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## European Union and Sport

### Update on “Erasmus for All” discussions

The discussions on the new EU funding programme for education, training, youth and sport “Erasmus for All” are continuing both in the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. The proposal for the new funding programme, published by the European Commission in November 2011, would for the first time enable the setting up of an EU sport funding programme.

During the past weeks there have been some important modifications in the Council Working Party on the draft version of “Erasmus for All”. Even though sport is still included, the eligible activities to be supported by the EU in the sport chapter do not longer contain sport events.

The Olympic movement is very concerned about this development and considers that this current situation is quite paradoxical: the EU is setting up a new EU programme on

sport, rightly supports multiple priorities connected to sport (social inclusion, youth, health, integrity, volunteering, etc.), but does not intend to support these priorities through grassroots sport events. Nevertheless, these are the predominant activities of grassroots sport organizations. Excluding sport events of the proposal would mean that the programme would only fund transnational networks, studies and seminars.

“Erasmus for all” will be discussed in the Education Council on 11th May 2012. The expected result will be the adoption of a partial general approach. This will form the basis of further negotiations with the European Parliament. It is expected that the CULT Committee of the European Parliament will vote on the “Erasmus for All” proposal in October 2012, the voting in plenary is foreseen for January/February 2013.

### Launch of the “European Citizens’ Initiative”

On 1 April, the European Citizens’ Initiative was launched by the European Commission. This initiative enables EU citizens to call on the European Commission to propose legislation on matters where the EU has a competence.

One million signatures from EU citizens from at least seven EU member states are needed to submit an initiative to the Commission. The European Citizens’ Initiative should enable the citizens to voice their concerns,

thereby closing the gap between them and the EU institutions.

Regarding the field of sport, it is not very likely that initiatives focusing directly on sport will be proposed. However, there is the possibility that initiatives in other fields, indirectly connected to sport, can have an impact on sport-related affairs. The protection of privacy is an example.

#### For further information:

[Website of the European Citizens’ Initiative](#)



## Council of the EU: Meeting of the Expert Group on Sport Statistics

The Expert Group on Sport Statistics met for the second time on 24 April 2012. Chaired by Christian Helmenstein (Austria), this expert group, composed of 16 Member States, identified in October 2011 three deliverables which will be presented to the Council of the EU by the end of 2013 in the field of sport statistics.

The last meeting showed the progress made concerning these three deliverables:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Deliverable**

**Policy recommendations based on the study of the contribution of sport to economic growth and employment in the EU.**

This study is currently being conducted by SpEA (Austria) and shall be published by the European Commission very soon. A draft version of the deliverable entitled "*The contribution of sport to economic growth and employment – policy recommendations*", based on the outcome of the study, was distributed amongst the experts and shall be finalized in the course of May or June 2012.

**It shows that in its broad definition, the share of sport amounts to 1.63 % (161 Bn EUR) of overall gross value added in the EU.** The sport sector is therefore comparable to the share of agriculture, forestry, and fishing combined. The conclusion is that sport is an important economic factor, which is the number one policy implication of the deliverable. Concerning employment implications, although the study is based on official data from 2005, sport is representing a

job-rich growth industry. **The study reveals that the share of sport in overall employment in the EU amounts to 2.03% (4.27 millions of workers).** This number, following the discussion exchanged during the expert group meeting, seems not to be affected by the financial crisis. On the contrary, since the authors consider that sport sector resists far better this difficult context than other economic sectors. Thus, the study shows that volunteering is not in the scope of the study.

The Cypriot Presidency intends to submit conclusions of the Council of the EU on sport statistics/evidence based policy in November 2012.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Deliverable:**

**Preparation of a manual for national statistical offices on how to set up Sport Satellite Accounts (SSAs).**

A draft manual was presented by Chris Gratton, the designated UK expert from the Sport Industry Research Centre of Sheffield Hallam University.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Deliverable:**

**Policy recommendations based on the on-going study of a possible future sport monitoring function in the EU.**

Recently launched, this study is currently conducted by a consortium composed of the W.J.H. Mulier Institute, Sheffield Hallam University, K.U. Leuven and TNO. It shall be



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published in December 2012. The deliverable based on the results of this study will be further examined during the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU (second half of 2013).

The next meeting of the Expert group Sport Statistics will take place in September 2012.

The minutes of the meeting from 24 April shall be published during the course of May or June 2012 on the Sports Unit website.

**Further information:**

[European Commission - Sport Unit website](#)

## CAS rules Bye-Law is not in line with the World Anti-Doping Code

On 30 April 2012 the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) published its ruling in the case of the British Olympic Association (BOA) versus the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). The court case was a result of an appeal filed by the BOA against the decision of the WADA Foundation Board to declare that the Bye-Law is non-compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code. This Bye-Law of the BOA imposed a lifetime competition ban for British Athletes convicted of doping use who wanted to compete at the Olympic Games.

The CAS has ruled the following: *"The Bye-Law is a doping sanction and is therefore not in compliance with the WADA Code. The CAS confirms the view of the WADA Foundation Board as indicated in its decision. Therefore, the appeal of BOA is rejected, and the*

*decision of the WADA Foundation Board is confirmed."*

This means that British Athletes with a doping violation during their career can still qualify for the Olympic Games should they comply with the conditions of eligibility. This ruling reflects the harmonization and consistency of the international anti-doping movement in the fight against doping. The CAS also ruled that the BOA and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) were free to convince stakeholders that a sanction of inability to compete at Olympic Games as a result of an anti-doping offence is an appropriate, proportionate sanction and should be part of the revised World Anti-Doping Code.

**For further information:**

[Media release CAS 30 April 2012](#)



## Funding programs, studies and projects

### European Commission publishes study on match-fixing

The European Commission has published the results of a study on match-fixing, conducted by the research organisation KEA European Affairs. The study titled "Match-fixing in sport: A mapping of criminal law provisions in EU 27" was originally launched in September 2011.

The overall aim of the study was to identify and analyse the legal framework applicable to match-fixing in the EU Member States. The main objectives were threefold:

- Map the situation concerning the criminal provisions applicable to sporting fraud and notably to match-fixing in the EU27;
- Identify in particular existing legislations establishing match-fixing as an offence and providing for relevant sanctions;
- Provide an overview of relevant criminal case law on the application of

existing legislation to cases of match-fixing.

In the conclusions the lack of uniformity between the legal provisions in Member States (e.g. the use of general criminal law provisions or specific sport offences) was primarily emphasized. **Overall it seems however that the major obstacles in prosecuting cases of match-fixing are operational rather than legal.** At the end of the study ten recommendations to the EU have been added.

The results of the study will now be used in future discussions on the subject of match-fixing, for instance within the framework of the Council Expert Group on Good Governance.

#### For further information:

[Press release European Commission](#)

[Direct link to the study \(pdf\)](#)

### Call for Proposals: Preparatory Actions in the field of sport 2012

On 17 April the European Commission launched a call for proposals for Preparatory Actions in the field of sport. This call will support transnational projects with at least partners from 5 Member States. Eligible applicants are public bodies or non-profit organizations.

The overall objectives are to identify and test suitable networks and good practices in the following fields: 1) The fight against match-fixing, 2) The promotion of physical activity supporting active ageing, 3) Awareness-raising about effective ways of promoting

sport at municipal levels, 4) Trans-frontier joint grassroots sport competitions in neighbouring regions and Member States.

The budget available for this call for proposals is 3.5 million EUR. Projects must begin between 1 January 2013 and 31 March 2013 and end no later than 30 June 2014. Deadline for the applications is 31 July 2012.

Contrary to the last calls, the Commission will only cover up to 60% of the total eligible costs. For the first time, the call foresees that at least 20% of financing must be

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provided by private partners, meaning other than public bodies. The Commission is testing if private funding would be applicable for the upcoming Erasmus for All Programme.

**Further information:**[Website Call for Proposals](#)

## Study: The economic potential of cross-border pay-to-view and listen audiovisual media services

In March 2012 the final report of the study on "The economic potential of cross-border pay-to-view and listen audiovisual media services", launched by the European Commission, was published. It was produced by a consortium of TNS Opinion, Plum Consulting and the Futures Company.

The study followed a report of the Commission concerning the directive on conditional access (98/84/EC), in which a "grey market" for satellite pay-television services was detected. Some consumers living outside their country of origin use letter box addresses to obtain reception equipment for pay-TV services in their country of origin.

After the European Court of Justice judged that this is a legitimate market in case of private use, the study's objective was to provide the Commission with data on the demand for cross-border pay-to-view and/or

listen to audiovisual media services in the European Union from an economic perspective.

The headline result of the study, carried out through an online and a telephone survey, showed that the potential willingness to pay is in total between € 760 million and € 1,610 million annually in the EU.

However, there was a relatively low interest in sport related content from other countries (31%). 48% of male respondents were interested in sport compared with 20% of female respondents.

**Further information:**[Study on "The economic potential of cross-border pay-to-view and listen audiovisual media services"](#)

## Internal and visits

### 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) in Moscow

From 13-15 April the 18<sup>th</sup> ANOC General Assembly was held in Moscow. In the presence of IOC President Jacques Rogge and hosted by NOC President Alexander Zhukov, delegates from 203 of the 205 worldwide National Olympic Committees met

in the Russian capital and elected Sheikh Ahmad Al Sabah (Kuwait) as ANOC President until 2014. The assembly expressed its warmest gratitude to Mario Vazquez Raña (Mexico), who had been President since



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1979 and resigned just a few weeks before the meeting.

Another topic of the General Assembly was the vote on a modification to the ANOC Statutes in order to create the post of a Senior Vice President for the Association. After the members agreed on this issue, EOC President Patrick Hickey was elected to this position and appointed to represent ANOC in the Executive Board of the IOC. Furthermore, the delegates voted for the creation of a commission charged with the

task of completely reviewing the statutes in time for next year's Assembly.

In addition to the voting procedures, the five 2020 Olympic Games candidate cities (Baku, Doha, Istanbul, Madrid and Tokyo) presented their visions to the audience.

The European NOCs met for an extraordinary General Assembly in Moscow as well, receiving an update on the "European Games" project that has now been under study for a year. The final feasibility study will be presented at the next General Assembly in Eilat (Israel) in December 2012.

## EOC EU Office: Annual Partners Meeting 2012

The Annual Partners Meeting of the EOC EU Office took place in Brussels on 25 April. Gathering representatives from 13 federations, the EOC EU Office provided updates on the most relevant topics regarding EU and sport, namely on:

- **Activities of the Council of the EU** in the field of sport, focusing on activities of the current Danish EU Presidency (Programme Erasmus for all, including a sport chapter) and the upcoming Cypriot Presidency (EU Sport Forum 19/20 September), as well as the follow-up of the last meetings of the expert groups of the Council (anti-doping, good governance, health, sport statistics).
- **Activities of the European Parliament**, especially the place of sport in the on-going negotiations concerning the Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2014-2020 (ESF, ERDF, Health, Erasmus for all). The EOC EU Office informed and discussed with its partners the overall strategy and forthcoming initiatives which will be taken very soon on these financial instruments.

- **Activities of the European Commission** in the field of sport: the EOC EU Office presented the various European studies currently conducted for the European Commission in 2012, as well as the recently published call for proposals on the 2012 Preparatory Actions in the field of sport.
- The final issues addressed were **gambling and media rights**, as well as **European projects** where the EOC EU Office and the partners are active ("Sport4GoodGovernance" led by the EOC EU Office and "Creating a level playing field" led by ENGSO).



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## Dates in May

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|--------|---|
| 10-11  | EYCS Council meeting in Brussels                                    |
| 22     | Expert Group on "Sustainable Financing of Sport" in Brussels        |
| 24-27  | ENGSO Executive Committee General Assembly in Sunny Beach, Bulgaria |
| 31-1/6 | Informal meeting of EU Sports Directors in Copenhagen               |

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