

– The House of European Sport –

Tweets of the month



EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice

27 April

Thank you for the meeting!
#EOC Athletes' Commission
looks forward to stronger
dialogue with
[@EU_Commission](#) [@EuSport](#)

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice

26 April

Meeting of Olympic Athletes'
Commissions with
[@EU_Commission](#) as part of
#EUAthletesSeminar in
Brussels [@EuSport](#)

EOC EU Office

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25 April.

Opening of the #EU seminar for
[@EOCmedia](#) [@iocmedia](#)
#NOC athletes by
[@ClaudiaBokel](#) and
[#JeanMichelSaive](#)
[@kavehmehrabi](#)

EOC EU Office

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14 April

Volunteering is crucial in the
field of sport. Yet volunteering
is not accepted as contribution
in kind. Any change upcoming?
[#AskNavracsics](#)

SIGGS Project

@SIGGS_EU

13 April

First #SIGGS Strategic
Workshop in Lithuania
successfully concluded!
[#GoodGovernance](#)
[@EOCEUOffice](#) [@EOSE_skills](#)

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

After four years of negotiations the legal framework on data protection has recently been adopted. Despite the fact that the “General Data Protection Regulation” will only enter into force in 2018, sport organisations have to become active now! The transfer of sensitive data by sport organisations, e.g. in the fight against doping and match-fixing, are not backed by the regulation. In all EU Member States without respective laws on doping or match-fixing additional legal acts are required. Their inclusion in the definition of “Public Interest” would provide a sufficient legal basis of transferring sensitive data of athletes. Consequently, National Olympic Committees and other umbrella sport organisations are requested to enter into contact with their respective governments in order to safeguard an appropriate legal way to collect and transfer sensitive data in the future.

The issue of data protection is only one of many European Union policy fields with a strong impact on sport. The reform of the Digital Single Market could jeopardise the existing models of the selling of media rights that are based on territorial exclusivity. The new firearms directive could harm the shooting federations and the application of antitrust policy to sport is attacking the pyramidal structure of sport. Following state aid rules non-profit sport clubs are regarded as undertakings as soon as they conduct economic activities and private actors provide similar services.

The above mentioned examples demonstrate that the organised sport in Europe has to raise its voice in order to illustrate its societal and economic added value for all of us.

The visit of representatives from international, European and national Athletes’ Commissions in Brussels last week was a step in the right direction. You only get heard if you are present and willing to enter into (sometimes) difficult discussions at European level.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Folker Hellmund', written in a cursive style.

Folker Hellmund

Director EOC EU Office

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EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

Match fixing, a threat to sport? EP Sport intergroup meeting

On 6 April 2016, the Sport Intergroup of the European Parliament met for a conference on match-fixing. The agenda was divided into two panels. The first panel focused on the fight against match-fixing from the side of public authorities, whereas the second panel took up the relationship between sport and the betting industry.

After a general introduction by MEPs Hannu Takkula (ALDE) and Bodgan Wenta (PPE), the first panel started with a discussion moderated by Simon Kuper (Financial Times) gathering Yves Le Lostecque, head of EU Sport Unit, Corinne Gatt (Malta Gambling Authority), Mikhael De Thyse (Council of Europe), Charles Coppolani (ARJEL) and Nick Tofiluk (UK Gambling Commission).

Each speaker gave a short overview about their activities in the field of fight against match-fixing.

Yves Le Lostecque, started by stating that many initiatives has already been taken by the EU and by the Member States. Furthermore, he highlighted the importance the topic for the EU by referring to the two expert groups established in this regards. He finally mentioned that, despite the willingness of the European Commission to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Manipulation of Sport Competitions, the process is still in complicated discussions at Council level.

Corinne Gatt underlined the work already done by the Malta Gambling authorities while stressing that the country was working on the implementation of the national platform foreseen in the Council of Europe Convention. She finally expressed her optimism regarding the future of fight against match fixing in Malta as a new legislation should reinforce the capacity of the national authorities.

As there is a need for global approach on the issue, Mikhael De Thyse (secretary of the follow-up Committee on match-fixing), stated that all countries should increase the cooperation. He stressed the need to fasten ratification and implementation process of the Convention by EU Member States.

The new president of the French betting regulatory authority (ARJEL), Charles Coppolani, stated that the role of betting authorities is only to ensure the integrity of the betting while the integrity of the competition remains in the hand of the sport organisations. ARJEL has adopted a dual approach to fight against match fixing: on a one hand a strategy on the prevention of the risk and on a on the other hand a focus on risk management.

Finally, the last speaker of the first panel, Nick Tofiluk, exposed the new action plan set-up in the UK. Tofiluk urged the Council of the EU to speed up the process regarding the EU signing of the Council of Europe Convention.

Following a remark of the co-chair of the intergroup, Santiago Fisas (EPP), the panelists agreed on the importance to strengthen the involvement of athletes in the different mechanisms.

The second panel, moderated by Jan Hauspie, editor of Sport/Voetbalmagazine, dealt with the relationship between sports actors and the betting industry. Among the speakers were Jean-Francois Reymond (EU-Athletes), Mark Lichtenhein (Sports Rights Owners Coalition), Jutta Buyse (European Lotteries) and Khalid Ali (European Sports Security Associations). While EU Athletes stressed the importance of education and prevention, Lichtenhein expressed the need for a legal agreement between sport and betting

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operators. He also mentioned the need of educative programme for athletes aiming at raise their awareness on the risk behind the combination of sport and betting.

Then, the European Lotteries detailed its mission to promote sustainable gaming models fall around Europe. According to Buyse the relationship between sport and the betting industry mainly exists through sponsoring. She also listed the development of an international cooperation to

detect irregular betting patterns, the creation of code of conducts, the promotion of anti-money laundering as well as the promotion of the convention as objectives pursuing by the European Lotteries.

The next intergroup meeting will take place on 28 June and will be dedicated to EU Financing programs for sport.

Expert Group “Economic Dimension of Sport” discussed deliverable on sustainable financing of sport and investment

On 19 and 20 April, the Council Expert Group on Economic Dimension of Sport hold its 4th meeting, in Brussels.

As the two first deliverables of this expert group, respectively on economic benefits of sport and legacy of major sport events, have been finalised at the end of 2015, the meeting focus on the third deliverable on investments into sport, including EU funding and sustainable financing of sport.

A presentation by the rapporteur and an exchange of views on the draft report of the third deliverable opened the first day of the meeting with observers. The first part of the presentation was an analysis of the results of the survey on “*investment in sport facilities and clusters among the EU Members States*”. All the experts agreed on the difficulties to have a comprehensive overview of the topic, due to the considerable diversity of Members States’ definition of “sport facilities”.

Then, the first draft of the “*practical guidance on how to encourage transparent and long term investment in sport, including EU funding, based inter alia on recommendations on sustainable financing of sport, including state aid*” has been

presented. Fruitful discussions took place on both the general structure of the document and the recommendations made to the different actors targeted. In this regard the EOC EU Office expressed some concerns regarding the lack of emphasis on organised sport, asking for a better balance, in the document, between topics of private investments and the sustainable financing of sport.

The second part of the day was dedicated to an assessment of the work of the XG ECO and an exchange of view regarding the future priorities of the new EU work plan for Sport, especially from the observers’ point of view. Observers generally thanked the chair and the experts for having offered them extensive opportunities to express their views during the different meetings, while regretting that the second day was always reserved only to experts.

On the second day, the XG ECO discussed the third deliverables and the assessment of the XG ECO again, without the observers.

A new draft will circulate between the experts to finalise this deliverable and then conclude the work of the XG ECO.

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EOC EU Office organises EU Seminar for Olympic Athletes' Commissions

Organised by the EOC EU Office at 25/26 April European athletes' representatives from the Olympic Movement, led by IOC Athletes' Commission Chair Claudia Bokel and EOC Athletes' Commission Chair Jean-Michel Saive, attended the seminar in Brussels to discuss challenges and opportunities for Olympic athletes' representations at European level. Rozle Prezelj, Chair of the IAAF Athletes' Commission, also took part in the meeting.

In their introduction Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, and Jean-Michel Saive stressed the importance of better communication and higher professionalization of the Athletes' Commissions. The group shared their experiences and views and discussed a common position paper on relevant topics such as dual careers, good governance and integrity of sport. The work on the position paper will be finalised in the upcoming weeks.

Furthermore, the athletes had the opportunity to meet and exchange views with representatives of the EU Commission, including Jens Nymand-Christensen, Deputy Director General of DG EAC, Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit, and Szabolcs Horvath, Cabinet member of Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. Jean-Michel Saive stressed the commitment of the EOC Athletes' Commission to strengthen their representation towards the EU



Institutions and to get involved in a more regular dialogue. Jens Nymand-Christensen welcomed the strong wish of the elected athletes to strengthen the dialogue, especially considering the many shared priorities. Both sides agreed that input from elected athletes is essential for EU policy making.

Finally, the group met with Members of the European Parliament: Santiago Fisas and Bogdan Wenta as Co-President and Member of the EP Sport Intergroup respectively. They discussed how the Athletes' Commissions can be more involved in the future activities of the European Parliament and in particular regarding the work of the Intergroup Sport.

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Final adoption of the EU data protection reform

On 27 April 2016, after four years of tough negotiations, the EU has finally adopted the data protection reform package including the “General Data Protection Regulation” and the “Data Protection Directive for Police and Criminal Justice Authorities”.

Updating the current rules adopted in 1995, this reform aims to strengthen citizens' fundamental rights in the digital age and facilitate business by simplifying rules for companies in the Digital Single Market. The main outcomes for citizens will be:

- A "right to be forgotten"
- Easier access to one's data
- Stronger enforcement of the rules
- A better control

The Olympic Movement has carefully followed the process leading to the adoption of this legislation. However, despite an intensive exchange with the

sport movement, the EU did not include a clear legal basis for the processing and the transfer of personal data, by sport organisations. In this regard only two options for sport organisations remain: 1. A separate national law or 2. The inclusion of the fight against doping and against match-fixing in the list of areas of public interest at national level.

The EU Data Protection Regulation specifies that the legal basis for the processing of data in the public interest must be provided by law of Member States. In this regard, it is crucial that each Member States include the fight against doping and the fight against match-fixing in their own definition of public interest, in order to provide legal certainty for sport organisations. EU Member States will have 2 years to implement this new framework, in their national legislation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Questions and Answers - Data protection reform](#)
[Press release European Commission](#)

FUNDING PROGRAMMES, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

SIGGS National Strategic Workshops kicked-off in Lithuania

On 13 April 2016, the SIGGS Project, which is coordinated by the EOC EU Office together with 11 partner organisations, organised the first SIGGS National Strategic Workshop, in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Workshop was attended by 20 participants from 7 national federations, the National Olympic Committee (NOC) and the Lithuanian Union of Sport Federations.

The Workshop was officially opened by the President of the NOC, Mrs. Diana Gudzinevičiūtė,



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who welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of implementing good governance principles. Following this welcome, Valentin Capelli and Matthias Van Baelen of the EOC EU Office provided a short introduction into the topic of good governance followed by an explanation on the objectives, methodology and activities of the SIGGS Project. Particular emphasis was put on the functionality of the Roadmaps and Action Plans which have been developed over recent months. Consequently, Aurélien Favre of EOSE presented the results of the first evaluation round that took place in October-November last year. In total, 10 Lithuanian sport organisations participated in the evaluation that was sent to 14 organisations.

Afterwards, two organisations presented their experiences with good governance in Lithuania. Under the title “rising power”, the Lithuanian Rugby Federation presented an interesting process towards better governance that started in 2013. With small steps regarding professional management and administration, they have managed to double the number of club members and to significantly professionalise the structure. In particular in financial arrangements and strategic planning, important changes have been made that lead to more financial capacity and better sportive results. The second presentation by Agne Vanagiene of the Lithuanian Union of Sport Federations concerned research done in the framework of a MEMOS dissertation on the

implementation of good governance in Lithuanian sport.

During the afternoon session, small group discussions were organised to evaluate the information provided earlier and to discuss the situation in Lithuanian sport federations. The discussions were structured around the question how to improve risk management, gender equality and liaison with athletes in Lithuania as the evaluation had shown that improvement can be made in this regard. They also touched upon how this could contribute to the activities on good governance planned at national level by the NOC and the Lithuanian Union of Sport Federations.

Finally, the second version of the self-evaluation tool with the option to consult the different Roadmaps and to obtain a customised Action Plan was launched in Lithuania.

With this first National Strategic Workshop, the SIGGS Project moves into a new phase of implementation. Over the next months, six additional Strategic Workshops will be organised in the various partner countries. The following Seminars have been confirmed already: Portugal (on 4 May), Slovenia (on 26 May), Belgium (on 7 June) and Turkey (on 10 October). The Seminars in Germany and Luxembourg will be confirmed shortly. In addition, a SIGGS Workshop will be organised for the 50 European NOCs during the EOC Seminar in Tarragona, Spain, on 20-21 May.

Sport organisations eligible for Erasmus+ social inclusion call

Sport organisations are eligible for the call for proposals ‘Social inclusion through education, training and youth’, launched under the Erasmus+ programme. Although the call for proposals specifically targets education, training and youth, sport is explicitly mentioned.

Selected projects will extend and share innovative good practices falling under the scope of the “Declaration on promoting citizenship and the

common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education”, also known as the Paris Declaration. This declaration, acknowledges the major role of education in tackling violent radicalisation and promoting inclusion. In this context, sport also plays a vital role in fostering mutual understanding and respect among young people and communities.

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The Erasmus+ social inclusion call provides a total budget of 13,000,000 € for relevant projects, whose duration is fixed to either 24 or 36 months and whose activities must start between 1 and 31 December 2016. The call guidelines and the application package are available on the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency website. The deadline for submissions is 30 May 2016.

MORE INFORMATION

[Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency website](#)
[Guidelines for applications](#)
[Paris Declaration on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education](#)

INTERNAL AND VISITS

EOC EU Office welcomed high level delegation from CNOSF

On 4 and 5 April, the French Olympic Committee (CNOSF) organised a visit in Brussels for the participants of its program “Parcours Ambition Internationale”. Created in 2013, this program intends to support, every year, French high representatives in their commitment and activities within European and international sport organisations.

The organisation of three seminars allows the participants to meet and to discuss with actors involved in international sport organisations. In addition, experts from different fields of activities (e.g. communication, economy, lobbying) are involved to the program with the aim to share their experiences, insights and practical advices with the participants.

After two sessions in Paris, respectively dedicated to the functioning of international sport organisations and how to lobby/ negotiate in an international environment, the final seminar aimed at getting more insight into EU sports policy as well as meeting representatives of EU institutions and sports stakeholders. The EOC EU Office provided support to facilitate the visit.

The first day of the program started with a visit of the European Parliament before the group joined the EOC EU Office. Three presentations, followed

by fruitful discussions, took place during the day.



Following a welcome of Folker Hellmund, Head of the EOC EU Office, Valentin Capelli, Policy Officer, presented the activities of the EOC EU Office, the relation of the Olympic Movement with EU institutions as well as several policy fields having an impact on sport including Digital Single Market, Data protection reform or Good Governance.

Then, Mathieu Fonteneau (MFO Consulting, ex EU Commission and CNOSF) provided the participants with a presentation of the financial possibilities existing for sport organisations at the European Level including Erasmus+ Sport and structural funds.

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The first day was concluded by a presentation of Alexandre Husting (Luxembourg permanent representation, in charge of sport issues). After an overview of the work done by the Luxembourg presidency of the EU in the second part of 2015, Alexandre Husting detailed the functioning of the EU institutions and insisted on the way to develop a successful lobbying strategy at the EU level.

The second day was dedicated to meetings with EU Institutions. The group has been welcomed to the European Commission, for a presentation and a discussion with Yves Le Lostecque, head of Sport Unit before a meeting with the Spanish MEP Santiago Fisas (EPP), co-president of the intergroup sport of the European Parliament.

NEXT MONTH

Dates in May 2016

3 May	<i>Meeting with Commissioners Ansip, Oettinger and Navracsics on the Digital Single Market</i>
4 May	<i>Strategic Workshop SIGGS Project, Lisbon, Portugal</i>
5 May	<i>Public holiday - EOC EU Office closed</i>
12 May	<i>Deadline Erasmus + Call 2016</i>
12 May	<i>European Week of Sport Advisory Board Meeting, Brussels</i>
12 May	<i>Council Expert Group on Good Governance, Brussels</i>
13-15 May	<i>ENGSO General Assembly, Vilnius, Lithuania</i>
16 May	<i>Public holiday - EOC EU Office closed</i>
19 May	<i>EOC Executive Committee Meeting, Tarragona, Spain</i>
20-21 May	<i>EOC Seminar, Tarragona, Spain</i>
26 May	<i>Strategic Workshop SIGGS Project, Ljubljana, Slovenia</i>
26 May	<i>European Week of Sport Communication Seminar, Brussels</i>
31 May	<i>Sport Ministers Council Meeting, Brussels</i>