



European Union and Sport

European Parliament: Fisas Report on Communication on Sport; Creutzmann Report on Online Gambling 2

Evaluation of "Preparatory Actions and Special Events in the field of Sport" 3



EU policy matters

European Court of Justice confirms online gambling monopoly in Austria 4

Communication on Volunteering published 4

Council of Europe adopted recommendation on: Promotion of integrity of sport and match-fixing 5



Funding programs and studies

Study on the economic and legal aspects of transfers of players 5

Study on a possible future sport monitoring function in the EU 6

European Year of Volunteering 2011 Alliance – Working towards a true legacy for EYV 2011 6

At a glance / Internal

ENGSO ExCom convenes in Brussels 7

New EOC EU Office Member from ENGSO 8

Dates in October 8



European Union and Sport

European Parliament: Fisas Report on Communication on Sport; Creutzmann Report on Online-Gambling

The European Parliament is approaching the last phase before the adoption of two important reports by the end of 2011: The first initiative is the report prepared by Santiago FISAS on the Communication of the European Commission on Sport from January 2011. The second initiative is the report currently prepared by Jürgen CREUTZMANN on "Online gambling in the Internal Market", following the Green Paper of the European Commission in this matter.



Evolution of the FISAS Report on the Communication of the European Commission on Sport

On 22 June 2011, Mr. FISAS presented his draft report to the CULT-Committee of the European Parliament (see Monthly report June 2011). Since then, six committees of the European Parliament have closely followed the process and adopted opinions based on this initiative.

An important step of the process was reached on 9 September 2011, when the European Parliament published 339 amendments proposed by various MEPs, covering every single aspects of the draft report. With the notable exception of a very strong and unanimous support towards the future EU sport programme, these amendments reflect well the political divisions within the European Parliament.

The timeline is the following: Until the adoption of the report during the Plenary Session of the European Parliament in

Strasbourg, scheduled for 14 November 2011, the CULT-committee shall consolidate the report by adopting the proposed amendments on 5 October 2011.

Evolution of the CREUTZMANN Report on online gambling in the Internal Market

On 22 June 2011, the very same day Mr. FISAS presented his draft report on the Communication of the European Commission on Sport, the European Parliament (Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection, IMCO) published the draft report on "Online gambling in the internal market", prepared by the rapporteur Mr. CREUTZMANN. It is notable that the draft report contains brief references to sport, with regards to the integrity and the funding of sport in general.

Following the same procedure as for the FISAS report, the IMCO Committee published on 8 September 2011 a list of 272 amendments which will be subject to a vote in the coming weeks. A large part of these amendments refers to sport issues, covering also the intellectual property aspects inherent to sport betting and the international cooperation between sport actors on the preservation of the integrity of sport. The final report shall also reveal whether the European Parliament invites the



September 2011

European Commission to initiate a legislative measure in the field of online gambling.

The final adoption of the report is also scheduled for 14 November 2011, during the Plenary Session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The IMCO-committee shall consolidate the report on 5 October 2011.

Further information:

[GREEN PAPER On on-line gambling in the Internal Market](#)

[European dimension in sport](#)

[Search for amendments](#)

Please search for "sport" and "gambling"

Evaluation of Preparatory Actions and Special Events in the Field of Sport

End of July the European Commission published on their website an assessment of the "Preparatory Actions and Special Events in the Field of Sport financed in the years 2009 and 2010". The Preparatory Actions have been the main funding instrument in the field of sport for the years 2009-2011 due to the fact that a sport funding programme will not be in place before 2014.

Looking favorably upon the impact and outcome of the funded projects and studies, the authors conclude that the positive impact would be even higher and more efficient with a higher annual budget within the framework of a future sport funding programme. According to the evaluation, the bulk (75%) of future funding should be dedicated to transnational networking projects, while support of sport events should amount to 20%, and 5% should be spent on studies, surveys conferences and seminars.

The Olympic Movement took note that the EYOF in Liberec and Tampere got a very positive assessment as well. The evaluation also provides recommendations to the European Commission for future incentive measures in the field of sport, such as to:

- *Ensure that sport stakeholders are consulted on the potential topics to be addressed by studies and surveys*

- *Fund projects in all relevant areas on an ongoing basis*
- *Share project ownership equally among project partners and to assign financial responsibility to more than one organization*
- *Outsource the administration to an Executive Agency*
- *Use a competitive process to select the special events that receive EU support*
- *Increase the duration of projects up to three years*
- *Arrange a workshop with all project coordinators after the Preparatory Actions.*

It will now remain to be seen how the specific recommendations will be taken into consideration by the Commission. The Commission is expected to precise its proposal for the future EU sport funding programme in November 2011.

Further information:

[Evaluation of Preparatory Actions and Special Events in the Field of Sport](#)



EU-policy matters

European Court of Justice confirms online gambling monopoly in Austria

The European Court of Justice stated in its judgment (C-347/09 Dickinger) published on 15 September that the Austrian online gambling monopoly is in conformity with EU-law. A member state may grant only one license to offer online gambling services to one service provider. This practice can be justified for reasons to safeguard the general interest. The following

major principles of the judgment are highlighted:

- EU member states may set up (online) gambling monopolies to fight crime and money laundering activities.
- Legally established gambling operators may moderately advertise their gambling business if it aims at diverting consumers from illegal gambling offers.

- A gambling license of one EU member state does not have to be necessarily recognized by another EU member state. Due to the lack of harmonized legislation at EU level, there is no obligation of mutual recognition of permissions of other EU member states.

Background:

The Austrian gambling operator "bet-at-home" owns a Maltese gambling license and offers online casino games in Austria. However, these casino games offered by "bet-at-home" fall under the Austrian gambling act which reserve this right (to offer such games) only to the Austrian gambling license holder. This is the reason why a criminal law suit has been filed against "bet-at-home".

For further information: [Press release](#)

Communication on Volunteering published

In the context of the European Year of Volunteering 2011 the European Commission (EC) published a communication "EU Policies and Volunteering: Recognizing and Promoting Cross-border Voluntary Activities in the EU". Sport is defined as the biggest area for volunteering, followed by social care, welfare and health. Additionally, the EU recognizes the role of volunteering as a creator of human and social capital. Consequently, the EU proposed the creation of a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps, which is currently being set up, and

the development of a "European Skills Passport". The proposed "European Skills Passport" shall acknowledge the skills and competences acquired through voluntary activities.

In a number of EU funding programmes like Youth in Action, Lifelong Learning or Europe for Citizens, volunteer projects can be supported. The EU has made it their goal to improve access to these programmes for volunteers.



September 2011

This should allow the volunteering sector to fully exploit the European funding opportunities.

Further information:

[Official website for the European Year of Volunteering](#)

Communication on Volunteering:

<http://europa.eu/volunteering/en/download/file/fid/6827>

Council of Europe adopted recommendation on the promotion of the integrity on sport and match-fixing

On September 28 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted a recommendation on “the promotion of the integrity of sport against manipulation of results, notably match-fixing”.

The document focuses on activities of all stakeholders involved such as betting companies, governments and sport federations and emphasizes better information exchange and co-operation. It also deals with legislative matters and law

enforcement. The activities of the Council of Europe complement recent initiatives from the IOC and the European Union. The latter will deal with match fixing in the new expert group on Good Governance set up by the European Sport Ministers in May 2011.

Further information:

[Full Recommendation](#)

Funding programs and studies

Study on the economic and legal aspects of transfers of players

On 28 July the European Commission launched a tender for a „Study on the Economic and Legal Aspects of Transfers of Players“.

According to the Commission the study intends to:

- Map the situation concerning the different sporting rules on transfers in team sports in Europe, namely in the field of labour law
- Analyse the functioning of these rules (how transfers, both national and international, work in practice)

- Provide an overview of relevant disputes and dispute resolutions including relevant case law (especially in football)
- Analyse the compatibility of transfer rules and practice with EU law (internal market and competition)
- Assess the economic value of transfers in team sports in Europe
- Assess the efficiency of transfer regulations with regard to their objectives
- Examine issues linked to the economic aspects of transfers (e.g. money laundering, corruption, fraud)



September 2011

- Evaluate efforts made by public and private bodies to improve transparency in this field
- Provide recommendations concerning the opportunity of EU action to address the identified problems.

of the study are expected to be published by April 2013.

Further information:

[European Commission Website](#)

Interested bidders can submit their requests to participate by 30 September. The results

Study on a possible future sport monitoring function in the EU

On 28 July the European Commission launched a tender for a „Study on a Possible Future Sport Monitoring Function in the EU“. The objective of the study is to analyze the feasibility of establishing a sport monitoring function in the EU to analyse trends, collect data, interpret statistics, facilitate research, launch surveys and studies as well as to promote the exchange of information.

The study shall map existing processes and relevant networks active in these fields at national, transnational and European levels and identify gaps that could be addressed by a possible sport monitoring function as a means to improve the knowledge-base for sport in the EU. The study is to assess ways to carry out sport monitoring within the EU in three main fields:

- Sport and health (e.g. health-enhancing physical activity)

- Societal aspects of sport (e.g. participation in sport);
- Sport's economic dimension (e.g. employment in sport).

The study should develop concrete ideas for the establishment of a sport monitoring function to support policy making in the EU, including its possible scope and activities, as well as working methods linked to EU policy and the institutional framework.

Interested bidders can hand in their requests to participate by 23 September. The results of the study are expected to be published by the end of 2012.

Further information:

[European Commission Website](#)

European Year of Volunteering 2011 Alliance - Working towards a true legacy for EYV 2011

The European Year of Volunteering 2011 (EYV2011) Alliance Steering group held a meeting on 29 September and working groups met on 30 September and 1 October in Brussels. Key issue on the agenda of all these groups was the legacy of the year. The Steering group and the working groups have been drafting a "Policy Agenda on

Volunteering in Europe" so (P.A.V.E) during the year. The Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe (P.A.V.E) provides policy recommendations for a more efficient and effective policy framework in Europe to support and promote volunteers, volunteering, volunteer-involving organisations and their partners. Its aim is



September 2011

to secure the legacy for EYV 2011 in terms of cross-cutting policy recommendations to different stakeholders. The Steering group will adopt the final P.A.V.E at its next meeting on 17 November.

As part of the official programme of the EYV2011, the European Commission has been organising a series of conferences on

volunteering during the year. There are still two conferences coming. A conference on the quality of volunteering, targeting civil society organisations will be organised on 3-4 November in Athens. Finally, the closing conference will sum up the EYV 2011 in Warsaw in early December.

At a glance/ Internal

ENGSO ExCom convenes in Brussels

Members of the ENGSO Executive Committee met in Brussels on 9-10 September in order to discuss the upcoming ENGSO Forum. Thanks to the organization of the Belgium Olympic Committee the Forum 2011 will take place on 13-14 October in Brussels. The Forum will be

hosted by the European Parliament on 13 October and feature a hearing on volunteering in sport with prominent speakers including members of the European Parliament. On 14 October, besides workshops on "Sport and Employment" and "Sport as Health Promoter" a roundtable of European sport organizations is scheduled to discuss issues of common interest.





September 2011

New EOC EU Office Member from ENGSO



On 1 September 2011 Heidi Pekkola started as new ENGSO Policy and Communication Officer, succeeding Anna-Mari Hämäläinen. Heidi Pekkola previously worked at the Finnish Sports Federation. She has been previously involved in ENGSO activities through her work at the Finnish Sports Federation.

Her principal duties will include supporting ENGSO and its working groups in political matters, external and internal communication, and being a manager of the ENGSO project "Creating a Level Playing Field".

Heidi can be reached by email at pekkola@euoffice.eurolympic.org or by phone at +32 2 738 0325.

Dates in October

- 04. EOC EU Office Board Meeting, Brussels
- 05. EOC EU Commission Meeting, Brussels
- 04-05. "Create a Level Playing Field" Conference, Extremadura
- 13-14. Informal Sport Minister Council, Krakow
- 13-14. ENGSO Forum, Brussels

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