



European Union and Sport



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European Union and Sport

EU Sport Ministers adopt documents on sport

On 18 November a formal Sport Ministers' Council was held by the Belgium Presidency. EU Sport Ministers adopted conclusions on the EU's role in the international fight against doping and on the role of sport as a source of and a driver for active social inclusion as well as a resolution on structured dialogue with sport stakeholders.

The potential of sport for social inclusion has been underlined in several documents before. The now adopted Council document acknowledges the important role of sport for social inclusion and cohesion. Given sport's potential, it is essential to promote grassroots sport and individual participation, for instance through the exchange of information and best practice. The document also calls on the EU to include sport and social inclusion as a funding priority in a future sport programme. In this context it is worth noting that the Commission supports the ENGSO-project "Creating a Level Playing Field" which implements some points of the ENGSO-Manifest on a truly inclusive sport. The project will run from January 2011 until March 2012.

Concerning Anti-Doping, the adopted conclusions emphasize the need to intensify the cooperation of EU Sport Ministers and to coordinate EU and member states positions ahead of meetings of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

The third main subject discussed was the structured dialogue with the European sport movement. The EU institutions are held to consult sport organisations in important sport related matters. In this context, the mechanism of the "structured dialogue" was created, ensuring regular meetings between representatives of the EU institutions and of the sport movement. Sport Ministers adopted a resolution to strengthen the high-level dialogue. The resolution provides for informal meetings of leading representatives of the EU institutions and the sport movement to discuss sporting issues in the EU, probably in the margins of a Council meeting. Controversy was sparked by the fact that Sport Ministers agreed that participants should be nominated by the Council Presidency instead of being designated by the sport movement itself.

The sport organizations are expecting to get involved in the further implementation process and that the EU will earmark adequate financial resources for their proposals, in order to avoid the reputation of becoming a "toothless paper tiger".

For further information:

<http://www.eutrio.be/pressrelease/education-youth-culture-and-sport-council>

Breakdown of budget negotiations threatens 2011 Preparatory Actions

The breakdown of budget negotiations for next year is likely to affect the "Preparatory Actions 2011" in sport. The European Parliament and the Council failed to reach an agreement on Monday 16 November on the 2011 budget. The Commission now has to present a new budget proposal which will

then have to be adopted by the Council and the Parliament. This process may take months. If there is no agreement by 2011, the EU institutions will work from 1 January on under the system of "provisional twelfth". This means that the budget 2011 will be fixed on the level of 2010 budget and



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divided in twelve parts. Bigger investments exceeding the monthly tranche available must be financed by several transactions. Moreover, the amount earmarked for the Preparatory Action 2011 (3 mio. EUR) and the Special Annual Events (4 mio. EUR) will have to be included in the new budget proposal and must be approved again by the Council and the Parliament. At best, this means that there will only be a delay in the implementation of the Preparatory Actions, at worst, that there won't be any funding at all in 2011. The concrete outcome is unclear at the moment. In any case, it is certain that this year's procedure will not be respected and that a Call for Proposals should not be expected in the first half of the year. The breakdown of budget negotiations is likely to

cause delays in other EU-funding programmes as well, such as Youth in Action, Europe for Citizens or Lifelong Learning. Meanwhile, the Commission has selected the successful projects under the 2010 Preparatory Actions Call. Altogether the Commission received 146 applications. 2,5 Mio. EUR were granted to 12 projects in the field of doping prevention, social inclusion of migrants and volunteering. A list of selected projects will be published by the end of the month on the website of the Sport Unit.

For further information:
http://ec.europa.eu/sport/index_en.htm.

EU-policy matters

EP-Public Hearing on a future European sports policy

On 18 November the Committee for Culture and Education (CULT) of the European Parliament held a public hearing on the future European sport policy. Experts from the world of sport, the Commission and the Belgian Presidency of the Council discussed the EU's priorities for this newly acquired competence.

Participants heard contributions from Gregory Paulger, Director for Youth and Sport in the Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC), An Vermeersch from the Belgian Presidency, **Patrick Hickey**, President of the European Olympic Committees (EOC), William Gaillard, Senior Adviser to UEFA president Michel Platini, Mogens Kirkeby, President of the International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA) and Michel Colucci, Professor for International and European Sports Law at Tilburg University. Although the hearing

directly targeted sport organizations, the latter received a great deal less speaking time than representatives from the EU institutions to present their views and were cut short by the chairwoman of the CULT-Committee, Doris Pack.

In her introductory remarks, Doris Pack argued that the recently published study of the European Parliament on "The Lisbon Treaty and EU Sports Policy" had taken MEPs "back to reality". Referring to the conclusions of the study, Pack stated that Article 165 would not provide many possibilities for the EU to regulate sport, such as the activities of players' agents, as proposed by the European Parliament in a resolution earlier this year. Moreover, she expressed her disappointment over the Commission's failure to present a Sport Funding Programme for the years 2012-2013. "We can't even be sure that we will



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keep all the funding programs we currently have”, Pack said with a view to the period after 2014.



In his speech, Patrick Hickey elaborated on the partnership between the European Olympic Committees and the EU institutions and recalled that

sport organisations had largely supported the reference to sport in the European treaties from the beginning. Hickey called on the EU to “reaffirm its support for the independence and autonomy of sports federations and their right to determine their organisation and the promotion of their respective sport”. Moreover, Hickey asked the Commission to further “support the mainstreaming of sport into existing funding programmes and the setting-up of a new Sports Funding Programme”. In this regard, Hickey raised concerns about the Commission’s “lack of ambition”, qualifying current developments as “a major step backwards”. A sport programme would have the same potential as an Erasmus programme and could be an excellent means of bringing together European citizens. Hickey also wondered why “some MEPs were so eager to launch European legislation for example in the field of players’ agents”. European directives should only be initiated “if sport completely fails to solve its own problems”.

Gregory Paulger explained that the European Commission would publish its Communication on the “Lisbon Treaty and Sport” on January 12. The Communication

would set out the Commission’s views on how the provisions of Article 165 will be implemented, whilst building on the achievements of the White Paper. Paulger stressed that the Communication would include an action plan with concrete initiatives, “largely reflecting the ideas put forward by sport stakeholders”. Among others, Paulger announced that the Commission would “set guidelines for the interpretation of EU law, especially when it comes to amateur sport”.

William Gaillard, for his part, called on the Commission to recognise the European sports model and its specific features. “Do not waste this opportunity”, Gaillard warned.

Michele Colluci stressed that sport matters were “the prime responsibility of sport organisations” and that according to Article 165, the EU had only a supporting role. He suggested the creation of a “European Sports Law and Policy Conservatory” and an “Erasmus Sport Programme”.

In the subsequent discussion, concerns about the lack of funding for sport organisations were also voiced by MEPs Jean Kelly (EPP) and Joanna Senyszyn (S&D). The latter called on the deputies to sign the “Declaration on increased support for grassroots sports”. Other issues brought up during the discussion were the EU’s role in the international fight against doping, the impact of the failure of the budget negotiations for 2011 on sports, the promotion of training for local players and the anticipated results of the Sport Ministers’ Council.

Belgium EU-Presidency Conference: Sustainable Contributions to Society from Lotteries

A Conference on the sustainable contributions from lotteries in different areas

organized by the Belgium-EU Presidency took place in Brussels on 16 November.



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The Conference was divided in two parts: the first part gave the floor to some beneficiaries of the lottery in different areas such as development cooperation, social causes, disabled persons, youth and education, culture and sport. The second part was dedicated to the viewpoints of selected donors.

As a preliminary speech, Mr. Reynders, the Belgium Minister of Finance reminded that each EU Member State has a regulated State Lottery in order to avoid any abuse and to protect the players.

The sport issue was presented by two speakers: Mrs. Birgitta Kervinen, President of ENGSO and Mr. Raymond-Max Aubert, President of the Centre National pour le Développement du Sport (CNDS), France.

Mrs. Kervinen insisted on the necessity of sustainable funding for sport. Therefore she pointed out the importance of revenues guaranteed by the state lotteries for sport in many European countries. In Finland, for example, "the national lottery generates 90 per cent of the funds made available to the national sports bodies". She emphasized the importance of grassroots sport: "Without sufficiently financed grassroots sports, there would not be top-level and professional sport". She also called upon the European Commission to implement a specific programme for sport according to the planned schedule.

Mr. Aubert presented the situation in France. The topic of "lottery and sport" in France is related to Française des Jeux (FDJ), the State Lottery, and CNDS. The CNDS, a public institution placed under the regulatory authority of the Sport Minister, created in 2006 in order to ensure the durability of the financing of sport. The budget is EUR 200-210 million per year and EUR 170 million are granted by the FDJ making the FDJ the first

partner of sport in France. The CNDS will increase its revenues with the opening of the online gambling market in France since a tax has been created on betting revenues. Therefore the CNDS expects tax revenues to reach 10 Mio. Euros in 2011.

These interventions showed the importance of the revenues from the State lotteries for sport. The problem of the charity lotteries has also been pointed out. Mrs. Tatiana van Lier, Executive Director of Association of Charity Lotteries in the same EU, affirmed that both charity lotteries and state lotteries can coexist in a same state as is the case in the Netherlands. She regrets the prohibition of charity lotteries in some EU Member States.

On the other hand, European Lotteries President Friedrich Stickler called on EU policy-makers to recognize the unique position of state lotteries in the EU gambling sector as well as in society in general, in particular their important contributions to the development of European civil society and to the pursuit of other public interest objectives. He also said that in 2009, state lotteries from Malta to Finland contributed EUR 22.4 billion to good causes and public budgets, an amount that has remained stable or even grown during the current economic crisis.

Finally two interesting propositions for lotteries have been made at the European level:

- Create a European lottery
- Give a small percentage of Euro Millions revenues to European projects.

All the presentations are available on this website: <http://belgpres.be/>



Gambling: European Commission closed infringement procedure against France welcoming France's decision to open its on-line gambling market

The European Commission has published on 24 November a press release (IP/10/1597) regarding the situation of gambling in France: "On-line gambling: European Commission welcomes France's decision to open its gambling market and closes infringement procedure". This announcement officially closed a procedure which started back in 2006.

After investigating a complaint, the European Commission formally requested France in June 2007 to amend its legislation on gambling following consideration of its reply to a letter of formal notice sent in October 2006. France notified the European Commission in 2009 it had amended its laws proposing a new legislation opening the on-line gambling market.

The European Commission welcomes the fact that this new French law, which entered into force in May 2010, now allows for the cross border provision of services, with clear rules for the authorisation and the granting of licenses to domestic and European operators and has decided to close the case.

The European Commission closed a similar investigation against Italy in May 2010 after

the Italian authorities amended its on-line gambling legislation.

According to the European Commission, "France ensured that French citizens will have access to a wider choice of duly authorised on-line gambling services as a result of the changes made to France's laws on on-line gambling. The Commission has therefore closed existing proceedings against France. It had previously taken the view that France's restrictions on on-line gambling activities affected foreign operators and were disproportionate to and not consistent with the objective sought, thereby breaching EU rules on the freedom to provide services."

The European Commission also indicates that there are still a number of pending investigations as the Commission has asked Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden to amend their laws.

For further information, European Commission (Internal Market) website http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/services/gambling_en.htm

Funding programs and studies

Lifelong Learning Programme Infodays

The Infodays on the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) took place in Brussels on the 12 and 15 of November. The objective of the Infodays was to inform applicants about the funding conditions and priorities of the Lifelong Learning programme. The Lifelong Learning programme in the field of education and training supports exchange, cooperation and mobility from childhood to old age across Europe. It is divided into four sectoral

programmes that focus on different stages of education: Comenius for schools, Erasmus for higher education, Leonardo da Vinci for vocational training and Grundtvig for adult learning. In addition, these sectoral programmes are complemented by a transversal programme and the Jean





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Monnet Programme for European integration.

The programme is open for sport organisations wishing to submit a project in the field of education and training. However, projects must be transnational in nature and involve partners from other EU Member States. Examples from the world of sport include: the Leonardo project "Training for Life – Basketball Coach", in which sport organisations worked together in order to help young disabled people to find an employment in competitive sports; the project "Golden Goal", the objective of which was to enable young disadvantaged adults to improve their personal skills and to promote their integration into society through sporting activities; the Grundtvig project "A Sporting Chance", which aimed at establishing support centres for young, socially disadvantaged persons at local sport venues in order to reintegrate them into society and enhance their personal development.

One of the main changes is that the LLP will have to contribute to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The funding priorities in 2012 and 2013 will be the following: promotion of lifelong learning and mobility in Europe and worldwide, cooperation between education and training sector and labour market,

acquisition of key competences and the promotion of social inclusion and gender equality. Funding applications must address at least one of the priorities in order to be selected. Another innovation is that third world countries are allowed to apply for funding in some of the actions and are accepted as partners for pilot projects. The deadlines and the calls for proposals are different for each programme and action. For Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo and Grundtvig, the deadline for applications is February or March 2011 in most cases. Applications for decentralized actions such as partnerships must be submitted directly to the National Agencies. Applications for large scale cooperation projects, such as multilateral projects or networks, have to be submitted directly to the Executive Agency in Brussels.

Further information on funding conditions, application procedures and deadlines is available on the website of the Education Culture and Audiovisual Executive Agency (EACEA) and of your National Agency. It is also strongly recommended for applicants to read the LLP Guide.

EACEA:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/index_en.php

LLP-Infodays:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/events/infodays_2011/infoday_llp_2011_en.php

Dual Career: A2B Visits Loughborough University

The majority of A2B partner organisations participated in a study visit to Loughborough University throughout 17 and 18 November 2010.

Loughborough University is a leading UK institution in the provision of combined sports and academic education. It also plays



a key role in the preparation of athletes for the London Olympics 2012.

During the seminar, representatives from the University shared good practices in the field of dual career. In particular, the unification of sport facilities, support services and coaching staff proved very positive. Strong commitment from the University board as well as agreements with key



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stakeholders such as national governing bodies provided additional strength.

Furthermore, Dalarna University from Sweden enriched the seminar with a good practice example on its web based education system providing 65% of students with the opportunity to study in a virtual learning environment. Notably, this offers student-

athletes the needed flexibility while training and travelling.

The good practices identified during the visit will form part of the guidelines to be developed shortly.

A2B would like to thank the Loughborough organizers for a very productive meeting

Link: <http://www.athletestobusiness.eu/>

Sport Funding Programme dropped by European Commission

After the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the European Commission announced it would set up a proper EU Sport Funding Programme with a limited budget for the years 2012-2013 to be followed by a more substantial programme in the period 2014-2020. In 2009, the Commission set up the programme "Preparatory Actions in the Field of Sports" in order to identify and test suitable networks in several areas, with a view to exploring options for a future EU Sport Funding Programme.

Due to budgetary constraints and political resistance within the EU Commission it seems quite clear at the moment that there won't be a Sport Funding Programme for the years 2012-2013. Even the Sport Funding Programme from 2014 onward is at stake and needs strong political support from the European Sport Ministers, the European Parliament and Commissioner Vassiliou. At the end of October, the Commission has put forward first ideas and options for the reform of the EU-budget after 2014 in its so called "Budget Review". In the document the Commission recommends to merge the

current funding programmes in the fields of Youth, Education, Culture and Citizenship under one roof. Sport was not even mentioned in this context. The chances that there will be a "stand-alone" EU Sport Funding Programme are therefore quite limited. At the moment it seems more realistic for sport to be included into an overarching funding programme with an own chapter or a budget line. The Commission is in favour of this idea. However, the final outcome will greatly depend on the negotiations for a Multiannual Financial Framework (MFA) for the period 2014-2020 and an impact assessment of the current Preparatory Actions.

As for the inclusion of sport into other EU funding programmes, such as Youth in Action, Programme for Lifelong Learning, Europe for Citizens, Structural Funds or the Health Programme, progress is limited as well. Although "mainstreaming" was already mentioned in the "White Paper on Sport" (2007), it has not been put into practice so far.



At a glance/ Internal

Dates in December 2010 and January 2011

04 Dec.	- General Assembly of the German Olympic Sports Confederation
06 Dec.	- First Meeting on structured dialogue under Belgian Presidency
24 – 25 Jan.	- Meeting with German Regional Sport Federations at the EOC EU Office in Brussels
27 Jan.	- Meeting Commissioner Vassiliou with Jacques Rogge and Patrick Hickey in Lausanne
31 Jan.–01 Feb.	- 5 th Cohesion Forum in Brussels

Special Competence Seminar EOC EU Office

On 15-16 November, the EOC EU Office greeted its partners to give a general update on current EU sport topics. Among the main issues discussed were the update on the activities of EU institutions and affairs, the financing of sport, gambling and the economic aspects of sport. Gregory Paulger, Director for Sport and Youth, DG EAC also gave a presentation, after which questions were taken. The seminar ended with a discussion of the working plan for the year 2011.

One of the EU institutions' main topics was the preparation of the Communication on Sport by the COM, which will be published in January 2011. The currently available information on the draft Communication triggered disappointment among sport stakeholders. It does not take the sport movement fairly into account. The Action Plan attached seems to contain actions that are probably not in line with Article 165 of the Lisbon Treaty. The COM confirmed that

the proposal for Sport Programme 2012/13 was withdrawn. It's even quite unclear if the Sport Funding Programme for 2014-2020 will see the light. The studies discussed during the seminar did not satisfy expectations either. There is a risk in conjunction with follow-up studies, especially with regard to the future application of EU law to amateur sport. The European Year of Volunteering gives a great opportunity for sport organisations to become active. On gambling, both national and EU level were discussed. The effects of the ECJ cases and the publication of the Green Paper on Gambling that is likely to be published in February 2011 were expounded in detail. The EU's taxation policy and the ongoing QC Leisure case, which is considered to be the "Bosman case" for the marketing of sport rights, could have impact on the economic aspects of sport.



39th EOC General Assembly in Belgrade (Serbia) – 26 and 27 November 2010

The 39th EOC General Assembly was hosted this year by the president of the Serbian NOC Vlade Divac on the occasion of the celebration of 100 years of Olympics in Serbia. 300 participants were gathered during the two days of the General Assembly, in the presence of IOC president Jacques Rogge, Serbian Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic and Minister for Youth and Sport Snežana Samardžić Marković. The president of the Republic of Serbia, Boris Tadić, also participated in the official dinner held at the conclusion of the first day.



26 November - EOC General Assembly pays homage to Piotr Nurowski

Before commencement of its work, the 39th EOC General Assembly, chaired by EOC president Patrick Hickey, remitted posthumously the Order of Merit to Piotr Nurowski, who was president of the Polish NOC and member of the EOC Executive Committee. He was among the victims of the tragic airplane crash last April that cost the lives of the President of the Polish Republic and his entourage on their way to Russia.

The EOC elected two new EOC representatives, Vlade Divac (SRB) and Roger Talermo (FIN), who each will sit on the Executive Board of ANOC, the world association of NOCs until 2014, along with EOC president Patrick Hickey, Vice President Alexander Kozlovsky and Secretary General Raffaele Pagnozzi.

The candidate cities for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games – Munich, Annecy, PyeongChang – have been invited to give Europe a final report before the vote at the IOC Session in Durban in July 2011.

27 November - VORARLBERG-LIECHTENSTEIN and TBILISI will organize the 2015 EYOFs

During the second day of work, the 39th EOC General Assembly chose the cities that will host the 2015 European Youth Olympic Festivals (EYOFs).



For the first time in the history of this European multi-sports event, the winter EYOF, the 12th to date, have been awarded to a joint bid, **Liechtenstein and Vorarlberg** in Austria.

The bid for the Summer 2015 EYOF, the 13th in the series, was won by the **Georgian capital Tbilisi**.

The Director of the EOC EU Office, Folker Hellmund, gave a comprehensive update on current activities related to the European Union.

For further information, please consult the EOC Website: <http://www.eurolympic.org/>

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