



European Union and Sport

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EP elects Juncker as Commission President

On 15 July 2014 the European Parliament elected Jean-Claude Juncker as the new President of the European Commission. The former Prime Minister of Luxembourg obtained 422 out of 729 votes and passed the threshold of 376 votes required for the absolute majority. Due to the support of major political groups such as EPP, S&D and ALDE his election was not a real surprise. By applying the Lisbon Treaty, for the first time the President of the EU Commission was elected and not only approved by the EP.

Prior to his election Juncker delivered a 50-minutes speech and highlighted his political priorities for the next five years e.g.: establishing a Digital Single Market, a resilient Energy Union, a reasonable Free Trade Agreement with the United States and a new policy on migration. After his election Juncker called on the Member States to propose their candidate members for the new EU Commission. Moreover, he is aiming at a new Commission with at least nine female Commissioners.

Four new Commissioners have already been appointed by Member States to replace Commissioners until 31 October as the

predecessors have been elected as Members of the European Parliament.

- Mr Jyrki KATAINEN (Finland), replacing Mr Olli Rehn, responsible for economic and monetary affairs and the euro;
- Mr Jacek DOMINIK (Poland), replacing Mr Janusz Lewandowski, responsible for financial programming and budget;
- Mr Ferdinando NELLI FEROCI (Italy), replacing Mr Antonio Tajani, responsible for industry and entrepreneurship;
- Ms Martine REICHERTS (Luxembourg), replacing Ms Viviane Reding, responsible for justice, fundamental rights and citizenship.

For the Directorate General of Education, Culture and Sport (DG EAC) Mr. Xavier Prats Monné has been appointed to succeed Mr. Jan Trzuszczński as Director General. So far Mr. Prats Monné acted as Deputy Director General of the DG EAC. His previous position will be filled by Jens Nymand-Christensen, former Director for civil society relations.

Further information:

[More information on Mr. Prats Monné](#)
[EU leaders fail to agree on top jobs](#)

First meeting of the new CULT Committee

On Tuesday 22 July 2014, the first meeting of the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT Committee) of the new parliamentary term 2014-2019 took place. The CULT

Committee is the main body within the European Parliament dealing with sport issues. The Italian MEP Silvia Costa (S&D) will be chairing the Committee.

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During this first meeting, the budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015 was discussed. The whole procedure of adopting the new budget has been delayed as a result of the European elections. The members of the CULT Committee discussed a number of possible amendments to the budget figures as well as to the draft Opinion of the Committee. These considerations were based on the proposal of the European Commission as the Council has not yet published its opinion. Amendments can be handed in by the MEPs until 29 July (for the Opinion of the CULT Committee). The CULT Committee will vote on the amendments as well as on their Opinion during their next meeting on 4 September.

Regarding sport, some MEPs raised the importance of supporting projects in the field of health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA). A number of sport-related amendments to the draft Opinion are expected to be handed in. However, the European Parliament will not be able to award funding directly to sport events as it has in the past through the "special annual events". The organisers of these sport events will need to submit an official application for the call for proposals of not-for-profit European sport events under the Erasmus+ Sport Programme, managed by the Executive Agency EACEA.



The events of ISCA, Special Olympics and European Universities Games taking place in 2014 have been selected by the Commission for the call of March 2014.

The next meeting of the CULT Committee will take place on 3 and 4 September. On the agenda will be an exchange of views on the priorities of the Italian Presidency of the EU with the relevant Ministers of the Italian Presidency, including the Minister responsible for sport.

Further information:[Website CULT Committee](#)[Results call for proposals Erasmus+ Sport March 2014](#)

Online gambling: Commission issues recommendations for consumer protection

On 14 July 2014, the Commission published the previously announced "**recommendations of principles for an effective consumer protection in online gambling services**". The Commission encourages all Member States, to pursue a high level of protection for consumers of online gambling. Due to the rapid development in online technology in the field of gambling, the use and supply of online gambling has greatly

increased. Approximately 7 million EU citizens currently make use of gambling services via Internet and mobile devices. The EU online gambling market represents 45% of the world market share. According to the Commission, online gambling represents a mere leisure activity for the majority of the EU population. Based on estimates, between 0.1 and 0.8 percent of the general adult population suffer from a gambling disorder

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and an additional 0.1 to 2.2 percent demonstrates to have a potentially problematic gambling behaviour.

Against this background, the Commission recommends Member States to take up a number of principles of consumer protection in their legislations regarding their national gambling markets. Through these principles, a responsible advertising for online gambling and a high level of protection for consumers, players and minors should be required throughout the EU, particularly to minimize the risks for compulsive or excessive gambling.

In addition, Member States are encouraged, if possible in cooperation with consumer organizations and organizers of online gambling, to carry out campaigns to inform and sensitize the public to raise awareness among consumers and vulnerable groups of the dangers and risks of online gambling.

Member States must report their progress when applying these measures 18 months after the publication of the recommendations to the Commission. The Commission will evaluate the measures taken by Member States 30 months after publication.

Further information:
[The EU Single Market](#)

Commission publishes infringement cases against France and Austria concerning sport

On 10 July 2014 the European Commission published the current status of ongoing infringement procedures against EU Member States. Among them two cases are related to sport.

VAT on sporting events in France

The Commission has asked France to levy VAT on tickets for admission to matches and other sporting events which are not subject to entertainment tax. Under the VAT Directive, admission fees for sporting events should normally be subject to VAT. However, France grants a total VAT exemption to admission fees for sporting events.

Even though the VAT Directive aims to harmonise this tax in order to ensure the smooth functioning of the internal market, it allows Member States to retain, by way of derogation and for a transitional period, under the condition, that these exemptions already existed before 1 January 1978. This is the case of the VAT exemption which

France applied to the sporting events that were subject to entertainment tax. In the meantime France has made it possible for municipalities to exempt sporting events organised on their territory from entertainment tax, and some of them have made use of this possibility. The Commission takes the view that, in this case, the VAT exemption should no longer exist.

Austria to respect EU rules for ski schools

In a second case the European Commission has requested Austria to respect EU rules concerning the free movement of workers, freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services under Articles 45, 49 and 56 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

Contrary to EU law, ski schools in the Austrian province of Tyrol prohibit ski instructors from other Member States from teaching pupils from or already present in the Tyrol. They can only teach pupils coming



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from other Member States to learn to ski. In violation of EU law and jurisprudence of the EU Court of Justice, the regional legislation on ski schools in the province of Styria always requires comprehensive alpine ski instructor qualifications and thus does not grant holders of separate specialist qualifications such as “Telemark ski instructors”, “adaptive ski instructors” or “Nordic ski instructors” from other EU Member States any separate recognition of their qualifications and thus any partial access to the profession in the province concerned.

According to the EU Directive 2013/55/EU on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications, the profession of ski instructor is regulated in a certain number of Member States (Austria, Italy, Germany and France). A ski instructor with a diploma from one of those Member States has the right to exercise his profession, as either self-employed or employed, in another Member State where the profession of ski instructor is also regulated.

Just as a reminder, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was agreed and signed in 2012 between nine Member States (Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Spain,

France, Italy, Romania, the UK **and Austria**.) in order to create an automatic recognition mechanism. Two more Member States were added in 2013 (Czech Republic and Slovenia).

Under the MoU, instructors with the **highest level of qualifications** in their home Member State and having passed the so called “Eurotest” can benefit from a professional card and automatic recognition, thus freely exercising their profession in one of these Member States, establishing themselves there, opening their ski schools or freely providing their services.

As Austria has not yet repealed these restrictions in the two provinces concerned, the Commission asks Austria, in the form of a reasoned opinion, to take action to fully comply with EU rules.

Next steps

If the Member States fail to ensure compliance, the Commission may decide to refer the case to the European Court of Justice.

Further information:

[MEMO July infringements package: main decisions](#)

Report on the responses to the Public Consultation on the review of the EU Copyright Rules

Between 5 December 2013 and 5 March 2014 the European Commission organised a public consultation on the review of the EU copyright rules. The objective was to gather input from all stakeholders on the Commission’s review. The consultation generated broad interest with more than 9,500 replies, including statements of sport organisers and sports rights holders. In July 2014 the DG Internal Market and Services

published a report on the responses received.

In order to make the report easier to read the Commission divided the responses into nine different categories, i.e. end consumers, institutional users, authors / performers, publishers / broadcasters, collective management organisations and others. Obviously, as a wide range of stakeholders replied to the consultation, a

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multitude of varying opinions can be found in the document.

Cross border access to online content and the setting up of sport organisers' rights are the most relevant topics. In this regard illegal live-streaming activities are the biggest challenge as they harm sport organisers' property rights and cause high financial losses. Establishing a sport event organisers' right on European level will remain a challenge since a recent Commission study (April 2014) came to the (non-binding) recommendation that there is

no need for such a right.

The Commission has announced a complete revision of the EU copyright framework in the upcoming mandate starting in November 2014. This revision is said to include all important points stressed by the public consultation. Against this background the question of a better legal protection of sport organisers will be discussed once more.

Further information:

[Report on the responses to the Public Consultation on the Review of the EU Copyright Rules](#)

Funding programmes, studies and projects

Commission publishes tender: Study on the implementation of European Physical Activity Guidelines

On 22 July 2014, the European Commission has launched an invitation to submit a tender for a study on the implementation of the EU Physical Activity Guidelines.

The basis of this call for tender is, among other things the Council Recommendations on Health-Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA) across sectors which have been adopted in November 2013.

The Recommendation, which aims at encouraging the development and implementation of effective HEPA policies in the Member States, will be implemented through a national focal point network, data collection as well as other initiatives. Monitoring will be based on the

EU Physical Activity Guidelines and a set of indicators developed.

The tenderer must prove experience and knowledge in the field of sport and physical activity throughout Europe, including implemented projects, studies, academic research, data collection and drafting reports.

This invitation to tender follows the contract notice in the Official Journal of the European Union on 22 July 2014.

The deadline for application is 9 September 2014.

Further information:

[Sport Unit Website](#)



Internal and visits

European Week of Sport – Preparatory Steering Committee

One of the planned actions for the European Week of Sport, introduced by the European Commission in the Conference on „Preparing the launch in 2015“ in June, was to establish a Steering Committee to include main stakeholders in the planning of the initiative.

A preparatory meeting of the Steering Committee was organised on 8 July 2014 with the participation of EOC EU Office and ENGSO. The role of the Steering Committee is intended to be an advisory board for the Commission. It will have at least one more meeting during the autumn of this ongoing year to discuss the concept before the EU Sport Forum, where the final plans are expected to be communicated.

Furthermore, the Commission is planning to have partnership agreements with certain stakeholders in order to force their role in the implementation. These memorandums of understanding (MoU) are not linked with funding. The Commission would like to sign these MoU in the EU Sport Forum in Milan in the beginning of December 2014 in order to guarantee the commitment of stakeholders in the implementation process.

With regard to the national activities, the Commission approaches the Member States which are asked to appoint a national coordinator (e.g. National Olympic Committee or Sports Confederation) by the end of September of this year.

As communicated in the conference in June, each Member State and five other Erasmus+ Programme Countries (i.e. Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, FYROM and Turkey) can receive up to 70,000 EUR per country for the coordination of national activities. This would include the organisation of at least one national event during the European Week of Sport by the coordinator. However, it is important to note that the EU grant has to be co-financed by the coordinator.

Furthermore, the Commission will open a call for proposals for Erasmus+ in September with the European Week of Sport as a topic. The plan is to finance collaborative partnerships with approximately 1,6 million EUR and European sport events with 0,6 million EUR to implement the European Week of Sport. The deadline of the call will be 22 January 2015.

In addition, the communication campaign and possible ambassadors for the initiative both on national and European level were discussed in the meeting. However, many questions regarding the implementation of the Week still remain open. The EOC EU Office will actively continue to follow the development of the plans.



Dates in September 2014

2	Council Working Party on Sport
4-5	EOC 2015 CoCom, Baku, Azerbaijan
9-10	ENGSO Executive Committee, Stockholm, Sweden
11-12	Italian Presidency, Dual Career Seminar
12	EOC Executive Committee Meeting, Bucharest, Romania
23-24	Council Expert Group on Economic Dimension of Sport, Edinburgh, Scotland
29	Expert Group Match fixing, Milan, Italy
30	Seminar on Match Fixing, Milan, Italy

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