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### EU Experts Group: Outcome of the last meeting on good governance

#### **EU Expert Group on good governance discussed the issues of the transfer of players and sport agents.**

The EU Expert Group on good governance met for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in Brussels on 9 April 2013. The issues concerning transfers and agents were covered for the first time.

The meeting, chaired by Mr Henk Kessler, was attended by 19 Member States representatives and sport organisations as observers.

#### **FIFA's Transfer Matching System (TMS)**

FIFA presented the objectives and functioning of the Transfer Matching System (TMS) with particular emphasis on the issue of transfers of minors. FIFA also used this opportunity to announce the 2012 edition of the TMS annual report, the "*Global Transfer Market*", published on April 16, 2013 and available online. This report provides a global view of player transfers, covering six regions, over 200 countries and 5,600 professional clubs around the world. Following its 2011 annual report, it includes an in-depth analysis of the major elements of the 2012 international transfer market, such as structures and mechanics, key characteristics and trends. In the conclusion of the TMS annual report 2012 ([see report for further details](#)), FIFA TMS states to have handled 11,552 transactions in 2012 with a total value of international transfer-related club-to-club compensation value of USD 2.53 billion, which is -10% compared to 2011. The average age of players transferred internationally is 24 years and 10 months.

#### **The protection of players in the context of international transfers: the view of the European Commission**

The European Commission made two presentations. The first presentation covered the legal framework applicable to young workers in the EU, notably the Council Directive 94/33/EC on the protection of young people at work, with a special focus on the provisions of the Directive concerning young people employed in the sport sector. The second presentation addressed the EU response to trafficking of human beings (THB), including facts and figures, the legal framework applicable at the EU and international levels and the EU Strategy in this area adopted by the Commission and endorsed by Member States in 2012.

#### **EU study on the economic and legal aspects of transfers of players**

The main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the [EU study](#) published by the European Commission in February 2013 were presented to the Expert Group. Many comments were expressed by the observers following this presentation.

#### **Players' agents in football**

FIFA presented the state of play concerning discussions about reforming the regulations applicable to intermediaries/players' agents in football based in principle on a set of minimum standards/requirements to be contained in FIFA's future regulatory framework. FIFA noted that new regulations would have to be approved by its Executive Committee and not by the Congress,



stressing that FIFA's objective was to move forward fast with this dossier considering the amount of work carried out so far on this matter.

## General discussion with members of the Expert Group (Member States)

All members agreed that the themes discussed (transfers and agents) fell under the remit of sports organisations, notably the topic of transfers, and that it was important to respect the autonomy of sport and subsidiary.

Members agreed that sport bodies needed to be closely involved in the discussion and that the Group should identify the areas where sports organisations and public authorities could work together.

The members and observers decided to fix the next meeting of the Group 17-18 July 2013 in Brussels.

**Further information:** The meeting's report will be available at the beginning of May. Last reports concerning the Experts Groups' meetings on Sport, Health and Participation (XG SHP, Brussels, February 6, 2013) and Sport Statistics (XG STAT, Warsaw, February 25/26, 2013) have just been published on the [Sports Unit website](#).

## Olympic medallist, Josefa Idem, becomes Italy's Minister of Sport

Josefa Idem, an Olympic medallist in canoeing for Germany and Italy becomes Italy's Minister for Equal Opportunities and Sports. The 48-year-old, born in the German province of Nordrhein-Westfalen was recently elected as member of Enrico Letta's cabinet within the Social Democratic Party of Italy. Mrs Idem obtained a seat in the Italian Parliament two months ago. Mrs Idem's participation in last year's Olympic Games in London made her the first woman to participate in the Games 8 times. She won the gold medal in the

C1 (solo) in the 2000 Sydney Games. She began her Olympic career with the German Canoe Federation (Deutscher Kanu-Verband, DKV) at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles as well as the 1988 Seoul Games, where she won a bronze medal at the age of 19 in the C2. She became even more successful after 1992 when she became an Italian citizen. In 2004 and in 2008 she won two silver medals and in 1996 a bronze medal.

## Committee of Belgian Chamber of Representatives adopts a legislative proposal on ticket resale to sports events

The leading Committee of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives adopted on 16 April 2013 a legislative proposal regarding the resale of tickets to live entertainment events, i.e. music concerts and sporting events. This legislative proposal aims at fighting ticket speculation and regulating the

practice of ticket resale for cultural and sporting events.

The resale of tickets has been in debate over the past years as it has made its way into a lucrative business. It is argued that this practice privileges the commercial aspect





rather than advocates the right and the universal accessibility to cultural events.

Combined with this latter legislative proposal (dating from 6 April 2010) is the former "football law" stating that the resale of tickets for football games (national and international) is punishable if the resale threatens the security of the game or is done on a profit-basis. These laws were established with the aim of protecting the free market practices and the consumer.

Although the general practice of reselling tickets is defended by the principles of a free market, it has been brought under examination for reasons that vary. Originally, licensed sellers or legal ticket brokers bought tickets first-hand and resold them beyond their face value. Over time, they have acquired the monopoly of the ticket market; they resell them for astronomical prices, and finally, prohibit buyers to resell their purchased tickets on their own.

This legislative proposal is not to prohibit the reselling of tickets *per se* but to regulate its practice, that is, to resell tickets in the secondary market in accordance to

observing good practices. More precisely, this legislation prohibits the resale of tickets for profit and to enforce other options of their resale.

In France, the French legislation has passed a law for the regulation of this practice whereby article 316-6-2 was added to the French Penal Code. According to this article, the regular sale of tickets to cultural and sporting events is prohibited, unless the organizer of the event, or the owner of the exploitation rights, provides the seller with a formal authorization. The non-observance of this law may result in a 15,000 EUR fine for its offender.

The legislative proposal on ticket resale will be debated in the Plenary Session of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives on 2 May and if approved, will be passed on to the Senate. Upon its final approval, its publication will be made public in the Belgian Official Journal over the course of this year.

**Further information:**

[Belgian legislative proposal nr. 0656/006 of April 23, 2013 \(French - Dutch\)](#)

## *Funding programmes, studies and projects*

### Sport 4 Good Governance at "The Challenge for Europe in the Governance of Sport" Conference

More than 100 experts from politics, research and sport organizations came together at "The Challenge for Europe in the Governance of Sport". This conference, hosted by *Play the Game*, took place on 8 April 2013 in Brussels. The acting head of the European Commission's Sport Unit, Pedro Velazquez, opened the seminar.

The "Sport 4 Good Governance" (S4GG) project was presented by Folker Hellmund, director of the EOC EU Office, and Gabi Freytag, director of the Leadership Academy of DOSB. In their presentations special focus was given to the educational toolkit and the self-evaluation software for the



federations. The project will be completed at the end of June 2013.



The one-day seminar provided a platform for leading actors to present their discoveries, exchange outcomes and experiences from

EU-funded projects on good governance in sport.

Additional projects funded through the EU were presented by the Sport and Recreation Alliance (UK), Transparency International Germany (GER), and Supporters Direct (UK).

The panel discussion highlighted once more the need for actors to commit on the political level, within sport organizations, and in national and international governing bodies. The IOC was represented by the Secretary of the Ethic Commission.

## Further information:

[Governance seminar presentations online](#)

## "Sport 4 Good Governance" Project organises training session in Bratislava



On 15 and 16 April 2013 the "Sport 4 Good Governance" (S4GG) Project in cooperation with the Slovak Olympic

Committee organised a first S4GG training session in Bratislava, Slovakia. This training session brought the project partners as well as interested federations together and was chaired by Gabi Freytag and Niklas Pott of the Leadership Academy of the DOSB.

The training session was designed as a "multiplier workshop" meaning that participants were taught how they can use the toolkit to educate federations and sport organisations on good governance principles and their implementation. This type of training should allow the participants to become multipliers themselves. To create multipliers in EU Member States is an important factor for the legacy of the project.



The educational toolkit "your key to good governance in sport" was at the core of the workshop. The toolkit has only recently been finalised by the Leadership Academy of the

DOSB and contains seven different elements including a self-evaluation tool, implementation examples and a best practice example. All the information has been put on a USB stick. The meeting in Bratislava was for most of the project partners, the first occasion to use the toolkit and to see the results of the hard work over the last months. The self-evaluation was especially regarded as a very attractive and useful instrument.

On 20 June 2013, a second training session will be organised in Graz, Austria. The

April 2013



training session will be an introduction workshop. Additional training sessions are not scheduled yet, but might take place in the foreseeable future. The information on planned events can be found on the website.

**Further information:**

[Website of the S4GG Project](#)

## Call for Proposals – Preparatory Actions „European Partnership on Sports“

The European Commission launched the Call for Proposals of Preparatory Actions on the „European Partnership on Sports“ on Friday 26 April. This year there are three topics to be tested for the funding priorities:

- Strengthening of good governance and dual careers in sport through support for the mobility of volunteers, coaches, managers and staff of non-profit sport organisations.
- Protecting athletes, especially the youngest, from health and safety hazards by improving training and competition conditions.
- Promoting traditional European sports and games.

The first topic will support transnational projects focusing on learning mobility arrangements between organisations in the fields of good governance and dual careers in sport. For this first topic, a budget of 1.35 million EUR is foreseen to fund 4-7 projects. With regard to the second topic, sport organisations and sport-related organisations are encouraged to look at how training and competition conditions can be improved. The output of such collaborations could be training modules, teaching materials or new technical standards. The

budget for the second topic is around 0.8 million EUR and 3-5 projects are foreseen to be funded.

The third area of the call will test how European networking may contribute to counteracting the challenges experienced by traditional European sports and games, e.g. the attraction of wider audiences. Outputs may include conferences, training seminars, training camps and teaching materials. An indicative budget for this topic is 0.5 million EUR to cover between 2-4 projects.

This year the third-party private funding will not be compulsory but applications with additional third-party private funding are encouraged and will receive additionally awarded points. Projects must start between 1 January and 31 March 2014 and end no later than 30 June 2015. Deadline for the applications is 19 July 2013. EU co-financing will be maximum 80 % of the eligible costs which means that the own-financing should be at least 20 %. Possible private funding will be reduced from the EU co-financing percentage.

**Further information:**

[Commission launches 2013 Call for Proposals in the field of Sport](#)





## Internal and visits

### EOC EU Office: Annual Partners Meeting 2013

Under the direction of Folker Hellmund, the EOC EU Office held its Annual Partner Meeting on 24 April 2013 in Brussels. Representatives of fifteen partner organizations attended the event. Special focus was set on:

- **EU funding programmes**, namely the structural funds, the 2013 preparatory actions in the field of sports (for further details, see the article dedicated to preparatory actions), and the "Erasmus for All" programme as well as presentations on single topics aimed at both raising awareness of on-going negotiations and at showing the kind of sport projects that could be subsidized through EU funding from 2014 onwards.
- **Single sport policy fields** currently under preparation or already implemented by the EU institutions. Thus, updates on issues such as dual careers, match-fixing and online gambling, state aids, data protection and gender equality, were provided to the partners.
- **The most recent sport studies and projects.** The EOC EU Office presented as one of the outcomes of its Sport4GoodGovernance project, the "key to good governance" to the partners. Furthermore, a short introduction of the self-evaluation software on Good Governance was given. In addition, FIFA summarised the content of its contribution to the Commission's study on the economic and legal aspects of transfers of players. Afterwards, the results of the research were briefly laid out.



Finally, **Pedro Velazquez**, the acting head of the European Commission's Sport Unit, presented facts about the current state of play in the field of European sport policy. In the discussion he provided insights concerning topics such as the EU institutions' agenda, current negotiations (especially about the *"International convention of the Council of Europe to combat the manipulation of sport results"*), new funding programmes and the future implementation process of the upcoming sport chapter.



## Seminar on Online Gambling in EP: How to ensure high-level consumer protection and the funding of grassroots sport

Targeting high-level consumer protection and the funding of grassroots sports, ENGSO, in partnership with MEP Hannu Takkula (ALDE), MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP) and the beneficiaries of Finnish Lottery Company Veikkaus, co-organised a Seminar on online gambling at the European Parliament on 11 April 2013.

On 23 October 2012, the European Commission published a Communication on online gambling with which a two-year action plan has also been enclosed including, among others, the topic of the protection of customers and citizens, minors and vulnerable groups. Also the topics preventing fraud and money laundering, safeguarding the integrity of sports, and preventing match-fixing are addressed in the Communication. As a follow-up of the Communication, a report entitled "Online gambling in the internal market" is in progress at the European Parliament.

At the Seminar, a few Members of the European Parliament presented their views on the topic. MEP Ivo Belet (EPP), who is one of the rapporteurs for opinion of the "Online gambling in the internal market" report, raised the points on the protection of consumers and minors, but also the issue of match-fixing and how to tackle this issue already considered as a threat to sports.



Among the participants, representatives from the European Commission, the gaming industry and the sports movement were also present. ENGSO President Birgitta Kervinen highlighted the importance of the lottery and online gaming revenues generated for good causes, particularly, for the financing of grassroots sports, as lottery and online gaming revenues are important sources for sport and more specifically for grassroots sports in many European countries.

### Further information:

[The European Lotteries Sports Integrity Action Plan](#)





## Dates in May

12	ENGSO Executive Committee Meeting, Brussels
14	IOC Conference on match-fixing, Lausanne
16	EOC Executive Committee Meeting, San Marino
16-17	Annual EOC Seminar, San Marino
17	Structured Dialogue Meeting, Brussels
17	Council of the EU: Sport Ministry Council Meeting, Brussels
27-31	Sport Accord Annual Convention, Saint-Petersburg
28-30	International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS), Berlin

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