



European Union and Sport

<i>New EU Commission proposed</i>	2
<i>Convention against match-fixing signed by 15 States</i>	3
<i>EU Alcohol Strategy: State of play</i>	4

Funding programmes, studies and projects

<i>Studies on betting-related match-fixing</i>	4
<i>Call for tender: Study on the Contribution of sport to regional development through structural funds</i>	5

Internal and visits

<i>New staff members at the EOC EU Office</i>	6
<i>In Memoriam – Predrag Manojlovic</i>	6
<i>Dates in October</i>	7



European Union and Sport

New EU Commission proposed

On 10 September 2014, President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker unveiled his new team for the next five years. According to Juncker, former Prime Minister of Luxembourg and President of the Eurogroup, his team is a strong and experienced team (made up of 5 former Prime Ministers and 19 former Ministers) “that will put Europe back on the path to jobs and growth.” Also, there will be a new strategy as the Commission will have seven Vice-Presidents who will each lead a project team that mirrors the political guidelines. These political guidelines focus on “getting people back to work in decent jobs, triggering more investment, making sure banks lend to the real economy again, creating a connected digital market, a credible foreign policy and ensuring Europe stands on its own feet when it comes to energy security.”

Sport not mentioned

Sport will remain under the same portfolio, previously named “Education, Culture, Youth and Multilingualism” under the chair of Commissioner Vassiliou which is now called “Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship”. The Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Tibor Navracsics, has been designated by Juncker to be in charge of this portfolio. He was previously Hungarian deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Administration and Justice, and has worked as lecturer at several universities.

However, it comes as a disappointment that neither his portfolio nor his mission letter specifically mention sport. Folker Hellmund, head of the European Olympic Committees’ EU Office, immediately reacted: “it is not a

good message to the sport community and to European society as a whole. I now expect the Members of the European Parliament to raise this concern and make sure that sport can tap its full potential under the new Commission as well.”

Hearing of Tibor Navracsics

Tibor Navracsics’s hearing took place on 1 October 2014. Members of the European Parliament who work in the “Culture and Education” and “Industry, Research and Energy” questioned him for three hours. The Hungarian Commissioner-designate seemed to have understood the message sent by the sports community. In his opening statement, he insisted on sport being an important part of his work even if it is not mentioned in the title of his portfolio. He underlined that “for the first time in the European Union’s history, grassroots sport will now receive funding from the Union’s budget” and identified public health, social inclusion, gender equality, improved governance and the fight against match-fixing and doping as priorities for sport.

MEP Bogdan Wenta (EPP, PL) came back on the issue and questioned him about the odd exclusion of sport from his portfolio’s title. Tibor Navracsics answered by reiterating the importance of sport, highlighting the funding made available through Erasmus+ Sport, promoting the European Week of Sport which will take place for the first time in 2015 and insisted on the necessity to fight for a “decent” sport, through collaboration with the Council of Europe and international sport organisations.



September 2014

MEP Zagorakis (EPP, EL) asked Tibor Navracsics how he would promote sport in schools and protect sport infrastructures. The Commissioner-designate answered by insisting upon the importance of sport towards well-being and suggested that an approach regarding sport infrastructures should be developed at the EU level. Overall, Navracsics's performance can be judged as following a carefully-designed script. His answers on sport showed his will to deflect criticism on sport being overlooked but he refrained from delivering a clear political message and he oversimplified the message when saying for instance that grassroots sport will receive financing from the EU.

Next steps

Hearings of the Commissioners-designate in the relevant parliamentary committees have started on 29 September and will theoretically end on 7 October (additional hearings could be organized). The European Parliament will then make its final vote on the College of Commissioners on 22 October 2014 in Strasbourg. Before the European Council can formally appoint the European Commission, the European Parliament has to consent to the entire College of Commissioners. If the Parliament gives its consent, the new Commission will take office on 1 November this year.

Convention against match-fixing signed by 15 States

Following the adoption of the final text of the "Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions" of the Council of Europe on 9 July 2014, the Convention was signed on 18 September in Magglingen, Switzerland.

Due to concerns of the legal services of the EU Council and the EU Commission, it was unclear until the last moment which national delegations would be able to sign. Finally the Convention was signed by fifteen States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, Serbia and Switzerland. The objective of the Convention is to prevent, detect and punish the manipulation of sports competitions in all sports. An integral part of the Convention is the setting up of national platforms (Art. 13) in order to enhance the exchange of information and international co-operation between public authorities, sports organisations and sports betting operators.

Furthermore the States are asked (Art. 9) to identify or to establish a betting regulating authority. In order to monitor the implementation of the Convention, Art. 30 foresees the setting up of a follow-up Committee. The Committee will consist of representatives from public authorities responsible for sport, law enforcement and betting regulation.

The Olympic Movement regards the Convention as an important step in the fight against match fixing in sport and encourages all governments to take the necessary decisions to initiate the signing and/or the ratification process. The Convention will only enter into force once 5 States (among which at least 3 are Member States of the Council of Europe) have finalized the ratification procedure.

Further information:

[Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions](#)



EU Alcohol Strategy: State of play

On 16 September 2014, the European Commission published its Action Plan on Youth Drinking and on Heavy Episodic Drinking (2014-2016). The aim of the document is among others to serve as a guiding document until a new EU Alcohol Strategy (2016-2022) is created. One of the six areas for action outlined in the Action Plan on Youth Drinking and on Heavy Episodic Drinking is to *"reduce exposure of youth to alcohol marketing and advertising"*. Furthermore it is suggested to *"encourage the provision of alcohol-free leisure venues for youth, e.g. Youth Cafes, alcohol-free music, dance and **sports venues**."*

The Action Plan on Youth Drinking and on Heavy Episodic Drinking (2014-2016) and the new Alcohol strategy (2016-2022) could play an important role for a general ban of advertising on alcoholic beverages with regard to television, internet and sport events. The producers of alcoholic beverages often appear in amateur and professional sport as sponsors of events or stadiums. The present EU Alcohol Strategy came to an official end in 2012 and has not been updated since. The Commission is expected to publish a proposal for a new strategy in 2015, once the new Commissioner for Health, Mr Vytenis Andriukaitis, has taken office.

Pressure by the European Parliament

On 3 September 2014 the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) had invited representatives of the European Commission to discuss the state of play of the new EU Alcohol Strategy (2016-2022). On this occasion several MEPs called on the Commission to immediately continue its work on a new strategy and also to opt for a stricter ban of alcohol advertising.

Already in March 2014 the ENVI Committee adopted a motion for a resolution on the EU Alcohol strategy (legally non binding for the Member States) to exert political pressure on the European Commission and the Member States to accelerate the process. In the resolution, the European Parliament states among other things that the protection of the physical, mental and moral development of children and minors in the current audio-visual media services, are not properly guaranteed and that advertising of alcoholic beverages should be limited. According to the European Parliament, operative measures like self-regulatory initiatives and codes of conduct should be used more effectively.

Further information:

[Website of DG Health and Consumers: Key documents on Alcohol policy](#)

Funding programmes, studies and projects

Studies on betting-related match-fixing

The results of two studies related to match-fixing, launched in November 2013 by the Commission, are now available. The first

study was carried out by TMC ASSER Institute and deals with preventive measures against betting-related match-fixing in



September 2014

respect of football, tennis and other sports (depending on the country) within the EU 28 Member States. The aim was to indicate best practices by comparing the states' regulatory frameworks with regard to risk assessment and conflict of interest management. The study infers that rather than investing in a single regulatory unit, it would be smarter to enhance collaboration through projects that incorporate dialogue between sports governing bodies, betting companies and regulators in order to prevent, disrupt and sanction match-fixing.

The second study, carried out by Oxford Research and VU Amsterdam, is a study on the sharing of information and the reporting of suspicious sports betting activity in the EU 28. It focuses on the formal and self-regulation of information collection, storage and sharing, and explains that the approaches differ across Europe. It suggests that all stakeholders have to contribute by collecting and sharing information in order to establish an efficient system. The study also identifies barriers to the sharing of information, in both legal and practical nature.

The authors conclude that the EU could play a more important role by creating a network of National Platforms and by supporting Member States. It is important to note that the setting up of national platforms is an important aspect of the Council of Europe's convention on the "fight against manipulation in sport competitions" (cf. article on the Convention against match-fixing on page 3). Furthermore the authors underline the need to make law enforcement activities in Europe and on the international level more effective.

With regard to the current discussions on the Data Protection Directive, the authors stipulated that sports integrity should be defined under "areas of special public interest", which would allow sport federations to share and transfer personal information of athletes for example in the fight against doping and match fixing. Given the international nature of sports betting, future EU initiatives should integrate third countries and should be coordinated with the work of the Council of Europe.

Further information:

[Studies on betting-related match-fixing](#)

Call for tender: Study on the Contribution of sport to regional development through structural funds

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission has published a call for tender for a study on the Contribution of sport to regional development through structural funds. According to the agency "the overall objective to which this contract will contribute is to give an overview of how and

to what extent sport and physical activity have been integrated in the framework of the EU's Cohesion Policy for the programming periods 2007–2013 and 2014–

2020." The study should be published by the end of 2015. The EOC EU Office welcomes the launching of the call, as sports' overall contribution to social and economic development has been underestimated in the past. In this regard the study could facilitate the funding of future sport projects by the Structural Funds in the current funding period until 2020. The estimated value excluding value added taxes is 240.000 EUR.



September 2014

The application deadline is 14 November 2014 at 4 p.m.

Further information:

[Study on the contribution of sport to regional development through the structural funds](#)

Internal and visits

New staff members at the EOC EU Office

The EOC EU Office is happy to announce that two new colleagues started from 1 September of this year. The integration of these two experienced colleagues into our team will certainly have a positive impact on future services and activities provided by the EOC EU Office to its partner organizations and NOCs.

following a six months traineeship. She can be contacted at janotova@euoffice.eurolympic.org or at +32 2 738 03 22.



Jana Janotová is detached from the Czech Olympic Committee and gained professional experience in the EU Office of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). She is an

active Basketball player and knows the Sport Unit of the European Commission from inside



Florence Lefebvre Rangeon has worked for more than 6 years as parliamentary assistant in the European Parliament, the last five years with French Deputy

Sophie Auconie. She is an active football player and just finished her PhD on European Sports Law. She can be contacted as rangeon@euoffice.eurolympic.org or at +32 2 738 03 29.

In Memoriam – Predrag Manojlovic



It is with great sadness that the EOC EU Office was informed of the passing of Mr Predrag Manojlovic, Vice-President of ENGSO and former Secretary General of the Olympic Committee

of Serbia. After his successful sporting career as a water polo player - the highlight

being a silver medal at the Olympic Games in Moscow 1980 - Mr Manojlovic remained active within the sport movement. He served as Secretary General of the Yugoslav Sports Association "Partizan" 1985-1997 and as Secretary General of the Olympic Committee of Serbia 2000-2009. In addition, he was the Secretary General of ENGSO from 2005 to 2013, when in June of last year he was elected as Vice-President. Mr Manojlovic was truly dedicated in working for the sport movement. He was also very supportive



September 2014

towards the work of the EOC EU Office. ENGSO and the NOC of Serbia have lost a dear friend.

EOC EU Office would like to express its sincerest condolences to the family of Mr Manojlovic.

Dates in October 2014

29.9-7.10	EP-Hearings with Commissioners-designate
2	Council Working Party on Sport
13	Council Expert Group on HEPA, Brussels
16	Council Expert Group on Good Governance, Brussels
20-21	Informal Sport Ministers Council meeting, Rome
21-22	HEPA Focal Points meeting, Rome
22	Final vote on Commissioners –designate by EP
23	Final vote on Commissioners–designate by the European Council
27-29	ENGSO Forum
31	Council Working Party on Sport

Imprint:
EOC EU Office
52, Avenue de Cortenbergh
B-1000 Brussels
Tel. : 0032-2-738 03 20
info@euoffice.eurolympic.org