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## European Union and Sport

### CULT Committee meeting: EP-report on the Communication on Sport

The meeting of the CULT Committee on 12 April was the first opportunity for the MEPs to exchange their thoughts about the EP-report "The Communication on Sport".

In his report the rapporteur MEP Santiago Fisas, wants to follow the general lines of the Communication on Sport and to establish a dialogue with the relevant stakeholders. Therefore the report was structured along the lines of the Communication. He also mentioned the main topics to be covered in each chapter:

1) **Social role of sport:** Volunteering, doping, school sport, dual career, health benefits of sport, integration of minorities, promoting sport for disabled.

2) **Economic dimension of sport:** Reinforce solidarity between professional and amateur sport, recognition of intellectual property rights, promotion of positive effects of sport, support sport via its inclusion in the structural funds.

3) **Organisation of sport:** Good governance to ensure autonomy, transparency and integrity of sports organizations, establish control to avoid fraud in matter of transfers (such as TMS FIFA system), players' agents, protection of minors.

4) **An additional chapter on "European Identity and Sport"**. In this section he developed new ideas to consider sport as a vector of European values:

- Creation of a competition where the European Union will be represented by a single team (e.g. Ryder Cup)
- A European day of sport
- Designation of a European sport capital
- Organization of a bi-annual native sports festival

- Implementation of an Erasmus for sport accessible for players and coaches.

The presentation was followed by an exchange of views with the MEPs who welcomed the structure of the report and issues raised by Mr. Fisas.

Afterwards, Pedro Velazquez, Deputy Head of Sport Unit of the European Commission, addressed some elements of actuality, mainly on three topics:

- The freedom of circulation of players between 16 and 18 years old is discussed in collaboration with FIFA.
- Launch of studies on transfers and match-fixing; organisation of a conference on players' agents.
- Doping: The European Commission is acting in favour of the adhesion of EU to the Council of Europe Anti-doping Convention.

In conclusion, Mr. Fisas reminded that this report is aimed at completing the White Paper on Sport and therefore he is ready to work with the European Commission. The report should be presented in July and the adoption is expected for October 2011.

The agenda of the meeting is available on: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009\\_2014/documents/cult/oj/863/863145/863145en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/cult/oj/863/863145/863145en.pdf)



## Regional Policy and Sport



**Conference on 24 May,  
10:30- 13:00, Committee of the Regions, Brussels**

The conference, organised by the EOC EU Office in close collaboration with the Committee of the Regions, will focus on the role of sport as a tool for regional development and bring together decision makers from EU institutions as well as representatives from the world of sport. The event will also address the question of how sport can contribute to the objectives of the "Europe 2020"-strategy and to the sustainable development of Europe's regions. The programme will include interventions by an independent academic dealing with the "economic impact of sport" and high-ranking EU officials. Sport-related projects, funded by the structural funds in the recent past, will also be presented.

Interpretation from/into English, French, Spanish and German will be provided for. The conference will be followed by a cocktail reception. Please register via: <http://selectsurvey-gen.cor.europa.eu/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=94014p4&Preview=true>

### Programme

#### **10:30-10:45 Welcome address**

**Mercedes Bresso**, President of the Committee of the Regions

#### **10:45-11:30 Keynote speeches**

**Dr. Christian Helmenstein**, Executive Director of Sports Econ Austria, Vienna:

"The impact of sport on regional development"

**Octavian Morariu**, President of the Romanian National Olympic Committee:

"Sport as tool for economic development in Romania"

#### **11:30-12:10 Project presentations**

**Carlos Javier Rodríguez Jimenez**, Minister for Youth and Sports, Region of Extremadura, Spain

**Danny Silva**, Project Coordinator, Kainuun Region, Finland

**Piotr Jaworski**, Polish Olympic Committee, Member of the International Commission

#### **12:10-12:50 Statements and debate**

**Michel Delebarre**, Chair, Committee of the Regions' Territorial Cohesion Policy Commission

**Sophie Auconie**, Member of the European Parliament, Regional Development Committee

**John Walsh**, Deputy Head of Unit 'Thematic coordination, innovation', European Commission, DG Regional Policy

#### **12:50-13:00 Conclusions**

Moderator: **Laurent Thieule**, Director of Communication, Committee of the Regions



## EU-policy matters

### Sports Ministers Council & the EU "Structured Dialogue" on Sport

The next Sports Ministers Council will take place on 20 May in Brussels. In this framework the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the EU Structured Dialogue on Sport will be organized as a working lunch prior to the Council.

- EU Structured dialogue on Sport

The structured dialogue will bring together high-level representatives from the EU institutions and from the sports movement. Due to the recent developments on gambling issues, especially the adoption of the Green Paper on on-line gambling by the European Commission on 24 March, the debate will focus on "Sport related aspects of on-line betting".

Mr. Patrick Hickey, President of the EOC, will attend this meeting.

- Sports Ministers Council

During the Council, the Sports Ministers will adopt a Work Plan on Sport. This document is based on Art. 165 of the Lisbon Treaty allowing actions on EU-level in order to support and coordinate sport related actions of the Member States. The Sport movement has strong expectations regarding this Work Plan and hope that topics such as the integrity of sport; the social values of sport and the sustainable financing of grassroots sport will be better taken into account.

*Further information will be provided in the next monthly report on both topics.*

### Future EU financial perspectives for sport from 2014 onward

*In order to understand the financial perspectives at stake for sport at the EU level it is important to analyze the current process for the EU budget and the future of regional policy.*

- EU financial perspectives

The current Multiannual Financial Framework will end in 2013. Until now the duration was 7 years. However, the duration for the next period is has not been fixed yet. Several possibilities are under consideration: 5 years, 7 years or 5 + 5 years in order to achieve more flexibility.

This framework is highly important because it determines the maximum amount for each budgetary line for the EU budget adopted every year.

The European Commission is going to communicate its proposition on 29 or 30 June 2011. This proposal will then be discussed both at in Council by the Head of States and in the European Parliament. The first discussions should take place during the Polish EU Presidency (second semester 2011). The European Commission wants to reach an agreement by the end of 2012 during the Cyprus Presidency in order to prepare the 2014 EU budget.

At this stage it is hard to say when and if sport is going to be discussed by the Council. Whatever the case may be, the future EU Programme for Sport will not enter into force before 2014.



April 2011

- Future of regional policy

The Regional Policy is also at a turning point. The next period regarding the structural funds will begin in 2014. This might be the opportunity to create a fourth category of regions: "intermediate regions" in addition to the existing objectives: convergence; competitiveness and employment; cross-border cooperation. This will not necessarily mean an increase in the budget but rather a better repartition of the available amount within the EU territory.

The current instruments of cohesion policy would be maintained: ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund + EAFRD. Nevertheless new regulations will be adopted. Therefore it

would constitute the opportunity for sport to be included in the new ERDF regulation. Henceforth, the sport movement would expect new funding for sport related projects.

On this issue see the article on our conference "Regional Policy and Sport", p. 3.

**For more information:**

European Parliament – Committee on Budgets:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do;jsessionid=EAC54F65B6E6F75DC6BDCE032C67FC8E.node2?language=EN&body=BUDG>

Euractiv.com – Report on Regional policy:

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/regional-policy>

## At a glance/ Internal

### Dates in May

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 03      | Seminar on "Integrity in sport-Reponses to the problem of match-fixing", organised by the Austrian Sports Confederation in the European Parliament, Brussels |
| 05 - 07 | 32 <sup>nd</sup> EOC Seminar in Portorose, Slovenia  |
| 10      | Workshop on "Online Gambling and Sport Integrity" by the DG Internal Market, Brussels  |
| 11      | EASE Roundtable with NOC's in Arnhem, Netherlands  |
| 20      | Formal Sport Ministers Council including the 2 <sup>nd</sup> "Structured Dialogue" meeting with representatives of European Sport federations in Brussels    |
| 24      | "Conference on Regional Policy and Sport" organised by the EOC EU Office at the Committee of Regions in Brussels   |

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