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## European Union and Sport

### *EU-Sport-Forum: EU Commission and informal Sports Ministers Council express first comments on future EU Sports Policy*

During the course of the EU Sports-Forum, held on 19-21 April in Madrid, the EU Commissioner responsible for Sport, **Andoulla**



**Vassiliou** and her counterpart, the Spanish Secretary for Sport, Jaime Lissavetzky, published their first concepts of a future EU Sports policy. Both parties agreed to foster the social function of sport and to

intensify the “structured dialog” among the EU, the Member States and the Olympic and Sports movement.

“Lifelong Sports and long-lasting Fitness” are the key subjects of a future European Sport policy explained Commissioner Vassilou at a press conference in the Spanish capital. In the light of an ageing and an increasingly obese European society, the promotion of a healthy and active lifestyle for all sections of population from the early childhood to the old-age constitutes a principal sport political task. Moreover, advancing sport’s social and educational functions – its ability to draw disadvantaged groups and people into the society – and supporting volunteers as key people of the sports community are essential factors as well. Further topics are the pro-

motion of “fair and open competitions”, the combat against doping and violence as well as the protection of sportsperson’s integrity.

As the next step in this context the Commission intends to publish a Communication on the follow-up of the White Paper of Sport in autumn 2010 and aims to implement an EU sports funding programme from 2012-2013. According to Vassiliou this ought to focus on areas where EU action will bring real added value to the current offers made by sport federations and national institutions.

Another crucial event for the future European Sports policy was the first formal sports ministers meeting held under the Spanish EU Presidency on 10 May in Brussels. This issue will be covered in the next Monthly Report.

#### **Further information:**

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/10/174&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>  
<http://www.euractiv.com/en/sports/Brussels-plays-down-sports-policy-expectations-news-471149>



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## *Proposal for a future "Sport Funding Programme: 2012-2013" The Olympic and Sports movements takes the initiative*

"What should a future EU-Sport funding programme look like?"- As a contribution to the public consultation launched by the EU-Commission the EOC EU Office supported by its numerous partner organisation submitted a proposal for a future sport funding programme for the period of 2012 until 2013. The overall funding should amount to at least 30 Mio. EUR per year in order to guarantee a certain impact at the European level.<sup>1</sup> The following key aspects of activity are foreseen:



- Health and Physical Activity
- Education and Training
- Volunteering and Active Citizenship
- Social inclusion and equal opportunities
- Anti-Doping programmes
- Sport competitions with special focus on innovative aspects such as protection of the environment (i.e. green sporting events), promotion of tourism/regional development, social inclusion of disadvantaged groups etc.
- Structural support for organisations active at European level in the field of Sport

- Sport competitions with European added value

This autumn the European Commission will submit its proposal for a Sport Funding Programme to the Council of ministers. This is supposed to come into effect at the beginning of 2012 and shall replace the current limited project funding in the framework of the "Preparatory Actions in Sport 2009-2011".

The expectations of the Olympic and Sports movement with regard to the future sport funding programme are quite high since the current funding opportunities are only possible via related EU-programs like "Youth in Action", "Europe for Citizen" or "Lifelong Learning" etc.

**Further information:**  
[www.eurooffice.eurolympic.org](http://www.eurooffice.eurolympic.org)

<sup>1</sup> By comparison, the "Europe for Citizens" programme (2007-2013) has a total budget of 215 Mio. EUR, the "Culture" programme 400 Mio. EUR for the same period.



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## *“Football and Europe are sharing the same values”: UEFA President Michel Platini speaking at the Committee of the Regions*

“Everybody is welcome in football!” This was the message of UEFA President **Michel**



**Platini** expressed at the Committee of the Regions on 14 April 2010, where he appealed for support to sport on local and regional level. *“In many cases football integrates well before school and the social services. Football give*

*youngsters their basic identity”*, the former world-class player explained in front of the European regional representatives. Furthermore, he mentioned the financial power of sport which is crucial for local economies. Therefore it justifies the best possible support of sport by collaboration of regional and local authorities as well as sport clubs and sport organisations. *“Europe starts in the*

*microcosm of the local community, where citizens are rooted”*, Platini explained.

Platini`s view of sport was shared by Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, Vice-President of the Committee of Regions, who stressed the positive effects of sports on European society. *“Sport and Europe are sharing the values of solidarity and social and cultural integration of all citizens, but also questions concerning health can be solved with the help of sport. In a long-term perspective, sport can even contribute to stronger development of an European identity.”*

### **Further information:**

<http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/DetailTemplate.aspx?view=detail&id=4599b217-6f77-4ea5-85be-bc4e78b00404>

## *EU Sport Unit: Commission launched public consultation on sport*

„How to define future sports policies“? – The EU Commission has recently published a public consultation on this topic addressing organisations and citizens with an interest in sport in order to obtain their input for the Commission's future proposals. The outcome of the consultation and information on how

the opinions of respondents will be used will be published during the course of the year.

### **Further information:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/news915\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/news915_en.htm)



## EU-policy matters

### Adoption of the French legislation concerning online gambling

The French National Assembly adopted on 6 April, 2010 the bill on the opening to competition and regulation of the online gambling market. This vote ends the legislative process initiated by the French government on 5 March 2009.



*tions for organizing sport betting".* The French Sports Movement also welcomes the parliamentary debates on the financing of the whole sport through, inter alia, levies on on-line sports betting devoted to the National Centre for Sports Development.

In a press release, the CNOSF welcomed the consolidation of the property rights of organizers of sports events: *"This right, ardently defended by the sport movement in France, is a fair recognition of its built heritage developed over the years through its financial, material and human investments. It will uphold the ethics and fair competition by mandating the dialogue between sport organizers and betting operators to set up the condi-*

There are still several steps to go through before the law will become fully operational in June 2010, a deadline fixed by the French government.

#### Further information:

[http://www.franceolympique.com/files/File/actualite\\_presse/communiqués/2010/cp\\_cnosf\\_-\\_jeux\\_et\\_paris\\_6\\_avril\\_2009.pdf](http://www.franceolympique.com/files/File/actualite_presse/communiqués/2010/cp_cnosf_-_jeux_et_paris_6_avril_2009.pdf)  
<http://sportetcitoyennete.blogactiv.eu/2010/05/10/une-avancee-pour-la-loi-sur-les-paris-sportifs/>

### 10 Threats to the integrity of Sport

Doping and betting-related match fixing are the leading threats, which a Danish social research institute, Oxford Research s/a, identified as major risks for the integrity of international sport. Further threat potential consists in sporting motivated match fixing, cheating, illegal, performance enhancing technology<sup>2</sup> as well as espionage in sport<sup>3</sup>. Furthermore, management and sporting related financial irregularities, money launder-

<sup>2</sup> For instance: Full-body swimsuits or illegal technical equipment for racing cars and racing bikes.

<sup>3</sup> This concerns mainly cases in the Formula One, where confidential technical information were passed from one team to another.

ing, cross boarder transfer of under-aged football-players as well as the non-transparent financial practices of players´ agents are detrimental for the positive image of sports.

Based on two selected issues where some reliable database is available – doping and betting related match fixing – the report gives recommendations in dealing with these kinds of frauds. In this context, there should be a focus on clear guidelines, testing, surveillance and punishment as well as on prevention programs centred on education and health promotion. Additional success can be achieved by informing athletes and officials about the code of conduct they are supposed

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to follow and why it is wrong to engage in behaviour which is contrary to the values of sport. Even the co-operation and exchange of knowledge among Sport federations, licensed bookmakers and pharmaceutical companies can prevent sport related frauds.

Finally, it shall not be underestimated that all these threats are not limited to sport alone but are rooted in all of our society and must be regarded as part of a wider societal challenge. Consequently, a prosecution under the criminal law might be the last resort for the deterrence and detection of corrupt and criminal activities.

**Further information:**

<http://www.eusportsplatform.eu/Files/Filer/examina-tion%20of%20threats%20to%20sports%20integrity.pdf>

*“EU Citizens’ Rights – The Way Forward”:  
Public consultation, open as well for sport organizations*

The European Commission launched on 19 April a public online consultation on the EU citizens’ rights, opened until 14 June 2010.

The objective of this consultation is to identify concrete actions to be taken in order to remove the administrative and procedural obstacles created by national boundaries in the effective exercise of citizens' rights, with particular reference to issues such as free movement of persons, diplomatic and consular protection, electoral rights, free movement of civil status documents and consumers’ rights. In this context, EU citizens are also requested to broach the issue of potential discrimination they may experience in every day life.

Citizens and relevant stakeholders, including Member States, EU institutions, national, regional and local authorities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

academia, social partners and civil society organizations, including sport clubs and federations are invited to give their input.

The ideas, put forward in this consultation, will enlighten the policy debate at a conference which will be organized by the Commission on 1 – 2 July 2010 and the preparation of a Communication on Citizenship scheduled for October 2010.

**Further information:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/news/consulting\\_public/news\\_consulting\\_0007\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/consulting_public/news_consulting_0007_en.htm)



## Funding programs and studies

### *Athletes2Business: Study Visit of the Olympic Centre Berlin dealing with "Dual Career"*

"Concrete examples of dual career" – This was the slogan of a Study Visit of the A2B project team at the premises of the Olympic Centre Berlin, held from 13-14 April 2010. With the aid of a "5-step-career model" for professional athletes the career advisor Andreas



Hülßen, presented the successful and path-breaking concept of "Dual career in professional sport" of the Olympic Centre Berlin. The concept aims to present individual solutions to athletes during their professional career, beginning with their entrance into professional sport and ending with the start of their vocational career. Due to the cooperation with universities, technical colleges and educational institutions this flexible educational model can be implemented successfully without neglecting crucial lesson contents. To put it in a nutshell, we like to offer the athletes "studies à la carte" instead of "studies light", Hülßen explained.

On the second day of the visit, two conferences at the University of Sport & Health Sciences provided detailed insight information on two further topics: First of all, the participants gained knowledge on how young athletes manage to combine a successful school education with a competitive sports career. In this context a special focus was placed on topics like time pressures, stress recovery and chronic exposure. In a second part the objective was set on the integration possibilities of top athletes into the labour market by means of in-house career programmes; a career starters´ concept which is still in the initial stage.

Information from both days is under evaluation at the moment and will be published at the beginning of 2011 in a handbook on "Dual Career for Athletes".

#### Further information:

<http://www.athletestobusiness.eu/>

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