

EOC

Liaison Office at the European Union



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

August/September 2008

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Sport

News from the Institutions

1st Gambling is on European institutions' agenda

The European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection is currently drafting an own-initiative report with the working title "Integrity of online gambling". Chaired by rapporteur Christel Schaldemose (DK, PSE), the committee will negotiate the report's precise approach on 7 October 2008. A first draft report is scheduled to be presented already on 5 November. This subject is of great significance to sport since the integrity of sport is threatened by the abusive application of sports betting. Under the French Presidency of the European Council, a Council Working Group on the subject of gambling convened after long preliminary talks. The group has met twice to date. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 27 October. In addition, the subject will be discussed at the Competition Council on 2 December. While it is still too early to predict the Working Group's specific results, it is certainly conceivable that the EU will be called upon to submit a legislative proposal at the end of the process. In view of the past resistance of the competent European Commissioner for the Internal Market and Services, Charlie McCreevy, however, it is likely that this will be done by the newly-formed EU Commission, which will take up office in the autumn of next year.

2nd Call for tenders: Study on volunteering in the EU

On 9 September 2008, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) announced a call for tender for carrying out a study on volunteering in the EU.

According to the EACEA's announcement, a general objective of the study is to help the European Commission to gain a better understanding of the circumstances of volunteering within the Member States. The results are intended to help the Commission to find ways to help volunteering to contribute to achieving the EU's strategic objectives within the economic and social sectors. In addition, it is to support political decision-makers in deciding on possible initiatives to promote volunteering at European level.

The tender's technical specifications explicitly point to the fact that **volunteering in sport is to be a special focus of the study in order to form a basis from which to get to grips with this sector's special features.**

The deadline for completion of the study is nine months from the award of the contract. The deadline for submitting proposals or entries is 23 October 2008.



http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/procurement/2008/07/call_en.htm

3rd French Presidency of the European Council – expert seminar on information exchange in the sports sector

The French EU Council Presidency organised an expert seminar on information exchange in the sports sector on 25 and 26 September 2008. Representatives of the EU Sports Ministries, of the French umbrella sports organisation CNOSF and of the EU-Office convened in Paris to consult on the best approach to monitoring and exchanging information on sport and to make proposals in particular for better monitoring at Ministry level.

The French Ministry of Sports presented a government initiative that continues a project initiated by the German Presidency of the European Council in 2007: the creation of a network supported by the Member States, the sports movement and the European Commission, which is to take the form of an internet portal.

Lists of the EU Ministers of Sport and of European sports organisations are already available on the internet.

The EU-Office was invited to present its activities, working methods and specific successes for the sports movement. Its work received unanimous praise from the participants and the wish was expressed for there to be such an institution at government level.

The proposals of the French Presidency of the European Council will be presented to the EU Directors-General Responsible for Sport at their meeting in

Versailles to be held from 30 to 31 October 2008.



<http://www.jeunesse-sports.gouv.fr/>

4th Decision adopted on the White Paper on a Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity-related health issues

The European Parliament (EP) adopted a decision on the “White Paper on a Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity related health issues” at its plenary session on 25 September 2008 (see our Monthly Report of February 2008).

The EP calls on Member States and on regional and local authorities to work more actively to ensure the development of municipalities “conducive to physical activity”, particularly through urban planning, among other things by developing public sports facilities.



<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P6-TA-2008->

[0461&language=EN&rin](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P6-TA-2008-0461&language=EN&rin)

5th European Commission consults the public on youth policy

The European Commission launched a wide-ranging consultation on the future development of youth policy in September 2008.

This consultation is intended to come up with answers to questions concerning the most important challenges with the greatest effect on young people. The list of questions covers the subjects of education and informal learning, employment, discrimination, social integration and voluntary activities by young people. The results of the consultation will be taken into account by political decision-makers in Europe. In this way, specific measures can be devised that are intended to help young people to integrate into society, to find work, to improve their general wellbeing and to get involved in society.

The consultation is addressed both at individuals and at organisations showing an interest in the future of young people from the whole of the EU, but also from other countries involved in the programme (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein), from the accession candidates Turkey and Croatia and from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

It is possible to participate in the consultation until 25 November 2008.



http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-policies/doc1220_en.htm

The results will be announced on the following website: <http://ec.europa.eu/youth>.

6th Institutional funding of sports organisations by the EU

The EU's "Europe for Citizens" programme is supporting two European sports organisations in 2008:

- ENGSO (European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation)
- EPC (European Paralympic Committee)

In providing this funding, the European Commission recognises the important role of European sports organisations.

The EU funds will be used to carry out the working programmes of ENGSO and EPC in 2008.

Aid Programms

7th Call for submission of proposals – "Europe for Citizens"

In its announcement of 10 September 2008, the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) called for the submission of proposals as part of its action no. 2 ("Active civil society in Europe") within the "Europe for Citizens" programme.

The call is addressed at European research institutions that occupy themselves with European public policy as well as with civil society organisations at

European level.

The call aims at the structural funding of organisations that pursue an objective of general European interest within the context of their ongoing, regular activities, thereby contributing to achieving the “Europe for Citizens” programme’s objectives. The call contains a list of “specific objectives” and “general objectives” (see web link) on which the applicant’s working programme should focus.

The funding takes the form of grants for operational costs for the 2009 budget and comprises a maximum of 80 per cent of estimated expenditures. A total of € 600,000 in funds is available for the call. EACEA intends to support ten organisations with a maximum amount of € 60,000 each.

The deadline for receipt of applicants by EACEA is 17 November 2008.
Announcement in the bulletin:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:232:0027:0030:EN:PDF>

Guideline for the call for proposals:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/action2/call2608/documents/guidelines_en.pdf

Programme guide for the “Europe for Citizens” Programme:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/guide/documents/programme_guide.pdf

8th EU project: “Sport lives diversity – diversity creates Europe”

Sports Youth of Lower Saxony organised an EU Youth Encounter in Hanover from 2 to 8 August 2008 with the motto “Sport lives diversity – Diversity creates Europe“. The central subjects of exchange were cultural diversity, (anti)discrimination and prejudices. Participants in this youth movement came from Germany, Poland, Turkey and Austria (ASKÖ). The youth group produced a video clip dealing with the subject of encounter. The sporting activities provided an opportunity for the young people to get to know one another. The intercultural evening at which the participants presented their country of origin and its specialities was a highlight of the youth encounter.

9th European Civic Days in La Rochelle

The European Commission organised the “European Civic Days” in cooperation with the European Civic Forum at which more than 1,500 members of non-governmental organisations, local, regional, national and European institutions, as well as experts in the field of European citizenship convened in La Rochelle (France) from 4 to 6 September. The subject of this meeting was “Mobility, Dialogue, Participation”.

A workshop entitled “Sport: A school for active citizens?” was held on the

subject of “Participation”, headed by André Leclercq, President of the French National Olympic Academy. The presentations by three experts (Sophie Christ (EU–Office), Marvin Radford (ISCA) and Heiner Brandi (Berlin Sports Youth) were intended to show to what extent sporting activities and the work of sports associations contribute to the development of active European citizenship.

From September 2008, two events on European citizenship will take place each year thanks to support from the EU’s “Europe for Citizens” programme.



<http://www.forumciviqueeuropeen.org/event08/>

Miscellaneous

10th The EU–Office of German Sport has moved!

As of 1 October, the EU–Office of German Sport will be representing the interests of sport from its new premises at the following address:

Avenue de Cortenbergh 52

B–1000 Brussels

Our telephone number, fax number and e–mail address remain unchanged:

Tel.: 0032 2738 03 20

Fax: 0032 2738 03 27

info@eu-sports-office.org