

## The House of European Sport

### Tweets of the month



#### EOC EU Office

@TNavracsicsEU Nov 28

#Sport can help drive economic growth & development in our #regions & #cities – we have been using #ESIFunds to support this, but we need to do more to highlight & promote the funding opportunities available – and the importance to ‘think sport’ in local & regional strategies

#### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Nov 21

As part of our Special Competence Seminar, we have an exchange with @lelosyv, Head of the Sport Unit of the @EU\_Commission, on the implementation of the EU Work Plan and other current topics such as @EUErasmusPlus call. @EuSport

#### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Nov 10

NOC of Lithuania signs the partnership agreement with the @EOCEUOffice. They are the 13th NOC to become our official partner and the 27th partner organisation overall. We are looking forward to the cooperation on the EU policies and funding topics!

#### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Nov 9

Jüri Tamm, Chair of the @EOCmedia EU Commission and @FolkerF, Director of @EOCEUOffice, give an update on the EOC EU Commission activities as well as on the @EuSport policy and #EU funding opportunities. Both of them encourage the NOCs to use the EU funding for #sport actively!

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### EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The European sports year of 2018 is slowly ending and the focus goes already beyond. From the sports policy point of view, 2019 will be the year of change at EU level. With the election of a new European Parliament and the launch of the new EU Commission, the key players are changing. The changes will also continue in the structures of the most important general directorates for sport. The forthcoming changes offer new opportunities for organised sport to address issues that have not yet been satisfactorily resolved.

At the EOC General Assembly in Marbella, both IOC President Bach and EOC President Kocijancic defined the "preservation of the European Sport Model" as one of the most pressing challenges. It is not a question of a conservative approach, which wants to have all existing structures fixed for all time, but a question of what competences the federations will need in the future in order to organise their sport properly and to be able to meet the manifold challenges.

In this sense, sport should become active in the coming year. Good governance of federations is the prerequisite for all demands. It is undisputed that sport in all its facets has a special significance for the cohesion of our society. This must be preserved and made clear that elite sport and grassroots sport cannot be separated from each other: there is no successful elite sport without functioning voluntary structures. There are essential differences between activities by non-profit oriented sport clubs and offers by commercial sport providers. The international and European federations must also make their existing solidarity efforts more public, otherwise, investment in the training of coaches and athletes, or in the development of women's sport could be overlooked.

The EOC EU Office met with all its partner organisations in November to discuss its future priorities. There was great unanimity that, in addition to strengthening the European Sport Model, other issues need to be addressed, such as: promoting the integrity of sport and good governance in sports federations, strengthening the societal role of sport, and sport as a remedy for insufficient physical activity, which, according to the latest WHO study, affects around 1.4 billion people worldwide.

Therefore, there are still many issues to be tackled at national, European and international level in 2019. All levels must be coherent in their activities otherwise, there is a risk of fragmentation that would not benefit sport as a whole.

Enjoy your read,



Folker Hellmund  
Director

## EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

### Council of the EU: Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council Meeting

On 26 - 27 November 2018, the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (EYCS) Council met in Brussels, focusing on two topics with regards to sport: major sporting events as drivers for innovation, and the economic dimensions of sport and its socio-economic benefits.

The two day meeting allowed for an afternoon session to focus specifically on sport, and included the input of Martin Kallen, CEO of UEFA Events; Heinz-Christian Strache, Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for the Civil Service and Sport of Austria; Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Youth, Culture and Sport; as well as representatives from Member States who make up the EYCS Council.

Kallen led the debate highlighting the major challenges and opportunities that the next edition of the UEFA European Football Championships (EURO 2020) faces. The event will be the first of a kind, with 12 hosting countries, and 12000 volunteers expected. The topic of mobility is wide reaching, from the new challenges UEFA will face, such as controlling all aspects of the event, to the tourist industry, with relative newcomers such as Airbnb likely to directly or indirectly be affected. All of whom have to comply with differing national rules and regulations whilst operating for the one event. With topics such as visa policy, environmental sustainability, and security, the mega sporting events of the future will need all stakeholders to pull together to ensure the event reaches its potential.

Alongside these challenges, there are opportunities. Mega sport events are often a showcase/testing ground for new technologies before they are filtered down into society. EURO 2020 will lead to advanced video and streaming technologies, as well as developing public infrastructure in host cities. Even on-field

developments in sport could be seen, such as VAR introduced in the last FIFA World Cup.

On a societal level, mega sport events provide education and training for volunteers and staff across the continent. For many, EURO2020 will be their first mega event, in which they will meet new people, learning about all aspects of the event, and develop skills, which in turn, could enhance the activities of their local sport communities.

With 12 hosting countries of EURO 2020, it is hoped that the event will contribute to the promotion of sport at all levels across Europe. On a health perspective, mega sport events often increase participation of sport on local levels, leading to active and healthy society.

Key notes from Navracsics focused on the environmental impact of mega sport events. Research and innovation will be key in this sense, and called upon all mega events to keep legacy and environmental sustainability in their minds throughout the whole life cycle of such an event.

As the debate opened up to the Ministers, they agreed that sport has major influence in many areas. Ministers noted national examples of the topic, and raised interesting questions on the synergy between sport, and research and innovation. An interesting thought from one delegation: *The development of video and streaming services has led to the increase of online audiences for mega sport events. Therefore, should the notion that only larger countries are able to host a mega sporting event still exist?*

Navracsics closed the session by encouraging Member States to communicate and share their good practices with one another. Looking towards

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the future, Navracsics is hoping sport can become integral in the broader initiatives of the EU, including its inclusion in EU and national budgets.

### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eycs/2018/11/26-27/>

## Exchange of views on sports and human rights at the European Parliament

European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights organised an exchange of views on sports and human rights in the context of large sporting events in Brussels on 19 November. This exchange of views was part of a series of debates on human rights that took place during the first ever European Parliament Human Rights Week, as this year the 70th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights is celebrated.

The event was opened by Pier Antonio Panzeri, Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights. Andrzej Krasnicki, President of the Polish Olympic Committee and Member of the EOC Executive Committee, attended the event as a speaker, representing the sports movement of Europe.

In his speech, Krasnicki highlighted that human rights are the foundation of the Olympic Charter and that the Olympic values are endorsed in all activities and events of the EOC. "Organising committees must respect the code and the ethics of the Olympic movement". The second edition of the European Games, taking place in June 2019 in Minsk, has a host city contract which includes a paragraph on human rights. It is based on the host city contracts of the IOC for the upcoming Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

Furthermore, Krasnicki underlined that freedom to exercise sports is a human right and Olympic movement is a tool for social development. "Sport events rely on culture, friendship, and reaching out to people."

Krasnicki was followed by Federico Addiechi, Head of Sustainability & Diversity at FIFA. In his speech, he also highlighted the integration of

human rights requirements in the bidding process of the World Cup. Furthermore, he gave an update on the implementation of human rights in FIFA World Cups: the one in Russia this year and the upcoming one in Qatar in 2022.

In addition, the event had as speakers Alison Biscoe from Centre for Sport and Human Rights and Minky Worden from Human Rights Watch. The Centre for Sport and Human Rights was established this year, following the idea developed after the London 2012 Olympic Games. The Centre focuses on high profile events for the most part, but also covers smaller events and sport as a whole. IOC and FIFA, among some other major sport event organisers, have been part of the development coalition with broad range of intergovernmental organisations, governments, athletes, hosts, sponsors, broadcasters, civil society representatives, trade unions, employers' associations, and national human rights institutions.

In her speech, Alison Biscoe highlighted that sport is a natural ally for human rights because of sports' characteristics and as sport has a huge reach. Their aim is to work constructively for all bodies in the sport movement and ensure that voices are heard, and these voices implemented into policies and frameworks.

Minky Worden from Human Rights Watch raised some existing challenges and cases and also drew the attention to the long-term vs. short-term solutions. Long-term approach and work to improve the human rights with a holistic view is needed.

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The meeting represented a timely opportunity for Europe and the MEPs to get an update on the human rights considerations in the activities of

organisations that are in charge of large-scale sporting events.

## Third meeting of the Expert Group on "Skills and HR Development in Sport" and round table on "Learning mobility"

On 13 and 14 November, the European Commission Expert Group, "Skills and Human Resources Development in Sport" (XG HR) organised its last meeting of 2018, in Salzburg. This third meeting of the XG HR was followed by a High Level Round Table on "Learning mobility", organised by the Austrian Presidency of the EU.

The XG pursued the work engaged during the first two meetings regarding the Education of Coaches with presentations of three good practices from Belgium (Jacques Stas, Belgian professional basketball coach), Poland (Piotr Marek, Polish Institute of Sport) and Austria (Marissa Jöbstl, sports scientist in RIF). These presentations provided participants with different approaches regarding qualifications and skills of coaches. While Piotr Marek, highlighted the qualifications system in Poland and explained the willingness to have specific qualifications for the field of disabled sport in line with the national system of qualifications, Marissa Jöbstl presented an approach going beyond specific sport training. Indeed, in her example they decided to focus not only on Athletic support (e.g. nutritional coaching, physiotherapy) but also on social support (e.g. mental coaching, interview training).

The second part of the day was dedicated to the "*Guidelines regarding the basic requirements in skills and competences for coaches*" that the XG will prepare. The first draft will be done by a working group composed by four Member States and the Commission before a consultation of the other members of the group. The document should be ready before the end of 2019. Participants discussed the general structure, the main objective of the document being to give

general indications regarding necessary skills and competences for coaches in Europe.

The second day meeting saw presentations of two representatives of the sport movement. It started with Helmut Hörtsch, Head of Business Group Education & Development for the European Handball Federation (EHF) who presented the activity of the EHF CAN (competence academy and network). He underlined the different programmes, partnerships and convention established by EHF CAN since 10 years. Their main objectives are to invest into skills and qualifications from grassroots to the top and to facilitate the mobility of coaches, officials and staff in Europe.

Then, Rainer Rößlhuber, Executive Director of the Austrian Sports Organisation (BSO) explained the functioning of sport in Austria and the challenges currently faced to "*establish Austria as a sportive nation*" as stated in the Programme of the Austrian Government for 2017-2022. Mr Rößlhuber notably addressed the question of physical inactivity and the financing of sport in Austria before describing the role of platform for coordination and consultation played by BSO within the Austrian sports system.

The next topic on the agenda was the learning mobility with two round tables. Following a general discussion on mobility in sport, Valentin Capelli, Policy Officer at the EOC EU Office, moderated an exchange between the seven projects selected by the European Commission for the Call for proposal: mobility and Exchanges in Sport (see the dedicated article). All speakers welcomed the proposal of the Commission to open the possibility for mobility in sport for the next period of

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Erasmus+ programme while some actors stressed the importance of not only focusing on athletes or coaches but also on staff, officials and volunteers. Finally, the international aspect of mobility in sport was also highlighted by several participants.

The next meeting of the XG HR will be organised in May, in Lisbon.

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## #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards – sport that builds stronger societies

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In order to raise awareness on the potential of sport to promote social inclusion and celebrate great examples of successful projects in the field, the European Commission organised the second #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards. The Call generated altogether 111 submissions for projects engaging migrants, refugees, ethnic minorities, disabled people and other disadvantaged groups in sports.

The #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards Gala, organised on 27 November 2018 in Brussels, turned the spotlight on 9 finalists – from local voluntary-based to large government-supported initiatives.

The three selected winners received €10,000 each: Fit4Life that has successfully promoted the physical activity and healthy lifestyle of migrant women (Finland); Judo club for people with disabilities Fuji (Croatia); and Sport & Refugees, a programme that engages 238 cities in the federal state of Hessen in the integration of refugees (Germany).

The six other finalists were granted an award of €2,500 each: Bádóireacht (Ireland); Integration of Syrian Refugee children into Community Games Sports & Cultural events (Ireland); Rugby Opens

Borders - Leveraging organized Teamsports for the integration of refugees and migrants (Austria); start2coach (Germany); S(up)port Refugees Integration (Italy); and The running charity (United Kingdom).

In his opening speech at the Awards Gala, Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport and the father of the initiative, highlighted the positive impact of sport that goes beyond the recognised health benefits, and encouraged all participants of the competition to continue their utmost valuable work:

“You prove to us that sport can enhance our European values of mutual understanding and respect. Values that we need to promote and strengthen today more than ever. Your commitment helps us build stronger and more inclusive societies – and a better Europe for tomorrow.”

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Here are the 2018 finalists of the #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards](#)  
[Commissioner Navracsics' opening speech](#)  
[#BeInclusive tweets, photos and videos on Twitter](#)

## Commission: Sport Unit Breakfast Meeting on sexual violence in sport

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On 22 November 2018, the Sport Unit of the European Commission hosted a breakfast

meeting on the question: "Is sport fostering an environment conducive to sexual violence?"

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Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit, provided a concise introduction to the topic after welcoming the panellists. Stressing the unfortunate reality that sexual harassment and violence occur in sport, Le Lostecque sought after defining a general approach in which this topic should be dealt with. Would an approach specific to sport, or a cross-sectoral approach which includes sport be more successful in dealing with this issue?

Presenting her research into violence against children in sport, Tine Vertommen, Professor at University of Antwerp quickly established that sport is indeed an environment conducive to sexual violence. Many elements of this conducive environment were discussed, including the:

- Relation of power and trust
- Pressure of competition, fame, money
- Environment sport activities take place
- Physical culture of sport
- Common physical violence in certain sports
- Welcoming environment for volunteers
- Closed communities of sport clubs

It has been found that offenders of sexual harassment in sport tend not to be the coaches. It can often be other staff involved with sport clubs such as medical officials, and even older athletes abusing their power as a respected and well known member of a sports club. Another surprising note, according to the (albeit limited) data available of sexual harassment in sport, is that no sport is more vulnerable to cases of sexual harassment than any other. There are sports in which it seems to be easier to speak out about sexual harassment, but the actual amount of cases per sport does not dramatically differ.

Offering comments on the topic, Jean Gracia, Vice-President European Athletics highlighted that

sport is not alone in the issue of sexual harassment. Sport should contribute its fair share to dealing with the issue, but a cross sectoral approach is needed to stop sexual harassment in all areas. Garcia insisted that education and prevention are the solutions to the issue, and whilst sanctions do serve a purpose, they do not necessarily solve the issue. Referring to athletics, he gave the example of the IAAF and the Athletics Integrity Unit, of which has education / prevention as one of its five key areas of activity.

In the open debate section of the meeting, participants touched on topics including the:

- development of a new generation culture which prevents sexual harassment in sport, along with the concept of a “safesport” model
- need for education of the people dealing with athletes who wish to speak out about sexual harassment, and the need for them to have knowledge specific to sport
- role of the UK based media in investigating sexual harassment in sport, and why certain football clubs have avoided carrying out their own investigations when claims of sexual harassment have been reported

Kristina Thurée, former Chair of the European Women and Sport Network, concluded the meeting, calling for the increase and continuity of research and action strategies to tackle sexual harassment in sport. The more facts and figures available will mean that decision makers will have to listen and take action. The value of victim’s stories should not be forgotten about. The power of real life stories and the emotions that can be conveyed through them will complement research and statistics, positively changing the structural barriers that are currently in the way of dealing with this issue.

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### MORE INFORMATION

<https://ec.europa.eu/sport>

## FUNDING PROGRAMMES AND STUDIES

### Results of the Commission pilot calls published

On 12 and 21 November respectively, the European Commission published the results of the pilot calls it had launched in May on the topics of "Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees" and "Exchanges and mobility in sport". Pilot calls are based on funding, which the European Parliament (EP) puts forward for the yearly EU budget and aim at to test the feasibility and usefulness of specific activities. They are used to try out different approaches, develop evidence-based strategies, identify good practices, and provide policy guidance for the benefit of possible future initiatives.

For 2018, the EP had foreseen three such pilot calls, with the results of the call for "Promotion of European values through sport initiatives at the municipal level" still outstanding.

#### 1. "Exchanges and mobility in sport"

7 projects were selected under the call for "Exchanges and mobility in sport". The total budget for this call for proposals for the Erasmus+ Sport actions was EUR 1.2 million, which funding ranging from 94.000 to 240.000 €.

This call aims to contribute to the efforts of sport organisations by supporting the learning mobility of their staff. Exchanges of people, ideas and good practices can be beneficial for the

individuals, for their organisations and for sport and society as a whole.

#### 2. "Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees"

24 projects were selected from 96 applications responding to the "Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees" call. The projects which will start at the beginning of 2019, receive between 32.000 and 60.000 €. The EOC EU Office would especially like to congratulate its partner, the NOC of Portugal that will receive 60.000 € for its project "*Viver o Desporto - Abraçar o Futuro*".

The Commission has announced that the European Parliament envisages to continue funding for sport related pilot calls in 2019.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[EUROPEAN COMMISSION - PRESS RELEASE \(12/11/2018\): "RESULTS PUBLISHED: CALL FOR PROPOSALS "EXCHANGES AND MOBILITY IN SPORT"](#)

[European Commission - Press release \(21/11/2018\): "Results published: Call for proposals "Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees"](#)

## UEFA and Committee of the Regions organise an event to promote EU Funding Opportunities

UEFA and Committee of the Regions (CoR) organised an event "The Role of Sport as a Tool for Promoting Growth, Social Inclusion and

Solidarity in European Regions" in Brussels on 28 November. The aim of the event, which also featured CoR President Karl-Heinz Lambertz,



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UEFA Vice-President Karl-Erik Nilsson and Commissioner for sport Tibor Navracsics as speakers, was to raise awareness on the EU funding opportunities, especially regarding the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) to finance small-scale sport infrastructure.

In his opening remarks, Commissioner Navracsics highlighted sport's role to drive economic growth and potential for regional development. Furthermore, he underlined that sport needs to be better mainstreamed in the Structural and Investment Funds, and that more awareness raising on the possibilities is also needed. Commissioner Navracsics also mentioned the Commission's willingness to work to make it possible to combine Erasmus+ sport funding with other funds, like European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), to increase the possibilities to fund sport infrastructure.

The event showcased many good practice examples on EU funding opportunities, and also addressed policy-makers on the importance to fully mainstream sport into all relevant funding programmes in the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2021-2027. EOC EU Office has been actively working the last couple of months for this purpose by meeting and contacting relevant MEPs and Member States representatives. This work has also involved cooperation with some other stakeholders, such as UEFA or the SHARE network, which is a SportHub with the aim to promote sport's potential for local and regional development. EOC EU Office is a member of the SHARE network.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[UEFA and Committee of the Regions promote EU regional sport investment](#)

## CULT Committee: opinions regarding ESF+, InvestEU and ERDF

The Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) of the European Parliament (EP) voted on several opinions regarding future funding programmes in November 2018. As the responsible Committee for Sport, the EOC EU Office had worked closely with MEPs in order to better establish sport in the regulations for the programmes European Social Fund+ (ESF+, vote on 20 November), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF, vote on 16 November) and InvestEU (vote on 28 November).

All of the discussed regulations are setting up programmes for the upcoming funding period 2021-2027. InvestEU is a new programme, while the other two are updated versions of currently existing programmes.

### 1. European Social Fund+

On 30 May 2018, the European Commission adopted a proposal for the next multi-annual financial framework for 2021-2027 on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) as the EU's main instrument to invest in people and to

implement the European Pillar of Social Rights. The ESF+ merges several existing funds and programmes, including the European Social Fund (ESF), the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) and the Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (the Health Programme). The aim of the EOC EU Office was to get the positive societal role of sport better recognised, especially regarding health promotion and social inclusion. The CULT Committee carried these proposals, by including several references to sport in both recitals and articles. This included a cross-cutting recital referring to sport in all parts of the programme (amendment 16), and including it as a tool in the aims of social integration (amendment 47). The ENVI committee, responsible for health promotion, had already included physical activity regarding the aims of the health strand of the programme. The leading EMPL Committee will vote on its report on 3 December 2018.

### 2. European Regional Development Fund

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The ERDF is the EU's central funding programme for regional development and infrastructure, with funds being distributed directly in Europe's regions. The ERDF will support the five new policy objectives of cohesion policy:

- PO1 'a smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation';
- PO2 'a greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management';
- PO3 'a more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity';
- PO4 'a more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights' and
- PO5 'a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives'.

A central interest for the sport movements is to clearly highlight the positive impact that sport has for the economy, for employment and for social inclusion. Furthermore, it is an aim to include the funding of sport infrastructure.

The CULT Opinion picked up these aspects, by mentioning sport and sport infrastructure in

several recitals and articles, including regarding integration and the socio-economic regional development.

A vote of the leading REGI Committee that would have to confirm these changes is expected for December 2018.

### **3. InvestEU**

The InvestEU programme aims to bring together various EU financial instruments currently available in order to benefit from economies of scale, and to expand the successful model of the Juncker Plan (i.e. using guarantees from the EU budget to crowd-in other investors). The CULT Opinion now adds sport actions to benefit from such funding in areas of social investment, infrastructure, as well as "sustainability and profitability of investment in sports facilities, sports events and partnerships with other industry sectors". In parallel, the proposal is being examined by the Budget (BUDG) and the Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) committees.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Parliament – Opinion of CULT Committee on ESF+](#)

[European Parliament – Opinion of CULT Committee on ERDF](#)

[European Parliament – Opinion of CULT Committee on InvestEU](#)

## INTERNAL AND VISITS

### Special Competence Seminar held on 21-22 November in Brussels

On 21-22 November 2018, a Special Competence Seminar was organised in Brussels by the EOC EU Office. The aim of this meeting was to inform partners about recent EU policy developments and to exchange views on ongoing activities carried out within the different sport organisations. Participants came from various sport federations, such as the European Volleyball Federation (CEV), the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), the European Hockey Federation (EHF), Rugby Europe, European Athletics, FIBA Europe, and the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), as well as representatives from the NOCs of Finland, Austria, Sweden, France, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Croatia, Czech Republic, and Lithuania.

The two day meeting allowed for a comprehensive update on sport-related EU policies and a rich exchange of views on the European Sport Model and ways to safeguard it. The first day sought to give an overview on single policy fields at the EU level. The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 was presented, with a description of some EU-funded programmes that are relevant for sport, such as Erasmus+, the European Regional and Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), InvestEU and LIFE, as well as EU external action programmes, including the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) III and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). Other new developments and updates were also discussed, such as the Digital Single Market, the biannual time switch, the VAT policy, Brexit, main legal challenges for sport (Rule 40, Seraing Case, and FIBA vs. Euroleague) and the growing phenomenon of esports.



In addition, as part of the seminar's first day programme, the EOC EU Office welcomed the participation of Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit at the European Commission, who provided an overview of the third EU Work Plan on Sport and then answered questions raised by the participants. A roundtable took place where partners shared their experiences on the different activities and projects being organised within their organisations.

The second day kicked off with a presentation about the European Sport Model (ESM) and a very engaging discussion about challenges and ways to promote and defend it at the European level. Participants were then divided into different groups where they discussed future priorities for sport and possible activities allowing for the implementation of the priorities:

- Organisation of sport in Europe;
- Enabling sport organisations to strengthen their governance and support clean athletes and competitions effectively;

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- Increasing the participation of sport organisations in Erasmus+ and other EU programmes;
- Sport as a health-enhancing activity;
- Societal role of sport.

The seminar concluded with a presentation of the new 2019 Erasmus+ call and an analysis of the

2018 Erasmus+ call (number of projects, budget and differences between the 2018 and 2019 call in terms of funding), which was then followed by practical advice and individual project guidance. The EOC EU Office would like to thank all partners for their active participation in the discussions and encourage them all to apply for the next 2019 Erasmus+ programme!

## European Sport Model and European Games at the heart of discussions during the 47<sup>th</sup> EOC General Assembly

On 9 and 10 November, the National Olympic Committee of Spain hosted the European Olympic Committees' (EOC) 47<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, in Marbella.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Thomas Bach, IOC President, identified the defence of the European Sport Model as a key priority for the European sport in the upcoming months. After recalling the key principles of this model – based on solidarity, inclusivity and engagement of volunteers – he underlined the "serious threat" faced by sport organisations with *"competing models that are primarily based on money and treat athletes as assets"*. Furthermore, President Bach called upon National Olympic Committees to increase their work with their Governments as he stated that national Governments and especially the European Union (EU) view the existing model as a traditional economic activity. "We see a tendency from some Governments, and in particular the European Union, to consider that the value of an (sport) organisation and its activities is not determined anymore by its values and its contribution to a better society but it is determined by money and markets".

Discussions on European Sport model at EU level were also a central point in the presentation of Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, with an update on the recent cases related to EU competition policy. He also introduced different activities conducted by the Brussels office

including the POINTS project. Finally, Folker Hellmund announced some positive opportunities for the NOCs at the EU level including a budget record for the Erasmus+ Sport chapter and the positive developments regarding the European Week of Sport.

The EOC General Assembly was also an opportunity for the Chairs of the new EOC Commissions to present their first activities. In this regard, Juri Tamm, Chair of the EOC EU Commission, reported on the objectives of the Commission for the four years mandate:

1. Make sure the voice of the EOC EU Commission is heard at EU level
2. Better use of EU Funding by NOCs including non-EU countries
3. Better use of the NOCs network to influence EU policies

2019 will be a sporty year at EOC level with the organisation of four major events: winter and summer edition of the European Youth Olympic Festivals, respectively in Sarajevo and Baku, Games of the Small States of Europe in Montenegro as well as the second edition of the European Games, in Minsk. The latest information regarding these events, as well as future Olympic Games, have been presented and discussed by the delegates of the 50 NOCs composing the

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EOC, as well as by the representatives of European federations.

The second edition of the European Games will take place in Minsk, Belarus, on 21-30 June 2019 and will feature 15 sports including athletics which will introduce a new concept: Dynamic New Athletics (DNA). The objective of the European Athletics is to test an *"action-packed new mixed-gender team event built on tactics, competitiveness and grit"* in order to attract a younger audience and media attention.

The General Assembly also awarded the Best European Young Summer Athlete of 2018 to Austrian racing cyclist Laura Stigger.

Finally, Janez Kocijančič announced that the EOC will organise the next General Assembly, in Warsaw, Poland, from 25-26 October 2019, to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NOC.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[EOC press release](#)

## EUMA General Assembly at the EOC EU Office

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On 10 November, representatives of mountaineering federations and associations from all four corners of Europe gathered in Brussels for the 2018 General Assembly of the newly created European Union Mountaineering Association "[EUMA](#)". Hosted by the EOC EU Office, the delegates received a brief introduction to the structure and activities of the Office and learnt about the possibilities provided by the Erasmus +

Sport programme. Aiming to learn more about the impact of the EU on sectors and areas linked to mountaineering and wishing to establish gradually their presence in Brussels, EUMA presidium and delegates went on discussing various matters including the mountain dimension of EU policies with Mr. Marco Onida from the DG REGIO (regional policies) of the European Commission.

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## PARTNERS' CORNER

### European Sport Platform: Debate on esports and the modern sports club

The first European Sport Platform was organised in Budapest, Hungary, on 16–17 November 2018. The initiative was launched by the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO), inviting members and stakeholders to discuss the current issues in European sport. More than 90 people took part in the debate on the topics of *the modern sports club* and *esports meets sports clubs*. The event was hosted by the Hungarian Competitive Sport Federation (NVESZ) and organised in partnership with the European Lotteries and under the patronage of Mr Tibor Navracsics, Member of the European Commission.

After the welcome speeches by Hungarian Minister of State for Sport Tünde Szabó, NVESZ President János Mészáros, and ENGSO President Carlos Cardoso, the participants of the event were given an in-depth presentation on sports clubs, their mission and roles in the 21st century by Director of Sport Peter Mattsson from the Swedish Sports Confederation. Two innovative examples – the Sports Club for Health from Finland and Open Clubs from the Netherlands – were presented, highlighting sports clubs as communities that enhance public health and well-being with a broad scope. Szabolcs Horváth from the Cabinet of Commissioner Navracsics gave an overview of the European developments and EU initiatives in the areas of health-enhancing physical activity and social inclusion through sport. Norbert Rubicsek J.D., from RC3 & Partners Consulting, gave an update on the recent developments in the field of sport manipulation and its prevention, as well as advice for grassroots sports leaders for joining forces to tackle manipulation in sport.

The participants of the European Sport Platform, including professionals, volunteers, policymakers,

scholars and students active in the field of sport, also had the opportunity to have an informed debate on the topic of esports. In many countries, the organised sports movement is in the process of defining its relationship with esports. A panorama of esports, including the European esports ecosystem, a player's perspective, and the future trends of esports, were presented by Hans Jagnow, President of the eSport-Bund Deutschland (German Esports Federation), esports player Fruzsina Eszenyi, and journalist Annamária Szücs.

DGI Esport Project Manager Martin Fritzen shed light on the perspective of grassroots esports, demonstrated by two different case examples. Renátó Besenczi from the the University of Debrecen presented the esports club DEAC-Hackers, whereas Anders Sørensen, President of the Sørbymagle Idrætsforening, explained how esports was integrated in the Danish sports club.

During the final panel, a series of tough questions and comments were exchanged between the event moderator, ENGSO Policy Director Kaisa Larjomaa, the event participants, and the panellists: Lotte Büchert, ENGSO Executive Committee member; Fruzsina Eszenyi, Hans Jagnow; Rainer Rößlhuber, Executive Director of Österreichische Bundes-Sportorganisation; and Oliver Szabella, esports player, manager and researcher. The discussion was intensified especially regarding issues such as gender equality and diversity within esports, physical inactivity, violence and killing games, and the governance of esports and ownership of the games and their rules.

ENGSO's objective is to make the European Sport Platform an annual event, to be organised each time in collaboration with different ENGSO

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member organisation and other relevant stakeholders.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Great atmosphere and inspiring talks at the first European Sport Platform](#)

## NOC Lithuania becomes partner of the EOC EU Office

On 9 November 2018, the NOC of Lithuania agreed to a bilateral agreement to become partner of the EOC EU Office. The agreement was signed on the occasion of the General Assembly of European Olympic Committees in Marbella by EOC President Janez Kocijančič and NOC Lithuania President Daina Gudžinevičiūtė.

The partnership between the Lithuanian NOC and the EOC EU Office is the next step in a successful cooperation that started already some years ago when the NOC of Lithuania contributed to the successful SIGGS Project (“Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport”), which the Office was running in 2015-2016.

EOC President Kocijančič said he was pleased with the new partnership and underlined the importance of successful cooperation between all European NOCs with the EOC EU Office in light of a foreseen increase in EU funds for sport programmes in the future.

NOC President Gudžinevičiūtė expressed her satisfaction with the partnership: “Working more closely with the EOC EU Office is another significant step forward for the National Olympic Committee of Lithuania. We believe in the benefits of cooperation for both organisations. For us, this agreement is an opportunity to access more, and more important information, to be central to

meaningful European sporting policy, events, and social projects funded by the European Union and yet another opportunity to share our experience.”

Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, warmly welcomed the NOC Lithuania becoming an official partner. “I’m very pleased to welcome the NOC Lithuania, as they are a very active NOC at the European and international level. I am absolutely convinced that this partnership will be of mutual benefit to the NOC of Lithuania and to the EOC in many policy areas.”



The NOC of Lithuania is the 13th NOC to become an official bilateral partner of the EOC EU Office and the 27th partner organisation overall.

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## NEXT MONTH

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- 04-05 December** Erasmus+ Sport Cluster meeting on "The Integrity of Sport", Brussels
- 05-06 December** International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport Meeting, London
- 10 December** EU Presidency Sports Conference, Vienna
- 11-12 December** Informal meeting of EU Sports Directors, Vienna
- 12 December** International Conference on "Optimizing Athletes' Employability", Brussels