

# ***EOC***

**Liaison Office at the European Union**



**Report on the impact of the activities  
of the European Union  
on sports**

**December 2006**



<b>Sport</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>News from the Institutions</b>		<b>3</b>
1st	Sports agenda of the German European Council Presidency 2007	3
2nd	Introduction to the “EU-SEC” research project	3
<b>Legal Questions</b>		<b>4</b>
3rd	Successful lobbying in connection with the driving licence directive	4
4th	ECJ: Germany required to implement tobacco advertising directive	5
5th	The directive on services may come into force in 2007	6
6th	EU updates list of standards for personal protective equipment	7
<b>Aid Programms</b>		<b>8</b>
7th	Simpler access to EU funds through new finance regulations	8
8th	PROGRESS – new social and employment programme launched	9
9th	2008 will be the “European Year of Intercultural Dialogue”	9
10th	EU funding for “Skate & Rail”	11
11th	2007 announcement concerning the EU’s Life-Long Learning Programme published	12



## Sport

### News from the Institutions

#### 1st Sports agenda of the German European Council Presidency 2007

The EU Sports Directors are meeting in Bonn from 1 - 2 February on the occasion of the German Presidency of the European Council during the first half of 2007. The EU Sports Ministers will be meeting in Stuttgart from 12 - 13 March. The subjects of sport and integration, cooperation of national agencies in the field of anti-doping, sport and the economy as well as the White Paper on Sport initiated by the EU Commission are on the agenda of both events.



#### 2nd Introduction to the "EU-SEC" research project

The European Commission presented the results of the EU-SEC research project in December at a UN conference on the subject of "Enhancing Security at Major World Events". This project aims to help to find new ways of improving security at major events such as the Football World Cup, the Olympics or international summits. It received € 1.8 million in funding from the seventh EU Research Framework Programme; protection against threats such as terrorism, natural disasters and crime fall under its remit.

The Interior Ministers and police authorities of 10 EU countries including Germany, Spain, Finland, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy, the



Netherlands and Portugal, as well as the European Police Agency (Europol) and the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Centre (UNICRI) are cooperating on the “EU-SEC” project.



[www.eu-sec.org](http://www.eu-sec.org)

## Legal Questions

### 3rd Successful lobbying in connection with the driving licence directive

After several years of discussions between the European Parliament and the Council (of Ministers) the driving licence directive was passed in December. The Commission’s draft of October 2003 with stricter rules for trailer weights in driving licence category B had raised concerns among sports organizations because many athletes who have to transport the equipment they need for their sport on a car trailer (boats, gliders, horses etc.) would have had to pass a new driving text. The joint lobbying of a number of European sports organizations whose arguments were mainly based on the low number of accidents involving trailers led to this proposal being dropped. In particular, awareness was raised among Members of the European Parliament concerning sporting interests, which even led to the current national rules being improved from the point of view of sport in the final version of the text.



Car drivers holding driving licence category B may continue to drive vehicles towing a trailer without having to take a further test as long as the combination weighs less than 3500 kg, the vehicle's technical features permitting. In the case of car-trailer combinations weighing between 3500 and 4250 kg, the driver is required to prove he has taken part in a recognized one-day course.

The new EU driving licence directive now provides for the driving licences currently in circulation to be gradually exchanged by 2013.



[info@eu-sports-office.org](mailto:info@eu-sports-office.org)

#### **4th ECJ: Germany required to implement tobacco advertising directive**

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) dismissed Germany's nullity suit against the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union in its ruling in case C-380/03 of 12 December.

The provisions of the directive against which the appeal was lodged in May 2003 regulate the harmonization of the Member States' regulations and administrative provisions relating to the advertising and sponsorship of tobacco products on media other than television, which thus also affects sports events.

For Germany, the ECJ's ruling means that directive 2003/33/EG ("tobacco



advertising directive”) must now be enshrined in national law. As a result, advertising in the press and other printed publications may only take place if it is exclusively intended for professionals in the tobacco trade or is published and edited in third countries and is not mainly intended for the Common Market. “Printed publications” refers only to newspapers, periodicals and magazines. The term does not cover local announcements, programmes of events, posters, telephone books or advertising brochures. Radio programmes may not contain any advertising for tobacco products and may no longer be sponsored by companies whose main activity is to produce or sell tobacco products.

#### **5th The directive on services may come into force in 2007**

The last hurdle in the EU legislative procedure on the services directive has been overcome. On 12 December, the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council passed the directive at its second reading, and it can thus come into force in 2007. The Member States are now called upon to achieve its enshrinement into national law by 2010. The services directive was already published in the European Union’s Official Journal on 27 December. What is very positive for the promotion of sport is that lotteries do not fall under the scope of the directive.



## **6th EU updates list of standards for personal protective equipment**

Within the context of directive 89/686/EEC, the European Union has published an updated list of European Norms (EN) for personal protective equipment. It also includes items of equipment for sports disciplines such as diving, hockey, football, climbing and fencing. Adherence to the European norms is voluntary and no legal obligation is involved. However, insurance companies often base their services on an EN certificate. This list of norms is updated approximately once every five years. In addition, the list is not conclusive; further norms are continually being drafted by the “European Committee for Standardization” (CEN). For technical reasons relating to insurance, it is recommended that information concerning the EN be requested from the relevant insurance companies.



[info@eu-sports-office.org](mailto:info@eu-sports-office.org)



## **Aid Programms**

### **7th Simpler access to EU funds through new finance regulations**

The European Parliament and the Member States have reached an agreement on administrative reform of the EU budget and simpler access to EU funding. The new rules are expected to be passed in early 2007 and are to apply from 1 May 2007. The removal of excessive formalities and the introduction of simplified procedures will make it easier to obtain EU funding within the financial framework for 2007 to 2013, especially for the recipients of smaller amounts of financial aid, i.e. mainly SMEs, schools, universities, research laboratories, development agencies, municipal authorities and also sports clubs.

The cutting of red tape benefits these recipients inter alia in that providing good personal and vocational references or collateral for preliminary financing is reduced to a minimum. The process for granting financial aid will be simplified through disbursing lump-sum payments to a greater extent than hitherto and through recipients not having to provide evidence of every detail of their expenditures.





#### **8th PROGRESS – new social and employment programme launched**

With a budget of more than € 700 million for the period from 2007 to 2013, PROGRESS, the EU's new integrated programme for employment and social solidarity, was launched on 5 December. Studies and projects for mutual learning are being financed. The work of central players in the five major areas employment, social inclusion, working conditions, gender equality and tackling discrimination is receiving support. The focus will be on activities with a major European dimension. These include in particular building networks of national experts to encourage mutual learning and exchange of good practices as well as supporting key EU-level networks of non-governmental organizations active in fighting discrimination or promoting gender equality. Thus, the programme offers a good opportunity at national, regional and municipal level to realize sports-related projects.

#### **9th 2008 will be the “European Year of Intercultural Dialogue”**

The European Parliament and Council adopted a proposal on 19 December 2006 to make 2008 the “European Year for Intercultural Dialogue”. In this connection, a total of € 10 million is to be earmarked for relevant projects, which are to be implemented as community measures in 2008. The aim of the European Year's events is to mobilize civil society and its diverse players at European, national and local level, particularly in the fields of culture,



education, youth, citizenship and also sport.

Intercultural dialogue is to be funded in areas where it can improve the coexistence of EU citizens, particularly among young people. The project could be implemented in such places as schools and other educational establishments and places of learning, workplaces and also leisure, cultural and sports facilities.

Grants are available, among other things, for the following measures:

- “symbolic” activities throughout Europe targeted at young people
- activities at national level with a “strong European dimension”
- the dissemination of educational material and instruments as well as
- the establishment of an Internet portal to give the public access to activities in the field of intercultural dialogue.

Intercultural dialogue is an area sports organizations deal with on a daily basis. Thus, there will be more opportunities to implement relevant projects during the year. Since the budget line is limited, it is worth taking a look at other EU funding programmes that aim to take up the theme of the European Year as an annual focus (e.g. the YOUTH programme).



### 10th EU funding for “Skate & Rail”

Since Whitsun 2006, inline skaters have been able to skate to their hearts' content on an attractive route 100 km in length in the Westliche Mühlenkreis district (North-Rhine/Westphalia, Germany) with the support of the EU-funded “Skate & Rail” project. A network with six routes of different lengths and levels of difficulty has been set up which is linked to public transport – the Ravensberger Bahn RB 71 / Eurobahn (train). In particular, very young skaters who have not yet passed their driving text or students at the University of Bielefeld who enjoy skating but who do not have a car could benefit from the close connections between the railway and skating networks.

The project, which was initiated by the municipality of Minden-Lübbecke and the transport association of Ostwestfalen-Lippe is intended to attract inline skaters from the region into the Mühlenkreis district. In setting up the network, this rural region aims to acquire a profile as a tourist destination and to work on its image. The concept impressed the EU's funding initiative for rural regions, LEADER+, which provided 50 per cent of the financing required to realize the project.



## 11th 2007 announcement concerning the EU's Life-Long Learning Programme published

The European Commission has published a general appeal for proposals for 2007 for the EU's "Life-Long Learning Programme" to be submitted. This programme, which runs from 2007 to 2013 and has a total budget of nearly € 7 billion, includes, among other things activities from the old Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci Programmes (general and vocational education and training). Thus, it covers the entire educational path that Europe's citizens ideally should go down, from school, university and vocational education to adult education. Activities in cooperation with partners in other European countries are funded.

Education across all age groups is also a daily area of activity for sports organizations. Thus, a number of different sports-related projects have already benefited from funding from EU training programmes. The current appeal contains a number of focal areas of interest to sports organizations, for example health education and school sports lessons, the promotion of intercultural dialogue through learning partnerships in adult education, learning at an advanced age and the integration of migrants.

The first deadlines for submitting proposals are already in February and March.



[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/newprog/index\\_en.html#call](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/newprog/index_en.html#call)