

EOC

Liaison Office at the European Union



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

June 2007



MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2007

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General Policy

1st EU Summit – Amendments to the Constitutional Treaty

The German Presidency of the European Council, which ended on 30 June, had set itself the aim of pressing ahead with the faltering EU constitutional process.

Within the context of an EU summit held from 22 to 23 June in Brussels, agreement was reached on a new treaty. An intergovernmental conference which will take up its work under the Portuguese Council Presidency starting in July 2007 will have the task of drafting the new rules by the end of December 2007. The new Treaty will then be ratified by the Member States before it can come into force, probably in late 2008/early 2009.

Central amendments to the constitutional treaty are as follows:

- The third part of the draft constitution, which lays down the policies and functioning of the European Union, will be deleted. The rules concerning the internal market, competition, agriculture, monetary union etc. will be retained.

It is very probable that Article III-282 on sport will be included in the new treaty.

- The symbols once envisaged in the EU treaty – the flag and the anthem – are no longer to appear in the treaties now planned. De facto, however, they are to be retained. The word "constitution", too, is to be removed; the term now used is the new EU Basic Treaties.



The following points of the original draft treaty shall be retained:

- the EU Presidency will last two-and-a-half years;
- the composition of the European Commission will be reduced;
- the EU will be given legal personality;
- a foreign minister will be introduced, who, at Great Britain's request, will be called the "High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy";
- the Charter of Fundamental Rights will become legally binding, except for the United Kingdom;
- the double majority rule (a decision must be taken by a majority of 55 per cent of the countries, representing 65 per cent of the population) will not be applied before 2014 to 2017.



Sport

News from the Institutions

2nd European Commission – White Paper on Sport in Europe

The European Commission's White Paper on Sport in Europe is to be published shortly and will probably be adopted by the college of Commissioners on 11 July 2007.

From 12 to 14 July 2007, the White Paper will be discussed for the first time at an informal meeting of sports directors in Portugal. Views will also be expressed by the European Parliament and the EU's Council of Ministers.

Legal Questions

3rd European Commission – Breach of the Treaty in the area of sports betting

On 27 June, the European Commission sent France and Sweden reasoned opinions, aiming at changing their legislation in the field of sports betting. Thus, it has entered the second phase of breach of Treaty proceedings.

The European Commission had sent these countries formal requests in 2006 in order to examine whether the obstacles to the free movement of services in the field of sports betting were compatible with Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union.

Complaints by a number of service-providers against ten Member States led to



these proceedings being lodged. They refer to the obstacles to the freedom of movement of services in the field of sports betting, particularly on the obligation to obtain a commercial privilege or state licence, even if the service-provider holds a licence of another Member State in the proper form. In some cases, the restrictions also apply to the advertising of gambling.

In the view of the European Commission, these restrictions are not in keeping with existing Community law and the Member States concerned have not shown that their measures to restrict the free movement of services in the field of sports betting is necessary, appropriate and non-discriminatory.

If the countries concerned fail to provide a satisfactory answer within two months, the European Commission will have the option of referring the case to the European Court of Justice.

In addition, the European Commission decided to hand over a letter of formal notice to Greece in connection with this matter in order to examine whether its national legislation in the field of sports betting conforms to Article 49. It has two months to reply.



4th “Television Without Frontiers” Directive: Finland presents list of major events

Today the Commission approved the list of major events notified by Finland. Finland is therefore the seventh EU Member State, following in the steps of Austria, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy and the UK, to offer viewers the possibility of seeing major sporting events on TV, in accordance with the Television Without Frontiers Directive. Whichever Member State has jurisdiction over them, broadcasters with exclusive rights to show the listed events must offer the general public free to air broadcasts of major sporting and other events.

Apart from traditional major sports events such as the Winter and Summer Olympics, the FIFA World Cup and the UEFA European Football Championship, the Finnish list includes other sporting events such as the IIHF World Ice Hockey Championship, the Nordic World Ski Championship (comprising cross-country skiing, ski jumping and the Nordic combined event), the IAAF Athletics World Championship and the European Athletics Championships.



http://ec.europa.eu/avpolicy/reg/twvf/modernisation/proposal_2005/index_en.htm



5th EU regulations on the award of national championship titles

Sports federations in Europe are increasingly being confronted with the question of how regulations for participation in national championships and the award of national championships in the field of amateur sport can be drawn up in conformity with EU law.

A parliamentary enquiry on this subject has now been submitted to the European Commission by the Austrian MEP Christa Prets.

In his reply, EU Commissioner Jan Figel' stated that EU citizens may not face discrimination in Member States in their access to leisure activities. Questions arising in connection with participation in national championships and the recognition of national championships still remain to be clarified, however. They are also addressed in the White Paper on Sport; it is also planned that a study be commissioned to clarify this problematic area.

Aid Programmes

6th Call to take part in YOUTH – Thematic Networking

The European Commission published a call to take part in YOUTH Pilot Projects in Thematic Networking on 30 May. The objective of the call is to support the creation and/or strengthening of thematic networks for projects in the fields of youth encounters, youth initiatives and democracy projects. The thematic



networks must meet the following objectives:

- produce connections between projects that deal with the same subject;
- jointly use experiences in a specific thematic area;
- develop the connections between youth exchange, youth initiatives and democracy projects;
- reevaluate, disseminate and use the project results.

Organisations or associations that have their seat in an EU country or in Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway are eligible to apply.

Partners from at least 10 different countries must participate (including the organisation of the applicant).

The EU funding budget amounts to a total of approx. € 1 million. The EU's maximum co-financing share may be 65 per cent or € 100,000.

The activities must begin between 1 January and 31 March 2008 and have a duration of at least 6 and at most 12 months.

Applications are to be submitted to the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency by 1 September 2007 at the latest.



http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/calls2007/action1/index_en.htm



Miscellaneous

7th Active participation in the largest EU open day to date

For the third time, the German Olympic Sports Confederation's EU open day took place in Frankfurt am Main on 27 June. Representatives from some 60 Land, district and municipal sports associations as well as clubs came to obtain information on European funding programmes in the largest such event to be held to date. The event was held in Executive Lounge 3 of the Commerzbank-Arena in Frankfurt.

The event was carried out in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of the Interior for the first time. Guests had access to advice from 9 experts on the different possibilities for obtaining funding from EU programmes. The team of experts included representatives of the national agencies "Jugend" (i.e. youth) and "Bildung" (i.e. education), the Euro Info Centre, practitioners from clubs and Land sports associations and representatives of the EU-Office of German Sport. They offered their advice on the subjects of "adult education", "school education", the "European Voluntary Service", "regional funding at Land level" and "European youth work". The latter was the subject concerning which questions were most frequently asked by the sports representatives.