



European Union and Sport

- EU Green Paper online gambling: IOC and EOC submit a joint Position to the European Commission** 2
- IMPACT Project: Roundtable with National Olympic Committees** 3



EU policy matters

- Priorities of the Polish Presidency in the field of sport** 4
- Polish presidency organised expert conference on social inclusion** 5



Funding programs and studies

- DOSB presents programme "Integration through sport" to European partners** 6

At a glance / Internal

- Staff members EOC EU Office** 7
- Dates in September** 7



European Union and Sport

EU Green Paper online gambling: IOC and EOC submit a joint position to the European Commission

On 24 March, the European Commission launched a Green Paper concerning on-line gambling (see Monthly report March 2011). The initiative aims to gather contributions from stakeholders until the end of July 2011 and shall help the European Commission to further define its role and future actions in this complex and sensitive issue.

On 12 July, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the European Olympic Committees (EOC) submitted to the European Commission a joint position. The latter welcomes the initiative and the approach of the European Commission, "which includes some extremely precise questions on the impact of sports betting on sport in general and the integrity of sports competitions in particular".

Designed to be as concrete as possible, the contribution contains an inventory of the measures implemented by the IOC and sport organisations in the field of gambling and recommendations on how to preserve the integrity of sports competitions in the framework of sports betting. Among these, the IOC and EOC recall the launch and the aim of the international working group on betting, which was set up in March 2011 in Lausanne, in the presence of Commissioner Barnier.

The joint position advocates, like the European Commission, an increased cooperation between all stakeholders

involved in this matter. It also underlines major issues:

- Ethical: current findings on the risks connected to the development of online betting, conflicts of interests,
- Legal: necessity to regulate on-line betting markets, legal recognition of sport events organisers' rights,
- Financial: financing of measures intending to safeguard the integrity of sport, financial return and
- Educational: preventive measures initiated by the IOC and the EOC towards sport actors in the context of the Olympic Games and the European Youth Olympic Games.

In addition to this contribution, and given the importance of this matter for the European sport movement, it is likely that many sport organisations will participate in the public consultation, starting with the National Olympic Committees. In addition, the contribution from the Sport Rights Owners Coalition (SROC), an informal group of representatives of international and national sports events organisers having a particular focus on rights issues, is expected. The European Commission has recently announced that its report on the consultation shall be available in autumn 2011.

In the meantime, the European Parliament is drafting an initiative report prepared by Jürgen CREUTZMANN (Germany, IMCO Committee). A first debate took place on 12



July 2011

July in the European Parliament. The IMCO Committee shall proceed with a vote during the course of September.

More information

All relevant documents are available on the [European Commission's website \(Directorate General Internal Market\)](#). It will include the contributions from stakeholders.

The IOC/EOC joint position on the Green Paper is available upon request addressed to info@euoffice.euolympic.org

IMPACT Project: Roundtable with National Olympic Committees

On 27 June, the European Association of Sport Employers (EASE) organized a roundtable on social dialogue at the headquarters of the French National Olympic Committee (CNOSF) in Paris. The roundtable forms part of several activities carried out by EASE in the framework of the so-called "IMPACT"-project. The key objective of this project, which is co-financed by the



European Commission, is to promote social dialogue in the sport and active leisure sector.

The European Commission has been actively promoting European Social Dialogue in sport during the last few years. Generally speaking, European social dialogue aims at securing the working relationship between employers and employees and defining minimum standards of employment required by the high mobility of employees. In 2008, a European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee (ESSDC) for Professional Football has been launched. In its Communication on sport published earlier this year, the Commission suggests setting up an "EU-level social dialogue for the whole sport and leisure sector and to discuss new relevant items such as contractual stability, education and training, health and safety or employment and working conditions". This

ESSDC will be launched in a first test phase in 2012. The EU has also supported social dialogue in sport by providing financial support to projects dealing with this issue, such as the ones implemented by EASE.

One of the obstacles for European social dialogue is the absence of a sport employers' organization in many member States of the European Union. In many EU countries, such organizations do not exist, which is in part due to diverging structures. To date, national sport employer organizations from only a handful of EU countries, such as the UK, the Netherlands, Sweden or Belgium are represented within EASE.

Therefore, EASE organized the roundtable together with National Olympic Committees on 27 June with the aim of encouraging NOCs to initiate national social dialogue in their respective countries and increasing the representativeness of EASE.

Representatives of the following organizations attended the roundtable:

- Several National Olympic Committees: German (DOSB), French (CNOSF), Italian (CONI), Polish (PKOI) and Latvian (LOK)
- The French Organization of Sports Employers (CoSMoS)

July 2011



- EOC EU Office
- The representation in Brussels of the Czech Republic Confederation of employers' associations

During this roundtable, participants exchanged their views on the benefits of national social dialogue in sport and especially the French experience.

Even if social dialogue appears to be outside the realm of NOCs concerns, EASE emphasized the potential benefits this process might bring. According to EASE, NOCs also have the capacity to encourage the creation of employers' organizations similar to those in France, the Netherlands and Sweden.

EASE argued that social dialogue represented a tool which might allow one to take account of issues related to employment which are specific to sport, such as working time (e.g. the salary of a coach working during a sport competition for several days in a row). Being represented within EASE might also help NOCs to influence decision-making processes in the future European sectoral social dialogue committee.

EASE is currently developing a practical guide for employers explaining how to create an employers' organization in sport in order to promote social dialogue. This guide will soon be finalized and be presented to the participants of the roundtable.

More information:

[Presentation of IMPACT project](#)

EU-policy matters

Priorities of the Polish Presidency in the field of sport

On 1 July, Poland took over the EU-Presidency from Hungary. "Our plans are very ambitious.", Adam Giersz, Polish Minister of Sport and Tourism, pointed out in the Committee on Education and Culture (CULT) of the European Parliament on 13 July. The Polish Presidency has defined the following priorities in the field of sport:

Polish Presidency – Priorities

- *Threats to the integrity of sporting competitions (mainly match-fixing and doping)*
- *Social dimension of sport*
- *Sports policy based on economic facts*

Giersz pointed out that the issue of match-fixing would be addressed broadly. In this field, the Polish Presidency would suggest to Member States to integrate a definition of "sport fraud as a criminal activity" in national legislations, propose further actions to strengthen cooperation amongst law enforcement authorities, sport governing bodies and betting operators and to ensure the respect of sport organizers' rights. A more coordinated approach at EU level would also be needed in the fight against doping. For this reason, the Polish Presidency is in favour of strengthening the EU's position within WADA. As for the social role of sport, the Polish Presidency will focus on volunteering. As for the third priority, the





July 2011

Polish Presidency will highlight the economic contribution sport can make to society as a whole, for instance through big sporting events. In 2012, Poland hosts the European Football Championships. Some key data on the economic role of sport would be presented during the informal ministerial meeting in Krakow in October. Giersz also welcomed the inclusion of sport into the next Multiannual Financial Framework, as suggested by the European Commission in its recent proposal.

The Polish Presidency plans to adopt the following documents in the framework of the Council in order to ensure continuity with the coming EU Presidencies:

Polish Presidency – Documents to be adopted

- *Conclusions on “Combating match-fixing”*
- *Conclusions on “the role of sports volunteering promoting active citizenship”*
- *Council resolution on “Representation and coordination of EU position in WADA”*

During the Polish presidency, several sport related events will be organized. The most important dates of the Presidency are the following:

Polish Presidency – sport related events

- *18-19 July*: Conference “Ensuring equal chances through sport participation as a social policy element” in Wroclaw, Poland
- *13-14 September*: Conference “From volunteering to leadership in sport” in Warsaw, Poland
- *20 September*: Conference on match-fixing in Brussels (tbc)
- *13-14 October*: Informal Sports Ministers’ Meeting in Cracow, Poland
- *29. November* : Formal Sports Ministers’ Meeting in Brussels preceded by the Structured Dialogue meeting
- *14-16 December* : EU Sport Directors’ Meeting in Gdansk, Poland

More information:

[official website of the Presidency](#)

Polish presidency organised expert conference on social inclusion

How can sport be used as a tool for social inclusion and equal opportunities? That was the main question on the agenda of an expert conference organised by the Polish presidency on July 18 and 19 in Wroclaw.

The conference, entitled “Ensuring equal chances through sport participation as a social policy element”, brought together 90 representatives of national ministries, the EU institutions, sport organisations, NGOs and universities from all over Europe. It was the first in a series of sport related events to be held under Polish Presidency. Adam Giersz,

Polish Minister for Sport and Tourism, reminded that combating social exclusion is one of the key priorities of the Polish presidency in the field of sport. Rafał Dutkiewicz, mayor of Wroclaw, stated that sport is playing an increasing role in municipal life. “Out of 10,5 bn. Złoty (about 2,6 bn. EUR) public investments made in the city over the last few years one third is linked to sport,”, Dutkiewicz said. Wroclaw will be one of the cities in Poland hosting the European Football Championships in 2012 and, as part of the preparations; a considerable share of the municipal budget



July 2011

went into building sport venues or upgrading public transport.

The activities of the European Commission in the field of social inclusion were presented by Bart Ooijen from the Commission's Sport Unit (DG Education and Culture). Ooijen explained that the Commission funded sport projects in the field of social inclusion under the Preparatory Actions 2009 and is willing to provide financial support to such projects in the future as well. Astrid Vervaeet from the Department of Culture, Youth, Sport and Media of the Flemish Community in Belgium recalled that EU Sport Ministers had adopted specific conclusions "on the role of sport as a source of and a driver for active social inclusion" under Belgian presidency in November last year. "We are happy that the Polish presidency put this issue on the agenda and we hope that it will be further elaborated on", Vervaeet said. Aleksandra Plucińska, Deputy Director of the Department of Infrastructure of the Polish

Ministry for Sport and Tourism, presented the national programme on preventing social exclusion "My Sports Pitch - Orlik 2012". This flagship initiative foresees the creation of 2012 sport pitches in Polish municipalities by 2012. The programme of the expert conference also included 5 thematic panel discussions covering e.g. the integration of vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities or people with a migrant background in and through sport, gender equality in sports or sport for the disabled. Participants also discussed how sport could be better made use of to promote an active lifestyle among the elderly, to prevent crime and violence among children and youth or to integrate prisoners in the society.

The Polish presidency will organise another expert conference on the issue of volunteering in Warsaw from September 13 to 14.

Funding programs and studies

DOSB presents programme "Integration through sport" to European partners

During a two-day conference, hosted by the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) on 11 and 12 July 2011 in Frankfurt, delegations of the Bulgarian Ski Federation and a partner network of the Olympic Committee of Slovenia have obtained insights into the program "Social Inclusion through Sports". The study visit took place within the framework of the project "Creating a level playing field" which is currently applied by the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO). The project has received financial support from the European Commission through the programme "Preparatory Actions in the field of sport". Apart from the DOSB, several

partner organizations from all over Europe participate in this project.

The study visit did not only focus on sharing information and developing learning experience about the initiatives run by the DOSB but also on encouraging peer learning between the participants.





July 2011

As a key challenge in contemporary German society, the issue of social inclusion has received particular attention by German sports for more than 20 years.

The activities of the DOSB in this field are funded by the National Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Office for Migrants and Refugees. In this context, the DOSB is running a network project entitled "Physical Activity and Health – more



female Migrants in Sports" which has been implemented by local sports clubs and considered a good practice model on national and European level.

As a practical example of this initiative, the second day of the conference included a field visit to a local sports club which is successfully employing a program on the inclusion of Muslim women into gymnastic sports. In this frame, participants were able to gain detailed knowledge on the practical establishment, methods and project partners and develop useful ideas for their own initiatives.

At a glance/ Internal

Staff members EOC EU Office

The EOC EU Office would like to inform that Ms. Anna-Mari Hämäläinen (ENGSO) is leaving the EOC EU Office end of August. After 16 months of successful work Anna-Mari has decided to accept a new challenging position in Finland.

The EOC EU Office would like to take the opportunity to thank Anna-Mari for her much appreciated work and wishes her all the best for the future. The decision on the successor will be taken in due time.

Dates in September

07.-09.	EOC ExCom, Minsk
10-11.09.	ENGSO ExCom
13.-14.09.	Conference of Polish Presidency "From Volunteering to Leadership in Sport", Warsaw
27.09	Council Expert Group: Sport, health and participation, Brussels

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