

– The Voice of the Olympic Sports Movement in Brussels –

Tweets of the month



EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 2 September

Want to know more about [#EOC](#) European Youth Olympic Festival? Visit our [#EYOF](#) stand at [#BeActive](#) European Sport Village in Brussels 7-9 Sept

antoniosilvamendes

@antsilvamendes3 6

August

Sport clubs have important role to play in supporting social inclusion & building safer & more cohesive communities [@ENGSOYouth](#) [#BeActive](#)

SIGGS Project

@SIGGS_EU 17 July

[#SIGGS](#) is still collecting good practice examples of implementation [#goodgovernance](#) principles in sport! More info: [http://www.siggs.eu/?q=blog/siggs-project-collecting-good-practice-examples ...](http://www.siggs.eu/?q=blog/siggs-project-collecting-good-practice-examples...)

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

We hope you enjoyed your summer break and are ready for a full EU sport agenda in the upcoming months.

Over the summer, the EOC EU Office and a number of its partners have been busy getting ready for the first ever European Week of Sport, which will take place next week (7 – 13 September 2015). The EOC is an official partner of the initiative and supports the idea of motivating European citizens to take part in sports and use the numerous opportunities the sport movement offers.

With only a couple of days to go, last preparations are underway, before EU Sport Commissioner Tibor Navracsics will officially open the Week on Monday 7 September. At the same time, he will also visit the European Sport Village in Brussels, where sport activities and information stands will be organised during the week. For more updates on the European Week of Sport, see our article in this Monthly Report.

In the Sport Village, the EOC will be presenting the [European Youth Olympic Festival](#) (EYOF) and its activities at a stand in the village to EU representatives and the public. The EYOF is the biggest multisport event for young athletes (aged 14-18) in Europe. It offers a first Olympic experience for young athletes and an opportunity to educate and motivate both the youth and the general public to engage in sport and to adopt a healthy lifestyle. It is an important means of promoting sport and Olympic values such as fair play, respect and friendship. This summer the EYOF was successfully hosted in Tbilisi (Georgia), while the next edition will take place in the Hungarian city of Győr in 2017.

Positive developments took place over the last weeks regarding the Council of Europe Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions. After Luxembourg, Poland and Spain signed in July (meaning that 12 EU Member States have now done so), Malta has decided to withdraw its Request for an Opinion to the CJEU (see article). The EOC EU Office sees this as a positive progress and urges other Member States to follow suit in order for the Convention to enter into force.

The EOC EU Office is approaching these and further topics with a new team composition (s. article) and is looking forward to welcome the partners of the EOC EU Office for the next Special Competence Seminar in autumn.

Enjoy your read and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or feedback,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Folker Hellmund'.

Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office

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EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

European Week of Sport is here!

The long-planned European Week of Sport will become reality next week. On 7 September, Commissioner Tibor Navracsics will officially open the first ever European Week of Sport at the SQUARE meeting centre in Brussels. Furthermore, different activities will take place in the opening event, including a Gym flashmob and the kick-off of the European Sport Village. This Sport Village presents a combination of exhibition stands and sport activities and will be open from Monday until Saturday of the Week. Sporting opportunities include football and basketball 3x3 courts, as well as a golf range, pony riding and a bouldering wall. All of these are open to the public. Exhibition stands will both be available inside of the conference centre (Monday-Wednesday) and outside on the square in front of it (whole week). Both national coordinators and partners of the week will have stands. The EOC stand will present the activities of the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF).



On Wednesday the Commission will organise a Flagship event which will start with four workshops during the afternoon, covering the role of sport clubs to build inclusive communities, the role of sport to foster youth employability or inclusive workplaces as well as access to sport for different social groups. After a visit to the Sport



Village a conference on the topic “The role of sport in promoting tolerance and open societies in Europe” will include results from the workshops and a panel debate with the Commissioner, before the event finishes with an awards ceremony. During the latter, two prizes will be given out: One for a grassroots project focusing on the topic of this year’s event, another for an individual, who will be rewarded for his/her outstanding contribution for tolerance on a local level. Overall, three projects will receive awards on 9 September and the person receiving the individual reward will have the opportunity to join the ambassador team for EWoS 2016 as a citizens’ representative.

In addition to the Commission, some partners are organising events in Brussels during the Week, e.g. the annual ENGSO Forum will take place on Friday and Saturday at the SQUARE. The topic of the ENGSO Forum is “The Role of Sport Clubs in Changing Society in Future”, contributing to the EWoS focus day on sport clubs.

More information on the Week, including its ambassadors and upcoming activities, can be

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found on the EWoS website. The website also contains the #BeActive blog.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Website of the European Week of Sport](#)

Informal Sport Minister Council in Luxembourg

An informal meeting of EU Sports Ministers was held on 6 and 7 July 2015 in Luxembourg to discuss the following topics:

1. EU representation in the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
2. Relations between the EU and the sports movement and relations with the Council of Europe in the field of sport.

Under the presence of Commissioner **Tibor Navracsics**, Minister **Roman Schneider**, representing the Luxembourg Presidency, highlighted the 'positive' aspects of sport. He especially underlined the positive impact of sport for the well-being of people, the contribution of sport towards social inclusion and the still underestimated economic importance of sport related to GDP and employment.

The representatives of the Sport Movement **Folker Hellmund** (Director of the European Olympic Committee EU Office); **Gianni Infantino** (UEFA General Secretary); **Bernard Lapasset** (Chairman of World Rugby) and **André Meyer** (President of the European Volleyball

Confederation) highly appreciated the positive approach of the Luxembourg EU-Presidency.

In the open discussion with the Ministers the representatives of the sport movement raised the following topics:

- Better accessibility for grassroots sport projects to the Erasmus+ programme;
- A reform of the Structured Dialogue meetings;
- A closer cooperation between ministers dealing with horizontal topics relevant for sport, such as data protection or visa policy;
- Better mainstreaming of sport in EU policies as a consequence of Article 165 of the Lisbon Treaty;
- Support for the reforms on financial fair play and third party ownership in football.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Discussion paper on the relations between national/European public authorities and the sports movement](#)

European Commission: Initiative “Better Regulation for Better Results”

As one of its ten priorities, the Juncker Commission has decided to promote better regulation of the EU policies. Implemented by the European Commission's first Vice-President Frans Timmermans, the initiative aims to design policies and laws in the most efficient and effective way. As part of this approach, the policy process is directed to be more open, thus giving

stakeholders, including the sport movement, more opportunities to express their opinion.

The key document of this programme, the **Better Regulation Agenda**, was adopted by the Commission in mid-May. The Agenda focuses on three areas: higher transparency and openness of the legislative process, higher quality of legislative proposals and improved revision of the existing EU legislation.

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In order to secure wider openness, the Commission gives stakeholders a say in several phases of the policy process. In a first step they can provide a **feedback** on roadmaps for new initiatives, roadmaps for evaluations and fitness checks as well as on inception impact assessments. Secondly, for green papers, new initiatives and evaluations, **open public online consultations** are available for a period of 12 weeks. After a legislative proposal is adopted by the Commission, feedback can be provided within an 8-week period. In the future, it will be also possible to give **feedback** on drafts of delegated acts and important implementation acts, both over a period of 4 weeks. Lastly, in addition to the formal consultations, already existing EU laws and initiatives can be commented on with the **Lighten the Load – Have Your Say** online tool.

With regard to higher quality of the legislative proposals, this is to be secured by Guidelines on Better Regulation, which already apply to the Commission's work. Thorough impact assessments should take place, and be checked

afterwards by an independent Regulatory Scrutiny Board, consisting of experts from both inside and outside the Commission.

Finally, the Agenda plans to focus on improving the quality of already existing legislation. This legislation will be subject to a strengthened Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT). In addition to the existing features, a permanent REFIT Platform will be established, serving as a forum for the exchange of views between the Commission, Member States and stakeholders and bringing forward concrete ideas on how to improve EU laws and reduce regulatory and administrative burdens.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Better regulation for better results - An EU agenda Open consultations](#)

[Feedback on Roadmaps/Inception impact assessments](#)

[Feedback on Commission Proposals](#)

[Lighten the load - Have your say](#)

European Commission: Statement of Objections on cross-border provision of pay-TV services

On 23 July 2015, the European Commission (EC) sent a Statement of Objection to Sky UK and to six major US film studios: Disney, NBC Universal, Paramount Pictures, Sony, Twentieth Century Fox and Warner Bros concerning agreements that would have breached EU competition rules.

Being part of the competition policy, the EU antitrust rules are based on the general objectives of prohibiting agreements between market operators, which restrict competition and avoid abuses of dominant positions. The decision to launch a Statement of Objection is part of the normal process, when the EC considers that EU antitrust rules have been violated. Following an initial investigation phase, the EC can decide to raise objections to the involved parties. Following

this, the addressees can provide both written and oral answers examined by the EC before taking its final decision.

Regarding the SKY UK investigation, the EC reached the conclusion that some clauses of the agreement between Sky UK and the US major film studios are creating an “*absolute territorial exclusivity to Sky UK and/or other broadcasters*”. Even if sport is not directly affected by this investigation, the EC raised the question of “**geo-blocking**” (when a broadcaster blocks online content depending on the location) and “**passive sales**” (sales made by a licensee or dealer in response to unsolicited orders from outside the allocated sales territory of the licensee). These topics could potentially affect sports broadcasters

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in a near future as the EC recalls that this investigation has to be understood in the context of the “modernization of the EU copyright rules and the review of the EU Satellite and Cable Directive” (see further article in this Monthly Report). The EOC EU Office is paying close attention to the EC proposal to reform the EU

copyright rules and will inform of any further developments.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Press release of the European commission](#)
[Website of the Digital single market strategy](#)

Commission launches Consultation on review of the satellite and cable directive

On 24 August 2015, the European Commission has launched a public consultation on the re-view of the EU satellite and cable directive (93/83/EC). The review is one of the measures the Commission has announced to undertake in the framework of its communication on “A strategy for a digital single market in Europe” as of 6 May this year. The objective of the EU’s Digital Single Market Strategy is foremost to improve cross-border access to broadcasters’ services in Europe via the internet. In this context, the broadcasting of live sport events is also concerned.

The EU’s satellite and cable directive originates from 1993 and facilitates the clearing of copyright for satellite broadcasting and cable retransmission. For satellite broadcast the “country of origin principle” is applicable, i.e. that rights are acquired for the EU country where, under the control and responsibility of the broadcasting organisation, the uplink (which sends the programme signal to the satellite for its communication to the public) takes place. For cable retransmission, operators who want to include broadcasts from other countries in the

packages which they offer to customers, have to obtain the rights through the competent national collective management organisations.

With the consultation the Commission wants to gain a broad overview of the current situation of the market of the broadcasting landscape within the EU. The EU is particularly interested in the legal and economic aspects of a widening of the scope of the directive, also when it comes to cross-border broadcasts via the internet. Organisers of bigger sport events believe that any such measures would result in an obligation of the right holders to offer pan-European licences. This could mean a reduction in service quality or offer for all consumers outside the territory of the “core market” of the respective sport event.

Stakeholders can contribute to the consultation **until 16 November 2015**. The results will be published by the Commission in spring 2016.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Consultation on the review of the EU satellite and cable directive](#)

Match-fixing: Malta withdraws Request for Opinion from CJEU

The Maltese government has withdrawn its Request for Opinion, which it had filed with the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) on 8 July 2014.

Following the adoption of the Convention on Manipulations of Sports Competitions of the Council of Europe (CoE) on 9 July 2014, Malta

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had filed its request in order to clarify, whether the Convention and especially its definition of “illegal sports betting” were compatible with the EU Treaties and Articles 18, 49 and 56 TFEU especially.

Malta had taken part in the negotiations on the Convention in the CoE and, while agreeing with the general aims of the Convention, had objected throughout that the definition of “illegal sports betting” is wrong to focus on the consumers’ location and not on the location of the operator. Due to this, Malta claimed that legally compliant operators in one would possibly be deemed illegal in other Member States. Furthermore, Malta pointed out that betting regulation was not a settled matter in the EU and should not be introduced over the Convention. During the negotiations, the majority of CoE countries, including EU Member States, wanted to maintain this definition however, leading Malta to take the step of a Request for Opinion with the CJEU.

Considering the current discussions in the Council of the European Union to proceed with the signature of the Convention, Malta has now decided to withdraw its Request from the CJEU and proceed through “deeper dialogue at the European level” and “to safeguard this position during the following months”. 21 Members of the CoE have currently signed the Convention, 12 of which are EU Member States. Luxembourg, Spain and Poland were the last signatories on 7 July 2015.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press release of Maltese Government, 18 August 2015](#)

[Council of Europe: Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions](#)
[Overview of Signatures/Ratifications for Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competition](#)

Continued Discussions on a new proposal for Alcohol Strategy

Following the European Parliament’s (EP) resolution on the same topic (see Monthly Report of May), both the Council Working Party on Public Health and a group of MEPs have reiterated their calls to the European Commission to present a new Alcohol Strategy. The Commission has not presented a new proposal since the former EU Alcohol Strategy ended in 2012

The ban of advertising on alcoholic beverages in regards to television, internet and sport events could be part of a new Alcohol Strategy in the future. The producers of alcoholic beverages often appear as sponsors of teams, events or stadiums in amateur and professional sport.

The Council Working Party on Public Health, a preparatory body for the Council Configuration Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council configuration (EPSCO), discussed a text put forward by the Luxembourg Presidency

asking the Commission to propose a new strategy. EU health ministers had already agreed on the need for a common EU alcohol policy over the course of an informal meeting in Riga in April.

In a follow-up of the Parliament Resolution, a group of MEPs sent an open letter to Commission President Juncker and Vice-President Timmermans demanding a comprehensive and focused EU Alcohol Strategy and questioning the legitimacy of the European Alcohol and Health Forum after public health and civil society stakeholders had left it in protest earlier this year. The MEPs therefore called “for the Forum to be cancelled or suspended until concrete policy action on alcohol is proposed”.

In reaction, the Lithuanian Commissioner for Health & Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, stated in a speech on policy priorities for Health that he had taken note of the EP resolution and Council

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discussions, but emphasised that discussions were ongoing and no decision of a proposal had been taken.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Working Party on Public Health: 17 July 2015](#)

[Open Letter by MEPs to Commission President and Vice-President: 24 July 2015](#)

[Vytenis Andriukaitis, Speaking points on priorities for Health: 16 July 2015](#)

FUNDING PROGRAMMES, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

SIGGS Project: Self-evaluation tool well on track

At 9 July, the third meeting of the Steering Committee (SteerCo) of the SIGGS Project, managed by the EOC EU Office together with 11 partner organisations, took place in Brussels. Chaired by Folker Hellmund, this third meeting brought together all project partners in the EOC EU Office to discuss the progress of the self-evaluation tool and the further steps in the project. Several National Olympic Committees (NOCs) had also sent their national expert as a representative.

The main point on the agenda was the development of the self-evaluation tool. Following the previous SteerCo meeting, it was decided to focus on four main principles and to structure the self-evaluation tool according to four steps. Aurélien Favre (EOSE) and Thierry Zintz (UCL) presented the first two steps to the participants. Following an exchange of views, the questions of the self-evaluation, which constitute one of the basic elements of the tool, have been finalised.

In addition, Matthias Van Baelen (EOC EU Office and Project Manager) presented the methodology for steps 3 and 4 on how to go from the results of the self-evaluation to customised Action Plans. As the main purpose of the project is to provide practical and customised guidance to NOCs and national sport federations, the customisation process is crucial. The various elements of the Roadmaps and Action Plans were discussed and approved by the participants. For the



development of these documents, the SIGGS Project is actively looking for good practice examples and other information that can contribute to the objectives.

The meeting was also a good occasion for the professional software company in charge of the technical implementation of the self-evaluation tool to present a first version to the participants. Although not all elements of this tool are in place yet, the project partners were able to recognise the potential and provided input for the further development of the tool.

The work on the Roadmaps and Actions Plans as well as on the technical implementation of the self-evaluation tool will continue over the summer. The schedule is to launch the tool within the project consortium in the beginning of October and to gather input from national sport

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federations, confederations and NOCs during the month of October. The next SteerCo meeting should take place in November or December. It will be a good occasion to discuss the first experience of the self-evaluation tool and to

prepare the Strategic Workshops which are scheduled in the first half of 2016.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Website of SIGGS Project](#)

Call for tender: Reviews of scientific evidence and policies on nutrition and physical activity

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety has opened a call for tender on "Reviews of scientific evidence and policies on nutrition and physical activity". The aim of the tender is to contribute to the European Commission's efforts to promote a healthy lifestyle by developing eight comprehensive reviews of scientific evidence and policies related to nutrition and physical activity.

The reviews linked with physical activity are to cover the following topics in particular:

- Preconceptions and behaviours contributing to positive energy balance;
- Health interventions effectiveness and efficiency;
- Kinds of physical activity in which the Europeans engage;
- Links between school and work performance and overweight and/or inadequate physical activity;
- Early warning indicators for changes in population overweight (and physical activity), prevalence and trends;

- Nutrition and physical activity guidelines for specific population groups (such as children, elderly people, patients or people with certain BMI level) at national and European level.

Apart from providing the reviews, the contractor is asked to discuss them in one-day expert workshops; to make recommendations for action; to identify gaps in research and methodologically sound ways to address them as well as to produce summary brochures. The maximum duration of the contract is 24 months with the price band from EUR 600.000 up to EUR 750.000. Applicants are asked to submit their tender by 18 September 2015.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Tender on Reviews of scientific evidence and policies on nutrition and physical activity](#)

Calls for tenders: Studies on Sport and Employability of Young People and on Youth Work Quality Systems

Two calls for tenders with relevance to sport have been launched by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Both calls aim at providing studies on specific aspects of youth work.

The first call directly targets the link between sport and employability. The goal is to provide a "Study on the Contribution of Sport to the Employability of Young People in the Context of the Europe 2020 Strategy". Youth unemployment is a major

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challenge for the European Union. As recognised by the “Council Conclusions on the contribution of sport to the EU economy” from November 2013, by the EU Work Plan for Sport 2014-2017 and by the 2015 Latvian Presidency, sport has an important role in this regard, as it can provide young people with specific horizontal personal and professional skills and competences, which could contribute to their self-development and enhance their employability.

The commissioned Study is supposed to contribute to this issue by increasing knowledge on the interactions between sport, employment and youth across the EU in order to suggest improvements of EU policy in this area. The contractor is asked to describe the current situation regarding the use of sport as a tool for better employability of young people, to identify good practices, to give an overview of existing policy measures and legislations as well as to propose possible future recommendations and actions. The Study will serve as the basis for the work of the Council Expert Group on Human Resources Development in Sport. As the deliverables, the contractor will provide presentations and the preliminary and final report. Tenders are to be submitted by 12 October 2015.

The second call aims at providing a “Study on Youth Work Quality Systems and Frameworks in the European Union - Handbook for Implementation”. The notion of “Youth Work” is addressed by the EU Strategy for Youth and is regarded as a broad, cross-sectoral term covering “out-of-school” education and a large scope of social, cultural, educational or political activities for young people - including sport. In April 2015, the “Expert Group on Youth Work Quality Systems” presented a report which overviews youth work practices and analyses youth work quality tools, systems and frameworks in the EU. The commissioned Study is supposed to build on this report and provide a handbook of guidelines, which would give guidance on basic quality principles and would help with designing and implementing quality approaches for various youth work activities at different levels. Applicants are asked to submit the tenders by 18 September 2015.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Study on the Contribution of Sport to the Employability of Young People in the Context of the Europe 2020 Strategy](#)

[Study on Youth Work Quality Systems and Frameworks in the European Union - Handbook for Implementation](#)

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INTERNAL AND VISITS

Change of staff at the EOC EU Office

After one year at the EOC EU Office as Policy Officer and more than six years at the European Parliament, our colleague Florence Lefebvre Rangeon has taken the decision to leave Brussels and to join the European Regional Office of the World Anti-Doping Agency in Lausanne, Switzerland. The EOC EU Office would like to thank Florence wholeheartedly for her great work, professionalism, and commitment both to the Office and to all partner organisations. We wish Florence all the best in her future professional and personal career.



Florence will be replaced as policy officer in the EOC EU Office by Valentin Capelli, a former high-level football player in France. Valentin has gained insight in and knowledge of the sport policy sector during a traineeship at our Office and has acquired valuable experience in public affairs as a trainee at Reporters Without Borders, world-renowned press freedom advocacy

organisation. Valentin is reachable at capelli@euoffice.eurolympic.org and at +32 2 738 03 20.



Furthermore, our highly competent office manager Karen Northshield will leave our Brussels office as of 15 September after 2 ½ years of successful and quality work; she will contribute to the health of citizens and promote sports in Brussels and



beyond in actively teaching fitness classes and training courses. We wish her all the best in her future professional and personal endeavours.

The EOC EU Office will decide on her replacement in the course of September.

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NEXT MONTH

Dates in September 2015

3/9	<i>Council Working Parking on Sport</i>
7-13/9	<i>European Week of Sports</i>
11/12	<i>ENGSO Forum, Brussels</i>
17/9	<i>EOC Executive Committee</i>
23/9	<i>Council Expert Group on Match-Fixing, Brussels</i>
25/9	<i>EAS Conference, Amsterdam</i>
29/9	<i>EP Sport Intergroup Meeting, Brussels</i>
30/9	<i>Council Working Party on Sport, Brussels</i>