deadline for the adoption of deliverable 1 and 2 is the end of 2015, whereas for deliverable 3 the deadline is next year. The next meeting of the Expert Group will most likely take place on 6-7 October 2015.

The EOC EU Office discusses the data protection reform with EU institutions

On 16 April, the EOC EU Office, along with other sports organisations, met representatives of the EU institutions to discuss the data protection reform¹ and its potential impact on sport. The EU

was represented by Rapporteurs from the European Parliament, the acting Latvian presidency, the upcoming Luxembourg presidency and the European Commission, which

¹ The data protection reform, launched by the European Commission in 2012, consists of two legislative proposals aiming at a high level of data

protection for all citizens and tackling the challenges of globalisation and new technologies.

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will all be involved in the final trilogues negotiations, expected to start this summer.

The EOC EU Office expressed its concerns about the reform's unintended negative consequences for sport, preventing sports organisations to organise fair and open competitions. All participants agreed on the necessity to ensure that the data protection reform will not prevent sports organisations to fight efficiently against match-fixing and doping.

The attention was raised on the recently adopted Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, which has been signed by 9 EU Member States already and which foresees exchanges and transfers of sensitive data, by setting up national platforms with all relevant actors (public authorities, sports organisations, competition organisers, sports betting operators).

Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, declared: *“It would be highly paradoxical to see the EU put in jeopardy our common objective to protect sports integrity. We expect the EU institutions to ensure that the data protection reform does not prevent sports organisations to process and transfer data necessary to fight efficiently against match-fixing and doping.”*



IOC Women Leadership and Talent Development Seminar

Organised by the IOC on 26-28 April 2015 and hosted by the Polish Olympic Committee, the IOC Women Leadership and Talent Development Seminar brought together leading female figures from over 30 European countries, representing a great variety of sports (track and field, taekwondo, rhythmic gymnastics, swimming, football etc.), organisations (NOCs, IOC, European and National Federations), career paths, and experiences.

Anastasia Davydova, Secretary General of the NOC of the Russian Federation, and Daina Gudzineviciute, President of the Lithuanian NOC and member of the EOC Executive Committee, who impersonate both the highest management experience in sport organisations and great athletic success, were among the participants of this exceptional event. The Seminar took place under the patronage of two IOC members, Lydia Nsekera of Burundi, who chairs the IOC Women

and Sport Commission and is a member of the FIFA Executive Committee, and Irena Szewinska, a multiple Olympic Games medallist from Poland. The aim of the Seminar was to provide participants with the right information, and concrete tips and tricks, presentation and negotiations skills, and networking opportunities, to help them to get to decision-making positions in sport organisations, and to become better managers and leaders. The ultimate goal of the IOC, which organises such seminars in all continents, is to increase equality between women and men in decision-making bodies in the Olympic Movement and organised sport; a goal which is an integral part of the Olympic Agenda 2020.

The three days of intensive training sessions and discussions were kicked off by a number of inspirational speeches and a panel discussion moderated by Lyndsay Glassco, Director of

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International Cooperation and Development at the IOC. EOC EU Office representative, Jana Janotova, spoke about the EU dimension of gender equality in sport and presented the Proposal for Strategic Actions 2014-2020 for Gender Equality in Sport to the participants which was developed by a Group of Experts set up by the European Commission in 2013. Following on that, Daina Gudzineviciute, in her capacity as EOC Gender Equality in Sport Commission Chair, outlined the main points of the currently developed action plan for gender equality and asked participants for feedback. The Commission will meet on a regular basis in order to prepare the action plan which should be presented in due time to the EOC and to all the European NOCs. Helen Brownlee, Vice-president of the Australian NOC, shared with the audience some of the good practices for promoting gender equality in sport developed by the NOCs in Oceania.

Closing the panel discussion and opening the interactive training sessions, Birgitta Kervinen, Honorary President of ENGSO, and a highly respected sports leader, encouraged participants “to be heard and to be seen.” The following sessions then provided participants with the “right tools” to do just so.

In other gender equality news, DG Justice of the European Commission has published a consultation on “Equality between women and men in the EU”, which aims to collect public contributions for the preparation of a new gender equality strategy for the timeframe 2015–2020. Contributions can be made in all EU languages

until the 21/07/2015 under the link provided below.



Lydia Nsekera IOC Member
Credits: Polish Olympic Committee

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[EU Consultation on Equality between women and men in the EU](#)

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FUNDING PROGRAMMES, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

Second SIGGS Steering Committee meeting: focus on self-evaluation tool

On 27 April, the second meeting of the Steering Committee of the SIGGS Project took place in the EOC EU Office in Brussels. The meeting was attended by representatives of the UCL, EOSE, the Leadership Academy of DOSB, the Belgian Olympic Committee (BOIC/COIB), the Turkish Olympic Committee and the EOC EU Office.

The EOC EU Office provided an update on the recent activities since the Kick-off Meeting of February in the Netherlands. One of the elements that was mentioned was the cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and in particular the link between the SIGGS Project on the one hand and the implementation of recommendation 27 of the Olympic Agenda 2020 on the other hand.

The main point on the agenda was the development of the self-evaluation tool. A first draft of the tool, which will be designed for National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and national sport federations (NFs), was presented to the participants by the responsible Work Package leaders: Aurélien Favre (EOSE) and Thierry Zintz (UCL).

The following discussion touched upon the link between principles and management tasks. It was decided on to focus on four main principles (“integrity”, “autonomy and accountability”, “transparency” and “democracy, inclusivity and participation”) and to link the management tasks directly to these four principles. Furthermore, it was stressed that the various tools resulting from the self-evaluation tool (e.g. Roadmaps) should be closely connected in order to provide a coherent and customised approach.

Following this Steering Committee, the project consortium will work on an updated version of the self-evaluation tool. Consequently, Roadmaps will be designed to provide practical help to NOCs and NFs on how to implement the principles listed above. These Roadmaps will be discussed during the next meeting of the Steering Committee, which is foreseen for 9 July 2015.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Project website](#)

Call for tenders: study on gender based violence in sport

The DG Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission has published a call for tenders for a “study on gender based violence in sport”.

This call is a follow-up of the Council Conclusions on Gender equality in Sport, which were adopted

in May 2014 and which invited the European Commission to “launch a specific study to assess the nature and extent of gender based violence in sport.”

The aim of the study will be to increase the knowledge on gender-based violence in sports

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across the EU by describing the current situation regarding gender-based violence in sport at all levels (elite and amateur) and providing an overview of existing and recommended measures and legislations.

Expected results should help the EU in proposing appropriate policy measures and the study could serve as a basis for the work of the Expert Group on Good Governance when preparing Expert Group recommendations or guidelines on gender equality in sport and Expert Group recommendations to protect young athletes and safeguard children's rights in sport.

Eligible applicants are all natural and legal persons falling within the scope of the Treaties and all natural and legal persons in a third country which has a special agreement with the Union in the field of public procurement on the conditions laid down in that agreement.

Applications are to be submitted by 25 June 2015 (16:00 CET).

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Call for tender](#)
[Information page on the call](#)

INTERNAL AND VISITS

ENGSO General Assembly Elects Carlos Cardoso as New President

The 23rd ENGSO General Assembly, held in Lisbon on 29-30 April 2015, elected Carlos Cardoso, President of the Portuguese Sports



Confederation, as the new ENGSO President. Mr. Cardoso has been in the ENGSO Executive Committee for several years, occupying until recently the position of Treasurer. Jan Holze, former Chair of the ENGSO Youth and representative of the German Olympic

Sports Confederation, has been elected as the new ENGSO Vice-President. In addition, ENGSO has a new Treasurer, Karin Mattsson Weijber, President of the Swedish Sports Confederation, and two new Executive Committee members:



Natasa Jankovic from the Olympic Committee of Serbia and Agne Vanagiene from the Lithuanian Union of Sports Federations. They received more votes than the other candidates: Stavri Bello from the Albanian Olympic Committee and Miikka Neuvonen from the Finnish Sports Confederation (VALO). And finally, the new Chair of the ENGSO Youth Committee, Paolo Emilio Adami, is also an Ex-Officio member of the ENGSO Executive Committee.

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Furthermore, the General Assembly adopted new statutes for ENGSO, creating the possibility of having associated members and changing the official address of ENGSO to the Swedish Sports Confederation. In addition, the New Strategic and Action Plan for 2015-2019 and reports and planned budgets, as well as new membership fees were also approved.

The General Assembly also appointed outgoing ENGSO President Birgitta Kervinen as Honorary President. Many of the member organisations and partners, among them Director of Youth and Sport, Antonio Silva Mendes from the European

Commission thanked her for her outstanding work as ENGSO President during the previous eight years.

Prior to the General Assembly, the ENGSO EU Seminar and the Sport for All session were organised in the Portuguese Sports Museum. Policy Officer Florence Mondin from the Sport Unit of the European Commission and Wendela Kuper, Chair of the EPAS Governing Board from the Council of Europe, were among the speakers.

European Evening of Sports in Brussels on 6 May 2015

For the fourth time, the EOC EU Office organises the “European Evening of Sports”, bringing together key decision makers from the European Union and the Olympic Sports Movement. Hosted by the Representation of the State of Hessen to the EU, the event will take place in Brussels on 6 May 2015.

After welcoming words from Patrick Hickey, President of the EOC and Member of the IOC Executive Board, and Peter Beuth, Minister of the Interior and for Sports of the State of Hessen, Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, will provide a keynote speech on the societal role of sport from a European perspective.

Azad Rahimov, Minister of Sports of Azerbaijan, will provide an extensive update on the latest developments of the European Games in Baku. Following his presentation, karate, one of the sports to feature at the European Games, will be demonstrated to all participants.

To kick off the debate, a panel discussion will address the societal role of sport under the title: “Tackling societal problems: Time for sport to step up to the plate?”. It will offer the opportunity to an exchange of views on how sport clubs, federations and Olympic Committees within Europe can contribute to addressing these societal problems thereby tapping the full potential of sport.

Dates in May 2015

- 1 Labour Day, Belgian public holiday, *EOC EU Office closed*
- 6 European Evening of Sports, *Brussels*
- 7 European Week of Sport National Coordinators Kick-off meeting, *Brussels*
- 14 EOC Executive Committee Meeting, *Antalya, Turkey*

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- 14 Belgian public holiday, Ascension Day, *EOC EU Office closed*
- 15-16 EOC Seminar, *Belek, Turkey*
- 18-19 EYCS Council Meeting, *Brussels*
- 19 Sports Ministers Council Meeting, *Brussels*
- 25 Belgian public holiday, Pentecost Monday, *EOC EU Office closed*
- 27 Annual Partner Meeting of the EOC EU Office, *Brussels*