

EOC

Liaison Office at the European Union



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

February 2005



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General Policy

1st Majority in favour of EU Constitution in Spain

In the first plebiscite of an EU Member State on the European Union constitution, the people of Spain voted for the treaty by a large majority on 20th February. In the referendum, a total of 76.7 % came out in favour of the constitution, with 17.2 % voting against it. At 42.3%, turnout for the election was very low but still better than predicted by the sceptics.

Sport

News from the Institutions

2nd European Commission – DG Education and Culture

Organisation:

Since February 2005 the General Directorate Education and Culture, led by Commissioner Ján Figel', has had a new organisational structure. Previously assigned to Directorate C "Culture, Audiovisual Policy and Sport", the Sports Unit henceforth belongs to Directorate D "Youth, Sport and Relations with the Public".

Key dates:

On 9th and 10th March 2005 the Sports Unit is holding an Evaluation Seminar with the National Coordinating Bodies of the European Year of Education through Sport and the Agency which is entrusted with carrying out the



evaluation.

On 24th and 25th May representatives of the European sports movement are to discuss the future European sports policy with the Sports Unit. This discussion will take place in the light of the results of the EYES and of Art. III-282 on sport in the Constitutional Treaty.

Legal Questions

3rd Driving Licence Directive: 1st reading in the European Parliament

The report by MEP Mathieu Grosch (Belgium) on the reworking of the Driving Licence Directive (see MR 08/09 2004) was approved by the European Parliament in the first reading. The legislative initiative affects athletes who transport their equipment, such as boats, horses and gliders for example, by means of a trailer. While the intention of the Commission proposal was to reduce the maximum weights for the ordinary car driving licence (class B), awareness of the interests of sport has now been successfully raised in the European Parliament. The Grosch Report provides that, for driving licence class B, the regulations that previously applied, i.e. 3.5 t. total weight of car and trailer together, should be retained. Or, under certain circumstances and where appropriate training has been given, they should even be increased to 4.25 t.



The document is now being passed on to the Council of the 25 EU Transport Ministers as part of the joint decision-making procedure.

Funding Programmes

4th Swedish Leonardo Project started in the EU-Office

A Leonardo mobility project successfully submitted by the Swedish umbrella sports association (Sveriges Riksidrottsförbundet) is making it possible for seven colleagues from Swedish sports associations to complete a 6-week period of practical training each in the EU-Office of German Sports. The aim of the Leonardo da Vinci action programme is to enable people to obtain qualifications and further vocational training by following training courses or working in another European country.

The trainees from national and local associations are involved in the daily business of the office and deal with particular types of problems encountered by the project organiser. In addition, they will pass on their experience with EU-related projects to their colleagues in Brussels. Another aim of their stay in the European capital is to improve contacts with Swedish representatives in the EU institutions and regional offices. When they return, the trainees will act as



disseminators, taking what they have learned back with them to their regional associations.

On 28th February Mats Hamberg, manager of a regional sports association with more than 800 member clubs, was the first programme participant to begin his period of practical training in the EU-Office.

5th TOROC – Ethics and Social Values in Sport

On 16th February in Brussels, the Organising Committee of the Turin 2006 Winter Olympic Games (TOROC) presented the results of a project supported by the European Commission. The aim of the project is to draw up a code of behaviour for those involved in big events.

In the course of 2004, TOROC also drew up an ethics charter with the help of European partners. This charter must be adhered to in the context of all large athletic events. The charter covers subjects such as environmental protection, encouraging education through sport, sustainable development, fundamental rights, etc. It is aimed at both athletes and public and private institutions involved in organising events.



The presentation of the project was attended by representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the International Federation of Trade Unions as well as members of the Ethics Commission of the International Olympic Committee.

According to Project Manager M. Bontempi, the purpose of the Ethics Charter is to pave the way for future initiatives in this sphere.

6th YOUTH Programme: call for action 5

The European Commission published within the framework of Action 5 of the programme YOUTH a call for innovative projects that support cooperation, training and information projects in the field of non-formal education.

The main aim of this call is a clear transnational European dimension, which contributes to European cooperation in youth matters.

Applications must follow one of the main themes/areas:

- Cultural diversity and tolerance
- Less favoured regions
- Eastern Europe – Caucasus – South East Europe



- Innovation in youth work
- Cooperation between local or regional authorities and youth NGOs.

Projects must have a duration of at least 18 months and must start between the 1st of October and the 31st of December 2005.

The maximum funding amount per project will not exceed EUR 300 000.

Closing date is the 31st of March 2005.

Further information (call for proposals, application form, etc.) can be found under:



http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/call/index_en.html