

MONTHLY REPORT

June 2022



EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



EU
Office

EVENT OF THE MONTH: 6TH EUROPEAN EVENING OF SPORTS

220 participants



35 European States



Thomas Bach - President, IOC

"The mission of sport in addressing all these crises and changes is to make the world a better place through sport."



Mariya Gabriel - Commissioner, responsible for Sport

"I am very proud we adopted the Arrangement for Cooperation with the EOC. It is a step that embodies how we join forces on advancing causes we hold dear."



Sergii Bubka - President, NOC Ukraine

"The sport movement reacted very strongly and showed firm unity. Thank you to the IOC and the global Olympic community to support Ukraine."



Spyros Capralos - President, EOC

"I welcome everyone to assist the first European Games ever taking place in the EU, in Poland, exactly one year from now."



SPORT PERFORMANCE
by Freestyletalent



LIVE CONCERT
by Crosstown





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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Just before the summer break, a number of important sports policy events took place in June. Among the highlights were certainly the 6th European Evening of Sport and the 11th European Athletes' Forum organised by the EOC EU Office in Brussels. Special thanks go to all the athletes and other guests who travelled to Brussels despite the short notice strike at the airport.

Both events gave a clear commitment to the preservation of the European model of sport. With the reference to the next Olympic Games in Paris 2024 and Cortina 2026 and the European Games in Krakow/Malopolska in June 2023, there was also a special expectation that Europe, as a location for future major sporting events, will pay particular attention to their sustainability.

The European Court of Justice has once again set a sport-political highlight with the hearing on the legal dispute European Super League (ESL) v. UEFA/FIFA scheduled for 11-12 July. As already reported in the past months, the invited EU Member states will have the opportunity to present their positions on essential elements of the European sports model.

In particular, they will have to answer the question of whether competitions must be open, as required by Art. 165 TFEU.

The double function of sports federations as regulators of their respective sports on the one hand and as organisers on the other hand will also be in focus. Earlier rulings of the EU Court of Justice, such as in the MOTOE case, have already provided clear guidelines in this regard. A dual function would then be in line with European competition law if the federation does not abuse its role against potential other organisers. Against this background, UEFA must demonstrate on which basis and according to which rules competing competitions are treated. Here, the last decision in the ISU case has shown that the European Commission attaches particular importance to transparent and non-discriminatory pre-authorization procedures, which UEFA would have to install in case of doubt if the current regulations are not deemed sufficient.

The question of possible sanctions against clubs and players will be discussed particularly emotionally. There is some evidence that a clear distinction must be made between these two groups. It would be understandable for clubs to have to decide under which sports law regime they want to operate. In particular, if a group of clubs were guaranteed permanent participation in the lucrative ESL without having to produce sporting results in return, a (financial) competitive imbalance in the national leagues would be the consequence if these clubs were to retain admission.

The already cited ISU case has clearly rejected sanctions of athletes due to participation in unauthorised competitions. The EU Court of Justice will certainly take this up. In any case, the ruling, which is expected for the end of 2022, will have an influence on the entire sport system in Europe.

With kind regards,



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

European Evening of Sport strengthens bond of Olympic Movement and European Union Institutions

On 21 June, the sixth edition of the European Evening of Sport took place in the Representation of the German Baden-Württemberg Region in Brussels. The EOC EU Office's flagship event joined more than 250 participants, from representatives of the Olympic movement, athletes representatives, key-stakeholders in the sports industry, to relevant EU decision-makers to engage in a meaningful exchange on the challenges that sports is currently facing.

Keynote speeches

In his key-note speech, Thomas Bach, President of the IOC, addressed the challenges presented by the recent health crisis and the Russian aggression on Ukraine, speaking on the climate to politics and how sport offers endless possibilities in confronting these present dilemmas. Sergii Bubka, President of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, followed, expressing his gratitude to the European sports family, which continues to provide incredible support to Ukrainian athletes.



European Olympic Committees and European Commission's Arrangement for Cooperation

Following the opening speeches, the event served as an opportunity to strengthen the close cooperation and shared values of the Olympic sports movement and EU institutions, with the official signature of an Arrangement for Cooperation between the European Commission and the EOC, signed by EOC President, Spyros Capralos, and Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Culture and Education, responsible for sport.



Discussion on the future of major sports events

As to the prominence of the topic, the gathering also permitted a panel discussion on the future of major sports events, moderated by former Belgian tennis player Sabine Appelmans. The panel featured various personalities of the sports movement, including EOC President Spyros Capralos who highlighted the importance of major sport events for the youth and the ways they were affected by Covid-19, and how the Russian invasion in the aftermath of the pandemic created yet another challenge.

Andrew Parsons, President of the IPC, addressed legacy and how the Paralympic Games bring an added value to host nations, whereas Emma Terho, IOC Athletes' Commission Chair, spoke about the responsibility of athletes in uniting people in these times of hardship; and Glen Killane, Executive Director of Eurovision Sport, talked about the role played by public media in sports.

All participants agreed that the impact of major sports events goes far beyond sport and major events should seek to leave positive social and economic legacies, while mitigating the possible negative environmental footprint.

The EOC EU Office offers their sincere gratitude to all the participants and collaborators for making this event a great success.

11th European Athletes' Forum in Brussels



On 21 to 22 June, the 11th European Athletes' Forum took place in Brussels. It was jointly organized by the European Olympic Committees (EOC), the EOC EU Office and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) while being funded by the Olympic Solidarity.

It brought together around 40 athlete representatives from European National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in order to discuss existing EU policies and how athletes' can amplify their voices in order to get better heard in all relevant discussions and in particular from the European institutions.

Among the most important topics that emerged was the protection and promotion of the European Sport Model. Athletes' feature heavily as an essential component of this model and the seminar sought to empower them as such. Indeed, this was in line with EOC President Spyros Capralos' sentiments that "at the EOC, we firmly believe that you, the athletes, are the beating heart of every sports organisation.

So, it is imperative that your voice is heard. Not just for the next two days, but every day. Our mission at the EOC, as custodians of the Olympic Movement in Europe, is to protect the interests of the many. Central to this is the promotion of the European Sport Model. A model based on Solidarity."

The seminar also dealt with the overarching IOC strategy towards empowering athletes, together with the Olympic Agenda 2020+5, specifically on recommendation 3, which relates to reinforcing athletes' rights and responsibilities as in line with Olympic Solidarity. This was meant to try to enlighten and empower athletes about their rights and the resources they have at their disposal regarding e.g. financial support, which is available even beyond their sporting careers. The centrality of the Olympic Agenda 2020+5 in the EOC's own work was further elaborated by President Capralos, who indicated that the EOC remains guided by their principles together with the IOC leadership, the IOC and the EOC Athletes' Commissions, and athlete representatives across Europe.

On the second day, the EOC EU Office presented a variety of policy fields with an impact on athletes such as the European Sport Model, mental health, gender equality, climate change, safe sport and EU funding. All these topics have been taken up in interactive breakout sessions that have been moderated by the EOC EU Office.

The respective Chairs of both the EOC's and IOC's Athletes' Commission Gerd Kanter and Emma Terho also gave some insights during the Forum. Gerd Kanter referred to the athletes' recommendations for the Conference on the Future of Europe back in March and raised the need for a proper follow-up of this process.

Emma Terho, also praised the EOC and the IOC in organizing the Forum as it facilitated knowledge exchange, athlete empowerment and athlete representation.

She also shared the importance of athlete involvement in the decision-making processes within sport as having been facilitated by the Forum.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press release on the European Athletes' Forum \(EOC\).](#)

EOC, IOC and IPC Presidents meet with European Commissioners Gabriel and Schinas



As the high-level representatives of the Olympic Movement conveyed in Brussels on 21 June for the European Evening of Sport, the opportunity was taken to meet with high-level EU decision-makers. The Vice President of the European Commission, Margaritis Schinas, and Mariya Gabriel, the European Commissioner responsible for sport, met via video with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) President, Thomas Bach, the European Olympic Committees (EOC) President Spyros Capralos and the International Paralympic President (IPC), Andrew Parsons.

Both meetings provided the opportunity to reiterate the shared principles implicit both in the European Sport Model and in fundamental Olympic values.

In addition, ties were also strengthened when it comes to the launching of different sport-related initiatives that attract youth while the ease of access to Para sport for EU Member States was also discussed.

Also present in the meetings was Ukrainian National Olympic Committee President, and IOC member, Sergii Bubka, who along with all Olympic movement leaders and EU high-level decision-makers, continues to carry a dignified message on the need for peace and solidarity as in line with both European and Olympic values.



FURTHER INFORMATION

[Commissioner Margaritis Schinas on Twitter](#)

[Commissioner Mariya Gabriel on Twitter](#)

[International Paralympic President, Andrew Parsons via Twitter](#)

The EOC EU Office attends the 51st General Assembly of the European Olympic Committees



On 10-11 June 2022, a delegation from the EOC EU Office participated in the 51st General Assembly of the European Olympic Committees held in Skopje, North Macedonia. The 2022 General Assembly marked one year from when Spyros Capralos was elected as President of the European Olympic Committees (EOC) in Athens, Greece.

The General Assembly was opened with the welcoming words from the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of North Macedonia, President Daniel Dimeski, the EOC President Spyros Capralos and North Macedonia's First Deputy Prime Minister Artan Grubi.

After which, Thomas Bach - President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) addressed all the European NOCs (ENOCs) in a speech that highlighted IOC's measures and sanctions implemented to mitigate the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on the Olympic sport community worldwide.

Hence, the relevance of the Olympic mission in continuing to unify and be united was reiterated. The General Assembly continued with the report of the EOC President Spyros Capralos and Secretary General Raffaele Pagnozzi who thanked ENOCs and the EOC partners for the results obtained in different areas including good governance and relations with the external stakeholders, such as the EU institutions. Accordingly, a series of additional presentations highlighted the status of solidarity activities in support of Ukraine and the impact of the Olympic Agenda 2020+5, as well as the progress in terms of organisations of events and EOC commissions activities – for example, in the realm of gender equality and sustainability, among others.

Most remarkably, the EOC EU Office Director Folker Hellmund has provided a report of the activities, services and successes of the EOC EU Office in representing the interests of the EOC and other major European/international sports organisations.



Accordingly, it was highlighted the relevance of continuing to further foster and promote the European Sport Model as a key foundation in guaranteeing a fair and beneficial playground for sport in Europe.

Throughout the event, the EOC EU Office has offered also bilateral conversations on EU Funding Programmes and opportunities with interested NOCs. In this regard, the bilateral conversations aimed to better comprehend each NOC's current capacities, priorities and needs; in turn, identifying possible opportunities across the most relevant EU Funding Programmes and synergies between NOCs in future.

Furthermore, the EOC General Assembly has been an opportunity for the EOC EU Office to disseminate the scope and activities of the GAMES project to all attending ENOCs. This is to further contribute to boosting NOCs' knowledge and capacity to become powerful "game-changers" in embracing and promoting gender equality in sports leadership across Europe. Indeed, GAMES is a 24-month project funded by the Erasmus+ Programme, which aims to improve gender equality in the key leadership and decision-making positions of NOCs by promoting structural changes in their governance, enhancing the understanding of the existing cultural barriers and encouraging the NOCs to work with their member federations to create a sustainable change.

The 51st General Assembly of the EOC was concluded by the EOC President Capralos who reiterated the key role of European NOCs in promoting unity and cohesion. Accordingly, the next EOC General Assembly is expected to be hosted by the NOC of Turkey in Istanbul in October 2023.



EU Sport Forum 2022 joins European and international sport stakeholders in Lille



The European Commission's flagship event, the EU Sport Forum, took place in Lille on 16 and 17 June.

The annual event features sports organisations, representatives of the EU institutions and Member-States exchanging their views on current and future sports policies. The backdrop of this year's Sport Forum was "European Sport: Fair, Inclusive and Fit for a Sustainable Future"

This year again, a good number of speakers represented the European Olympic Movement throughout the opening session and different panels, making sure the ideas of the organised sport movement are disseminated.

Welcoming address: Ukraine, European Sports Model and Erasmus+

The welcoming address was given by Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, where she assumed a commitment to try to be more effective in the EU's support to Ukrainian sport, because the values of sport are the universal values promoted and advocated by Europe itself.

Ms. Gabriel later made reference to the importance of the European Sports Model and gave concrete examples of how the EU is developing to support this model, referencing the HealthyLifestyle4All Initiative and the future Erasmus+ action on mobilisation and mentorships in sports, with an allocation of 8 million euros to begin in 2023 that will allow 2500 members of sports organisations to experience training in the four corners of Europe.

"Solidarity with Ukraine – contribution from sport High-level"

The session commenced with the intervention of the Ukrainian Minister for Youth and Sport, Vadym Huttsait, who outlined the key actions developed by sports organisations in support of Ukraine and Ukrainian athletes, detailing the current challenges and main priorities moving forward, asking for continuing support for Ukraine to join the EU. Sergii Bubka, President of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, gave an update on the situation of the response of international organisations in support of Ukraine, and highlighted the prompt response by the IOC when condemning the attacks and the establishment of a solidarity fund to support the Olympic family of Ukraine. He also praised the great support of ENOCs, that helped Ukraine and the various sports events hosted since the invasion.

"European Sport: fair, inclusive and fit for the future"

The session addressed the current priorities in the field of European sport with an emphasis on inclusiveness, equality and solidarity as key principles and values of a European sports model, with interventions by Spyros Capralos, President of the European Olympic Committees, Francesco Ricci Bitti, President of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mary Charalambous, Director General of the Cyprus Sport Organisation.

Mr. Capralos referred that, despite the challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Olympic movement was able to organise successfully two Olympic Games. He then went on to emphasize the spirit of solidarity of the sports family towards Ukraine, with special reference to the Winter Youth Olympics and role of youth. Climate change was also highlighted as a top priority in the Olympic agenda and how important it is for the Olympic movement to take specific actions to reduce carbon footprint.



High-level panel: "Sustainable sport: delivering on the European Green Deal and the New European Bauhaus"

Speakers included MEP Tomasz Frankowski, President of the French Paralympic and Sports Committee, Marie-Amelie Le Fur along with acting Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU) President Leonz Eder.

They emphasised the significance of sustainable sport when it comes to delivering on the European Green Deal and the New European Bauhaus, advocating for a more conceptual approach in sport policy making in order to instil holistic change that promotes sustainability and is in line with the Bauhaus approach. The opportunity provided by the Olympic Games when it comes to delivering the Games in sustainably responsible ways was also outlined by speakers.

Key principles and values of a European Sport Model – Q&A

In a parallel session regarding the European Commission's study on the European Sport Model (see dedicated article), the speaker James Sennett gave an account of the key findings of the study.

“Empowering Athletes” and “Drive equality, diversity & inclusion in sport”

In the “Empowering Athletes” panel, speakers talked about the challenges of athlete's post-career and what are the opportunities for athletes. The panel “Drive equality, diversity & inclusion in sport” focused on gender equality in sport, including the participation of LGBTQI+ people in sport and participation of transgender athletes in organised sport and discussing in detail the report by the High-Level Group on Gender Equality.

The role of sport in defending and promoting European fundamental values was further outlined in a panel session featuring representatives from the Ministry of Sport of Slovenia, Football Supporters Europe and Sports Rights Owners Coalition.

The role of sport across various levels in the imparting and transmission of fundamental values was widely acknowledged. It was also highlighted how the fundamental values promoted through sport are threatened by ongoing commercial interests and how sport needs to be protected from these emergent commercially driven challenges that undermine underpinning principles of the European Sport Model such as solidarity principle.

The event was followed with a panel on European Commission representatives on initiatives on sport and the Erasmus+, with Floor van Houdt, Head of the Sport Unit, DG EAC, European Commission and Luciano Di Fonzo, Deputy Head of Erasmus Mundus, Sport, European Education and Culture Executive Agency, referencing the vital role of Erasmus+ programme in support of sport stakeholders.

The closing of the event was marked with an overview of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the chapter of sports by Amélie Oudéa-Castéra, Minister of Sport and Olympic and Paralympic Games of France, followed with participants on the upcoming Presidency of the Czech Republic, outlining their plan for the next 6 months.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[EU Sport Forum Programme](#)

[EU Sport Forum Recordings](#)

European Commission's study on the European Sports Model examines current threats to organised sports

A [study on the European Sports Model](#) (ESM) conducted by consultants Ecorys and Kea upon request of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, was published in late May. The study arises after several months of intense political and public debate at European level on the impact of closed sports competitions at sports organisational level and highlights the essential features of the ESM.

The European Commission's (EC) 2007 [White Paper on Sport](#) initially identified the key characteristics of the ESM, stemming the [EU Work Plan on Sport 2021-2024](#) which features the ESM as a key topic. This resolution mandated the EC to study the impact of closed sports competitions on the system of organised sport, to look at the possible challenges faced by European sport organisations and federations in applying this model, and to assess how recent trends are affecting the model more generally.

It focused its research on 15 selected sports: archery, athletics, basketball, cycling, football, handball, ice hockey, ice skating, judo, rowing, rugby, swimming, tennis, triathlon and volleyball.

The core features of how sports are coordinated in most European countries in an organised and competitive setting (excluding more informal sport and physical activity participation), can be categorised as such, according to the authors:

- A pyramidal structure for the organisation of sport and sport competitions (from grassroots to national and international levels and a central role for sport federations);
- A system of open competitions based on the principle of promotion/relegation;

- Financial solidarity which facilitates financial transfers between different levels and operators, specifically from the top to the bottom of the pyramid;
- Autonomy and independence of sporting organisations and representative bodies, guided by good-governance principles and practices;
- Structures based on voluntary activity;

The prime objective of the study on the ESM is to provide a more informed evidence-based background on how this model is applied in practice, mapping how it is evolving in terms of sport governance regulations, finances and practices across different sports over time and in which forms it is adapting and bringing continued value in response to the most recent economic and societal trends.



This document will, therefore, serve as a baseline study for future political discussions, regarding policy actions at European level, reiterating the common understanding of what the model aims to represent, whilst providing transparency for stakeholders and authorities in the field of sport.

The key findings highlighted the broad consensus on the continued relevance of the referred above principles, but also the differences on how the model is applied across different sports (e.g. the adequacy of the standardised pyramidal model in addressing complex governance issues). Another underlying theme that emerged from the research concerned the role of the public sector, emerging as an important theme when addressing commercialisation pressures, ensuring the sustainability of grassroots sports and acting as promoter of good governance, good practices and inclusivity.

As for the trends, authors underline positive developments that reinforce the model (i. e good governance), but also recognising emerging threats that may undermine it (for example, commercialisation when related to individual profit-driven motives and the increased concentration of revenues at the top tiers of the pyramid). Some gaps were also identified, such as the lack of specific promotion on European values (e.g., democracy, labour rights, human rights).

After active involvement in the works on this study, the EOC EU Office welcomes the document, especially on the merits of the current model in concern to solidarity and support of grassroots sports and programmes, promotion of inclusivity, the adoption of good governance and ethics principles across sport federations, the pointed-out discrepancies on the involvement of athletes' representatives in the organisational structure of European sports and the importance of voluntarily activity.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Study on the European sport mode I- A report to the European Commission](#)

Sustainability and accessibility of sport infrastructure a priority of the Czech Presidency



During her closing speech at the EU Sport Forum held earlier this month in Lille (for more details see page 11), the new French Minister of Sport and the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Amélie Oudéa-Castéra officially handed over the Presidency baton in the area of EU sport policy to Filip Neusser, Head of the Czech National Sport Agency.

Indeed, the Presidency Trio – France, Czech Republic and Sweden – do form a proverbial relay as each country follows-up and builds on the results of its predecessor to advance EU sport policy and cooperation in their common priority area: sustainability in sport.

The French Presidency approached this priority from a holistic point of view focusing both on sustainable development in and through sport and on environmental and climate aspects of the practice of sport and the organisation of sport and sports events.

The [Czech Presidency](#), which has officially started on 1 July 2022, will move from this holistic level to the particular topic of sport infrastructure and will explore its sustainability and accessibility.

It is the first time this topic has made it on the discussion and negotiations table of the Council of the EU, and one would say that it was about time. The issues, in particular, of the considerable reconstruction backlog, raising energy prices, climate change or accessibility challenges weight on most, if not all, EU Member States. The EOC EU Office therefore warmly welcomes the initiative of the Czech Republic to dedicate the main part of its Presidency programme in the area of sport to this very important topic.

But what is ahead of us in concrete terms in the next 6 months?

The Czech Presidency has decided to follow the example of its Slovenian predecessors, who held the Presidency reins one year ago, and concrete most of its sport-related events and activities to the month of September.

- 21 September – Meeting of Sport Directors
- 22 September – Presidency Conference on Sustainable and Accessible Sport Infrastructure
- 23 September – Opening of the European Week of Sport

The policy work of the Presidency will mainly focus on the development of Council Conclusion on Sustainable and Accessible Sport infrastructure, which sport ministers of EU Member States should adopt at the end of November 2022. Besides sport infrastructure, the Presidency will also open the topic of positive values and the role top athletes can play in promoting these values in their societies. Generally speaking, the Czech Republic will have to deal with a number of major challenges during its Presidency ranging from security implications of the war in Ukraine, through the negotiation of climate-related legislation (for more information, see page 17), to energy security and increasing energy prices. In this context, and from the sport movement's point of view, it was all the more significant that the first public event of the Presidency in Brussels was dedicated to sport – [5k Friendship Run in Pairs](#) - which symbolised the power of sport to create friendships and bring people together, and signalled the hand-over of the Presidency reins from France to the Czech Republic. The Czech Olympic Committee contributed to the organisation of the event.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Study on the European sport mode I- A report to the European Commission](#)

Restriction of the use of lead in ammunition supported by European Chemicals Agency's committees, derogation for sports shooting under discussion

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)'s Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) and Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) have both announced their support to the [initial restriction proposal](#) on the use of lead in ammunition for hunting, outdoor sports and fishing.

The RAC states that the use of lead in these activities poses a risk "that is not adequately controlled" and that its restriction would reduce risks to people, wildlife and the environment.

After assessing the risks of lead to wildlife and human health, the RAC concludes that lead presents risks to vulnerable populations, including disturbances for children's neurological development.

According to SEAC, the proposal is appropriate to address risks and ensure sufficient protection for people, wildlife and the environment.

A possible derogation is being discussed for lead gunshot in outdoor sports shooting.

The derogation would allow sports shooting with lead bullets of all calibers to continue if sand traps or trap chambers are set at all shooting sites, five years after practice, and if owners of shooting sites notify Member States of their location and make sure that no agricultural activities take place there, 18 months after entry into force. RAC considers that “enforcement of the restriction would be simplified if this derogation was not implemented”, which is in line with the ECHA’s preferred option. Should the decision-makers decide to grant the derogation, both SEAC and RAC suggest that it should be limited to gunshots sizes following rules of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), i.e. shot sizes between 1.9 and 2.6 mm. With this, SEAC and RAC wish to retain the advantages of a ban on placing on the market of lead gunshot as much as possible.

Following the consultation held by SEAC until 29 June, the committee will adopt its final opinion in December 2022, after which both committees’ opinions will be sent to the European Commission in early 2023. EU Member States, the European Commission and the European Parliament will then start the discussion process on the restriction.

The restriction of lead in ammunition for hunting, outdoor sports and fishing was initially proposed by the European Chemicals Agency in February 2021, following estimations of the impact of lead poisoning and exposition on human health, wildlife and the environment. It is to be noted that military, police or security uses of lead ammunition is excluded from this proposal.



Source: Paris2024

FURTHER INFORMATION

[ECHA Risk Assessment Committee’s press release](#)

[ECHA Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis’ press release](#)

[ECHA Questions and Answers](#)

EU institutions set to start negotiating texts of the energy and environment Fit for 55 package

The Council of the EU and the European Parliament have both adopted their respective negotiating positions on several legislative proposals under the Fit for 55 package, close to one year after the European Commission presented the set of texts aimed at cutting the EU’s greenhouse gas emissions.

Carbon market, forestry and vehicles CO2 emissions

On 28 June, European Environment Ministers met in Luxembourg to adopt a common position on some of the Fit for 55 package’s files related to the carbon market (the EU Emissions Trading Scheme – EU-ETS),

the CO2 emissions of cars and vans, land use and forestry (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry – LULUCF Regulation), and funding for the transition (the Social Climate Fund – SCF).

This Council agreement follows [votes](#) in the European Parliament on the institution’s position on the same texts on 22 June, after Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) had first failed to reach an agreement on 8 June, on the ground of different ambition levels for the concerned measures. MEPs had however managed to agree on the European Commission’s proposal to ban new fossil fuelled cars and light commercial vehicles by 2035.

With the [Social Climate Fund](#), EU institutions aim to help vulnerable households and micro-enterprises and transport users sustain the costs of the energy transition and the creation of the emissions trading system for the buildings and road transport sectors. Support will be provided through income support measures (reduction of energy taxes and fees) to tackle the fuel price increase and investment (incentives, vouchers, zero-interest loans) in buildings renovation, decarbonation of heating and air-conditioning, renewable energy, car-sharing or active transport. Following divisions over the size of the SCF, Member States have agreed on an amount of 59 billion euros for 2027-2032, to which all Member States would have access.

With the upcoming new rules on CO2 emissions for cars and vans, EU institutions plan on effectively [banning new combustion engine car sales from 2035](#), to speed Europe's shift to electric vehicles. The [Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation \(AFIR\)](#) will be accordingly revised to provide sufficient recharging infrastructure for drivers across the continent.

Environment Ministers also reached an agreement on a legislative proposal to reduce the consumption of products coming from supply chains linked to deforestation.



Renewable energies and energy efficiency

The previous day, Energy Ministers agreed on their position on legislative proposals that tackle the energy aspects of the Fit for 55 package, namely the revised [Renewable Energies Directive](#) (RED) and [Energy Efficiency Directive](#) (EED). With this deal, the Council agreed on:

- A target of 40% of energy from renewable sources in the EU's overall energy mix by 2030 (compared to the current 32% objective), including sector-specific targets (i.e. transport, heating and cooling, industry, buildings).
- A 36% reduction of the EU's final energy consumption by 2030, with a gradual increase of the energy savings target for final energy consumption and specific, higher obligations for the public sector.

To get there, EU Member States will be asked to review their national energy and climate plans in 2023 and 2024 to reach the new EU target. It is also worth noting that a proportional share of energy savings would be focused on vulnerable consumers.

Next steps

With this, the Council and the European Parliament are set to start negotiations in the autumn to fine-tune these legislative proposals before they can apply throughout the EU. It is to be expected that the European Parliament will ask for a more ambitious approach from Member States.

Discussions will be impacted by the global energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the effects of which the European Commission hopes to mitigate with the REPowerEU Plan. This plan aims at making Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels as quickly as possible, taking into account the energy savings and clean energy production necessities. Planned measures include the rapid roll out of solar and wind energy projects, the increased production of biomethane and hydrogen, higher energy efficiency targets for the transport sector.

EU funding opportunities will be unlocked to accompany the Plan.

Impact for sport organisations

While these measures seem far away from the sports sector, the new targets will have a major impact on all sectors, including sport. Sport organisations and all actors in the sport sector will need to contribute to the transition through more energy-efficient sport infrastructures, the installation of renewable energies systems, fully-electric cars and vans fleets. On the other side, small sport organisations could also benefit from the Social Climate Fund and other funding opportunities for their projects. The EOC EU Office will follow closely the development of these files and its impact on the sports sector.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Background information on the Fit for 55 package \(Council of the EU\)](#)

[Infographics on the Fit for 55 package \(Council of the EU\)](#)

[Energy Council press release](#)

[Environment Council press release](#)

[European Parliament's press release](#)

[Background information on REPowerEU \(European Commission\)](#)



PARTNERS' CORNER

Danish NOC launches Sports Political Power Index



The Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee of Denmark (DIF) has developed the Sports Political Power Index to provide a picture of how Denmark is performing in relation to other countries, and to identify which nations DIF ought to cooperate with.

To simplify the vast dataset, it's split in two – A European and a Global/International window. You can view the 2021-ranking and the developments from 2013-2021, 2015-2021, 2017-2021 and 2019-2021.

It's also possible to sort all nations' rank by sport, continent and international/European points. Lastly one can see the ranking on a map and find the scores related to per capita and GDP.

You can view the report with conclusions [here](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Full report with conclusions](#)

[Digital version](#)

Denmark has again registered the executive committee members of more than 100 international and European sports federations.

Countries can use the digital version available on [DIF's website](#) to check their ranking and their development from 2013 and forward.



UPCOMING EVENTS

08 July 2022

EOC EU Office away-day

19 July 2022

Publication of the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions

24 - 30 July 2022

European Youth Olympic Festival - Slovakia

23 - 29 September 2022

European Week of Sport - EU



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