

Tweets of the month



[EurOlympic](#)

@EOCmedia July 22
3rd EOC Executive Committee meeting has just started in #Baku
Main topics on the agenda: EOC Articles of Associations, future #EuropeanGames sports programme, future EYOF's editions, the 10th Athletes Forum in Dublin on 6/7 December.

[EOC EU Office](#)

@EOCEUOffice July 22
. @teambelgium becomes a partner of @EOCEUOffice. The agreement was signed by Janez Kocijancic, @EOCmedia President and Pierre-Olivier Beckers-Vieujant, @teambelgium President in Baku during the 15th Summer European Youth Olympic Festival #EYOF. We look forward to the cooperation!

[EurOlympic](#)

@EOCmedia July 21
The Opening Ceremony of #eyofbaku2019 has just kicked off! We wish all the best to the best young athletes of #Europe competing at the 15th Summer EYOF!

[EOC EU Office](#)

@EOCEUOffice July 10
EU Presidency #EU2019FI is organising a meeting for sport stakeholders to exchange views on the sport priorities. @EU2019FI priorities are #mff & @EUErasmusPlus negotiations, combatting corruption in sport & safeguarding children in #sport. Looking forward to the cooperation!

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The last weeks before the summer break were full of important political and sports events. It is good that the filling of the most important positions in the European institutions is making further progress. With the majority in favour of Ursula von der Leyen as the new President of the European Commission, the European Parliament has prevented a crisis of the European Institutions. How difficult the election was, illustrates not only the extremely narrow result as such, but also by the different electoral behaviour within the different political groups. It is safe to assume that the hearings of the Commissioners-designate scheduled for the end of September will not run by itself.

The organised sport expects the new Commission not only to launch a well-funded Erasmus+ programme 2019-24 but also to make progress in the formal recognition of the European Sport Model, with a related new approach in the application of European competition law to sport. Most likely, the Council will find it difficult to accept the tripling of Erasmus+ funding demanded by the European Parliament. However, as the programme as a whole is regarded by all European institutions as a success model, the doubling of funds proposed by the EU Commission seems realistic. Against this background, it is even more important that the number of applicants from organised sport increases significantly in the coming programming period. The EOC EU Office has already made a lot of efforts in the past in this regard and invites all European NOKs and partners of the office to a two-day funding seminar in September, which also includes the programmes for NOKs outside the EU.

In the past, the EOC EU Office has dealt in several articles with the possible consequences of the Brexit for sport. With the election of Boris Johnson as new Prime Minister, the signs are more in favour of a hard Brexit. What concrete effects such a development could have on European sport will certainly still be the subject of our reports in the coming months.

Finally, I would like to make a few remarks on my own behalf. Felix Schäfer will leave the EOC EU office at the beginning of August after almost five years of work to support the Permanent Representation in the preparation of the German Council Presidency in the second half of 2020. On behalf of the entire EOC EU Office, I would like to thank him for his dedicated and competent work and wish him all the best for his professional future. The DOSB is expected to fill the position on 1 September.

August is the traditional holiday month for the European institutions. Therefore, the next issue of the Monthly Bulletin will not be published until September.

On behalf of the EOC EU Office, I wish all the staff of our partner organisations and readers who are about to start their summer holidays a relaxing time!

Enjoy reading,



Folker Hellmund
Director

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

New European Commission update

On Tuesday, 16 July 2019, the European Parliament confirmed by absolute majority Ursula von der Leyen as new President of the European Commission. Finally she received 374 votes, 9 votes more than needed. She will officially take office on 1 November.

As the next step she is expecting the nomination of candidates by the Member States for the new EU Commission. A number of former Commissioners have been already nominated again by their governments. Among them the current Vice-President Timmermans and the Commissioner for Competition Policy, Margareta Vestager. It will be up to Ms von der Leyen to divide the different portfolios to the Commissioners designate. Predictions on job assignments are to be done with caution nowadays in political Brussels and it thus remains to be seen, who will steer the important portfolios for sport, such as DG EAC and DG COMP.

A major challenge will come up end of September when all Commissioners- designate will be assessed by the European Parliament Committees. The commissioners-designate are

invited to three-hour hearings, streamed live online, in front of the EP committees responsible for the portfolio he or she has been assigned. The candidate makes an opening speech of maximum 15 minutes and should then answer questions. The responsible committee has to finalise its evaluation within 24 hours following the hearing. It can ask for further information in writing. These hearings are scheduled from 30 September till 8 October.

After a debate at the plenary, MEPs will decide, by a majority of votes cast, whether to support the new College of Commissioners for a mandate of five years. It's important to keep in mind that the European Parliament can only refuse or accept a Commission in its entirety and not individual Commissioners-designate.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Commission - Press Release \(16/07/2019\): "Parliament elects Ursula von der Leyen as first female Commission President"](#)

[Politico - Press Release \(20/07/2019\): "The next European Commission: What we know so far"](#)

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Start of the new European Parliament

The 9th European Parliament (EP) hold its inaugural session on 2 July in Strasbourg. This term there are 7 political groups, one less than during the 8th EP. 61 % of the MEPs are new in the European Parliament. During the first plenary session David Sassoli was elected in the second round as President of the EP by 345 out of 667 votes. 14 Vice-Presidents and 5 Quaestors also were elected during the First Plenary session. Voting on the size of Parliament's 20 committees and two sub-committees also took place. The Committee on Culture and Education includes 31 Members.

On July 10, the constitutive meetings to elect Chair and Vice-Chairs of the committees were held. Chairs and Vice-Chairs are elected with 2.5 years mandate. For the CULT Committee:

- Ms Sabine Verheyen (EPP, DE) was elected as Chair.
- 1st Vice-Chair: Mr Romeo FRANZ (Greens/EFA, DE)
- 2nd Vice-Chair: Ms Dace MELBĀRDE (ECR, LV)
- *The 3rd and 4th Vice-Chairs will be elected in a forthcoming meeting.*

The first meeting of the CULT committee took place on July 22. On the agenda have been

already a number of important subjects such as the general budget of the European Union for 2020. Votes on the decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations were held on following topics:

- Erasmus+: the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport;
- Establishing the Creative Europe programme (2021 to 2027);
- Establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme.

The next meetings of CULT Committee will take place on 4-5 September.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Electing Parliament's Vice-Presidents and Quaestors](#)

[The new EP Vice-Presidents](#)

[EP Quaestors elected, Parliament Bureau complete](#)

[European Parliament Committees](#)

[Powers and responsibilities of EP committees](#)
[WHO's WHO Committee Chairs](#)

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Microplastic - ECHA press release on artificial turf

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), in charge of preparing a proposal for the restriction of intentionally added microplastics, recently issued a statement saying that "neither the ECHA nor the European Commission are proposing to close down artificial turf pitches".

This statement has to be seen as a clarification, as newspapers across the EU announced the end of artificial turf pitches. The granular infill used for most artificial turf pitches falls under the definition

of 'intentionally added microplastics' and is thus subject of interest for the ECHA's investigations and restrictions. These investigations happen under the REACH Regulation, which is settled in the framework of the EU Plastics Strategy..

FURTHER INFORMATION

<https://echa.europa.eu/de/-/restriction-proposal-for-intentionally-added-microplastics-in-the-eu-update>

INTERNAL AND VISITS

DOSB mentoring meeting takes place in Brussels



On 5th and 6th of July, the DOSB mentoring programme aiming at the promotion of former top sportswomen came for a training session to the EOC EU Office in Brussels.

The athletes get supported by experienced mentors in their efforts to continue their careers as full-time or volunteers in organised sport and to gain management capacities. For the first time, the programme provide the mentees with insights into European and international sports policy.

In this regard, Brussels was a perfect address, since it hosts both the Institutions of the European Union and the EOC EU Office, that represents the interests of the Olympic Movement and other major international and European sport organisations. The DOSB is represented in the EOC EU Office by Folker Hellmund as head of the office and Felix Schäfer as EU policy officer.

On the first day, Felix Schäfer provided a general introduction to the European sports policy. He underlined the impact of EU law and decision of the European Court of Justice on sport.

Furthermore it became evident how important it is as a stakeholder, to get involved as early as possible in the political process.

Jana Janotová, who represents the Czech Olympic Committee in the EOC EU Office, provided insights on the international strategy of the Czech Olympic Committee.

Very stimulating for all participants was the exchange on current topics of international and European sports policy led by Folker Hellmund. Various questions about the European sports model and the future of organised sport were discussed. In connection with the growing demands on good governance, the role of athletes' representatives in national and international umbrella organisations was discussed intensively. The experiences of the mentees, all of them former top athletes, made it clear that there is still a need for action when it comes to involve women athletes in decision-making processes.

By visiting the the EU Parliament the participants gained a very informative overview of European Union history.

Inspired by the joint project Europe and enriched by an intensive exchange in Brussels as a whole, the mentees and mentors are now entering the final phase of the one-year programme. The last official meeting will take place on 28 September in Leipzig.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

www.dosb.de

PARTNERS' CORNER

EOC EU Office starts partnership with Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee (BOIC)

The European Olympic Committees (EOC) is pleased to announce that a partnership was signed between the EOC EU Office and Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee (BOIC) in Baku, Azerbaijan on 22 July 2019. The agreement was officially signed by EOC President Janez Kocijančič and BOIC President Baron Pierre-Olivier Beckers-Vieujant during the 15th Summer European Youth Olympic Summer Festival (EYOF) in the Azerbaijan's capital.

The partnership agreement comes after an already well-established cooperation between the BOIC and the EOC EU Office, as they have worked together on the implementation of good governance and integrity related projects, including "Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport" (SIGGS) and "Single Points of Contact for Integrity in Sport" (POINTS).

EOC President Janez Kocijančič stated: "We are very satisfied of this new partnership, especially because it comes from the same city where our branch office is based. I am sure there will be a fruitful cooperation."

BOIC President Baron Pierre-Olivier Beckers-Vieujant expressed his satisfaction by stating: "The BOIC is happy to join this strong network of European NOC's and Federations as well as the IOC. We value the work of the EOC EU Office and see its importance. The EU presents the Olympic Movement with both challenges and opportunities and we need to be actively involved in this work."



Director of the EOC EU Office Folker Hellmund said: "I'm very pleased to welcome the BOIC on board. Brussels is the heart of the EU's activities and this partnership will strengthen even more our long-standing collaboration."

For the EOC EU Office, BOIC is the 15th National Olympic Committee to become official bilateral partner and the 29th partner organisation overall. The EOC EU Office is the representative body of the EOC to the European Union. Furthermore, it represents the interests of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and other partner organisations towards the EU institutions. The full list of the EOC EU Office's partner network can be found on the website:

<http://www.euoffice.euolympic.org/partners>.

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European Youth Olympic Festival – a blend of sport, culture and education



The European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) was established in 1991 by the European Olympic Committees (EOC) not only as a celebration of elite European athletes aged 14 to 18 but also as a valuable platform for education, peace and friendship.

The summer and winter editions of the EYOF have provided thousands of young Europeans with the opportunity to compete in an Olympic environment while learning about the Olympic Movement and its values of excellence, friendship and respect.

The 15th edition took place in Baku 2019 from 21-27 July. On the field of play, the best young athletes from across the continent competed in 10 sports: artistic gymnastics, athletics, basketball, cycling, handball, judo, swimming, tennis, volleyball and wrestling.

Furthermore, a number of fun and interactive activities, workshops and team-building exercises were offered to teach the athletes about each other's cultures and provide them with the skills to become true ambassadors of their sports and beyond.

Two of the main educational activities organised in Baku have been the European Young Ambassador programme and the Olympic Culture and Education Programme.

The European Young Ambassadors Programme aims at to engage with young athletes with special educational activities inside the Athletes' Village.

Twenty-one ambassadors aged 18-25 were in Baku to encourage cultural exchange and teach the Olympic values, including non-discrimination, fair play and the pursuit of excellence.

"The young athletes at EYOF are in their teens, and are therefore in the process of making their own decisions and restructuring their values and beliefs," says Susanna Rahkamo, Chair of the EOC Olympic Culture and Legacy Commission. "Our intention is to show them how through sports they can make a big impact not only on their personal glory but on people near and far, to connect and build harmony in the world since the Olympic Movement is the biggest peace movement on the planet."

The Olympic Culture and Education Programme for Baku began in February with a goal of promoting culture, sport and Olympic values among the young generations of Europe.

The OCEP is a joint project initiated by the National Olympic Committee of Azerbaijan, the EYOF Baku 2019 Organising Committee, and the Azerbaijan Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and is fully funded and supported by the International Olympic Committee and the EOC through Olympic Solidarity.

As part of the programme, 48 schools in Baku were twinned with counterparts in countries across Europe whose athletes are competing at the Baku EYOF. Since February, the students have shared aspects of their local culture, history, art, and sport, while also learning about Olympic values and principles with their peers from various countries.

An Olympic Culture and Sport Pavilion has been constructed at the Athletes' Village as a final event for the programme. Tents and booths

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representing each European country have been decorated with the support of students from the respective twinned schools.

In this way, young athletes, team members, and guests visiting the Olympic Village could acquainted themselves with the culture, history,

art, and sports of all participating European countries as well as engage with the Olympic spirit.

Approximately 2,700 athletes competed at the EYOF in Baku.

Second European Sport Platform on 4–5 October 2019 in Rome

The European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO) invite its members, partners and other sports stakeholders to the second European Sport Platform, to be organised on 4–5 October 2019 in Rome, Italy. The event is hosted by OPES Italia (Organizzazione Per l'Educazione allo Sport), which is the entity responsible for ENGSO affairs under the umbrella of the Italian ENGSO member, CONI, and organised in partnership with the European Lotteries. The venue of the event will be Appia Park, a hidden gem in the proximity of touristic Rome.

The European Sport Platform brings together professionals, volunteers, policymakers and scholars alike – to stay informed on and take part in the current debate on sport.

Under the theme of *Volunteers, the everyday heroes of sport*, the event participants will learn

from innovative practices that help attract and retain volunteers, as well as get insight in the value created by volunteers, measured in euros.

The second theme, *SCORE for diversity in governance*, gives the opportunity to evaluate the progress made in good governance from the perspective of diversity, and propose new goals and actions for the new decade.

Is it possible to talk about health without mentioning mental health? The *Healthy body – healthy mind?* session will have a look at the known impacts that sport has on our minds.

The registration is open until 3 September 2019.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Sport Platform: More information and registration](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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|------------------------|---|
| 06 September | EOC EU Commission, EOC EU Office, Brussels |
| 17 September | Sport Unit Breakfast, European Commission, Brussels |
| 18-19 September | Funding Seminar, EOC EU Office, Brussels |
| 23-30 September | European Week of Sport |