

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2021



EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



EU
Office

EOC EU Office
@EOCEUOffice

.@EPCulture adopted a resolution on the impact of #covid19 on youth & #sport! The pandemic has had an enormous impact on sports on all levels. Thanks for the cooperation @EPCulture and for urging the @EU_Commission and Member States to support sport to overcome the crisis.

CULT Committee Press @EPCulture

The @EPCulture has adopted a resolution asking the EU to prevent lasting COVID-19 damage for youth and sports

👍 25 votes to 2 and 2 abstentions

👤 Rapporteur @sabineverheyen

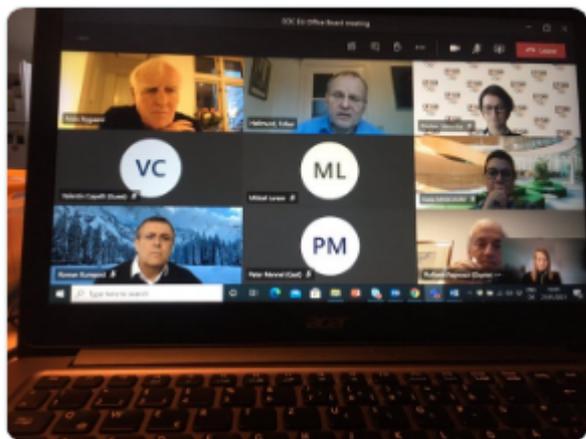
📖 Read more ➡ eptwitter.eu/qwrC

4:22 PM · Jan 27, 2021

👍 11 🔗 See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

EOC EU Office
@EOCEUOffice

Our Board meeting took place today with the core partners @EOCmedia, @iocmedia, @COV_MEDIA and @DOSB. Discussions on the implementation of budget and activities of 2020 as well as Work Plan and budget of 2021 on the agenda. Thank you for the contributions and continuous support!



3:58 PM · Jan 21, 2021

👍 24 💬 3 🔗 Copy link to Tweet



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



Commissioner Mariya Gabriel

"Sport is an important source of health, skills, growth and jobs that needs our common efforts and support."

Full interview on page 5



FACTS & FIGURES

Average Involvement of Sport Organisations in Erasmus+ 2014-2020

Collaborative Partnerships: 2014-2020

Small Collaborative Partnerships: 2016-2020



26.71%

AS PROJECT COORDINATORS IN COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



39.75%

AS PROJECT COORDINATORS IN SMALL COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



27.81%

AS PROJECT PARTNERS IN COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



40.22%

AS PROJECT PARTNERS IN SMALL COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

EOC EU OFFICE NEW STAFF MEMBER!



Welcome to our new colleague Laurent Briel who is replacing Kaisa Laarjoma as ENGSO Policy Director.

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

We all have witnessed the major impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our societies. In this regard, we do hope that the pandemic can be successfully pushed back with the start of the first vaccinations.

As for other sectors, for sport in 2021 it will be important that the various aid packages reach finally the sport actors and that the activities of clubs and federations can be resumed as soon as possible.

In this context, there are good news from Brussels. The European Commission has recently decided to extend the temporary aid framework for the fight against corona until the end of 2021 and to increase the funding ceilings from € 800,000 to € 1.8 million per applicant. These decisions are a step in the right direction, even though some Member States had put much higher sums into play during the consultations.

As far as European sports policy is concerned, it remains to be seen with which enthusiasm the Member States will work on the implementation of the Work Plan of the Sports Ministers 2021-2024, which was adopted in December. The Work Plan contains important topics such as major sporting events, good governance, a safe environment for children and young people in sport or the European Sports Model. The latter topic is also at the top of the Slovenian Presidency's priority list for the second half of 2021. The recent discussions about the proposal of investors to challenge the UEFA Champions League, by creating a closed league, have given the topic additional importance.

Under German EU Presidency, the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 have been successfully terminated. The budget of the Erasmus+ Sport Programme will sum up to around € 500 million. The almost doubling of funds should encourage more organised sport stakeholders to participate in the programme. The EOC EU Office has also worked hard to make the programme easier for sports clubs and associations to enter. One example is that bilateral projects will also be possible in future, which is particularly interesting for actors from border regions.

A word on our own behalf, as you have probably noticed, the layout of the first issue of the Monthly Report has changed. We are also introducing a new section with the "Interview of the Month" and are proud that the EU Commissioner for Sport, Mariya Gabriel, has agreed to be the first interview guest. We would be pleased if you would give us feedback on the new layout of the Monthly Report or share suggestions for further exchanges with us.

Stay healthy and all the best for 2021!

Kind regards.



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



Since December, 2019 Mariya Gabriel has been the Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth. She is also responsible for all topics and subjects related to Sport

1. Your first year as Commissioner was dominated by Covid-19. What is your personal assessment of this time? Sport has shown its enormous importance for our societies. What could be done so that Sport can preserve this role?

The COVID-19 crisis is having a massive impact on the sport sector in the EU. Major and small-scale sporting events have had to be cancelled with immense consequences for organisers, federations, clubs and athletes. The loss of local sponsors and membership fees has severely affected the revenues of sports organisations and clubs, especially at grassroots level. According to the “Mapping study on measuring the economic impact of COVID-19 on the sport sector in the EU” that we published in November 2020, all Member States are expected to see their share of sport-related GDP decline by at least 10% in 2020.

At the same time, there has been a new emphasis on sport. People have shown great creativity in developing fitness routines. Home workouts have become hugely popular. Online instructors have been giving classes to millions of people. At times, running and cycling were the only outdoor activities available, so we have seen a surge of interest in these sports. To help Europeans exercise and remain physically active even under these unprecedented circumstances, I launched the #BeActiveAtHome initiative. In addition, the 2020 editions of the European Week of Sport, the #BeInclusive EU Sports Awards and the #BeActive Awards were very successful reaching record numbers. For instance, the sixth edition of the European Week of Sport reached a new record with the participation of over 15.6 million Europeans from 42 European countries and regions in more than 32,600 events. I want to thank the European Olympic Committees and the sport movement for their contribution to making last year’s edition of the European Week of Sport the most successful ever!

As our lives have changed, sport has offered a welcome release from the stresses and strains of a difficult period. Sport has helped us maintain our physical and mental health and to boost our resilience, which, for sure, we will need for some months yet.

My role, Europe’s role, is now to help the sport sector get up and running again. Measures have been taken, funding is and will be available and we will follow the evolution of the situation through a dedicated expert group. We will be ready to take further measures and better adapt those already in place. We count of course on the resilience and contribution of the sport movement.

I will also continue to give visibility to the role of sport in society for people's health, social inclusion and well-being, highlighting its contribution to key political initiatives such as the EU Health Union, A Union of Equality or the EU Green Deal.

Another important task is to maintain the momentum – practise any sport, anywhere and anyhow. Together with the Member States and the sport movement, we are preparing the 2021 European Week of Sport, our flagship initiative. In addition, I will also launch the HealthyLifeStyle4All initiative as a follow-up to the Tartu call for a Healthy Life Style.

Sport is an important source of health, skills, growth and jobs that needs our common efforts and support.

2. With the new EU Work Plan for Sport, new Expert Groups, the High-level Group on Gender Equality and the start of the new Erasmus+ programme the EU sport policy starts in a new important period. What is your vision for the implementation of these initiatives and how could the Olympic Sport movement better contribute to and benefit from it?

In his keynote speech at our high-level conference “The recovery of the sport sector after the COVID-19 crisis: the way ahead”, President of the IOC, Thomas Bach, emphasised that the values of sport are now needed more than ever to have an inclusive society, and I agree with him. One major thing this crisis has taught us is that sport is not only a leisure activity; it is crucial for health and prevention of disease. Promoting sport is in the interest of the whole society and the economy. The new EU Work Plan for Sport is our roadmap on how the EU member states and institutions, in dialogue and cooperation with the sport movement, can contribute to our European society. I expect that the High-level group on Gender equality, which involves representatives of the Olympic Movement, will produce recommendations,

including on how to have a better representation of women in executive positions in major sports organisations. We will coordinate two other expert groups: one on green sport and the other on the impact of COVID-19 in sport. I am confident the expertise of the sport movement will be well used in mapping and addressing the main challenges, as well as in implementing the outcomes of the work of both groups. With an increased budget for sports actions, the new Erasmus+ programme will allow us to increase our support to European sports organisations through cooperation projects and events, and promote the mobility of sports staff. It will also help us contribute to the positive image of sport and its integrity and promote the importance of sport in society.

3. Sport events have a unique power in bringing people together. How do you see the role of events like the European Games or the European Youth Olympic Festivals in the context of the European Sport policy and their contribution to the promotion of European values?

Sport brings people and communities together. It is critical for shaping our society and ultimately to building a European identity. With the Lisbon Treaty, the European Union acquired a specific competence in the field of sport. We have the task of developing a European dimension in sport, by promoting fairness and openness in sporting competitions and cooperation between bodies responsible for sports, and by protecting the physical and psychological integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen, especially the youngest. Big sports events often have a massive impact on audiences and citizens. I believe they are a shop window to promote European sport and its values. They play a key role in boosting physical activity and healthy lifestyle.

They are an opportunity to address the issues of violence, protection of minors, racial discrimination and gender equality. I would add that nowadays it is more and more important to take into consideration the sustainability dimension and the “green approach” of major sports events. Events such as The European Games and the European Youth Olympics are a fantastic showcase for European sport and athletes and contribute to highlighting the importance of sport and physical activity. This is in line for example, with our policy approach in the #Beactive campaign and the Tartu Call for a healthy life style; an approach that I would like to continue with the HealthyLifeStyle4All initiative. I thank you for your support in these initiatives and congratulate you for such strong commitment to the European values in sport.



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

Portugal takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union

On 1 January, Portugal took over the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU for 6 months until 30 June 2021. The Presidency had been held by Germany for the previous half year.

The Council is the EU Institution which brings together responsible Ministers from EU Member States with the aim of coordinating policies in specific fields. To achieve this goal, there are 10 different Council configurations covering different subjects, including the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council configuration (EYCS).

While many activities will still be dominated and steered by the ongoing Coronavirus crisis, and especially the socioeconomic recovery from it, the Presidency is also a chance for the respective country to set its own agenda and priorities. In this regard, the Portuguese Presidency has chosen the motto "Time to deliver: a fair, green and digital recovery" and has declared [five priority areas](#) in which key actions will be developed.

Sport under the Portuguese Council Presidency

More interestingly for the sport sector, holding the Council Presidency also means chairing the meetings of the different Council configurations and the Council's preparatory bodies. This includes the [Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council](#) and its preparatory body, the [Working Party on Sport](#). Portugal will therefore take on a prominent role in leading and shaping the agenda of these meetings.

Furthermore, the [programme of the Portuguese Presidency](#) includes several paragraphs that directly relate to sport:

"The Presidency will also pay attention to community policing and promoting public security, including the protection of public spaces and safety and violence in sport."

As part of the new EU Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024, the Portuguese Presidency has declared to cover the topic of innovation and digitalisation under the socioeconomic and environmental dimensions of sport:

"The Presidency will map innovation in sport and identify new trends in 'sport of the future' as part of the next EU Work Plan for Sport."

Additionally, the EU Sport Forum will take place under the Portuguese Presidency. It remains unclear when the Forum will be organised and whether it will take place entirely virtually, as a hybrid format or even as a physical event:

Last but not least, also as part of the EU Work Plan, a focus will be put on the topic of sport diplomacy. The plan is to organise a conference to foster best-practice exchange and knowledge-building:

"Attention will be paid to sport as an instrument of the EU's external relations, with a particular focus on Africa and Latin America."

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Official website of the PT Presidency](#)

[Official programme of the PT Presidency](#)

The Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and new EU Funding Programmes

In its final Plenary session before the end of the year, the [European Parliament approved](#) the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, after the EU Council had previously [adopted a conclusion](#) on the EU's long-term budget as well as on NextGenerationEU - the EU's Covid-19 recovery package.

The [Council of the EU](#) also gave its final consent before Christmas, meaning that the Framework could start to be implemented from 1 January 2021.

However, as these agreements “only” provide the budgetary framework, the contents for most programmes were still missing, as negotiations between the Parliament, the Commission and the Council continued in the so-called trilogues.

As the new year set off, some important advancements were made in this regard and negotiations were concluded on several programmes that are of relevance for the sport sector, including:

[Erasmus+](#)
[European Solidarity Corps](#)
[EU4Health](#)
[LIFE](#)

After having been approved in the responsible Committees of the European Parliament, the provisional agreements on the above-mentioned programmes now await final approval by the Plenary. This is expected in the coming weeks.

Erasmus+

As already reported by the EOC EU Office, the [provisional Erasmus+ agreement](#) confirms the substantial increase of the Sport Chapter's budget.

From 2014-2020, 1,8% of the total Erasmus+ budget was allocated to sport, which amounted to about €265 million.

Thanks also to the efforts of the EOC EU Office, the share of the budget allocated to sport under the new Erasmus+ programme will be raised to 1,9%. This means that a total amount of almost €500 million will be dedicated to sport over the next 7 years.

The new Erasmus+ Programme Guidelines are currently still being developed and are not yet public. The [Commission's Sport Infoday](#) has recently been postponed from the beginning of February to 23-24 March due to delays in the publication of the new Call.

EU4Health

As advocated by the EOC EU Office, the EU4Health programme, with a budget of roughly €5 bn, includes an explicit reference to support Member States in their efforts to “promote [...] regular physical activity, taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups at every stage of their life with the aim of promoting life-long health”. This approach is a clear improvement as it highlights a pro-active promotion of physical activity as opposed to other references, which focus on fighting physical inactivity.

Ongoing Negotiations

A number of potentially important programmes for the sport sector, such as ERDF and ESF+, are still missing provisional agreements. It therefore remains to be seen whether sport will be included, e.g. in the ERDF, as advocated by the EOC EU Office.

The EOC EU Office is having a close look at all agreements that are publicly available and is assessing their relevance for the sport sector. A detailed analysis for our partner organisations will follow in the near future. Furthermore, the relevant EU Programmes will also be included in the new Funding Brochure that our Office will publish in the coming months.

Sport in the EU's Strategy for Gender Equality 2020-2025

Gender equality is one of the priorities of the European Commission under its President Ursula von der Leyen. After the Commission revealed its new [Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#) back in March 2020, the European Parliament, during its Plenary session on 21 January, voted 464 to 119 to approve a [resolution](#) that represents its opinion on the Strategy.

Sport was already mentioned in the Commission's paper, stating: "The renewed strategic framework for gender equality in sport will promote women's and girls' participation in sport and physical activity and gender balance in leadership positions within sport organisations." In addition, the Erasmus+ programme was mentioned as a tool to help address gender inequalities also in the sport sector.

The resolution from the Parliament mentions sport several times, for instance in the Recital Z: "whereas women and girls face a number of obstacles in the field of sports and are not only subject to violence, but also face discrimination in pay, prize money and working conditions, and are widely under-represented on the boards of sports organisations and media;"

Following advocacy efforts by the EOC EU Office, the positive role of sport in contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment was also included in an Article, in addition to the gaps mentioned in the Recital above. The Article 102 deals with sport as follows:

- "Calls on the Member States and the Commission to increase gender equality and women's empowerment in sport at large, given the powerful and undeniable role sport can play in helping women and girls break down gender stereotypes, in building confidence and in strengthening their leadership skills;

- Calls on the Member States and the Commission to provide effective platforms to promote female role models and leaders with international, national and local reach;
- Calls on the Member States to promote and develop policies to combat the gender-based remuneration gap and disparities in prize monies, any kind of violence against women and girls in sports and to ensure more coverage of women in the sports media and in decision-making positions;
- Calls on the Commission to include sport in the planned campaign against stereotypes."

The adopted resolution will now be forwarded to the Council and the Commission for consideration.

Gender equality in sport will also be high on the EU agenda in the upcoming months with the first meeting of the [High Level Group on Gender Equality in Sport](#) to take place on 16 February.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Parliament resolution on the EU Strategy for Gender Equality](#)

[EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#)

Letter by EU Sports Ministers submitted to Commissioner Gabriel on Human Rights in major sport events

On 27 January, the EU Ministers responsible for sport submitted a [letter](#) to Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, responsible for Sport, regarding the topic of human rights in major sport events. Initiated by Finland, the topic was introduced during the Video conference of Sport Ministers on 1 December 2020 under the German EU Presidency. The letter has been signed by all 27 EU Member States.

It is worth noting that this letter echoes the statement made by the EU Sport Ministers in 2013 where all states that participate in organising major sporting events, such as the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, World Championships, were called to respect their international human rights commitments. In this regard, the letter confirmed:

“Some major international sporting events are (still) taking place, or being planned to be organized, in states where human rights violations or abuses have been reported by international monitoring mechanisms, and the physical and moral integrity of athletes is not axiomatic. This is in contradiction with article 18 of the Olympic Charter. A reference can be made especially, but not only, to Belarus where, according to the OSCE Rapporteur, “major human rights abuses” have been found to be “massive, systematic and proven beyond doubt”.

The letter also highlights that “while fully respecting the autonomy of sport, international sport organizations should be encouraged to take accountable decisions on the hosts for major sporting events”. The Member States call on the European Commission, within the respective areas of competences of the European Union, to commit to identifying an appropriate policy approach to this issue.

The topic remains high on the Agenda of the Olympic Movement as recently expressed by IOC President Dr. Thomas Bach when IOC announced that they [will move forward with its human rights approach](#): “the IOC remains committed not only to continuing, but also to strengthening its work concerning human rights within the scope of our responsibility”.



FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press release](#)

Online piracy: EP CULT Committee adopts its opinion on the report on "Challenges of sports events' organisers in the digital environment"

On 26 January, the EP CULT Committee adopted their opinion on the report on the "Challenges of sports events' organisers in the digital environment". The opinion drafted by the responsible rapporteur Tomasz Frankowski (EPP) was approved with 26 votes in favour and 3 votes against.

From a sports perspective, the CULT Committee's [opinion](#) is positive news. The Committee clearly recognises the problem of online piracy of sporting events. Furthermore, the Committee calls on the Commission "to present without delay a legislative proposal to address the problem of online piracy of sports broadcasts". Moreover, the Committee calls "for the removal of infringing live sport broadcasts from online intermediaries to be immediate, or as fast as possible within 15 to 30 minutes, after the receipt of notification from rights holders in order to be effective". In addition, the CULT Committee recalls that "sport promotes and teaches values such as mutual respect and understanding, (...) and can be considered as a cultural and social necessity."

Previously to this vote, in December 2020 the European Parliament Research Service (EPRS) had issued a study on the challenges facing sport event organisers in the digital environment to assess the added value of a possible European regulation.

The study estimates that in 2019, 7.6 million subscriptions were made to illegal broadcasting platforms in the EU. These subscriptions generated illicit revenues of an estimated €522 million leading to annual VAT avoidance of €113.5 million. According to the study, if the same number of subscriptions were made legally, legal broadcasters' revenues could increase by €3.4 billion each year. In addition to these revenue losses, legal broadcasters also suffer impacts on employment due to online piracy. According to the EPRS the most cautious estimate suggests that each year up to 16.000 potential new jobs are lost as a result of online piracy of broadcasts of sports events.



Challenges facing sports event organisers in the digital environment

European added value assessment

On the legal aspect, the study comes to the conclusion that the current legal framework is not sufficient to effectively protect sports rights holders from online piracy. The study therefore proposes the introduction of an ad hoc neighbouring right for sports organisers and/or the extension of the neighbouring right of broadcasters. As far as the enforcement of copyright protection is concerned, the study suggests the introduction of a system of fast, dynamic and live blocking orders, which could be harmonised at EU level through the use of "dynamic blocking orders" and "live injunctions". The study goes on to say that in order to do so it would be necessary to adopt a legal provision granting sports events organisers the right to remove illicit content directly – through technological means – from any streaming server used by pirates.

It remains to be seen to what extent the members of the European Parliament and the European Commission will follow these recommendations.

With regard to the European Parliament's own-initiative report on the issue, the next step will be the adoption of the opinion of the Legal Affairs Committee (JURI), which is leading the report. The draft report by rapporteur Angel Dzhambazki (European Conservatives and Reformers) is already available. The final report, which reflect the positions of CULT and JURI, still has to be adopted in the plenary of the Parliament in March.

The European Parliament wants to use the own-initiative report to call on the Commission to take legislative action in the fight against online piracy of sporting events. Within three months after the vote in the plenary of the European Parliament, the Commission must communicate whether and how it will implement the proposal. If the Commission wants to draw up a legislative proposal, it must present it within 12 months after the vote in the plenary.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Opinion of CULT](#)

[Voting result CULT](#)

[Procedure File: Challenges of sport events' organisers in the digital environment](#)

[Draft report JURI](#)

[Commission proposes reform of the digital space](#)

Brexit and Sport

On 24 December, just days before the deadline, the EU Commission and the UK reached a [Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#), avoiding a no-deal scenario regarding the Brexit. The agreement was also approved by the [European Parliament](#). The departure of the UK from the EU also has implications for the sport sector.

Erasmus+

A large downside is the fact that the UK will no longer participate in the Erasmus+ programme. For the Erasmus+ Sport projects of the new funding period 2021-27, this means that organisations based in the UK cannot function as project leaders anymore. However, they can still participate as partners in the project consortiums. Moreover, this does not affect the UK's participation in any projects financed under the previous Erasmus+ Sport (2014-2020).

Living and Working in the UK

EU citizens can continue to visit the UK for up to 6 months without a visa, for business-related activities, such as meetings, events and conferences (must enter with a passport, not ID), whereas non-EU citizens will need to apply for Standard Visitor visa. That said, EU citizens, including (elite) athletes and coaches, can no longer move freely to, and work in, the UK without the proper documentation as part of a Points Based Immigration System. There are a range of different options, depending on the circumstances and the sport.

1. EU Settlement Scheme

Athletes and coaches who have lived in the UK before 31 December 2020 can apply through the EU Settlement Scheme. This facilitates their continued stay and exempts them of the need to apply for a visa. Those who have already lived in the UK for more than 5 years at a time will be granted "settled status". They can live in the UK indefinitely and continue to work there. All those who have lived in the UK for less than 5 years at a time are granted "pre-settled status".

This allows them to live and work in the UK for a further 5 years. They can later apply for settled status once they have met the relevant criteria. The cut-off date for calculating the length of stay is 30 June 2021, by which date an application for the programme must have been submitted.

2. Sportsperson Visa (T2) or Temporary Worker – Creative and Sporting Visa (T5)

Depending on the length of stay, an athlete or a coach who is not living in the UK already but wants to work there will have to apply for a [Sportsperson visa \(T2\)](#), or a [Temporary Worker Sporting visa \(T5\)](#).

The sportspersons category of Tier 2 is intended for those who wish to base themselves in the UK. It is specifically for elite sportspeople and coaches who are internationally established at the highest level and whose employment will make a significant contribution to the development of their sport at the highest level in the UK. The sportspersons category of Tier 5 is for temporary workers who come to the UK for up to 12 months. It is for internationally established sports people at the highest level in their sport and/or whose employment will make a significant contribution to the development and operation of that particular sport in the UK. It is also for coaches who must be suitably qualified to fulfil the role in question. Importantly, in order to obtain either type of visa, any athlete or coach will need to be in possession of a so-called "sponsorship certificate" from the [respective sport governing body](#) in the UK. The Football Association has developed a specific Governing Body Endorsement (GBE), which has been approved by the UK Home Office to unify the situation of foreign players under the new points-based immigration system.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Gov.uk Website for Work Visas](#)

16th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport continues with a Ministerial Roundtable

The 16th Council of Europe Conference for Ministers responsible for sport, initially planned to take place in Athens, Greece, on 5 November, continued with an online Ministerial Roundtable on 15 January. In the discussions, the Ministers gave their comments to the two resolutions to be adopted in the last session of the Ministerial conference in February. The respective resolutions are:

- A European approach to sport policies: the revision of the European Sports Charter
- Human rights in sport

Both resolutions have been under preparation over the past few months, e.g. with dedicated online sessions that were organised in November and December.

Regarding the revision of the European Sports Charter, the EOC EU Office has closely followed the process since the very beginning. One of the main concerns that the Office has raised is to include a clear reference to the European Sport Model in the revised Charter.

This message was repeated in the Ministerial Roundtable, when Tone Jagodic, Vice-Chair of the EPAS Consultative Committee, took the floor on behalf the European Olympic Committees. He stated: “Let me kindly remind you that the European Sport Model is not a theoretical idea, but a pragmatic reality, which reflects the specific organisation of sport in Europe and its fundamental social and educational function.

European Sport Model resembles a pyramid structure with millions of volunteers as the backbone. It is based on the twin principles of financial solidarity, which allows revenues generated through events and activities at the elite level to be reinvested at the lower level and of openness of competition, which gives priority to sporting merit.”

UEFA President, Alexander Ceferin, who addressed the Ministers through a video contribution, echoed the same message and asked for the safeguarding of the European Sports Model. Furthermore, from the Council of Europe Member States, Albania and Poland also asked a clear reference to the European Sport Model to be added to the Charter.

Regarding the second resolution on human rights in sport, the Member States welcomed the draft and underlined the importance of the topic. From the sport movement side, it is important that the resolution clearly states that the sports movement should be involved in the discussions on human rights in sport.

The closing session of the Ministerial Conference will take place on 11 February when the resolutions will be adopted. EOC Acting-President Niels Nygaard is invited to contribute to the session.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Programme of the 16th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

11 February 2021

[EOC Executive Committee \(EOC – online meeting\)](#)

23 - 24 March 2021

[Erasmus+ Sport Infoday \(European Commission – online meeting\)](#)

16 - 17 April 2021 (TBC)

[EOC General Assembly \(EOC – Athens\)](#)



PARTNERS' CORNER

EOC EU Office organises online meeting with German regional sports federations

On 28-29 February the EOC EU Office and the DOSB organised the 31st meeting on European and international affairs for German regional sport organisations. The joint meeting provided a platform for exchange between the regional sports federations (LSBs), the regional sports youth associations, the German Sport Youth (dsj), the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) and the EOC EU Office.

The venue of the meeting normally rotates between Brussels and Germany, but now it was held online for the first time due to the pandemic.

After a welcome of the participants by the Director of the EOC EU Office, Folker Hellmund, the focus of the first day was on an exchange of experiences on the effects the corona pandemic had on international cooperation. In 2020, many exchanges were cancelled or postponed, or only took place online.

Following this, DOSB and dsj gave an insight into current developments. Katrin Grafarend, DOSB Head of International Affairs, informed the participants on current international projects as well as the development of a national strategy for major sporting events.

Ferdinand Rissom, dsj Head of International Youth Work, outlined the ongoing organisational development process from which European cooperation was to emerge as a cross-cutting issue. The focus of the discussion shifted to current developments at European level. Folker Hellmund gave an overview on ongoing and future initiatives of the European Union with relevance to sport. This included the content and implementation of the EU Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024 recently adopted by the EU Sport Ministers, the Multiannual Financial Framework, the EU's Covid-19 response with regard to sport, the European Green Deal and the European Sport Model.



For the second day, the changes in the EU funding programmes 2021-2027 relevant to sport were on the agenda. In addition to the European Solidarity Corps and the regionally managed EU structural funds, Andreas Bold (EOC EU Office) presented the Erasmus+ Sport programme and showed the possibilities for the LSBs. When looking at the results of the Erasmus+ Sport call for proposals 2020, it is striking that clubs and associations from German sport are not reaching their full potential and are not largely involved in the EU's dedicated sports funding programme.

Subsequently, the TV 1905 Mainzlar and the Brandenburgische Sportjugend presented how EU funding for sports clubs and associations can be implemented successfully.

Stefan Naumann, President of TV 1905 Mainzlar, presented the Aktivpark Lumdata, a contact point for intergenerational sports activities which was funded with €200,000 by the EU agricultural funds EAFRD. He emphasised how important it was to involve the political actors at the local level and to enthuse them for the project in order to be able to secure the funding.

Andra Priedniece, international youth work officer at the Brandenburg Sports Youth, presented the association's involvement in the European Solidarity Corps. Every year, the LSB Brandenburg welcomes 10 European volunteers who actively engage in the federation's activities.

At the end of the meeting, the participants drew a positive conclusion on the two-day exchange and a further meeting was agreed on for this year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Website Aktivpark Lumdatal](#)

[Presentation Aktivpark Lumdatal](#)

[Sportjugend Brandenburg: European Solidarity Corps](#)

New DOSB project educates „Inclusion Event Managers in Sport” promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities

On 1st January 2021 the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) started a new project called “Inclusion Event Manager in Sports”. The project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The first aim of the project is to enhance the chances of people with disabilities to be employed in the non-profit sports sector. Secondly, it seeks to ensure that more sport events are organised in an accessible and inclusive way. A third key objective is networking with organisations for people with disabilities.

Although the numbers of inclusive sport events increased over the past few years in Germany, sport still has a long way to go to achieve full inclusivity. When it comes to the job market, people with disabilities remain underrepresented in the sports sector. Hence, through the project, 24 new jobs for people with severe disabilities will be created.

Non-profit organisations like national sports federations or regional sports associations can apply for a two-year funding. The event managers will be supported to organise inclusive sport events. A new qualification called “Event Management in Sports” is currently being designed and will be open for non-disabled persons too.

The first twelve event managers will start in September 2021, whilst another twelve will follow in September 2023. The project will end in December 2025.

FURTHER INFORMATION

<https://inklusion.dosb.de/event-inklusionsmanagerinnen-im-sport>



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