

## The House of European Sport

### Tweets of the month



#### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Jul 2

Yesterday @EU2018AT took over the Presidency of @EUCouncil

More info:

<https://bit.ly/2sYXr6I> Sport priorities are: economic dimension of sport, sport and physical activity at the workplace and the successor programme of Erasmus+ Looking forward for a fruitful cooperation!

#### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Jul 3

The second sport breakfast of the @EuSport discusses the topic of digital single market and its impact on broadcasting rights in sport.

#### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Jul 10

Our @POINTS\_EU project on creating single points of contact on integrity in the partner organisations is taking place in Prague today and tomorrow hosted by @COV\_MEDIA. Project is co-financed by @EUErasmusPlus and supported by the @iocmedia.

#### POINTS Project

@POINTS\_EU Jul 11

Thank you to the @COV\_MEDIA for hosting our fruitful project team meeting in Prague for the last two days! @iocmedia @EuroAthletics @INTERPOL\_SPORT @CEVolleyball @DOSB @Coninews @nocnsf @teambelgium @hrv\_olimp\_odbor

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### EDITORIAL

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Dear readers,

As every year, the political Brussels is calming down in August and the current Austrian Presidency takes a breather in order to go on with its programme end of August.

Probably it is the right time to assess the main challenges for the organised sport on European level.

First, sport is directly affected by the ongoing negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework of the European Union. The EOC EU Office and other sport stakeholders are working on their positions regarding the future shape of European Programmes. In this regard it's of utmost importance to demonstrate that sport related projects create an added value in different policy fields. Via the Erasmus programme projects contributed a lot to increase the level of governance in sport organisations, to share experience on dual career programmes, to tackle manipulations of sport competitions and to develop activities regarding the inclusion of migrants or refugees. Just to name a few of the policy fields. These kind of projects are worthy to further support.

Looking on the new format of the Structural Funds, it's obvious that the Brexit will have a negative impact on the overall financial framework. Nevertheless, sport related projects linked to Urban Policy, including local sport infrastructure could be the right tool to motivate people to become more physical active, and could help to connect different groups of the population, especially in deprived areas. Furthermore, sport has the potential to generate economic activities and jobs. It's very positive that the Austrian Presidency will work on this issue in order to give more evidence by providing concrete figures.

Apart from funding, there are still challenges with regard to the application of competition policy to sport, the preservation of sport related copyrights in the Digital Market or the VISA regime for athletes competing in sports such as biathlon that require a long term stay in the Schengen area.

One of the EU initiatives that has developed very well is the European Week of Sport. The opening of the 2018 version will take place on 22 September in Vienna. Apart from the fact that meanwhile all EU Member States are taking part, it's very positive that even non EU Members such as Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia became partners of the European Week of Sport. The financial support by the EU for the implementation of activities has been raised year by year. In this regard, it would be the right signal if the EU could provide financial support for the non-EU countries as well in order to make the European Week of Sport to a real pan-European initiative.

Enjoy your read,



Folker Hellmund  
Director EOC EU Office

## EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

### Programme of the Austrian Presidency July - December 2018

On 1 July, Austria took over the 6 month EU Presidency. Austria will conclude the trio of presidencies composed with Estonia and Bulgaria (respectively second semester of 2017 and first semester of 2018).

In their programme, available on the [Austrian Presidency website](#), the country reveals its three priorities for the upcoming semester:

1. Security and the fight against illegal migration,
2. Securing prosperity and competitiveness through digitalisation,
3. Stability in the European neighbourhood – EU perspective of the Western Balkans/South Eastern Europe.

Without being directly related to sport these priorities can nevertheless **have an impact on the sport sector**:

- The Austrian Presidency will pursue the tough negotiations regarding Brexit and the Political Declaration on the framework for future EU-UK relations associated with the Withdrawal Agreement. Relationships with sport organisations coming from the UK may be impacted by these negotiations.
- Negotiations on the MFF post 2020 will also be conducted under the Presidency. In addition of discussing the Erasmus programme, the objective for Austria is to strive for quick and efficient progress on the cohesion policy package (including ERDF, the cohesion fund and ESF+). The

EOC EU Office is closely following the topic as these funds are crucial for the future financing of sport projects in different programmes.

- The Austrian Presidency will make efforts to achieve significant progress for a more efficient, fair and transparent tax systems, which could have an effect on current tax regulations for sport activities.
- The Austrian Presidency “*will devote special attention to the topic of gender equality and development*” with a strong emphasis on issues such as women and education, women and health, combating violence against women and girls, etc. Thus, inequality between men and women participation in sport activities could be addressed through this area and sport organisations could be involved in this field.

**Regarding the area of sport**, the main focus of the Presidency will be the Economic Dimension of Sport. On 22 September, just before the opening of the European Week of Sport, the Presidency will host a conference on the topic, in Vienna. Further information has already been released in the previous edition of our Monthly report.

The EOC EU Office will keep you informed of further developments in the course of the Austrian Presidency.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Programme of the Austrian Presidency](#)

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### Expert Group on "Skills and HR Development in Sport" – 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting

The sports-loving city of Split, Croatia was a location for the second meeting of the European Commission Expert Group, "Skills and Human Resources Development in Sport" (HR XG) on 11–12 July 2018. The XG, set up under the Third EU Work Plan for Sport (2017–2020), had before held its first meeting in Bath, UK in February 2018.

The main themes of the 2-day seminar were the qualifications and skills in sport, especially coaches' education. Case examples from Ireland (Fiona Larkin, Sport Ireland), Germany (Wiebke Fabinski, DOSB) and Estonia (Prof. Kristjan Port, Tallinn University), as well as the data collected from the participants prior to the meeting, highlighted the fact that coaches' education and qualifications vary substantially around Europe. In some countries, the profession is highly regulated at a state level and only accessible through university education. In other countries, the threshold for taking up coaching is low, and volunteer coaches make great contributions to organised sport at all levels. In many cases it is the sports movement itself that sets the standards for coaches and provides quality education. In some national systems, the qualifications of coaches have been included in national or European qualifications framework, which helps the recognition of coaches' competences also outside of the sports sector.

The meeting also aimed at launching the work to compile expert recommendations on the basic requirements for skills and competences for coaches. The discussion was boosted by presentations, which gave insight to the different paths that an aspiring coach might take, as well as the variety of competences needed in coaches'

work today. Sergio Lara-Bercial (International Council for Coaching Excellence) suggested in his presentation that coaches' competences must be regarded from a wider perspective today, as coaches deal with not only (future) elite athletes, but people of different ages, backgrounds, fitness levels and motivations to do sport. Finnish volleyball icon Tuomas Sammeltu representing the European Volleyball Confederation (CEV) presented his inspiring personal story and career path from top-level athlete to professional coach.

The experts' recommendations will be directed towards any institutions or organisations responsible for coaches' education, regardless of how the system is organised. The recommendations can pave the way for recognising the variety of skills and knowledge that coaches today need, implementing these observations into coaches' education, and highlighting the transferability of these skills to other sectors. The recommendations are not aimed to have a direct impact, but rather to inspire decision-makers and thus create change. The first draft of the recommendations will be discussed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Expert Group meeting, to be held in November 2018 in Salzburg.

On the second day, Kairis Ulp presented the Estonian Sports Register, where all professional coaches, as well as sports clubs, are registered. The concept of learning mobility was also introduced, and will be a more prominent topic during the next XG meeting in November.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Presentations and materials from the XG meeting exclusively to our partners](#)

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### Commission: Sport Unit Breakfast on the Digital Single Market

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On 3 July 2018, the European Commission's Sport Unit organised its second ever "Sport Unit Breakfast", this time discussing the Digital Single Market (DSM) Initiative and its effect on sport.

Two speakers gave introductory presentations before a general discussion of the topic. Marco Giorello, Head of the Commission's Copyright Unit (DG CONNECT), explained that the DSM initiative was one of the priorities of the Juncker Commission. He also described the perspective of sport broadcasting services in an EU law perspective, saying that they could entail audiovisual services and were subject to EU rules, but that, while they had clear parallels to copyright, sport events were not considered intellectual property. He also said that the current task was to balance the aim to facilitate better cross-border access with the model of territorial distribution. He referred in more detail to the current discussions on the new copyright directive and underlined the complexity of the file. He also mentioned that the Commission would need to have a closer look at a JURI amendment giving sports rights owners a neighbouring right to protect against piracy in order to judge its impact.

Following this first statement, Mathieu Moreuil, representing the Premier League in Brussels and the Sports Rights Owners Coalition (SROC), explained the position of the sport sector, stating that the protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) are key, since the related revenues guaranteeing the financing of elite and grassroots

sport by solidarity mechanisms. He laid out that this system is based on the territorial selling of licenses depending on the local demand of broadcasters and different national interests. Therefore, a safe legal environment ensuring IPR and a serious fight against digital piracy by improving copyright protection for sport is needed. Regarding the latter, he referred to two provisions in the copyright proposal: the existing value gap, meaning the mismatch between value earned by platforms using sport content and the value received by sport organisations, and a possible neighbouring right for sport rights owners to better protect them against digital piracy. Regarding the latter, Mathieu Moreuil stated that such a right, similar to what had been proposed for the press publishers by the Commission would lead to a harmonised protection of content on EU-level.

On Thursday of the same week, 5 July 2018, the European Parliament's plenary finally voted on the JURI report for the copyright, deciding by 318 votes to 278, with 31 abstentions to reject the negotiating mandate. As a result, Parliament's position will now be up for new debate, amendments and a vote during the next plenary session, in September.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Parliament – Press Release \(5/07/2018\): "Parliament to review copyright rules in September"](#)

## *The House of European Sport*

### EU-Japan dialogue in Education, Culture and Sport

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On 6 July 2018, European Commissioner Tibor Navracsics met the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Yoshimasa Hayashi, in Budapest to officially launch the EU-Japan Policy dialogue on Education, Culture and Sport. Both leaders acknowledged that “sport offers an interesting opportunity for peer-learning, particularly with regard to measures to preserve the integrity of sport and to promote mutual understanding”.

This topic is highly relevant for both parties in view of the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024. **The EOC EU Office welcomes the dialogue on sport between the EU and Japan** since it may lead to increased sport cooperation between sport organisations and sharing of best practices.

At this occasion, Commissioner Navracsics and Minister Hayashi launched a new Japan-EU joint initiative which is a short-term staff-exchange programme for officials from the EU and from the Japan Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, to promote peer learning and boost cooperation.

In addition to the dialogue meeting, the 25th EU-Japan summit took place in Tokyo on 17 July. Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, signed two landmark agreements to boost bilateral relations:

- The EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement promotes political and sectoral cooperation and joint actions on issue of common interest.

- The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement will further improve the position of EU exporters and investors on Japan’s large market. This agreement foresees the abolition of tariffs on EU export for products that are traditionally highly protected by Japan such as sports shoes and ski boots within 10 years.

The European Parliament and Japanese National Parliament are expected to vote upon these two agreements following their approval by EU and Japanese leaders. Once procedures are finalised both at the EU level and in Japan, agreements will enter into force in 2019. During this Summit, the Leaders welcomed that the first EU-Japan Policy Dialogue on Education, Culture and Sport took place.

The EOC EU Office will keep its partners informed of any further developments in the EU-Japan relations which are likely to affect the sport sector as well as funding opportunities for cooperation with Japanese sport organisations.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[EC press release: Key elements of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement](#)

[EC press release: Joint EU-Japan statement following the first EU-Japan policy dialogue in education, culture and sport](#)

[Economic Partnership Agreement Factsheet](#)

[Strategic Partnership Agreement Factsheet](#)

[EC press release: EU-Japan Summit: a landmark moment for trade and cooperation](#)



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### EP CONT Committee on visibility of EU-funded projects in Western Balkans

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On 11 July, the Committee on Budgetary Control discussed the visibility of EU-funded projects in the Western Balkans. A special attention was given to projects completed under cross-border cooperation which were acknowledged as the best way of bringing the countries of the region closer to the EU.

During the meeting, the participants exchanged views on the best ways of supporting the Western Balkans states in their accession journey. It was firstly observed that the EU is by far the biggest investor in the region. In this regard, it is crucial to promote the added value that comes with the EU membership. Indeed, this is particularly important in light of other key international players such as Russia, Turkey or the Middle East countries rapidly expanding their spheres of influence in the area. In this sense, participants suggested that the EU funding dedicated to the region should be seen more as an investment rather than a cost.

In terms of assessing the visibility of the projects, the speakers advocated for more systematic and comprehensive assessment of their impact on the region and its society. A lot of progress has been made but it seems to be vital to focus more on the assessment of the long-term outcomes rather than the mere assessment of the project itself.

The EOC EU Office is happy to see an increased number of sport-related projects funded by the EU in the Western Balkan. This is an acknowledgment of the great value that sport can add to the pursuance of social and economic goals.

Other recommendations and country-specific comments also emphasised a need for the Western Balkan states to enhance the cooperation between themselves as a way of supporting each other on their way to EU accession.

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### CULT Committee on employment and social policies of the Euro area

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On 12 July, the Committee on Culture and Education published its opinion on employment and social policies of the Euro area.

Addressed to the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, which lead the discussion on the text, the CULT Committee expressed its support for the mobility of, amongst others, athletes and students. Their general objective is to tackle involuntary migration due to economic circumstances through the creation of decent jobs, promotion of effective education, training and career guidance strategies. The CULT Committee advocates also for international, mutual recognition of qualifications, which would reduce administrative burdens and costs for those

interested in broadening their horizons through international mobility.

Furthermore, the Committee acknowledged and condemned the abusive employment conditions often experienced by professional athletes. They called on the Commission to present a comprehensive action plan that will tackle problems such as bogus self-employment, the non-payment of wages, inadequate health insurance and retirement pension standards.

Other suggestions for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs included. Additionally, the MEPs reiterated the European Parliament's calls to triple the Erasmus+ budget in the new Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2021-2027. They also called for a boost in

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long-learning opportunities, including these available to a wider population through open universities.

The EOC EU Office welcomes these suggestions by the CULT Committee and will monitor the situation on adequate protection of athletes' employment and social rights.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Opinion of the Committee on Culture and Education for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs on employment and social policies of the euro area](#)

## Commission: Public Consultation on Daylight Saving Time

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On 4 July 2018, the European Commission launched a Public Consultation to collect stakeholders' opinion on the current bi-annual time change. Originally, the EU Member States have the competence of fixing the standard time, however since the 1980's several directives have been adopted by the European Parliament (EP) and the Member States harmonising the varying summertime clock change in order to facilitate the functioning of the single market.

Some [citizens' initiatives](#) have shown that people are concerned about the time change. Additionally, Members of the EP have submitted various parliamentary questions to assess the Commission's opinion on abandoning summertime as well. In February 2018, MEPs called for a thorough assessment of current bi-annual time change and, if necessary, a revision of the rules, in a [resolution](#).

The current reference text serving for a basis for the EU-wide clock-change harmonisation is [Directive 2000/84/EC](#). A revision of the directive could end Daylight Saving Time or extend it to the

entire year. The survey asks participants to express which option they would prefer (permanent summertime or permanent winter time) if the switching were to be abolished.

A [report](#) on the impact of the European Directive explained that summer time "provides greater opportunities for a wide range of evening leisure activities". Other studies have shown that longer evenings played a causal role in increasing physical activity. Outdoor sports relying on a clear visibility also argue for extended (or even permanent) summer time.

A change to the daylight saving time regime would therefore clearly impact sport activities making it important for the different sport actors across Europe to assess the question and potentially taking part in the consultation. The consultation is open until 16 August 2018.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Public Consultation](#)



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## INTERNAL AND VISITS

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### Third meeting of POINTS Project in Prague

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On 10 and 11 July, the Czech Olympic Committee kindly welcomed all partners of the POINTS project for the third meeting of the group. With the presence of 20 representatives of partner organisations, the consortium concluded the first phase of the project with the final discussions on the Guidelines for Single Points of Contact on Integrity (SPOC) before opening the second phase related to the development of educational activities.

The presence of Jiri Kejval, IOC member and President of the Czech NOC, Vice President Roman Kumpost and Secretary General Petr Graclik, illustrated the strong commitment and support of the Czech Olympic Committee to the project as well as the importance of the topic as underlined by Jiri Kejval during his introductory words.

With this meeting, the group finalised the Guidelines and reached a common position on some key elements regarding the future use of the document. While an update of the Guidelines will be made following the implementation of the educational programme, the partners can already start the internal process leading to the nomination of a SPOC in their organisations. The group also agreed to progressively initiate the launch of a European network of SPOCs.

The second point on the agenda was the first exchange of views on the educational seminars for Single Points of Contact that the project consortium will develop. Indeed, in 2019, nominated SPOCs and representatives of partner organisations will follow training activities to strengthen their ability to conduct the work of a SPOC. In this regard, Laura Schoch, Project coordinator at the IOC Unit on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, and Dieter Braekeveld, INTERPOL, presented the respective activities conducted by their organisations in the field of integrity.

Then Folker Hellmund, Head of EOC EU Office and Valentin Capelli, Project Manager, presented the design of the future seminars which will be composed by 3 sessions both topics related and focusing on improving skills of the SPOCs.

The group agreed on the global structure of this programme and on the different type of activities which will compose the seminars to be held in the first part of 2019.

The EOC EU Office wants to thank all partners for their fruitful contributions as well as the NOC of Czech Republic for the perfect organisation of the meeting. The next meeting of the group will take place in October, in Brussels.

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## PARTNERS' CORNER

### ENGSO: The first European Sport Platform on 16–17 November in Budapest

The European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO) is launching a new concept, the European Sport Platform, inviting its members and stakeholders to debate and exchange experiences and ideas on interesting topics related to sport. The first European Sport Platform is going to be organised in Budapest, Hungary, on 16–17 November 2018.

The first edition of the European Sport Platform addresses two current topics: “the modern sports club” and “esports meets sports clubs”. The programme consists of keynote speeches that offer insight and inspiration, as well as possibilities for the participants to discuss and share their own experiences on the topics.

The event is hosted by the Hungarian member of ENGSO, the Hungarian Competitive Sport

Federation, and organised in partnership with the European Lotteries.

ENGSO is inviting professionals, volunteers, policymakers and scholars active in the field of sport to the European Sport Platform to stay informed on and take part in the current debate on sport.

ENGSO's objective is to make the European Sport Platform an annual event, to be organised each time in collaboration with different ENGSO member organisations and other relevant stakeholders.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.engso.eu](http://www.engso.eu)

### NOC Portugal organised activities during the Olympic Day 2018



Olympic Day celebrations in Portugal were held from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. In total, 14 activities were organized in 13 localities from north to south of the country, including the island of Azores. The number of participants involved reached 6 148 and 13 Olympic Athletes took part.

To mark the date the National Olympic Committee of Portugal (NOC Portugal) organized together with the Municipality of Braga – European City of Sport 2018, this national celebration sports activity, from June 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. But this was not the only activity organized in Portugal; NOC Portugal also supported several other initiatives planned by

municipalities, sport federations, clubs and schools.

The kick off activity was organized by the *Colégio do Castanheiro*, in Ponta Delgada, Azores on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. In fact, this was the first sport activity that involved the entire school and students from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> grades, in this first year of implementation of the Olympic Education Program in the island.

We must highlight as well the three activities organized by the *Comunidade Intermunicipal do Tâmega e Sousa*, that includes 11 municipalities (Amarante, Baião, Castelo de Paiva, Celorico de Basto, Cinfães, Felgueiras, Lousada, Marco de Canaveses, Paços de Ferreira, Penafiel e

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Resende), involving a total of 1 500 young people between the ages of 13 and 15, that had the chance to compete in different sports activities.

In addition to sports initiatives, where participants could practice and experience 27 different sports, NOC Portugal also organized several debates with Olympic athletes and prepared an exhibition on the Portuguese participation in the Winter Olympic Games.

Another important moment of these celebrations was marked on June 23 with the signing of a protocol between NOC Portugal and RTP (public television channel) for the dissemination of sports and Olympic content for the educational community through their education portal – [RTP ENSINA](#)

Portugal is one of the nine countries that since 1948 organizes the Olympic Day, it continues to diversify its activities, promoting together with the Olympic values “Friendship” “Excellence” and “Respect” the mottos “Move”, “Learn” and “Discover”.



## **DIA OLÍMPICO**

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## NEXT MONTHS

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- 15 August** Assumption Day, EOC EU Office closed
- 4 September** Committee of the Regions. Stakeholder Consultation on Erasmus, Brussels (Belgium)
- 20 September** EOC Executive Committee, Stockholm (Sweden)
- 22 September** Opening of the European Week of Sport, Vienna (Austria)
- 23-29 September** European Week of Sport
- 27 September** European Parliament, Stakeholder Meeting on Erasmus, Brussels (Belgium)