



European Union and Sport

<i>CULT Committee meeting at the European Parliament</i>	2
<i>Gambling: European Parliament prepares opinion on Green Paper</i>	3
<i>EDUC-Commission of the Committee of the Regions adopts opinion on Commission's Communication on sport</i>	4



EU policy matters

<i>Proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Proposal 2014-2020</i>	5
<i>IOC steps up efforts against illegal betting</i>	6
<i>European Lotteries adopt resolution on the integrity of sport</i>	6
<i>FIFA plans reform of the Players' Agents regulations</i>	7



Funding programs and studies

<i>Results of consultation on future European Youth Programme published</i>	8
<i>EESC prepares response to the Communication on Sport</i>	8
<i>First meeting of the "European anti-doping initiative"</i>	9

At a glance / Internal

<i>European Evening of Sport</i>	9
<i>Dates in July & August</i>	11



European Union and Sport

CULT Committee meeting at the European Parliament

A meeting of the Committee for Education and Culture (CULT) took place at the European Parliament in Brussels on 15-16 June. Sport was among the topics discussed on the first day. The discussion was divided into two parts:



- An exchange of views with Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner responsible for sports
- The second presentation of MEP Santiago Fisas's report on the European Commission's Communication on Sport. (The first exchange on this report took place on 12 April 2011; see monthly report from April 2011).

➤ **Exchange with Commissioner Vassiliou**

In her presentation, the Commissioner focused largely on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020. The current framework covers the period 2007-2013. (see article p. 5). The concrete architecture of the different funding programmes won't be proposed before October or November. The Commissioner stated that there would be one programme for education, youth and training, another one for culture and media and that she felt optimistic about having an EU funding programme for sport. Nevertheless, she did not indicate which amount could be available

for sport but made clear that it probably would not be very high.

➤ **Presentation of the draft EP report on Communication on Sport**

MEP Santiago Fisas presented his report on the Commission's Communication "Developing a European Dimension in Sport" which was welcomed by the other MEPs. In accordance with what he said during the first exchange of views on this issue in the CULT Committee a few weeks earlier, his report will be divided into 4 major parts: the social function of sport, the economic dimension of sport, sport governance and European identity through sport. The issue of the integrity of sport was one of the main topics mentioned in the MEPs' diverse interventions.

Michal Krejza, Head of the Sport Unit at the European Commission, elaborated on the 6 experts groups to be set up following the adoption of an EU Work Plan for Sport by the Sports Ministers on 20 May. He also pointed out that in addition to proposing a specific EU funding programme for sport, the European Commission would also be in favor of making better use of the Structural funds to support sport projects in the future.

The final version of Fisas' report on the Commission's Communication will be presented at the CULT Committee meeting in July. It will then be adopted by the

June 2011



Committee in October and voted on by the European Parliament in its plenary session in November.

For more information:

[Agenda](#)

[Recording](#)

Gambling: European Parliament prepares opinion on Green Paper

In order to prepare the European Parliament's opinion on the "Green Paper on on-line gambling in the Internal Market", the responsible Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) held its first exchange of views on 15 June 2011.

Rapporteur Jürgen Creutzmann (ALDE, Germany) informed the MEPs about the priorities he would like to set in his draft opinion. Although regulation of gambling is a responsibility of the Member States, a common legal framework at European level would be necessary for this to be efficient, Creutzmann said. Simultaneously, a transparent and non-discriminating market access has to be ensured. Furthermore, he recommends to establish European minimum standards of consumer protection and to incorporate the importance of gambling funds for the financing of grassroots sports. Member States should decide themselves on the amount of revenue and the ways of distribution in the field of sports.

Christel Schaldemose (S&D, Denmark), former rapporteur of the European Parliament's "report on the integrity of online gambling", underlined the seriousness of consumer protection. Better cooperation of the Member States would be required to stop non-licensed gambling offers in the European market. Therefore the socialist group would support a regulation that focuses on consumer protection.

Damien Abad (Christian Democrats, France) welcomed the European Commission's initiative in the field of on-line gambling. He pointed out that besides consumer protection, assuring the integrity of sport would be a key issue. According to the EPP-Group an "active subsidiarity" would be necessary, which means the definition of common European standards of granting gambling licenses in order to create a more attractive legal offer. Regardless, the European Union would always have to define the added value of a European regulation.

Hearing of experts

Following the internal exchange of views, the Committee invited experts to a public hearing:

Laurie Korpi (Gambling Compliance) stated that currently 18 of the 27 Member States are overhauling their legislation with regard to online gambling.

Jean-François Villotte (French regulation authority – ARJEL) claimed that gambling markets have to be regulated by the Member States in order to ensure an attractive online offer so that consumers don't switch to non-licensed providers. Moreover, betting providers should be obligated to conclude contracts with sport organisations on the exploitation of intellectual property rights and their financial compensation.

Mathieu Moreuil (Premier League) also demanded that sport organisations should be able to decide if third parties such as

June 2011



gambling operators can make use of their competitions. In addition, betting operators should be committed to exchanging their information with sport organisations in order to fight against match-fixing.

Pamela Brumter-Coret, Head of Unit "Business-to-Consumer services" of the "Directorate General Internal Market", said that the European Commission is thinking about a legal initiative in the field of gambling. For example, a European regulation could draw up minimum standards and strengthen the cross-border cooperation of regulating authorities.

The second exchange of views will be held at the next Committee meeting on 12 July 2011. The deadline for tabling amendments

is 20 July 2011. The Committee presumably will vote on the opinion on 19 September 2011. The plenary voting is foreseen for October.

The European Commission will evaluate the contributions to the "Green Paper on on-line gambling in the Internal Market" until the end of August 2011. The green paper, presented by the European Commission in March, raised some key issues with regard to on-line gambling and launched a public consultation on this matter. Interested stakeholders can contribute with comments until the end of July. The publication of a report on the results of the consultation is scheduled for October.

EDUC-Commission of the Committee of the Regions adopts opinion on Commission's Communication on sport

On 9 June, the Commission for Education, Youth and Research (EDUC) of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) adopted its draft opinion on the Commission's Communication



Committee of the Regions

"Developing a European Dimension in sport".

Rapporteur Robert Pella (IT/EPP) emphasised the importance of sport for the economy and society as a whole. In its opinion, the EDUC-Commission calls on the European Commission to "respect the autonomy of sports governing structures as a fundamental principle relating to the organisation of sport". The opinion also contains concrete recommendations in a number of areas. Among others, it suggests launching a European Year of Sport and a Sport Erasmus Programme. The opinion also calls on the Commission to make better use

of the structural funds in order to finance sport related projects in the fields of infrastructure or employment. The draft opinion, adopted by majority vote, will now be voted on during the CoR's plenary session on 11-12 October. The CoR is the EU's advisory body representing local and regional authorities. The Commission, the Council and the Parliament must consult the CoR before EU decisions are taken on matters concerning local and regional government. Consultation is mandatory in areas such as employment, environment, education, youth and culture or public health.

However, opinions issued by the Committee of the Regions are not binding. The European Parliament will adopt its opinion on the Commission's Communication in autumn as well.



EU-policy matters

Proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020

On 29 June 2011 the European Commission presented the proposal for the 2014 – 2020 **Multiannual Financial Framework** (MFF). The MFF defines the EU's overall budget as well as the main categories of expenditure for a period of seven years.

Sport is mentioned in the Multiannual Financial Framework for the first time. This may reflect the increased importance of sport at EU level after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and its article 165.

The policy fiches which accompany the MFF proposal announced the creation of a **Sport Sub-programme** as a part of the "Education Europe" programme. The proposal of the MFF foresees the amount of € 15, 2 billion for the whole "Education Europe" Programme which will cover the areas education and training, youth and sport. According to the Commission it will merge the existing programmes for Lifelong Learning, Youth in Action and Erasmus Mundus. The Sport programme will be focused on following topics:

- Tackling transnational threats that are specific to sport such as doping, violence, racism and intolerance, or issues relating to the integrity of competitions and sportspersons;
- Developing European cooperation in sport through, for example, guidelines for dual careers of athletes or benchmarks for good governance of sporting organisations and
- Supporting grassroots sports organisations which can play a role in

addressing wider socio-economic challenges such as social inclusion.

The Commission indicates that the programme will support organisations at the base of the sporting pyramid and is not subjected to support the top professional level.

As long as the MFF has not finalized the adaptation, the available budget for sport remains vague. But there are some indications that the COM intends to provide a similar amount to sport through the "Europe for Citizens" programme. Approximately € 200 Million have been earmarked for the latter in the MFF.

It might be noted that Sport also benefits from other funding of the MFF, e.g. Europe for Citizens, Public Health and Regional Policy.

Next Steps:

- Until December 2011 the Commission will make specific legislative proposals related to the several ceilings.
- Negotiations amongst the Commission and the European Council and the Parliament.
- The European Council will adopt the MFF by mid 2013 (at latest) after having obtained the consent of the European Parliament having obtained the consent of the European Parliament.



IOC steps up efforts in fight against illegal betting

The working group on irregular and illegal sports betting which was established in March 2011 and is chaired by Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee (see Monthly Report March 2011), decided to set up three groups of experts:

1. **Education:** to evaluate existing programmes and study a basis for a code of conduct
2. **Monitoring, Intelligence and Analysis:** to assess ways to improve consistency in monitoring, intelligent exchange and analysis
3. **Legislation and Regulations:** to study the possibilities of common principles and strengthening judicial and police cooperation

The deadline for establishing the expert groups has been set for the end of July. First meetings will be held between September and November. Before the end of 2011 the recommendations of the experts will be presented and published.

In this context it's important that the leading role of the IOC in the fight against illegal betting was appreciated by the Hungarian Presidency, the EU Commission and a high number of Member States in the course of the Sport Directors meeting in Budapest, 27-28 of June.

For more Information:

[Press Release of the IOC](#)

European Lotteries adopt resolution on the integrity of sport

On 8 June 2011, the European Lotteries and Toto Association, umbrella organisation of the national State Lottery and Toto Companies established in Europe, adopted during its Congress in Helsinki a "resolution on public order and the integrity of sport". Setting out a number of initiatives, the 78 member organisations from 40 European states (including all 27 EU Member States) promise to tackle illegal gambling and to preserve the integrity of sport.

The so-called "Helsinki" Resolution calls to mind that sport plays an important role for society and that national lotteries "contribute in a highly substantial way to the sustainable development of grassroots sport". Furthermore the resolution states that the European Lotteries intend to promote "sporting values and the sport movement in

general" by joining the fight against illegal betting and match-fixing.

Among others, the resolution suggests the following initiatives:

- Improved "triangular" collaboration and exchange of data between European Lotteries, regulatory bodies and sport organisations
- Approving forms of betting certified by sport movement
- Measures to avoid conflict of interests between betting operators and sport organisations

In their resolution, Europe's state lotteries call for an "international watchdog" – a body that is supposed to implement an international monitoring system in order to



June 2011

fight against illegal betting and match-fixing and to assure the integrity within the sport sector.

For more information:

[Helsinki Resolution](#)

FIFA's plans reform of the Players' Agents regulations

Football's world governing body is in the process of an in-depth reform of the players' agent system, based on the concept of intermediaries. FIFA's current system of players' agents came into force in 2008 and after a thorough analysis of its workings, it has been determined that a series of difficulties exist in terms – among others - of its implementation, conflicts between the FIFA regulations and the national laws of some countries, confusion about the role of the agents as club representative and player's agent as well as the fact that the majority of the international transfers were still concluded with non-licensed agents.

In view of these difficulties, the 59th FIFA Congress in 2009 passed a resolution supporting a reform of the players' agents system by a new approach, based on the concept of intermediaries. A working group of the FIFA Committee for Club Football was created for this purpose with the involvement of clubs and FIFPro representatives.

According to the new envisaged approach, the regulations would stop trying to regulate access to the activity but rather control the activity itself. Control would be focused on the transactions between clubs and players, extending the scope of the regulations to all types of intermediaries, resulting in the annulment of the current licensing system. Clubs and players would be able to choose anyone as intermediary but would have to meet certain criteria as well as certain principles. The aim, therefore, is not to deregulate the profession of players' agents

but to seek broader control over such intermediaries.

The working group established that when drafting the new regulations, the following elements would have to be taken into account:

- Transparency: Registration of intermediaries as well as disclosure and publication of economic aspects of transactions involving intermediaries.
- Values of fees: Reduction of fees paid to intermediaries and provisions for agreement on the party that pays the intermediary.
- Proper disclosure of information by parties in order to avoid conflicts of interest.
- Education of players from an early stage is essential in order to reduce intermediary fees.

The draft regulations as they have been suggested by the working group, include as well the following principles and provisions: Application of regulations to players and clubs that engage the services of intermediaries, registration system of the intermediaries to be implemented by the associations, written contract between players and clubs, disclosure and publication of fees paid to intermediaries, restriction on fees paid to intermediaries if the player involved is a minor.

The draft regulations along with the standard representation contracts have been submitted to FIFA's Legal Committee and FIFA's Players Status Committee while the



June 2011

Executive Committee of FIFA decided to further precede the consultation with all relevant parties before submitting the reform

for a formal decision during the 62nd FIFA Congress mid of 2012 in Budapest.

Funding programs and studies

Results of consultation on future European Youth Programme published

What should a future European Youth Programme look like? In September last year, the European Commission launched a public consultation in order to gather views on what kind of programme should replace the current "Youth in Action" programme after 2013. The results of the consultation are now available.

The Commission received an impressive 8700 responses via online questionnaire and written contributions. The broad majority of participants indicated that a separate youth programme should also be maintained in the future. According to the report prepared by the Dutch consultancy ECORYS on behalf of the Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC), respondents were very positive about the added value of a European Youth programme. The majority of the participants stated that the future youth programme should focus on the following issues: social changes; youth unemployment and changing needs of the labour market; discriminatory, racist or xenophobic behaviours among young people as well as social exclusion of disadvantaged young people. As for the

programme's activities, respondents said that youth exchanges, youth volunteering as well as youth projects implemented in cooperation with partner countries outside the EU should remain future priorities. "Sport activities" were also among the themes mentioned.

The current "Youth in Action" Programme also supports sport related projects, such as youth exchanges, youth initiatives or the exchange of volunteers in the framework of sporting events. Funding for sport federations and clubs is more accessible than in other EU funding programmes and projects are comparatively easy to manage.



The results of the consultation on the future youth programme will feed into the Commission's reflexions for the next generation of EU programmes in the field of education, youth and training. Concrete proposals on how the future programmes will look like will be presented by the Commission in autumn 2011.

EESC prepares response to the Communication on Sport

A recently set up study group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) which met for the first time on June 1, 2011 presently drafts an opinion on the European Commission's Communication "Developing the European dimension in

sport". The EOC EU Office actively participates in this group.

The draft opinion of the EESC states its high interest and commitment to developing sport at EU level and consequently takes up many of the issues outlined in the Communication.



June 2011

The EOC EU Office's input to these discussions aims at better recognizing the autonomy of sport organizations as well as supporting and safeguarding the financing models of sport through the state-run or state-licensed gambling sector.

The next meeting of the study group is scheduled for July 20, 2011. The adoption of the EESC opinion is foreseen during its plenary session on October 26-27, 2011.

First meeting of the "European anti-doping initiative"

The German Sport Youth (DSJ) initiated the project "The European anti-doping Initiative" (EADIn) and was joined by the French Olympic Committee (CNOSF) and several other partner organizations from all over Europe. This project has been selected and financed by the European Commission within the framework of the 2010 Preparatory Actions. The main objective of the project is

to create a transnational network to develop and encourage anti-doping education in organized sports. It aims at



creating an intercultural framework of young representatives in order to develop and support anti-doping measures in amateur

sport and to establish a European-wide "Anti-Doping Mentality". It will contribute to raising the awareness of European youth of the dangers of doping by emphasizing certain values such as equal opportunities. Within the framework of the project, thirty young people from Germany, Austria, Italia, Slovenia and France have met in Burghausen (Germany) from 22 to 26 June to participate in doping prevention trainings. Once back in their home countries they will implement what they have learned at different levels (regional, national, European). They will also participate in the Winter Youth Olympic Games from 13 to 22 January 2012 in Innsbruck (Austria) in what will constitute the final step of the project.

At a glance/ Internal

European Evening of Sport

Organized every two years by the EOC EU Office, the 2nd European Evening of Sport took place on June 15th in Brussels at the Permanent Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU.

It brought together representatives from the Olympic and Sport movement and from the European institutions. Around 250 people participated in this event and followed the

debate on the sustainable financing of sport and the integrity of sport. Among them, the Vice-President of the IOC and President of the German Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach and the President of the French Olympic Committee, Denis Masseglia, were attending.

The event was organized in the context of multiple initiatives taken by the European



June 2011

Union in connection with sport: the European Commission's Communication on "Developing the European Dimension of Sport" published on January 18th and the three years' work plan on sport adopted on May 20th 2011 by the 27 sport ministers of the EU.

Patrick Hickey, President of the European Olympic Committees, opened the debate by evoking the issues of integrity, financing and specificity of sport. He emphasized the



importance of the fight against doping and illegal sports betting. He addressed his best wishes to Thomas Bach and Denis Masseglia as representatives of the two candidacies for the organization of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games respectively from Munich and Annecy and hoped for one of these cities to be successful in order to promote European sport. He also took advantage of the presence of representatives from the European Commission to express the disappointment of the Olympic and Sport movement due to the delay and the absence at this stage of a EU Sport Funding Programme. The discussion continued on the issues of integrity and financing of sport. Then, Attila Czene, Sports Minister of Hungary, recalled the initiatives taken on these topics during the Hungarian EU Presidency and especially the work plan on sport adopted by the Sports Ministers of the EU on May 20th.

Gregory Paulger, Director for Youth and Sport of the European Commission, reaffirmed the willingness of the European

Commission to set up a EU Sport Programme from 2014 despite the budgetary constraints currently hanging over the European Union. The European Commission should formulate a proposal by the end of June.

Santiago Ayxela Fisas, MEP and rapporteur of the European Commission's Communication on Sport, evoked the topics of fight against doping and sports betting ensuring they will be mentioned in its final report as well as the promotion of a European identity through sport. The European Parliament should adopt this report in autumn.

The last speaker, Antonio Rossi, President of the EOC Athletes Commission and former Olympic champion in canoeing, reminded that athletes are also engaged in favor of the preservation of sport integrity. He also emphasized its interest for an Erasmus



programme for European sport and exchange among athletes and announced that the EOC Athletes Commission will be in future more involved in European matters.

June 2011



Dates in July and August

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|---------------|--|
| 08-09.07. | ENGSO ExCOM in Paris |
| 18-19.07. | Conference of the Polish EU Presidency "Ensuring equal chances through sport
Participation as a social policy element", Wroclaw, Poland |
| 27.07.-30.07. | European Olympic Youth Festival in Trabzon, Turkey |
| 29.07. | Deadline "Call for Proposals Preparatory Actions in the
Field of Sport" 2011 |

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