



European Union and Sport

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European Council on Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020

The Heads of States and Governments of the 27 Member States met on 22 and 23 November at the European Council in Brussels to launch the negotiations on the multiannual financial framework of the EU for the period 2014-2020.

Unsurprisingly, given the great divergences amongst Member States, it was not possible to find a general compromise during the summit.

The proposal from the European Commission published at the end of 2011 aimed at mobilizing EUR 1.047 trillion of funding for the period 2014-2020, representing 1% of European GDP. Within this volume, the Erasmus for all programme proposal, which includes the budget devoted to sport (238

million EUR), reaches a total of 18 billion EUR.

Despite budget cuts proposed by the European Council President Herman Van Rompuy (75 billion EUR in total), the Member States have quickly interrupted the discussion, without even discussing EU own revenues over the period 2014/2020.

The Heads of State and Government will therefore meet again before the regular session in March 2013, during the Irish Presidency of the EU, to continue the negotiations.

Further information:

[Council of the EU website](#)

EU representatives in the WADA Foundation Board announced

On 27 November 2012 the Council designated the three representatives of the European Union in the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Foundation Board. Previously the three seats were allocated to the past, the present and the future Presidency of the EU. But as a result of the Council Resolution on the representation of the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA of December 2011, the system will change as of 1 January 2013.

From 1 January 2013 the following persons will represent the EU in the WADA Foundation Board:

- The Irish Minister **Leo Varadkar** for a period of 18 months as a representative of the incumbent Trio Presidency (Ireland, Lithuania and Greece)
- The Luxembourgish Minister **Romain Schneider** for a period of three years as a representative of the future Trio Presidency (Italy, Latvia and Luxembourg)
- The Portuguese Secretary of State **Alexandre Miguel Mestre** for a period of three years holding the newly created position of "expert at governmental level"



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This new system will be reviewed by the Council and the representatives of the Member States by the end of 2015.

Further information:

[Cyprus Presidency press release on Education, Youth, Culture and Sport \(EYCS\) Council \(27 November 2012\)](#)
[Council resolution on representation of EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA \(December 2011\)](#)

Sports Ministers Council

On 26-27 November, the Council of Ministers of Education, Youth, Culture and Sport was held at the Council of the European Union (Brussels).

The discussions on sport took place on 27 November and focused on the following themes:

Economic impact of sport

The Ministers responsible for Sport adopted conclusions on strengthening the evidence base for sport policy-making¹ by promoting the crucial role of sport as a factor of growth, employment, skills development, and social cohesion. In this regard the contribution of sport to the Europe 2020 strategy became evident. Member States are encouraged to continue the progress made in "Sport Satellite Accounts" relying on the tools available, making use of the existing structures for cooperation at EU level and seeking to involve governmental structures, including national statistical offices. This could be improved by integrating data on the social and economic impact of sport in the European statistical program 2013-2017 and in various annual programs of labour statistics.

¹ Cf. Article "Publication of the EU study on the contribution of sport to economic growth and employment in the EU".

Health

Conclusions on the promotion Health Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA) were also adopted: they invite the Member States to support efforts to promote physical activity in the field of sport, such as guidelines to improve physical activity proposed in local sports clubs, specific programs implemented by sports organizations in a given sport.

In this context, the Ministers adopted the idea of an "Annual European Week of Sport", which aims to promote sport especially among youngsters in cooperation with relevant sports organisations. The cost should be minimal, and the project should require the cooperation of institutions but also local regional and national sports organisations as well as sports clubs and schools. The event must be inclusive, addressed to people of all ages and backgrounds, including disabled and disadvantaged people, who often do not have the possibility of practicing sport.

Match fixing

Despite of the rigorous preparation by the Cypriot Presidency, the conclusions of the EU Council on "a strategy to fight against match fixing" failed the necessary unanimity mainly due to the resistance of Malta. In the end, the document was only published as a Cypriot Presidency paper with less political impact than a Council conclusion. Among the key recommendations, Member States have been invited to join the on-going drafting process of a convention against match fixing,



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chaired by the Council of Europe and to intensify the cooperation of relevant ministries, police and judicial authorities across borders due to the transnational nature of match-fixing. In addition, the document promoted a stronger role of regulatory authorities as an intermediary

between the betting operators and the sports organisations.

Further information:

[Press release of the Presidency](#) + [Council of the EU Press release](#)

Funding programmes, studies and projects

European Parliament CULT Committee votes on funding programmes

On 26-27 November 2012 an important meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Education and Culture (CULT) took place. The most interesting sport-related items on the agenda were the voting sessions on the new EU programme for Youth, Education, Training and Sport as well as the Europe for Citizens Programme, both for the period 2014-2020.

The "YES Europe" Programme

Following the proposal of MEP Doris Pack (EPP, Germany) the CULT Committee adopted the position that the name of the programme for Youth, Education, Training and Sport should be "YES Europe", instead of "Erasmus for All" as it has been proposed by the Commission.

Regarding the content of the YES Europe programme and its sport chapter, the CULT Committee highlights the fact that the focus of the programme should be on grassroots level. Voluntary activities and non-profit European sport events were adopted as eligible activities for the programme. The CULT Committee also endorsed an amendment that sport activities may, where appropriate, have some funding from private third parties. The EOC EU Office has on

various occasions raised a concern that this private funding should not be compulsory in any case.

With regard to the budget of the sport chapter it was adopted that it should be 1.8 percent of the total budget of the whole YES Europe programme but at least 238,827,000 EUR, which was the amount dedicated to sport activities in the Commission's proposal. The adopted amendment is in line with the position of the EOC EU Office.

The report, adopted by the CULT Committee with a huge majority, still has to pass the voting in the plenary session of the European Parliament at the beginning of next year. Furthermore the Council will also have to agree on the content of the programme. The EOC EU Office will continue to monitor the developments closely.

The "Europe for Citizens" Programme

Another funding programme subject to voting at the CULT Committee was the "Europe for Citizens". Among the adopted amendments, sport organisations are mentioned as stakeholders of the programme, to which the programme should be open. With regard to the themes of



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projects, it was adopted that there should be important synergies with other Union programmes, namely in the areas of employment, social affairs, education, youth and culture, **sport**, justice, equality between women and men and non-discrimination, and regional policy. Regarding the budget, the CULT Committee decided that it should be a minimum of 229 Million EURO.

The legal basis for the decision on the Europe for Citizens programme is still unclear. The Commission's proposal is based on the article 352 of TFEU which gives to the Parliament only the right to adopt or reject the programme as a whole but not to amend it. However, the Parliament is of the opinion

that a co-decision procedure should be applied. Following their position they drafted a report by rapporteur MEP Hannu Takkula (ALDE, Finland) and adopted the report with amendments as it would have been done under the co-decision procedure. The procedural disagreement between the Commission and the Parliament has yet to be resolved which means that the impact of the CULT Committee report is still unclear.

Further information:

[Website CULT Committee European Parliament](#)

[Press release European Parliament: "Save Erasmus for students from 2014 to 2020: YES we can, say MEPs"](#)

European Commission publishes list of projects of the Preparatory Actions 2012

On 19 November 2012 the European Commission published the results of the selection process for the Preparatory Actions "European Partnership on Sports" 2012. For a total amount of 3.5 million EUR, 21 transnational projects were selected covering four different areas:

- Fight against match-fixing: 5 projects with a combined maximum grant of 1,037,790 EUR
- Promotion of physical activity supporting active ageing: 4 projects with a combined maximum grant of only 532,586 EUR
- Awareness-raising about effective ways of promoting sport at municipal level: 5 projects with a combined maximum grant of 863,000 EUR
- Trans-frontier joint grassroots sport competitions in neighbouring regions and Member States: 7 projects with a combined maximum grant of 1,059,448 EUR

These projects will be implemented between the end of 2012 and the middle of 2014. The EOC EU Office did not hand in a project proposal.

This year's call for proposals was particularly interesting as for the first time it was required to have at least 20 percent of total eligible costs covered by private third party funding. The European Commission intended to test this requirement with an eye on the future calls for the "Erasmus for All" Programme. The Olympic and Sport Movement has strongly voiced their disapproval as this mandatory private third party funding will have a detrimental impact on the ability of grassroots sports to participate. Grassroots sports are targeted to be the beneficiaries of the future Sport funding programme.

The expected negative impact of the private third party funding on the number of applications and the participation of



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grassroots sports is clearly visible. The total number of applications received by the Commission was only 76, which is by far the lowest figure for the different calls of the Preparatory Actions for sport 2009-2012. And of these 76 applications 31 were considered to be non-eligible, mainly because of the inability to provide 20%

private third party funding. The result is that only 45 eligible applications were received and that only a very limited number of grassroots level projects have been selected.

Further information:

[Press release European Commission \(19 November 2012\)](#)

Publication of the EU study on the contribution of sport to economic growth and employment in the EU

On 19 November 2012, the European Commission published the EU study on the economic value of sport in the EU, which also develops a methodological framework for assessing sport's contribution to economic growth and employment in the 27 EU Member States.

Already mentioned in the White Paper on sport in 2007, this long awaited study, launched in 2010, aimed to assess the sport sector's macroeconomic importance in the EU-27, in particular its growth and employment potential.

According to the conclusions of the study, the share of sport-related value added (direct effects) of total EU Gross Value Added is 1.76% and amounts to € 173.86 bn. The direct effects of sport combined with its multiplier (indirect and induced) effects add up to 2.98% of EU Gross Value Added (€ 294.36 bn). Furthermore, the share of sport-related employment (direct effects) amounts to 2.12% of total EU employment, equivalent to 4,460,888 persons. If indirect effects are added, sport leads to employment of 7,378,671 persons (3.51% of EU employment).

As foreseen, the Ministers of Sports fully endorsed on 27 November 2012, the recommendations of the study through the

adoption of Council conclusions on evidence base for sport policy making. In particular, they underlined that

"[...] there is growing evidence that sport makes a significant contribution to Europe's economy and is an important driver of growth and employment, while also ensuring social cohesion, well-being and soft skill development, thus making a distinct contribution to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy" (point 2.2, page 4).

As a key recommendation, the Council of EU invites the European Commission, the Member States and the Presidency of the Council to **"promote a wider understanding, taking into account existing evidence, of the crucial role of sport as a driver for growth, employment and skills development, as well as for social cohesion, in the context of national and regional policy making as well as of the Europe 2020 strategy"** (point 4.3, page 6).

The EOC EU Office previously wrote in September 2012 that the timing of this publication was ideal, just before the final step of the negotiations between the EU institutions on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014/2020, which will, for the first time, include sport. Let's hope that EU Institutions, together with the sport movement (see the article of the present



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Monthly Report on the press release of the EOC EU Office “Keep on moving: the mainstreaming of sport is the way to go”) will indeed spread the message as widely as possible.

Further information:

[The final report of the study](#) (English version only), conducted by SportsEconAustria (SpEA). November 2012

The [conclusions of the Council of EU on strengthening the evidence base for sport policy making](#), November 27, 2012

Internal and visits

EOC EU Office Board Meeting

On 22 November 2012, the second board meeting of the EOC EU Office for the year 2012 was organized in Brussels.



The representatives of the EOC (Patrick Hickey, President, Raffaele PAGNOZZI, Secretary General and Kikis Lazarides, Treasurer), IOC (Britta Warner), DOSB (Michael Vesper) and CNOSF (Jean-Pierre Mougin) shared a discussion on the activities

implemented by the EOC EU Office in 2012 and the numerous perspectives and working plan for 2013.

The year 2013 will indeed see the EOC EU Office organising the European Evening of Sport, its trademark event, on 27 February 2013, which will be focusing on two debates related to the place of sport in the EU funding period 2014/2020, followed by a discussion on match fixing.

During the meeting, the board members unanimously agreed to prolong Folker Hellmund as director of the EOC EU Office until 2017 and thanked him for his remarkable contribution since 2007, when he was appointed.

After the meeting, the participants shared a lunch with Chiara Gariazzo, the new director for Youth of Sport within the Directorate General EAC, exchanging on the last news related to sport.

The mainstreaming of sport: the EOC EU Office and its partners call for action

On 15 November 2012 the EOC EU Office and its partners published a press release on the mainstreaming of sport, titled “Keep on moving: the mainstreaming of sport is the

way to go”. The mainstreaming of sport is the incorporation of sport into existing EU policies and programmes. In January 2011 the EOC EU Office and its partners already



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prepared a position paper on "Mainstreaming Sport into EU Funding Programmes".

The emphasis in this press release is on the ambitious European agenda that has been set out by the European Union, for instance in the European Commission's Communication on Sport of 2011. With the ongoing negotiations on the Multi-annual Financial Framework 2014/2020 moving towards a more decisive phase, the EOC EU Office and its partners feel the particular need to call for action in order to match the ambition as a continuous effort seems necessary:

"We would like to urge the European Union and its institutions to continue on chosen path and to include sport in other relevant funding programmes such as ERDF, ESF, Health and Europe for Citizens Programme. The MFF 2014/2020 is an historical and unique opportunity to finally see whether the ambitious plan of the EU for sport will take a concrete turn."

Further information:

[Press release EOC EU Office \(15 November 2012\)](#)

[Position Paper - Mainstreaming of sport \(January 2011\)](#)

Special Competence Seminar in the EOC EU Office in Brussels

This year the annual Special Competence Seminar for the partners of the EOC EU-Office was held on 7-8 November.



During the seminar a detailed overview on different sport related policy fields on EU level was provided by the EOC EU Office. In

the course of the seminar exchanges with Chiara Gariazzo, new Director for Sport in the DG EAC, and Wouter Pieke, Head of Unit on State, took place. The following topics have been discussed:

- European Guidelines on dual career to be adopted under Irish Presidency.
- Priorities of the Irish Presidency in the first half of 2013: Dual career, doping, good governance and sustainable financing of sport.
- Communication by the EU Commission on "Towards a comprehensive European framework on online gambling".
- Revision of the WADA Code.
- Reform of the EU data protection regime that impacts fight against doping and match-fixing.
- State aid policy regarding sport infrastructures and reduced tax rates.



CNOSF President Masseglia met MEPs in Brussels on future funding of sport

On 6 November 2012, Denis Masseglia, President of the French National Olympic and Sports Committee (CNOSF), attended a lunch in Brussels with several French members of the European Parliament: Ms Sanchez-Schmid, Mr and Mrs Auconie Bennahmias. Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office and Laure Coudret Laut, Advisor to the representation of France to the E.U., also participated in the exchange.

The objective was to review the future of the EU budget chapter devoted to sport within the financial framework of the European Union for 2014-2020, currently under negotiation. Furthermore, the role of sport in the future regional policy of the EU and in the future health program were addressed.

As Denis Masseglia pointed out, this new program is expected to support the daily actions of the sports movement: in social inclusion through sport, in health among adults and youngsters, in terms of education and training (with sports at school). The president also reiterated his proposal made in Nicosia at the European Sports Forum, of implementing a European week of sport. He

announced that the project would be presented at the next General Assembly of the EOC held in Rome (Italy) in December 2012.



Ms Auconie, Ms Sanchez-Schmid and Mr Bennahmias also submitted to Parliament proposals for amendments to incorporate sport and financing of sports facilities in the future regional policy from 2014 to 2020.

The participants agreed to meet again in 2013 when the European institutions have finalized an agreement on the future financial framework of the EU 2014/2020.

ENGSO Hearing on volunteering and grassroots level sports at the European Parliament

At the European Parliament on 26 November 2012, ENGSO organised a hearing, which was hosted by MEP Emma McClarkin (ECR; UK). The representatives of several sports organisations gathered to share their views about the Sport Chapter of the future EU Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport as well as the ENGSO initiative on the European Year of Sport.

After Emma McClarkin introduced the position of the European Parliament, there

were lively discussions about the Programme's objectives and activities. ENGSO suggested that grassroots sport as well as the societal roles of sport, for example social inclusion, equal opportunities and health enhancing physical activity, should be highlighted at a greater extent in the Programme. At the same time, voluntary activities should be eligible activities.

The EOC EU Office drew the participant's attention to the challenges grassroots sports



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organisation face in regard to the Sport Chapter: the crisis and the failed budget talks can endanger the proposed amount for sport activities and the eligibility criteria, which obliges sports organisations to find third party partnership for funding projects, can jeopardise the participation of grassroots sports organisation. The EOC EU Office also emphasized the importance of the mainstreaming of sport in other EU Programmes, such as the Health Programme.

ENGSO in consensus with all of the participants believe that the budget of the

Programme needs a critical mass in order to have at least some impact at European level to implement the sports provisions of Article 165 of the TFEU.

The Hearing was a great opportunity for sports organisations to raise their voice shortly before the voting on the Erasmus for All at the Committee on Culture and Education of the European Parliament, which took place on 27 November.

Further information:

[ENGSO Website](#)

Dates in December and January

7-8/12	EOC General Assembly in Rome
8/12	DOSB General Assembly in Stuttgart
11/12	Council Sport Working Party in Brussels
12/12	"Sport4GoodGovernance" coordination meeting in Brussels
13/12	"Sport4 GoodGovernance" peer review meeting in Arnhem (NL)
13/12	Council Expert Group "Good Governance" in Brussels
24/01	Council Expert Group "Anti-Doping" in Brussels
30-31/01	Council Expert Group "Education and Training in Sport" in Dublin

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