



European Union and Sport

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125th IOC Session: Thomas BACH elected 9th President of the IOC

Dr. Thomas Bach, Olympic Champion in the foil fencing team of 1976, IOC member since 1991 and first President of the German DOSB, was elected as ninth president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) during the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on September 10, 2013. Thomas Bach won against five other presidential candidates: Sergey Bubka (Ukraine), Richard Carrion (Puerto Rico), Ser Miang Ng (Singapore), Denis Oswald (Switzerland) and Ching-Kuo Wu (Chinese Taipei). He succeeds Jacques Rogge, who was IOC President between 2001 and 2013.



President Thomas Bach declared particularly after the vote: *"...This is really an overwhelming sign of trust and confidence. But I would also like to thank my fellow candidates, who I greatly respect, and all those who did not vote for me this time. I will also work for and with you in the coming years and want to win your confidence too. I know about the great*

responsibility of an IOC President. This makes me humble. I want to lead the IOC according to my motto "unity in diversity." I want to be a President for all of you. This means I will do my very best to balance well all the different interests of the stakeholders of the Olympic Movement. This is why I want to listen to you and to enter into an on-going dialogue with all of you. You should know that my door, my ears, and my heart are always open for you."



During his time as President of DOSB, Dr. Bach followed the developments on European Sport Policy with great interest. At the third European Evening of Sport which took place in Brussels on February 27, 2013, Dr. Bach delivered the keynote speech in promoting the integrity and autonomy of sport.

Wrestling part of the Olympic Summer Games programme of 2020 and 2024; 9 new IOC members elected



The 125th IOC Session followed a tight schedule. Wrestling was admitted as an additional sport to the programmes of the 2020 and 2024 Olympic Summer Games. In addition, the IOC Session elected nine new members, the IOC now numbering 112 members in total: Octavian Morariu (NOC President of Romania, President of FIRA-AER and Member of the EOC Executive Committee) Bernard Rajzman (Brazil), Mikaela Maria Antonia Cojuangco-Jaworski (Philippines), Alexander Zhukov (President of the Russian NOC), Kibii Paul Tergat (Kenya), Lawrence Probst III (NOC President of the American USOC), Dagmawit Girmay Berhane (Ethiopia) Camiel Eurlings (The Netherlands), and finally Stefan Holm

(Sweden - Member of the IOC Athletes' Commission).



Further information:
[Press release of the IOC website](#)

European Commission: Proposal for a new initiative to promote physical activity in Europe

On August 28, 2013, the Commission adopted its proposal for a Council Recommendation on health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA), the first Recommendation in the field of sport ever. Its goal is to address the high percentage of physical inactivity in Europe. The new policy initiative builds on the EU Physical Activity Guidelines which were endorsed by EU Sport Ministers at their informal meeting in December 2008. Member States should be encouraged to promote physical activity and to launch new measures across the

relevant policy sectors that can enable Europeans to be or to become physically active. A very important part of the proposal is a monitoring framework which should help Member

States to identify developments and trends regarding their national measures in promoting sport and physical activity. The idea behind this Recommendation accordingly to the Commission and backed by the Member States, is to reduce the high costs caused by the lack of physical activity in Europe.

The Council started discussing the Recommendation in September 2013 and might adopt it still during the Latvian Presidency in 2013. The European Commission proposes to finance the implementation of the measures through the sport chapter of Erasmus+.

Further information:
[Press release of the European Commission](#)



European Commission: Publication of a study on home grown players (HGP) rule

The European Commission published at the end of August an independent study on the evaluation of the rule known as "home grown players" (HGP / JFL) – a rule adopted by UEFA in 2005 which was gradually implemented by clubs participating in the Champions League and the Europa League.

This rule requires clubs to field a minimum number of "home grown players" in their teams. These are players who, regardless of their nationality, have been trained by their club or by a club within the national association for at least three years between the ages of 15 and 21. Since the 2008/2009 season, clubs are required to have a minimum of eight home-grown players in their squad, with a maximum limit of 25 players per team, and at least half of the locally trained players must be trained by the club. The principles of the HGP rule were transferred to other professional team sports in Europe.

The study published by the European Commission, led by the Universities of Liverpool and Edge Hill, is the first comprehensive assessment of the rule. In 2008, the Commission noted that the approach taken by UEFA

complied prima facie with the principle of the free movement of workers while promoting the training of young European athletes.

The main conclusion of the study is that restrictive effects of the HGP rule on the free movement of workers cannot be categorically established as commensurate with very limited benefits of the same rule for the competitive balance of competition, the training and development of young players. The study also argues that the very modest benefits of the HGP rule may be achieved most importantly through the adoption of alternative and less restrictive means, especially those who have no discriminatory effects.

The study also notes that UEFA, in collaboration with key stakeholders of football, has the experience and expertise to explore these opportunities and should be granted a reasonable additional period of three years to do so if necessary. The European Commission currently has a number of open cases in this field.

Further information:

[Press release: IP/08/807](#)

[EU Commission's report on Home grown players](#)

Gambling: The European Parliament calls on additional measures to combat manipulation in sport

On September 10, 2013, the plenary session of the European Parliament adopted a non-binding initiative report on "online gambling in the EU

internal market." The report is a response to the European Commission's Communication "Towards a comprehensive European



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regulatory framework for online gambling” dating from October 2012. In this report, the European Parliament confirmed its previous position that betting in sports should be regarded as a form of commercial use of sporting events. Furthermore, the European Parliament recommended protecting sporting competitions from any kind of unauthorized commercial use, in particular through the recognition of the exclusive rights of sports organizations for all the sport competitions organised by them. Through these measures, the income of professional and amateur athletes should be ensured and the fight against fraud and match-fixing strengthened. In the context of safeguarding the credibility and integrity in sport, the resolution points out that more efficient methods must be developed to monitor betting activities because of the rapid development of the online betting market. Among other things, the deputies presented the following demands:

- The establishment of codes of conduct as part of the self regulation of sports associations prohibiting all employees at sporting events (especially players, coaches, referees, medical and technical staff, owners and managers of clubs), who could directly influence the outcome of results, in betting on

their own competitions and events;

- Betting on so-called negative outcomes such as yellow cards, penalty kicks or free kicks during a game or an event as well as live sports betting should be banned;
- The introduction of mandatory cooperation for the exchange of information on suspicious activities, at both national and European levels, between sports organizations, authorities, Europol and Euro Just;
- The introduction of a ban on the fraudulent manipulation of results for a financial advantage or an advantage of a different nature in the Member States;
- The establishment of a European alert system for regulators in the field of gambling.

The European Commission has announced to publish by the end of the year recommendations for further action in the Member States, in particular appropriate advertising guidelines for online gambling.

This report will be the last initiative of the European Parliament on gambling before the elections of the European Parliament next year in May 2014.

Further information:

[European Parliament resolution on online gambling in the internal market](#)

Belgian Senate approves legislation on ticket resale to live entertainment and sport events

In our Monthly Report from April, we published an article on a legislative proposal regarding the resale of tickets to live entertainment events,

i.e. music concerts and sporting events. Various ticket agents, tickets agencies and websites would buy tickets for these events massively



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with the objective of reselling them to individual buyers in order to gain profit. Buyers would often find themselves paying beyond the original price of the tickets or even paying for a non-existing ticket.

The Committee of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives adopted this legislative proposal on April 16, 2013. The aim of this proposal is to fight ticket speculation and to regulate the practice of ticket resale for cultural and sports events. The legislative proposal on ticket resale has now been approved by the Senate and adapted into law since July 30, 2013.

In summary, the Chambers sanction, according to article 78 of the Belgian Constitution:

- The regular and massive purchase of tickets;
- The resale of tickets exceeding their original price;
- The resale of tickets as “privileged” or “promotional”;
- The resale of tickets before the official initial sale.

In addition, the resale of tickets may only be an occasional practice and the ticket seller must clearly state the price including any additional costs on the ticket.

According to article 124 of the legislation of April 6, 2010 (relative to the practices of the market and the protection of the consumer), infractions are submitted to sanctions up to 10,000 EUR.

Further information:

[Publication in the Belgian Official Journal](#)

Funding programmes, studies and projects

Androulla VASSILIOU participated in “Sentez-vous Sport 2013” organized by CNOSF

European Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou was in Paris on September 19 for a day of “Sentez vous sport”, a societal event over the course of one week, aiming to promote sport in France, within schools, universities, enterprises, and sports clubs. Organized by the CNOSF, “Sentez vous sport 2013” welcomed Mrs Vassiliou in Paris. For several hours, Mrs Vassiliou visited many sites, the headquarters of the French Lottery (Française des Jeux), the French House of Sport (CNOSF), the Charlety arena, where groups of children were trying out several sports, and MEDEF (umbrella organisation of the French enterprises).



At the lunch hosted at the CNOSF, in her honour and in the presence of many personalities (including Sports Minister Mrs



Fourneyron) and partners, President Denis Masegla declared: *"We are delighted to welcome you here in Paris as part of the operation "Sentez vous sport" that I hope will give you some ideas for an event which we all are waiting for and which we hope will give a tremendous boost to the practice of sport in general. This week will be the European week of sport which you will implement in 2015 for the first time, with the help of the Sports Ministers in the EU. What is important is that we are dealing with a real public health issue. This will begin with initiating of the young in sports."*

The future European week of sport

The European Commissioner, convinced by the event conducted by the CNOSF, delivered some indications about the future European week of sport, in an interview with the CNOSF: *"We know from studies that the majority of European citizens do not engage in physical exercise. This is one of the reasons for the growth in obesity rates and the degradation of the general level of health across the EU. This is one of our priorities. The decision to hold the European week of sport favours this priority. The first edition will be held in 2015. Within this framework, a seminar is foreseen in November [2013], which will include all EU countries that are experienced in organizing such events in their country, so that everyone can give*

their ideas." Denis Masegla will present the week *"Sentez vous sport."*



Before concluding, Mrs Vassiliou added: *"My time in France will help me formulate ideas on the implementation of the European week of sport and on how we can benefit from the expertise of France on such topics. This visit was very informative for me. [...] I must say that the French National Olympic and Sports Committee is one of our privileged partners. [The President] was very supportive and encouraged the idea and the project of the European week of sport.[...]."*

Further information:

Programme and interviews with Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou and CNOSF President Denis Masegla can be found on the [CNOSF website](#) (in French).

EU Sport Forum: European Commission consults sport movement on Erasmus+ and EU Work Plan for sport

On Monday September 30 and Tuesday October 1, the European Commission organised the annual EU Sport Forum. This Forum, which is part of the structured dialogue with the sport movement, took place in

Vilnius, Lithuania and brought together 320 representatives of the sports sector, including the EOC EU Office and several National Olympic Committees (NOCs). The full conference could also be watched on live streaming via the website of the



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Sport Unit of the European Commission.

Results of the Preparatory Action projects

After the opening speeches of the Lithuanian Presidency, the EU Sport Forum started with a session on the results of the projects funded under the Preparatory Actions in the field of sport 2011.

In two parallel workshops (one on the prevention of and fight against violence and intolerance in sport; and one on promoting innovative approaches to strengthen the organisation of sport in Europe), the project coordinators displayed the results of their projects. The "Sport 4 Good Governance" Project, managed by the EOC EU Office, was also presented. In an exhibition room, the projects were also given an information stand.

Consultation sessions on Erasmus+ and the Work Plan for sport

Subsequently, two consultation sessions were organised: one on the sports chapter of the upcoming Erasmus+ Programme and one on the EU work plan for sport 2011-2014 and future priorities (2014-2017).

After presentations by the European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), which will be in charge of the implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme, a discussion with the participants was organised. It was announced that the first call for proposals will probably be published at the end of November 2013 with the deadlines of application

being mid-March 2014 for the sport events and mid-May 2014 for the collaborative partnerships (networks). However, some of the questions regarding the implementation of modalities remain unanswered. It is for instance still unclear what the exact requirements of eligibility for sports events will be. During the discussion, some of the participants again highlighted the need to make third-party private funding not compulsory in order to safeguard the participation of grassroots sports organisations. In this context, the Commission explained that the possibility of mandatory third-party private funding of a minimum of 20 per cent of the eligible costs has indeed been tested during the Preparatory Actions. But for the sports chapter of the Erasmus+, the Commission confirmed that a certain share of private funding will not be compulsory. It will however be encouraged (e.g. additional awarding criteria in project selection process).

In the afternoon, a consultation took place on the previous Council EU Work Plan for sport (2011-2014) and on the new Work Plan (2014-2017). The main topics discussed were the following:

- The previous Work Plan: achievements and shortcomings
- The working method (structure of the expert groups, observer status, participation of Member States ...)
- The content (continuation of expert groups, value of the deliverables, new priorities)

The participants were asked for their opinion during two parallel workshops (first workshop: good governance,



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dual careers and education and training / second workshop: sport, health and participation, sustainable financing of sport and sport statistics). Some of the aspects that were highlighted by the participants were:

- A general feeling that many of the deliverables that were adopted under the current Work Plan were of good quality. The Expert Groups as platforms for exchange were also welcomed.
- The need to do more with regard to the mainstreaming of sport. The inclusion of sport into relevant funding programmes and policy fields is still lacking.
- The need to reduce the number of expert groups (for instance to four expert groups: societal role of sport / sport and health / sport and economics / integrity of sport)
- The participation of the Member States needs to be encouraged and more real experts from relevant ministries should be included according to the topic that is being discussed.
- The role and the participation of the observers should be better defined. Excluding observers from parts of the meeting should be reduced to a minimum.
- A general request to follow-up on the achievements of the current Work Plan and to implement the deliverables according to the competence of the EU and the needs of the sports sector.
- Ideas for future priorities included for instance "regional development and employability" and subjects regarding the

societal role of sport such as social inclusion and voluntary activity.

The results of this consultation will be used by the European Commission to draw up a Commission Communication by the end of the year. Consequently, the Council will then negotiate a new Work Plan for sport (2014-2017). **Yves Le Lostecque**, Head of the Sport Unit, mentioned that this new Work Plan for sport would probably be adopted under Greek Presidency in the first semester of 2014.

Panel debates and closing remarks

The Forum ended with two panel debates: one on the regulation of the transfer of players and one on dual careers for athletes. **Claudia Bokel**, Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission (AC), was among the speakers in the second panel debate. During her interventions, she specifically asked for the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Dual Careers. She also stated that all parties (Federations, Olympic Committees, public actors...) should work together to facilitate a dual career for athletes. European **Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou** also participated in the debate on dual careers.

Commissioner Vassiliou concluded the Forum by thanking the participants for their active participation during the different sessions. She also announced that the next Forum will take place during the Italian Presidency of the EU in the second half of 2014.

Further information:

[Agenda of the Forum](#)

[Press release COM on Sport Forum \(30/09/2013\)](#)

[Website of the Sport Unit](#)



Internal and visits

New EOC Athletes' Commission elected

On Friday October 4, 2013, athletes from 34 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) gathered in Poreč, Croatia, to elect the new EOC Athletes' Commission for the next four years. The new Commission consists of eight elected members: six representing summer sports and 2 representing winter sports.



The eight athletes that have been elected are:

- Jean-Michel SAIVE, table tennis (BEL), Chair
- Natalia DOBRYNSKA, athletics (UKR), Vice-Chair
- Kate WALSH, field hockey (GBR), Secretary
- Daniel GYURTA, swimming (HUN)
- Alessandra SENSINI, sailing/windsurfing (ITA)
- Tatiana LEBEDEVA, athletics (RUS)
- Mikko RONKAINEN, freestyle skiing (FIN)
- Luiza ZLOTKOWSKA, speed skating (POL)

The Executive Committee of the EOC will nominate two additional athletes to complete the EOC Athletes' Commission. These two nominees will most likely be selected from the outgoing Athletes' Commission in order to ensure continuity.

Jean-Michel Saive to chair the Athletes' Commission

The Belgian Jean-Michel Saive has been chosen to chair the new Athletes' Commission. Saive is the only one of the eight elected members to have been part of the outgoing Athletes' Commission. A few months ago, Saive was also elected as the Chair of the Athletes' Commission of the Belgian NOC (BOIC/COIB).

Jean-Michel Saive has shown great interest in sport-related topics discussed at the level of the European Union. He has attended some of the Council Expert Group meetings and has actively participated during events organised by the EOC EU Office. The EOC EU Office intends to build on this fruitful cooperation to further involve athletes in relevant meetings and activities.

In addition, the EOC EU Office would like to congratulate all the members of the new Athletes' Commission for their election. The Office is looking forward to work constructively with the new Commission during the next four years.

Further information:
[Press Release EOC website](#)



ENGSO Forum under the theme "Good Governance in Sport"

The 16th ENGSO Forum will take place on October 21-22, 2013 in Strasbourg under the theme "Good Governance in Sport".

The Forum will provide ENGSO member organisations with information about current sport policy developments in the EU and EPAS. It will include a session on Good Governance, which will equip member organisations with a self evaluation tool, created within the framework of the EU funded project "Sport4GoodGovernance" by the EOC EU Office, to pass on to national and local levels. The programme will be completed by a panel discussion on the integrity of sport, promoting the exchange of

opinions and best practices among participants on the fight against match-fixing in sport. Within the framework of the Forum, a panel discussion hosted by MEP Emma McClarkin will also be held at the European Parliament. Members of the European Parliament together with ENGSO Forum participants will discuss the upcoming elections of the European Parliament in 2014 and the future EU sport policy.

Further information:

[Programme and registration form are available here](#)

Dates in October

4	EOC Athletes Forum elections, Poreč, Croatia
21-22	ENGSO ExCom, Strasbourg, France
28-31	Conference "Play the Game", Aarhus, Denmark

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