

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 2021



EUROPEAN
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COMMITTEES



EU
Office



Do not miss this if you are planning to apply for one of the EU Sport Pilot Projects & Preparatory Actions 2021 calls!! 📢📢📢

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Are you applying for one of the EU Sport Pilot Projects & Preparatory Actions 2021 calls? Join us next Thursday 3/06 from 2:30 to 5:30 pm CEST for a dedicated info session!

- ✓ Administrative procedures
- ✓ Guidance on project management
- ✓ Financial issues

Register here 📍

1:58 PM · May 28, 2021

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.@EOCmedia Acting President Niels Nygaard today at @Europarl_EN @EP_HumanRights @EPCulture workshop on sport and human rights: "Sport, like any other, organisations need to take this seriously and bare their responsibility, e.g. by developing comprehensive long-term strategies."



1:41 PM · May 25, 2021

👍 14 🗨️ 1 📄 Copy link to Tweet



Have you already checked the calls for proposals for Preparatory Actions and Pilot Projects in the field of sport that were opened this week? Deadline is 16 of June! #eufunding #funding #sport

EUSport @EuSport

Open call for proposals! #EUSport 2021 Preparatory Actions & Pilot Projects:

- Building investigative capacity to better fight doping in sport in Europe
- Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees
- Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation

10:42 AM · May 7, 2021

👍 2 🗨️ 📄 Copy link to Tweet

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

FIBA Europe Executive Director Kamil Novak




"The European Sports Model needs to be protected and everybody within the pyramid should have the opportunity to compete at the highest level."

Full interview on page 5


FACTS & FIGURES



SINGLE POINTS OF CONTACT FOR **SPORTS INTEGRITY**

3,5 years of activities 

18 partners 

20 meetings 

97 participants to the final conference 

- Editorial

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INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The decision of the EU Commission, which certainly came as a surprise to many, to export more than 100 million vaccine doses to Japan before the Olympic Games in Tokyo will once again significantly increase the security of the Games. This decision is also supported by the EU Member States and underlines, according to Commission President von der Leyen, that the EU Commission "supports all preparations and the security of the event".

The EU's support measures for the Member States in other respects too is still very much under way. At the end of May, all 27 Member States ratified their own resources decisions so that the European Commission could now begin to raise the corresponding budgetary funds on the market to endow the Recovery and Resilience Fund with 750 billion euros. As soon as the national programmes of the Member States are approved, disbursements can begin, from which sport could also benefit.

The discussion surrounding the establishment of a European Super League in football is ongoing. While UEFA is still considering what sanctions could be imposed on the clubs, a Spanish court has initiated a preliminary ruling procedure under Article 267 TFEU. According to this, the European Court of Justice has to interpret the Lisbon Treaty under the question of whether UEFA and FIFA would abuse their monopoly position when it comes to authorising competitions and sanctions. It is not excluded that the Court's decision could have an impact on other sports federations and rekindle the current discussion about the European Model of Sport. A decision is not expected before 2022.

Portugal's EU Presidency is coming to an end. The most recent Council of Sports Ministers was dedicated to the topic of "sports diplomacy". In the debate, which was also attended by IOC President Bach, it became clear that sport could play a more important role in the future. The EU Commission has already set up a high-level group on sport diplomacy in 2015 and drawn up very comprehensive proposals in 2016, some of which have now been taken up again.

The first meetings of the newly formed EU Commission Expert Groups on the Green Deal and COVID-19 were still attended without observers in May. The EOC EU Office was invited to take stock in both Groups, and to inform them about the expectations of the Olympic movement. It is hoped that in the future even more Member States will include representatives of organised sport in their delegations to raise the level of expertise in the discussions.

Finally, I would like to venture a brief outlook on the upcoming elections at the European Olympic Committees on 10 June in Athens. With the adoption of a quota of 30% of both genders, related to the Executive Committee, it has already been ensured that the composition of this body will change considerably. There are also open election decisions for the top positions of President and Secretary General, which are eagerly awaited to bring the EOC Strategic Agenda 2030 on the way.

Stay healthy and all the best for 2021!



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



Kamil Novak was first appointed FIBA Europe Secretary General in October 2012 and then FIBA Europe Executive Director on the 1st of January, 2015. A former national team player for Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic, Kamil has played professional basketball in Portugal, Germany, Austria and Luxembourg, including the EuroBasket in 1999.

1. FIBA is leading and taking part in several projects co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the EU. Can you describe the benefits and legacies of your involvement in those projects?

As an organization, we are very pleased to be involved in the Erasmus+ programme, with our TIME-OUT and TIME-OUT 2.0 projects and this cooperation has allowed us to empower the European basketball community.

The original TIME-OUT project, which was the first of its kind in the basketball community, was hugely successful and not only achieved the initial targets of helping players across Europe in their transition from sport into work, but exceeded many expectations in many regards. The best evidence for this is the fact that a large number of participants – in fact, more than 40 of them – found new roles within basketball – in clubs, National Federations and even FIBA, while others are putting the acquired skills to successfully use in fields outside of sports. We take great pride in having been the trend-setters in our field with such a dual-career programme; and also the fact that the project featured an equal number of female and male participants.

With the aim of taking this programme forward and following the huge success of the first edition, FIBA Europe, together with the European Commission and its project partners, has developed a new TIME-OUT 2.0 project, which focuses on the development of transferable skills of athletes, federation employees and other stakeholders. It is my strong belief that such programs are paramount when building a sustainable and modern structure for the sport.

I would also like to underline our partnership with the Northumbria University, the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS), as well as various partner organizations that include the National Federations of the Czech Republic, Italy, France, the Netherlands and Hungary. Their expertise and their participation are what makes the TIME-OUT initiative so successful and so special, with such a wide network across the sports community involved.

2. The Basketball season is coming to an end. How would you assess the situation for European Basketball after more than 15 months of the COVID-19 pandemic?

This unique situation has been tough for everyone in the sports industry and basketball is no exception, but it has also brought FIBA Europe, its National Federations and clubs even closer together in these unique times. All the

stakeholders were significantly affected by the pandemic in financial terms, but the situation is slowly starting to stabilize.

We had to go through an adjustment process in terms and operations but have tried to remain forward-thinking and proactive to make sure basketball returned to courts around Europe as soon as possible. With that purpose in mind, FIBA, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) produced and published the Guidelines for the Return to Basketball, which served as a reference point for National Federations not only in Europe, but also globally.

In Europe, the impressive operational efforts and strict FIBA COVID-19 protocols allowed us to successfully complete the Qualifiers for the FIBA Women's EuroBasket 2021 and FIBA EuroBasket 2022, as well as all our club competitions – the Basketball Champions League, EuroLeague Women, EuroCup Women and FIBA Europe Cup.

The pandemic also affected basketball at a grassroots level too, with youth and amateur basketball coming to a halt as well during this period. There is no doubt that this generation of young players will be affected, and we have taken steps and adapted the competition formats to ensure youth basketball resumes at the continental level already this summer.

In the meanwhile, we have also been looking for innovative ways to adapt to the situation and have remotely organized Skills Challenge competitions in U15 and U17 age categories and taken FIBA basketball online with our first eSports events.

3. The values of the European Sport Model are even more important in times of crisis. How did you display or experience solidarity between FIBA and its member organisations?

There is nothing more important for us than the health and safety of our players, coaches, officials and fans – and FIBA showcased that by becoming the first international organization to suspend all of its competitions in March last year. It wasn't an easy decision, but ultimately, with the power of hindsight, I feel comfortable in saying that it was the correct one.

In the spirit of solidarity, despite the cancellation of the FIBA Youth European Championships 2020, we made sure to keep the Youth Development Fund available to our National Federations, with youth development a key priority for us.

FIBA Europe also involved the National Federations and clubs were also involved in the decision-making process for the competition formats, with all events shortened and held in protected-environment bubbles.

In line with our health and safety protocols, we have modified the format of the FIBA Youth European Championships 2021 to shorter tournaments and, in order not to disadvantage any National Federations this summer because of the different COVID-19 situation across Europe, have put promotion and relegation on hold for this year.

Overall, I would say there's a huge sense of solidarity between all the National Federations and the clubs – everyone understands that we are very much in the same boat and we're all stronger together. As I mentioned, I think this time has brought everyone in the basketball community closer.

4. The discussion on the setting up of a European Super League in football has triggered immediate reactions from high representatives of the EU Commission and national politicians. To what extent is the discussion on closed leagues is comparable with your dispute in Basketball?

The situation is indeed strikingly similar. It was encouraging to see the football community recognize and clearly signal that sport is not – and should not be – only about a select few clubs, who are well-equipped financially. It should be about everyone in the pyramid, from the grassroots level to the very top.

It should be about sporting principles, solidarity and growing together. This is our vision for basketball in Europe, too. From a values point of view, the discussions about the European Super League are virtually identical to the ones we have been having in our community in recent years.

5. How do you expect the Commission will proceed with the FIBA complaint against Euroleague, taking into account the ULEB complaint?

This process was started in 2016, but it's no longer just FIBA's complaint against the Euroleague Commercial Assets (ECA) anymore, with ULEB, the association of basketball leagues in Europe, joining the complaint. I think it's quite clear where the European basketball community stands on this issue; we believe we have a very strong case and we hope for a positive ruling.

The European Sports Model needs to be protected and everybody within the pyramid should have the opportunity to compete at the highest level.

FIBA's position has remained clear and consistent all these years, safeguarding the national teams and the national leagues, and at the same time respecting the interests of our historically strong clubs. COVID made it clear that it is very easy for Euroleague to adapt its calendar and allow players to represent their country in all windows during the club season.

The EOC EU Office is thanking Mr Kamil Novak for his interview and contribution to the monthly report.



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

Sport in the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

On 1 January, Portugal took over the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU for 6 months until 30 June 2021. Holding the Council Presidency means chairing the meetings of the different Council Configurations, like the [Education, Youth, Culture](#), and [Sports Council](#), and the Council's preparatory bodies, including the [Working Party on Sport](#). The [programme of the Portuguese Presidency](#) includes several paragraphs directly related to sport and in accordance with the framework of the [EU Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024](#). In May, [Sport Innovation and Sport Diplomacy](#) in the context of EU external relations, were matters of debates in the Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council, both of which are chosen as priorities by the Portuguese Presidency.

Sport Diplomacy

On 18 May, a debate took place between Member States during the Council of the European Union meeting on how to use [Sport Diplomacy to promote European values](#) and interests. As Sport Diplomacy is a relatively new concept at EU level, the meeting commenced with pre-recorded video-messages from Maria-Francesca Spatolisano (United Nations' Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs) and Thomas Bach (President of the International Olympic Committee) to introduce the topic. Due to sport having been used to convey political messages in the past and since it is part of the diplomatic toolkit of the EU's global counterparts, the [EU ministers discussed](#) whether the EU's cultural and educational diplomacy offers a blueprint for the development of an EU sport diplomacy strategy and "realise the enormous potential of sport in the EU external policy to promote European interest and values on the global stage" as it was formulated by the Portuguese Minister of Education, Tiago Brandão Rodrigues. The European Sport Model was suggested by some Member State representatives as an additional element of the sport diplomacy

strategy to explicitly entail European values.

Around two-thirds of Europe's economic growth has been driven by innovation. Acknowledging that sport innovation can further help to increase citizen's participation in sport and physical activity but also act as a tool to protect the integrity of sport, the [Council approved conclusions](#) on [sport innovation](#). Member States, the European Commission, the Sport Movement and other relevant organisations are invited to mainstream sport innovation, promote and support research and development initiatives, provide tools for better policy development and sport innovation benchmarking, as well as to foster inter-sectoral and inter-institutional cooperation.

Conference on Sport Diplomacy

On 3-4 June the [Presidency Conference](#) "Can Sport Diplomacy contribute to building a stronger Europe in the world?" will take place in Lisbon. It will bring together representatives of Member States, experts and key players in the field of sports diplomacy. The role of sport in the context of the EU's external relations, especially in promoting European values, human rights, peace, and in contributing to human development, breaking down cultural barriers and promoting the cross-sectoral dimension of sport will be subject to the discussion.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[The Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union \(EU\)](#)

[Sport – Portuguese Presidency of the European Union](#)

Online piracy: EP adopts resolution calling for illegal sports streams

On 19 May, MEPs adopted the resolution on "Challenges of sports events organisers in the digital environment" with 479 votes in favour, 171 against and 40 abstentions.

Through the resolution, the Parliament advocates for illegal online broadcasting of live sporting events to be blocked in real time and for the rights of sports events organisers to be strengthened.

The European Parliament "calls for the removal of, or the disabling of access to, infringing live sport broadcasts by online intermediaries to be immediate or as fast as possible, and in any event no later than within 30 minutes of the receipt of the notification from rightholders or from a certified trusted flagger regarding the existence of such illegal broadcast."

From a sporting point of view, this is a key element, as the value of live sporting events is largely due to their live character.

Furthermore, the Parliament emphasises that intermediaries should put in place effective Know-Your-Business-Customer obligations to prevent their services from being abused to facilitate the illegal streaming of sports events.

The rapporteur Angel Dzhambazki (ECR, BG) said: "The piracy of live sport events is a major challenge for sport event organisers.

The problem with existing measures is that enforcement comes too late. The report calls on the Commission to clarify and adapt existing legislation, including the possibility of issuing injunctions requesting the real-time blocking of access to or removal of unauthorised online content."

In the context of the 2019 copyright directive, the Commission stated that it is assessing the challenges faced by sport event organisers in the digital environment, in particular issues related to the illegal online transmissions of sport broadcasts.

With the resolution, the European Parliament calls on the European Commission to submit proposals for legal acts without delay that follow the recommendations of the MEPs.

The European Commission now has three months to either follow the European Parliament's proposals with a proper legislative proposal or to explain in a reasoned opinion why it does not wish to meet the European Parliament's demands.

Together with other sports stakeholders, the EOC EU Office had advocated for the adoption of the report. The EOC EU Office therefore welcomes the adoption of the resolution by a clear majority of the European Parliament. This should be the starting signal for concrete measures to effectively tackle online piracy of live sporting events.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Adopted text of the resolution](#)

[Press release EP: Tackling online piracy of live sporting events](#)

[Procedure File: Challenges of sport events' organisers in the digital environment](#)

[SROC welcomes European Parliament vote to combat sports piracy](#)



JURI Committee Press @EP_Legal · May 19

Report on challenges of sports events organizers in the digital environment approved ✓ @djambazki

Press release to come shortly

Final votes - Second voting session				
Subject	AM	Voting	+	-
Dzhambazki (A9-0139/2021) Sport events' organisers	690	479	171	40
Buşoi (A9-0102/2021) Coal and Steel	691	529	148	14
González (A9-0115/2021) The impacts of climate change	685	255	260	170

Large Sporting Events: Human Rights as a Game Changer? - Workshop of the EP

On 25 May the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament; in association with the Committee on Culture and Education, hosted a workshop regarding large sporting events and the role of human rights. In view of upcoming high level sporting events with pressuring human rights issues in the hosting countries, the workshop allowed for a discussion with academic experts and stakeholders.

Academic Review

The academics Dr. Daniela Heerdt and Dr. Hans Erik Naess offered the audience a review of the event sector and highlighted an observable positive development insofar that, while many sport events include human rights in their planning processes and official documentations, they substantially differ in terms of scope, extent and comprehensiveness. Furthermore, large sporting events are associated with risks such as sports/green washing and shortcomings of current regimes leading to restrictions of freedom of expression or forced displacement. Their overall recommendation is to encourage human rights efforts, but the multiplicity and diversity of the sector lead to a patchwork of responsible people, and thereby creates difficulties to effectively monitor human rights efforts.

Stakeholder Viewpoint

Acting European Olympic Committees (EOC) President Niels Nygaard pointed out that currently human rights are discussed in the drafting process of the EOC Strategic Agenda 2030 and that are already embedded as criteria for awarding events and a central element to the host city contract. Nevertheless, he directed the audience's attention to the observation that there is yet no homogenous approach in Europe and that, even with the capabilities of sport, it requires clear political leadership for sustainable change.

Joyce Cook, FIFA's Chief Education and Social Responsibility Officer, further problematized in line with the scholars that the variety of involved parties complicates rigorous monitoring and that the lack of bids for less prestigious events would not allow high demands.

Remaining Questions

In the Q&A session, members of the European Parliament raised questions on how human rights could be introduced as equal criteria for bidding processes to increase transparency and credibility. The use of diplomatic boycotts to sanction human rights infringements was mentioned and questions on the role that governments could play were raised.

It could be agreed on that large sporting events not only enable positive effects on health, well-being, employment and integration, but that they also bring prestige and power to those hosting them. In light of upcoming high level sporting events, current issues with regard to Belarus and China and the fact that human rights are always a topical issue, it was stated that human rights require greater commitment from all stakeholders in sport and that countries wishing to host events should be obliged to fulfil a common set of principles.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Large Sporting Events: Human Rights as a Game Changer?](#)

European Commission launches new Expert Groups in the field of sport

Envisaged by the [EU Work Plan for Sport](#) (1 January 2021 - 30 June 2024) and set-up by the European Commission, [two new Expert Groups](#) gathered their members for the first time in May 2021. Continuing the tradition, started prior to the adoption of the first EU Work Plan for Sport, the Expert Groups brought together representatives of Member States and the sport movement to debate topics of high-importance to the sports sector, coming up with recommendations, guidelines or other guidance documents, and exchanging good practices.

The new Expert Groups have been created to respond to two major challenges: climate change and environmental degradation (Green Sport), and COVID-19.

With the topic of “green sport”, the EU has entered into new territory. Never before has the relationship between sport on one hand and nature and climate on the other been dealt with in the framework of EU sports policy in a conceptual and strategic manner. The first meeting of the Expert Group on Green Sport was, therefore, all about setting the framework for cooperation, defining the scope of the Expert Group, and discussing existing initiatives, possible synergies and partnerships. The EOC EU Office was given an opportunity to address the members of the Expert Group with an introduction to the interaction between the Olympic Movement organisations and nature/climate. While showcasing the many existing initiatives, strategies and projects in the area of environmental sustainability, we provided the Group with a number of suggestions for its future work, including:

- Explore how climate change is affecting sport in Europe (various regions, various sports);
- Develop guidance on the use of EU funds for the development of “green sport” in the EU;
- Support the creation of cross-sectorial partnerships and cooperation at all levels;

- Mainstream the needs and specificities of sport in the implementation of existing environmental/Green Deal laws and policies and in the updating/creation of new ones;
- Build on existing initiatives – e.g. European Climate Pact, UN Sports for Climate Action.

To streamline the work of the Expert Group, two main topics should be tackled in its future work: sport events (various sizes) and sport infrastructure (different aspects). As defined in the EU Work Plan for Sport, the discussions and activities under both topics should lead to the creation of a “Common framework with shared commitments”. It is also important to note, that the Expert Group aims to closely cooperate with the future Presidency Trio – France, Czech Republic, Sweden – which aims to focus on sport and sustainability from the Member States/Council side.

Over the past 14 months, the Covid-19 pandemic has been dominating the developments in the sport movement and, therefore, the creation of the Expert Group “on the Recovery of the sport sector during and in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic” can be considered a natural response.

The launch meeting was organised on 21 May 2021 online and the second meeting, where observers are allowed, is already scheduled for mid-June, as is the second meeting of the Expert Group on Green Sport.

The EOC EU Office will follow closely the work of both Expert Groups and, where possible, will contribute to the work of the experts while promoting the interests of the Olympic sport movement.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[New EU Expert Groups in the field of sport](#)

Final Adoption of Funding Programme Regulations: Erasmus+ and Solidarity Corps

On 19 and 18 of May the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) adopted the final regulations for the EU's new funding cycle 2021-2027 of its Erasmus+ and Solidarity Corps programmes.

Erasmus+

The [2021-2027](#) edition of the EU's flagship programme for education, training, youth and sports demonstrates its significant role in fostering European identity, by almost doubling the funding to over €28 billion (around € 500 Mio. for the sport chapter). The MEPs acknowledged the impact the Covid-19 pandemic had on young people's life and highlighted the importance of Erasmus+ for Europe's future generation. The [new Erasmus+](#) will be more inclusive and accessible to individuals and organisations. Additionally, it will have a stronger focus on social inclusion, the green and digital transition and promoting young peoples' participation in democratic life. It further expands mobility and cooperation beyond Europe.

A major innovation is that sport is fully integrated in the programme. Key action 2 concerning the cooperation among organisations enables small-scale and cooperation partnerships and offers support for not-for-profit European sport events. Key action 3 includes the EU Sport Forum, EU's cooperation with international organisations and the European Week of Sport as part of the support to policy development. As of 2023 the mobility of sport staff will be included in key action 1 of the Erasmus+ programme. To ensure a smooth transition, the new Erasmus+ entered into effect from 1 January 2021. [Application processes and calls for proposals](#) have already been set in motion.

The EOC EU Office is pleased that after more than three years of discussions and active advocacy work by the Office, the Erasmus+ programme has seen its final adoption with several positive elements, such as doubling of the budget, facilitation of application process and mobility activities also for sport from 2023 onwards.

Solidarity Corps

The [programme](#) focuses on learning, skills and competences, and aims to contribute to positive change in local communities by funding solidarity activities by young Europeans. The 2021-2027 edition, worth more than €1 billion, will provide added value for volunteers due to improvements to the insurance policy and health and safety guarantees. Organisations wishing to host volunteers will undergo stricter authorisation processes to prove the quality of the volunteering activities. In line with the Erasmus+ programme, it will also be more inclusive and target the participation of young people experiencing structural disadvantages.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Erasmus+](#)

[Solidarity Corps](#)

[Creative Europe](#)

Preparatory Actions 2021

On 4 of May 2021, the European Commission published two calls for proposals for Preparatory Actions relevant to the European Sport Movement.

Background Information

Preparatory Actions (PAs) aspire to introduce new initiatives which may result in the implementation of permanent EU Funding Programmes. Managed by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), the PAs addressing “Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion for refugees” and “Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation” represent a valuable opportunity for the European Sport Movement to further strengthen its activities and capacities within these areas. The application is “by Single Applicant” which means no partners are needed for the project proposal. Applications must be submitted within the set deadline: Wednesday 16 June 2021 at 17.00h (CEST).

Practical Information

The PA “Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion for refugees” encourages the direct engagement of refugees and host communities within the European Union, as well as fostering a Europe-wide approach. Accordingly, it supports the identification of best practices across Europe and the delineation of methods to assess their impact in a methodical and replicable mode. The intention is to boost the potential for European host communities to successfully involve and integrate refugees through sport.

The PA “Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation” seeks to provide sport organisations with the opportunity to advance and stimulate alternative arrangements for practicing physical-sport activities; boost communication regarding these alternative activities and related advantages; as well as the development of light sport facilities (small, recreational sport facilities). The aim is to promote physical activity through flexible, modern ways of practicing sport both in terms of infrastructure and offer (trainings, activities).

Both PAs expect the project to be implemented in the EU Member States within a timeframe of 18-24 months. The funding procedure involves a budget-based actual cost grant, with a co-financing rate of 80% of eligible costs for both PAs. Notwithstanding this, the PA “Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion for refugees” offers a maximum grant of €200,000 available for each project; while the maximum grant available for the Preparatory Actions “Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation” is €400,000 per project.

Furthermore, in concomitance with the PA, the call for a Pilot Project “Building investigative capacity to better fight doping in sport in Europe” has also been published by EACEA. This aspires to develop systematic capabilities to reduce doping in sport, improve investigation ability, and maximise the health benefits of clean sport for European youth. Notwithstanding, only one Pilot project is expected to be financed in 2021.

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 2021

	<u>Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion for refugees</u>	<u>Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation</u>
Maximum EU Grant	200.000 EUR	400.000 EUR
Deadline	16 June 2021	
Project Timeframe	18 - 24 Months	
Location of Activities	EU Member States	
Financial Procedure	Real Costs	
Co-financing Rate	80%	
Partner-Participants	Application by Single Applicant	

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Call for Proposal for Preparatory Action: Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion for refugees;](#)

[Call for Proposal for Preparatory Action: Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation;](#)

[Call for Proposal for Pilot Project: Building investigative capacity to better fight doping in sport in Europe;](#)

[2021 Annual Work programme for the implementation of Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in the area of education, youth, sport and culture;](#)

[EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046;](#)

[Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#)

Artificial sport pitches: ECHA publishes new study on infill materials – further REACH restriction proceedings possible

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has published a new study on plastic and rubber granules used as infill on artificial sport pitches, concluding that certain chemicals need further investigation.

The study identifies certain chemicals potentially present in the infill that could pose risks to people or the environment. ECHA therefore proposes that any further work to examine whether these substances in rubber infill pose a risk to human health or the environment that is not adequately controlled should be done by preparing a REACH restriction proposal.

The study addresses the following chemicals, among others: cadmium, cobalt, copper, lead, zinc, 4-tert-octylphenol, 4,4'-isopropylidene diphenol (BPA), bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP), benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP) and benzothiazole-2-thiol.

The study was requested from ECHA by the European Commission in 2017, following the restriction proposal by the Dutch authorities on eight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in rubber granules and mulches.

Interestingly, the study also links to the current proposal to restrict the use of microplastics as infill on artificial sports pitches. The authors note that a ban on the placing on the market of microplastics as infill granules would make some of the other potential restrictions on the above-mentioned chemicals obsolete. After all, these chemicals could then no longer be used as infill granules.

In the microplastics restriction procedure, ECHA submitted its final opinion to the European Commission and proposed two options to control the release of microplastics into the environment: either through a ban on the placing on the market of microplastics as infill granules, or, through the obligation to implement risk management measures at all relevant artificial turf pitches.

It is now the Commission's turn to present its own microplastics restriction proposal. The proposal will then be decided in the so-called comitology procedure, involving the member states and the European Parliament.

In the course of its reflections, the European Commission had requested the ECHA Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) to submit a supplementary opinion on the basis of new information (as was reported in the Monthly Report in February). The RAC maintained its conclusion that from an effectiveness, practicability and enforceability perspective, a ban on the placing on the market of microplastics on artificial turf pitches would be more effective in preventing the release of microplastics in the longer term than the introduction of risk management measures.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[New ECHA Study](#)

[ECHA Website Mikroplastic](#)

[Supplementary opinion RAC](#)



Outdoor Sport Shooting: ECHA webinar on lead restriction proposal online

The European Chemicals Agency ECHA hosted a webinar on 15 April on the public consultation on the restriction proposal for lead and lead compounds in ammunition for outdoor shooting.

The [recording](#) of the webinar is available online, as is the [presentation](#) used.

The consultation on the proposed restriction ends on 24 September 2021. The consultation is linked to a request for specific information so that affected stakeholders can share their information e.g., the use of shooting ranges/areas for agricultural purposes or the measures to limit releases to the environment at trap and/or skeet ranges.

The scope of the restriction proposal is on the placing on the market and the use of lead in projectiles used in firearms and airguns for civilian outdoor activities.

The restriction proposes to ban the use of lead where technically and economically feasible alternatives exist. This includes the sale and use of lead gunshot for hunting and sports shooting. For other uses, where alternatives show lower performance, such as for bullets and airgun pellets in outdoor sports shooting, the proposal intends to restrict the use to those sports shooting ranges where measures are in place to effectively collect the spent lead ammunition before it can result in risks.

The EOC EU Office already reported in detail on the scope of the restriction proposal and the potential regulations for sport shooting in the Monthly Report of February. The Office recommends that stakeholders in sport participate in the ECHA consultation and share available information.

After the end of the public consultation phase, the next step will be for ECHA's two scientific committees, for Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC), to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the ECHA proposal. This will include a new public consultation where stakeholders can submit again their comments. Based on the recommendations of RAC & SEAC, the European Commission will prepare a restriction proposal. This proposal must be approved by the Member States and the European Parliament in order to become binding European law.

FURTHER INFORMATION

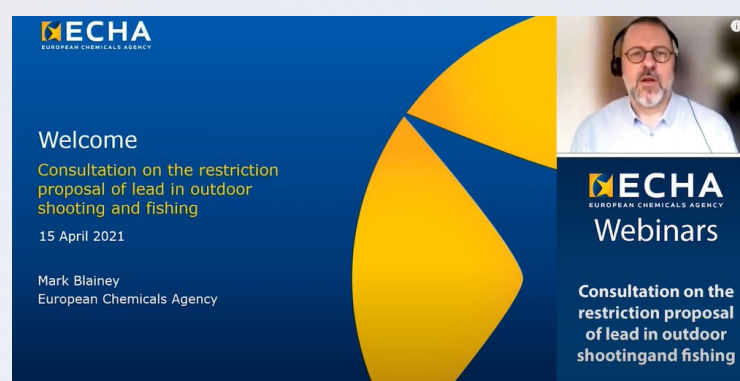
[ECHA presents restriction proposal on lead](#)

[Background information on the restriction proposal](#)

[Specific information requests](#)

[Page Overview Restriction on lead and its compounds](#)

[ECHA Webinar & Presentation](#)



“Calling the shots: Sports and the European Green Evolution”

While the topic of “green sport” is slowly making its way on the agendas of sport organisations around the world, in the EU, we can witness a truly exponential growth in interest over the past months. One example of this growing momentum was the online conference “[Calling the shots: Sports and the European Green Evolution](#)”, organised on 25-26 May by Surfrider Foundation Europe, and supported by the French Ministry of Sport.

Bringing together the European sports movement - from policy makers and administrators to athletes - to understand the current state of sustainability in sport and create a dialogue on how to move forward, the conference attracted close to 200 participants.

Roxana Maracineanu, French Minister in charge of Sport, introduced the conference and elaborated on how France supports the transition towards a greener sport. As part of the actions undertaken by the French Ministry, she mentioned the [Charter of eco-responsible commitments for major sporting events in France](#), with which all event organisers have to comply. She underlined how important inter-ministerial coordination was to encourage sustainable sport practice and gave the example of physical education at schools - in particular compulsory swimming lessons and cycling - to promote understanding by children of the relationship between nature and sport.

The two half days of discussions served as a great platform to address three major “green sport” topics: need for cooperation, waste, and climate change.

Giulia Carbone Khodabakhsh from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) highlighted in her introduction the dependency of sport on nature and brought up an important aspect of the practice of sport in nature: positive impact on mental well-being. Famous surfer and researcher Easkey Britton agreed with this premise and added, “healthier ecosystems lead to having healthier athletes both physically and psychologically.”

Speakers agreed that sport has a great power to motivate people to a behavioural change. Théo Curin, former Paralympic athlete, promoted sport as a way to ‘change people’s mentalities about disability’, which leads him to think that ‘it’s also possible through sport to send an environmental message (...) it’s the place to get this kind of message across’. However, as put forward by Dan Reading, Head of Sustainability at World Sailing, “with the huge reach of sport comes also responsibility.” In other words, to truly inspire people, sport organisations as well as other sport stakeholders such as sport equipment manufacturers, sponsors, owners of sport infrastructure or public authorities, need to take responsibility for the impact of their activities and operations on nature and society.

To provide inspiration for doing just that - taking responsibility and engaging in the transformation towards a greener sport - the organisers invited a number of sport organisations and project representatives to present their activities.

- Organising Committee of Olympic Games Paris 2024 provided examples of how it aims to achieve its goal of being the first climate positive Olympic Games in history;
- The Czech Olympic Committee spoke about their project [As Sustainable As Possible \(ASAP\)](#), which aims at supporting partner organisation in creating, adopting and implementing comprehensive sustainability strategies.
- ENGSO and UEFA presented projects leading, respectively, to the engagement of volunteers in green transformation ([PlayGreen](#)), and to the improvement of environmental management of football stadia and events ([LIFE Tackle](#));
- And, International Biathlon Union, newest partner of the EOC EU Office, spoke about their recently adopted [sustainability strategy](#) and about the participatory and engaging process that led to its creation.

With France and the Czech Republic having chosen “green sport” topics as priorities for their forthcoming Council Presidencies in the field of sport, and with the activities of the newly set-up Commission Expert Group on Green Sport (see a separate article in this Monthly Report), we can expect an intensification of EU-level discussions in this area.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Conference programme](#)



PARTNERS' CORNER

EOC EU Office organises a webinar on the application of competition policy to sport

The EOC EU Office invited its partners on 7 May to attend a webinar focusing on the application of competition policy on sport, featuring Brussels based lawyer Benoit Keane.

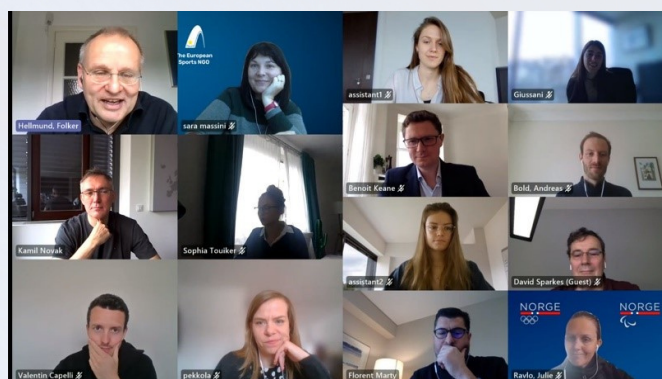
The webinar kicked-off with an opening by the Director of the EOC EU Office, Folker Hellmund, who outlined the purpose of the webinar and the key topics to discuss. Namely:

- The dual role of sport organisations as regulator and event organiser
- Sanctions, who can sanction and at what level?
- Authorisation systems, what we know from case law and how do they apply?
- The interaction between Article 165 TFEU and Articles 101/102 TFEU
- The transferability of EU case-law on modern day disputes
- The European Sport Model

An expert in European competition law with a particular focus on the sports sector, Mr Keane began by providing participants with a recap on the topic of closed leagues in sport. With the recent news of a potential breakaway league, namely, the [European Super League](#) (ESL), he put forward suggestions as to why the idea resurfaced in 2021. Mr Keane then provided a detailed breakdown of the events following the proposal of the new league, including government and EU level responses.

Following the presentation, participants were invited to take part in a Q&A session. Questions raised surrounded a number of topics including the definition of a cartel and its threshold, sanctioning and the tension it possibly creates, the authorisation procedure post-ISU decision ([Case T-93/18](#)), and the battle between competition law versus public opinion. The context in which the European Commission may intervene in sport-related disputes was also raised, and whether the dual role of a federation as regulator of its sport and organiser of events should be clearly separated.

The EOC EU Office would like to thank Benoit Keane for his contribution. The Office will continue to monitor the application of EU competition policy on sport and update its partners accordingly.



Erasmus+ POINTS Project comes to an end: successful Final Conference organised

Launched in 2018 and managed by the EOC EU Office, the Single Points of Contact for Sports Integrity (POINTS) project came to a close with its online final conference held on 31 May.

Co-funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ Sport Programme, the aim of the project was to help National Olympic Committees, European and national Federations to strengthen their governance and safeguard the integrity of their sport(s).

To kick-off the final conference, opening words were delivered by the EOC EU Office Director Folker Hellmund, who noted the great achievements of the project as well as the expertise and commitment of the consortium, including the excellent work of the POINTS project manager Valentin Capelli. EOC Acting President, Niels Nygaard, equally praised the EOC EU Office and project partners for their contribution towards improving the integrity of sport.

An overview of the project's activities, achievements and future of the initiative was presented by Valentin Capelli. He described the various "stages" of the project as:

- Stage 1: Developing the concept of a Single Point of Contact (SPOC)
- Stage 2: Paving the way for SPOCs through an educational programme
- Stage 3: Becoming a SPOC through education activities for partner representatives
- Stage 4: Setting up SPOCs national activities through strategic workshops



To conclude, he highlighted the different tools developed during the project, namely, the Guidelines and Booklet for SPOCs, as well as the SIGGS self-evaluation tool 2.0.

Moderated by former Belgian tennis player Dominique Monami, participants then heard testimonies from POINTS project partners Matthias Van Baelen, Belgian Olympic Committee, Joana Gonçalves, Portuguese Olympic Committee, and Jean Gracia, European Athletics. The speakers shared their personal experiences with the POINTS project and whether the project, as newly made SPOCs for their respective organisations, has impacted their daily activities and integrity strategy of their organisations. They also described how the tools developed in the project will be used with their national members in the future.



The second part of the event saw a discussion on the future of Integrity in Sport and the role of sport organisations. Pâquerette Girard-Zappelli, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer of the IOC, delivered a key note speech on the importance of integrity for the Olympic movement – referring to its newly set-up robust set of codes with a zero-tolerance policy. She also highlighted the importance of a coordinated approach of sport organisations on topics such as integrity, describing the tools developed through POINTS as helpful in this regard.

President of the International Biathlon Union, Olle Dahlin, and Dieter Braekeveld, Integrity in Sport Training Officer, Anti-Corruption Unit, of INTERPOL joined Mrs Girard-Zappelli for a high-level panel discussion. The exchange centred around the main challenges for sport organisations when it comes to integrity and the potential impact of COVID-19 on the integrity of sport. Mr Dahlin opened the session by underlining the need for sport organisations to be proactive in working towards a change of culture in an organisation. It was underlined that leadership must embrace such change as integrity of sport relies on the integrity of organisations.

On his side, Mr Braekeveld stressed certain outstanding challenges preventing stronger cooperation between law enforcement and sport. Mrs Girard-Zappelli highlighted the priorities of the Olympic Agenda 2020+5 in the area of integrity, the IPACS, as well as the role of the EU and public authorities in protecting sports integrity. To finish the session, Mr Dahlin provided a brief outline of the main elements required for an efficient sports integrity strategy.

The POINTS project management would like to thank once more all its partners for the excellent cooperation along the course of the project, as well as the participants for attending the event.

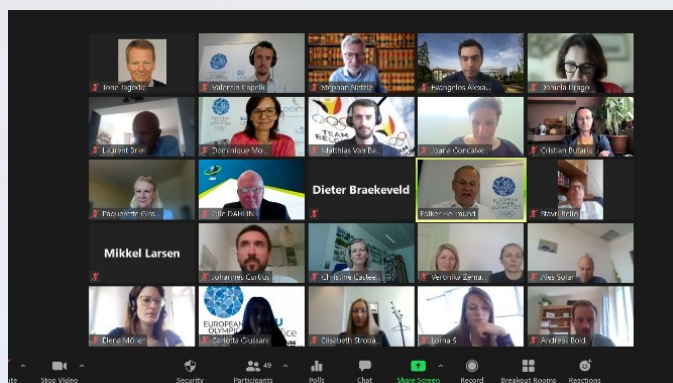
All information on the developed tools and future activities can be found on the project website and its twitter account.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[POINTS website and twitter](#)

[POINTS Guidelines](#)

[SIGGS website](#)





UPCOMING EVENTS

08 - 09 June 2021

[EU Sport Forum \(European Commission - online\)](#)

09 June 2021

[EOC Executive Committee \(EOC - Athens\)](#)

10 - 11 June 2021

[General Assembly \(EOC - Athens\)](#)

24 June 2021

[Annual Partner Meeting \(EOC EU Office - online\)](#)

22 - 25 June 2021

[SAVE-THE-DATE - LIFE EU Info Days](#)

29 June 2021

[Climate Action and Sport webinar \(IOC/EOC EU Office - online\)](#)



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