

Tweets of the month



EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Sep 29

Our @EUErasmusPlus

@POINTS_EU project on #integrity

is running until mid 2021 with 18 partners & support of @iocmedia

. Next steps to come: publication of

Guidelines for the setting-up of Integrity SPOCS in sport organisations & @SIGGS_EU 2.0 self-

evaluation tool on GG @EuSport

EurOlympic

@EOCmedia Sep 24

The @EuSport #EuropeanWeekOf-

Sport is underway and David Harte

@daveyharte from the EOC Ath-

letes Commission is encouraging all

of you to #BeActive

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Sep 24

@EU2020DE Presidency Confer-

ence "Partnerships for Physical

Activity and Sport -Be(come) Active"

is currently ongoing in Frankfurt as

part of the European Week of Sport.

Follow the event online

[https://presidency-](https://presidency-conference.de/live/)

[conference.de/live/](https://presidency-conference.de/live/). Agenda is

available here [https://presidency-](https://presidency-conference.de/about/agenda/)

[conference.de/about/agenda/](https://presidency-conference.de/about/agenda/). #Be-

Active

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Sep 18

We are ready to #BeActive and

looking forward to the the sixth edi-

tion of the European Week of Sport.

We are proud to have been involved

since the very beginning and it has

been impressive to witness how the

initiative has grown during the

years.

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

What was already indicated during the summer break, is now evident almost everywhere in the entire European Union. The number of new Covid-19 infections is rising again and the return to a social life like before the beginning of the crisis is not foreseeable.

The consequences for organised sport throughout Europe are hard to estimate in their full impact, but it is already clear that such a comprehensive threat to federations, leagues and clubs has never existed before in the recent past. All actors are working hard to set up costly hygiene concepts in order to keep the competitions going, possibly even at the risk of not being able to admit any spectators or only a very limited number. The media coverage focuses particularly on professional football, which, however, is not comparable with the overall situation in sport due to football's immense income from TV marketing. Indoor sports such as ice hockey are faced with the question of when and whether the season can be opened at all, as the loss of income due to the lack of viewer revenues makes a restart of the season hardly possible.

At present, Europe presents a mixed picture in terms of support for organised sport. European Sport Ministers have rightly demanded that sport should have full access to all Covid-19 support measures. This objective is still valid and needs to be implemented now. Initial experiences with already started support programmes such as the additional structural funds allocations has shown that sport has great difficulties with its eligibility.

The still ongoing trilogue negotiations still offer the chance to include sport as a funding target in the structural funds programmes on the same level as culture or tourism or other similar sectors. The support of the European Parliament could play a decisive role in this regard.

With regard to European competitions in team sports, the problem also arises that the rules on quarantine, testing procedures and the selection of "red zones", differ on EU level, what makes it immensely difficult to plan and conduct the match days.

The proposal submitted by the EU Commission on 4 September to advance harmonization in these areas should be taken up and supported by the German EU Presidency. Time is running since the European competitions have already begun or will begin shortly. The Member States are asked to evaluate the already existing sanitary concepts of the European federations and to find common pragmatic solutions that would enable the operation of the competitions and avoid quarantine for athletes who have been tested negative.

Enjoy your read!

Kind regards.



Folker Hellmund

Director EOC EU Office

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

German Council Presidency's priorities in the field of sport

On 1 July Germany took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU. For six months, meaning until the end of December, Germany will be responsible for preparing numerous meetings and coordinating decision-making within the Council. As was the case with Croatia before, Germany must shift from its originally planned priorities during its Presidency in order to focus on managing the Covid-19 crisis.

On 1 September, the Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Mr Stephan Mayer, presented the priorities of the German Council Presidency to the CULT Committee of the European Parliament.

Mr Mayer said that the main task is to draft and adopt the new EU Work Plan for Sport. This new Work Plan shall be adopted on 1 December during the meeting of the European Sport Ministers. Its implementation shall start from 2021 onwards. According to the initial proposal by the German Presidency, the new Work Plan would revolve around three main themes:

- Strengthening value-based sport
- Socio-economic and environmental dimension of sport
- Promotion of physical activity

Mayer did not specify which concrete topics are addressed by this as it is up to the negotiations between the Member States. However, he stressed the need to involve organised sport in the implementation of the work plan:

"Sport in Europe is mainly driven by civil society. It is therefore of great importance for us to respect the autonomy of sport. For this reason, it is essen-

tial for us that experts from the sports movement and other stakeholders in the field of sport are involved and can contribute to the implementation of the Work Plan. This is the only way to ensure that our EU policies have a practical impact".

The EOC EU Office had already published a comprehensive [position paper](#) in June on its expectations concerning the upcoming Work Plan. Director Folker Hellmund subsequently had the opportunity to present the Office's proposals to the Sport Directors of the Ministries of the EU Member States on 25 June.

As a second important priority of the German Council Presidency Mr. Mayer mentioned the promotion of cross-sectoral cooperation for more sport, physical activity and social cohesion:

"It would be useful to establish closer links between sport and, for example, school, health, youth, social affairs, public space, urban and rural development, environment, mobility, employment and tourism. In this context, it is important to make it clear to the decision makers in other policy areas that they can also better achieve their own sectoral objectives through cooperation with the field of sport".

Against this background, the German Presidency conference during the European Week of Sport also dealt with the topic, as the conference name revealed: "Partnerships for Physical Activity and Sport - Be(come) Active! (You may find a separate article on the Conference also in this Monthly Report). In addition, Council conclusions on the subject are planned to be adopted in December together with the new Work Plan for Sport.

Finally, the German Presidency will also address the impact of Covid-19 on sport. A study on this

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issue by the EU Commission is expected in November 2020.

In addition, an informal meeting of EU Sport Directors is planned for 9-10 December in Hamburg. Due to the pandemic, the meeting is expected to take place online.

MORE INFORMATION

[Website: German Council Presidency](#)

[Re-Watch: Presentation of priorities at the CULT committee](#)

The State of the Union Speech of the President of the EU Commission

On 16 September, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, presented her first State of the Union speech, assessing her first nine months in office, marked by the COVID-19 crisis. Furthermore, she set out the projects of the Commission for the years ahead.

As a priority topic, von der Leyen widely spoke about the various EU's measures in order to address the pandemic. She tried to reassure European citizens about the EU grip on the crisis and praised a common response to the challenges that the EU is still facing. In this regard, she welcomed the initiative by MEPs to increase the EU4Health budget. Regarding the Schengen area and travel restrictions, the President stated that the Commission would propose a new strategy to safeguard the free movement and harmonise processes. Von der Leyen also touched upon the social and economic aspects of the crisis, bringing up the topics of SMEs and minimum wages, as well as the necessary digitalisation of the EU within the framework of the Digital Single Market, all subjects which could be of concern for sport organisations and from which they may even potentially benefit.

The President then came to another main subject of her mandate, namely the Green Deal. Von der Leyen reaffirmed her belief in the power of the EU to become the first climate neutral continent by 2050, insisting on the need to accelerate this process, all the while assuring that “no one would be left behind”. She confirmed the Commission's proposition to increase emission cuts to at least 55% by 2030, as a compromise between the Parliament's demand for a 60% target and the Coun-

cil's reserve on the issue. Taxation as well as renovation of buildings were given as examples of potential tools to achieve these goals. Adding to this, she announced that 37% of the Next Generation budget should be spent directly on Green Deal objectives. Sport, although not directly mentioned, could play an important role in contributing to the environmental objectives of the EU by implementing sustainable measures and using its universal popularity to shine a light on the topic.

Regarding migration, she stressed the importance of successful integration, in which sport could also show its commitment. In the aftermath of the “Black Lives matter” movement, von der Leyen then touched upon anti-racism, advocating a Union of equality. The latest evolutions of Brexit negotiations also seemed to worry the Commission. Many of these developments have the potential of impacting sport events and migration.

Last but not least, she stressed the importance of the European youth. To illustrate the key concept of resilience, von der Leyen used the memorable example of two Italian girls playing tennis on a rooftop during the lockdown, saying she would always remember them as true models for resilience. This example goes to show what important role sport has played and can still play during the pandemic, and will certainly continue to have an impact on the next EU generation.

MORE INFORMATION

[Full speech](#)

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EPAS Consultative Committee elects new Bureau and joins Governing Board for discussions in a hybrid meeting

The 14th joint meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and Consultative Committee took place in Strasbourg, France, as a hybrid meeting on 8 and 9 September 2020. Before the joint meeting, the meeting of EPAS Consultative Committee (=sport stakeholders) was organised including also the elections of its Bureau. European Olympic Committees is a member of the Consultative Committee and it set as a candidate for the Bureau Vice-Chair position EOC Advisor, Tone Jagodic. He was elected as Vice-Chair by 15-9 votes against ISCA President Mogens Kirkeby. The new Consultative Committee Bureau for 2020-2022 is:

- Chair: Kole Gjeloshaj, International School Sports Federation
- Vice-Chair: Tone Jagodic, European Olympic Committees
- Four Bureau members:
 - Laura Capranica, European Athletes Student Network
 - Louis Moustakas, European Network of Sport Education
 - James Ogilvie, UEFA
 - Janez Sodrznik, TAFISA Europe

After the Plenary meeting, the Consultative Committee members joined a meeting together with the EPAS Governing Board, which brings together representatives from the EPAS member states. In the reports section, the newly elected CC chair provided an oral update on the Consultative Committee plenary meeting, and news from the Council of Europe were also shared.

EPAS Secretariat shared the progress on the preparations of the 16th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, fore-

seen to take place in Athens on 5 November 2020. Due to the COVID-19 situation, a final decision on whether the event will be organised will be taken at a later date.

The participants of the joint meeting were invited to discuss the 2nd revised draft of the European Sports Charter, a document under the process of being updated. Several Consultative Committee members expressed their difficulty in preparing for the debate after receiving the draft document just one full working day in advance. There was a lively debate on the contents of the document, including on the need to re-examine the definitions of stakeholders mentioned in the document. EOC and several other CC members representing organised sport raised the importance of including the notion of the European Sport Model, including its autonomy, solidarity mechanism and pyramidal structure, in the revised Charter.

The joint meeting resumed on 9 September with discussions on the Programme of Activities for 2020, including a panel discussion on tackling corruption and promoting good governance. During the open discussion, EOC EU Office Deputy Director Heidi Pekkola updated the other participants on the progress regarding the Erasmus+ funded SIGGS and POINTS projects. So far, around 300 national federations have used the SIGGS self-evaluation tool for good governance, which is currently in the process of being updated. As for POINTS, single points of contact for integrity in sport are now in place in all project partner organisations.

The Secretariat presented several EPAS-led project's progress and follow-up, including the successfully concluded ALL IN project on gender equality, the "Start to Talk" initiative aimed at stopping child abuse in sport, and a new joint project on "Child safeguarding in sport" which has been kicked off in March 2020. The participants were invited to discuss the topic of the EPAS Di-

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versity Conference 2021, and it was decided that the topic will be LGBTI athletes. The Governing Board also adopted a draft recommendation on Extreme Martial Arts and Combat Activities, to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers during their Conference in November. The Governing Board also adopted the list of activities and draft budget for 2021.

The next joint meeting is foreseen to be organised in June 2021.

Two EOC EU Office partners also took active part in the meetings: European Athletics, represented by Vice-President Jean Garcia, and ENGSO, represented by a delegation led by Secretary General Kaisa Larjomaa.

MORE INFORMATION

[Article on the website of EPAS](#)

European Parliament holds first exchange on its report: “Challenges of sport events’ organisers in the digital environment”

The European Parliament (EP) recently started its work on a report entitled “Challenges of sport events’ organisers in the digital environment”. Worth to note is that this report can play an important role in future EU legislation on the area due to the character as a legislative initiative procedure of the EP.

This report is directly related to the Copyright Directive adopted by the EU in 2019 and to which the Commission attached a statement in the annex:

*“The Commission acknowledges the importance of sports events organisations and their role in financing of sport activities in the Union. In view of the societal and economic dimension of sport in the Union, the Commission will assess the **challenges of sport event organisers in the digital environment**, in particular issues related to the illegal online transmissions of sport broadcasts.”*

The European Parliament is now taking up that wording in its envisaged report. Accordingly, the report is supposed to revolve around the problem of **illegal online piracy**, which poses a major threat to sports rights holders due to the related substantial financial losses. As in many European countries, part of the revenues of sports rights is redistributed to grassroots actors, therefore, illegal streams ultimately endanger the funding of sports. The Covid-19 pandemic worsened the situation

for sports events organisers. Due to restrictions in fan attendance, sport organisers currently depend almost purely on broadcasting rights, with no predictability when full stadiums can be the norm again.

EP procedure

Within the Parliament the Legal Affairs Committee JURI is in the lead of drafting the report, while the Culture and Education Committee CULT is giving an opinion.

On September 22, the first exchange of views took place in the CULT Committee. The Rapporteur for the CULT opinion is Polish MEP Tomasz Frankowski (EPP), who is also active in the Parliament’s informal Sports Group.

During the exchange of views, Frankowski highlighted the importance of audio-visual rights revenues for the redistribution to amateur sport, to recruit new talents and to invest in security in stadiums. Concretely, he said he would like to propose the following in the opinion:

- A clarification of the concept of 'expeditious' response by internet providers to remove or block illegal content.

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- Addressing the lack of transparency regarding the identity of the operators behind illegal websites.
- Increased responsibility of internet intermediaries. Introduction of a tool for right holders to remove illegal content in real time from intermediaries' website.
- Importance of promoting available legal sources in order to make it easier for consumers to find the legal offers.

Subsequently, the shadow rapporteurs of the political groups - Hannes Heide (S&D, Austria), Irena Joveva (Renew, Slovenia), Diana Riba i Giner (Greens, Spain), Elzbieta Kruk (ECR, Poland) and Niyazi Kizilyürek (GUE, Cyprus) - gave their statements.

In general, the exchange of views showed that many MEPs in the CULT Committee regard online piracy of sport events as a serious threat for European sport, especially in light of the ongoing corona pandemic.

For the Commission, Krisztina Stump (Deputy Head, Copyright Unit, DG CNECT) welcomed the work of the EP and said that it will feed into the Commission's reflection on the issue.

The next step will be an exchange of views of the JURI Committee, which is in charge of drafting the report, on October 1. The rapporteur in JURI is Bulgarian Angel Dzhambazki (ECR). A consideration of the draft report will take place in November, proposal for amendments can be made until January. The vote in the plenary on the report is supposed to be in March 2021.

The EOC EU Office is following the file closely and cooperates with [SROC](#) - the Sports Rights Owners Coalition, which is a forum of over 50 international and national sports bodies and competition organisers – in order to represent the interests of organised sport.

Sport bodies have high expectations that the report could highlight concrete solutions of how piracy of sport events can be tackled.

MORE INFORMATION

[Procedure File: Challenges of sport events' organisers in the digital environment](#)

[Re-watch Exchange of views CULT](#)

German EU Presidency Conference - Partnerships for Physical Activity and Sport - Be(come) Active!

On 24 September, within the frame of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) and the German Gymnastics Federation (DTB) hosted the [Presidency Conference "Partnerships for Physical Activity and Sport - Be\(come\) Active"](#).

The conference, which was part of the [European Week of Sport](#) (EWoS), was organised as an online event that reflected upon the partnerships and networking activities necessary to reach and motivate inactive people to be physically active.

With a [a line-up of 12 speakers and 3 moderators from 7 European countries](#), the event was virtually attended and followed by over 270 participants from all over Europe, but also participants from America, Asia and Africa.

The conference featured a number of high-level sport officials and political decision-makers, including the President of the IOC, Thomas Bach, the Commissioner responsible for sport, Mariya Gabriel, Parliamentary State Secretary at the BMI, Stephan Mayer, Vice-President of the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB), Andreas

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Silbersack, and last but not least, the President of the DTB, Alfons Hölzl, whose federation is in charge of the organisation of the EWoS in Germany.

IOC President Bach welcomed the Presidency Conference as a “perfect platform to exchange ideas on how we can get many more people involved in sports in the future”.

DOSB Vice-President Silbersack and DTB-President Hölzl followed these remarks in a short interview. Both stressed the importance of the organised sport in Germany which is able to reach millions of people due to the efforts of thousands sport clubs offering low-threshold sport opportunities. Moreover, both sport clubs and federations cooperate with a vast network of partners, including cities and communes but also schools and kindergartens.

The importance of networks in reaching the right target groups and in motivating inactive people to become active was emphasised throughout the entire event. Experts agreed that a cross-sectoral approach in which sport is mainstreamed into other relevant policy areas, such as health, education, transportation and urban planning is essential to reach physical activity levels for all citizens that are in line with [World Health Organization recommendations](#).

The opening statements were followed by several insightful presentations delivered by academics and practitioners alike.

Prof. Dr. Petra Wagner (Germany) from the University of Leipzig and Jorn Wemmenhove (Netherlands) from ‘Humankind – Agency for Urban Change’ highlighted some of the factors that are needed to motivate people to be(come) active. Besides a plethora of internal barriers, there exist a multitude of external factors, including environmental, political and social ones, which influence individuals in their decision-making to be(come) active.

The topic of active and accessible cities, tied with the need to create safe and inviting spaces that encourage people to be active, as well as providing the right sport infrastructure, played an im-

portant role in both presentations. Both presentations underlined the fact that the right infrastructure can contribute to more people being active and can help create better developed, more cohesive and healthier communities. In this regard, the [contribution of sport to regional development](#) is something that the [SHARE initiative](#) and the EOC EU Office have frequently highlighted, as structural funds can be an adequate means to finance sport-related urban or rural development.

The keynote presentations were succeeded by parallel sessions on “Stakeholders and Sport Community - through cooperation to a healthier society” and “City networks and partnerships”.

The three speakers in each session focussed on providing good practices from existing projects, presenting topics ranging from activating children and migrants, to sport’s contribution to a smarter and greener Europe. Especially the connection between the high physical inactivity levels of many children and the development of modern communities was highlighted, as it is acknowledged that today’s environments often do not invite children to explore their surroundings or to play and to be active. In this regard, the role of parents and local coaches, who can act as important role models, was emphasized as well as the need to include schools and urban planners in a cross-sectoral network which aims at getting children to become more active.

The Conference was rounded off by Yves Le Lozecque, Head of the Sport Unit at the European Commission, who outlined the activities of the EU in the field of sport. Picking up on the cross-sectoral sentiment of the event, he raised expectations that the success of the [Tartu Call for a healthy lifestyle](#) from 2017 would be followed up by a new proposal from Commissioner Gabriel until the end of the year. Such an initiative would highlight the importance of a holistic approach in using sport to promote active and healthy lifestyles.

Last but not least, it is worth mentioning that the German Presidency is [planning to propose Council conclusion](#) on the cross-sectoral cooperation to promote sport, physical

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activity and social cohesion. Those conclusions could potentially underline the need to mainstream sport in all relevant policy areas and to acknowledge its contribution to fostering healthy and cohesive societies. The conference provided valid input for the envisaged Council conclusions.

The entire Presidency Conference can be re-watched on sportdeutschland.tv.

Somewhat special 6th Edition of the European Week of Sport

The European Week of Sport (EWOs) takes place every year on 23-30 September. Its main aim is to get all Europeans, regardless of age, social background or fitness level, active. What has started in 2015 as a first such initiative at EU level with 5 million participants and 7 000 events has grown over the years into a well-coordinated and very diverse project covering the entire European continent (over 40 countries) and, in 2019, attracting over 15 million participants to some 28 000 events.

The year's edition was, understandably, somewhat different; more challenging, but perhaps also more important than ever focusing not only on physical health, but also on mental and psychological wellbeing.

The lockdown measures put in place to curb the Covid-19 pandemic have led to the generalisation of teleworking and self-isolation, pushing people to find new ways to stay physically active. The #BeActive campaign that has accompanied the event since its launch has become #BeActiveAtHome, with the goal to create a network of Europeans exchanging about all the possibilities to exercise at home. National coordinating bodies (NCBs), including a number of National Olympic Committees and sports confederations, which are responsible for the coordination, communications, and organisation of the EWOs at national level, had to also adjust their activities both in the run up to, and during, the Week. Hybrid events, including the #BeActive Night, stronger online presence or enhanced focus on mental wellbeing in the activities has become the norm this year. The Official Opening of the EWOs was not an exception.

The event, co-hosted by the German Ministry of the Interior (responsible for sport) and the German Gymnastics Federation (NCB), took place on 23 September partly in Frankfurt, Germany and partly online.

The Deputy Mayor of the City Council of Frankfurt, Markus Frank, welcomed the beginning of the Week, and stressed the significance that such an event could still be organised in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, which Mr. Peter Beuth, Federal Minister of the Interior and Sport Hessen, also highlighted.

Stephan Mayer, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of the Interior, Building and Community, presented the sport priorities of the German Presidency (cross-sectoral cooperation, volunteering and mental health through sport), and noted that he was hopeful that the European Week of Sport would have a sustainable impact.

As a special guest, the President of the IOC, Thomas Bach, also sent his greetings virtually. Alfons Hörmann, President of the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB), and Alfons Hölzl, President of the German Gymnastics Federation, then discussed the organisation of, and support for, sport in Germany.

Eventually, European Commissioner responsible for sport, Mariya Gabriel, virtually welcomed the beginning of the constantly growing event. She congratulated the organisers and briefly presented the future focus of the Commission regarding sport and health, innovation or education.

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The #BeActive activities, however, do not stop with the end of the European Week of Sport. At EU level, the winners of the three categories (Education; Workplace; Local Hero) of the #BeActive Awards 2020 will be announced in November, and at national level, NCBs will continue promoting #BeActive messages until the next edition in 2021.

MORE INFORMATION

[Website European Week of Sport](#)

[Website Beactive Deutschland - DTB](#)

Call for applications: experts in the field of gender equality in sport

The European Commission has published [a call for applications](#) for experts in the field of gender equality in sport. Up to 15 members will compose this new sub-group, tasked with providing advice to the European Commission on the possible follow up of the 2013 [Proposal for Strategic Actions on gender equality in Sport \(2014-2020\)](#), which is coming to an end of its timeframe.

The deadline for applications is 23 October 2020.

MORE INFORMATION

[Call for applications](#)

PARTNERS' CORNER

Pilot projects and preparatory actions: first results announced

Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions ([PP/PA](#)) present an additional opportunity for sport organisation to apply for EU funding to co-finance their projects. They are managed directly by the European Commission (not by the Executive Agency) and deal with topics or ways of working, which are not directly supported by the Erasmus+ Sport Programme. Proposed by the European Parliament, the raison d'être of PP/PA is to serve as a "laboratory" or "test" for new actions, which, upon successful evaluation, may become part of regular EU funding programmes afterwards.

This year, the European Commission published four calls:

- Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation;
- Monitoring and coaching, through sports, of youngsters at risk of radicalisation;

- Exchanges and mobility in sport;
- Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees.

The [results of the Mobility call](#) were published in the first half of September with 10 selected projects, including the "Empowering next generation of female coaches and referees" of FIBA Europe, the European governing body for basketball and partner of the EOC EU Office.

The results of the other calls are expected to be revealed at the beginning of October 2020.

MORE INFORMATION

[FIBA Europe news](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 06 October 2020** EOC EU Commission (EOC EU Office – online meeting)
- 07 October 2020** SHARE workshop to promote greener sport (European Commission – online meeting)
- 13 October 2020** Update for partner organisations on EU Sport Policy (EOC EU Office – online meeting)
- 21 October 2020** EOC Executive Committee (EOC – online meeting)