

Tweets of the month



[EurOlympic](#)

@EOCmedia June 24
Congratulations to @Coninews and #Milano #Cortina for winning the bid to host 2026 Winter @Olympics !

[EOC EU Office](#)

@EOCEUOffice June 23
Happy #OlympicDay from #Minsk2019 for the second day of the #EuropeanGames2019 @EOCmedia @Minsk2019BY @iocmedia @EuSport

[EOC EU Office](#)

@EOCEUOffice June 20
Thank you our partners for your active participation and contribution yesterday at our Annual Partner Meeting! Very fruitful discussions on several policy topics as well as on the future lobbying activities. @FranceOlympique @DOSB @Olympiakomitea @RFidrotten @CEVolleyball @nocnsf

[EuSport](#)

@EuSport June 18
We would not be able to achieve such #EuropeanWeekOfSport heights without our amazing #BeActive Ambassadors of the Week! You are role models to so many people! We admire your personalities, achievements, virtues you display and love with which you do #sport.

[EOC EU Office](#)

@EOCEUOffice June 6
The annual meeting of @EPAS_APES Consultative Committee and joint meeting with the Governing Board are ongoing in Strasbourg since yesterday. @EOCmedia is present in the meetings to represent the Olympic movement and raise the voice of organised sport.

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

With the election of the Italian MEP David Sassoli (S&D) as President of the European Parliament, the fog of uncertainty covering political Brussels is somewhat beginning to clear. It has been agreed that Manfred Weber (CSU, EPP), who has aimed to become President of the European Commission, will follow Sassoli as EP President halfway through the EP's term of office (2,5 years).

At the same time, the Heads of State and Governments cut the Gordian knot in personnel policy and presented Ursula von der Leyen (Germany, CDU) as a surprise candidate for the post of the European Commission President. With this proposal, the Council has also abandoned the model of "Spitzenkandidaten", which will not make the needed approval of the proposed Commission President by the European Parliament easier. However, one may add that there has never been a clear majority within the EP itself for Manfred Weber as Commission President and that the EP has thus disavowed its own model. If the EP does not approve Ms von der Leyen as Commission President, the Council will have four weeks to make a new proposal.

The upcoming weeks will clarify the distribution of portfolios among incoming Commissioners. Two political heavyweights and "Spitzenkandidaten" - Margrethe Vestager (DK) and Frans Timmermans (NL) - are set to return to the Commission. It seems that they could retain their current positions and portfolios - Competition Commissioner and First Vice-President.

The European Games in Minsk ended on 30 June and, contrary to some expectations, left mainly positive impressions. Both the sport facilities and the athletes' village were state-of-the-art. Besides great conditions for their sports, athletes appreciated in particular the short distances between the sport infrastructure and other facilities. The athletic performance and spectator interest on site were also impressive, especially for the sports that were able to award qualification points or starting places for the Olympic Games in Tokyo. With the decision to host the next European Games in 2023 in Krakow, the event will be held for the first time on the territory of the European Union, which will contribute to the de-politicisation of the Games.

The beginning of July marks the start of the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU, which will certainly have to cope with the unclear political environment in Brussels. The EOC EU Office has already been able to establish close contacts with its Finnish counterparts in the run-up to the Presidency. Already on 10 July, the Presidency is inviting sports federations to a discussion on its priorities in the field of sport. In addition to the negotiations on the future funding programmes, including Erasmus, which ought to begin in September, the Finnish Presidency will address topics such as security in sport, fight against corruption, and safeguarding children in sport.

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



Folker Hellmund
Director

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

The aftermath of the European Parliament elections

Following the European Parliament elections, the first decisions on the top jobs of the European Union have been taken. See below an overview about the candidates and the status quo of the respective appointment processes:

The outgoing Belgium Prime Minister **Charles Michel**, was elected by qualified majority in the European Council to succeed Donald Tusk as **President of the Council**. He is on duty for two and a half years and can be re-elected.

The Italian S&D member David Sassoli was elected as **President of the European Parliament** on 3 July by absolute majority in the EP Plenary. In addition, his Vice-Presidents and the Quaestors were elected in the EP Plenary in Strasbourg too.

Ursula von der Leyen, current German Minister of Defence, was elected by the European Council by qualified majority to be the candidate for **European Commission President**. She needs to be confirmed by the European Parliament by simple majority. The election will take place during the second plenary week starting on the 15 July.

Josep Borrel Fontelles was elected by the European Council by qualified majority to become **the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**. He will, after being confirmed by the President, also be Vice-President of the Commission. This position, however, also relies on the approval of the European Parliament.

Christine Lagarde, candidate for **President of the European Central Bank**, was also elected by qualified majority by the European Council and simply needs to be heard by the European Parliament.

Moreover, the composition of all European Parliaments Committees was decided. The Committee for Culture and Education will consist of 31 members. The latter, which is also responsible for sport in the EP, will elect its chair at the constituent meeting on 10 July.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Council Conclusions, 30 June - 2 July 2019](#)

[Members of the CULT Committee](#)

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Upcoming Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU

Finland's third EU Presidency begins on 1 July 2019 and will end on 31 December. Finland is part of the Trio-Presidency with Romania and Croatia. The latter will follow beginning of 2020. The Presidency is responsible for taking forward the Council's work on EU legislation and policy initiatives, including the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council.

The Finnish Presidency's priorities in regard to sport are the following:

1. Promote the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (incl. programmes such as Erasmus+ Sport).
2. Fight against corruption & safeguarding children in sport.
3. Ensuring coordination for the EU positions for WADA meetings.

The activities of the Finnish Presidency in sport will start on 10 July with a meeting at the Finnish

Permanent Representation in Brussels. Thereby, a constructive dialogue with the sport movement in relation to the presidency's priorities is expected. Further notable dates are:

- 24 September, conference on safeguarding children in sport
- 29 October, a joint event of the youth and sport council working parties
- 21-22 November, Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

On this occasion Ministers are expected to adopt Council Conclusions on *fight against corruption* and on *safeguarding children in sport*. The Finnish presidency's last meeting will be the Sport Directors meeting in Helsinki on 9-10 December.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Official Homepage of the Finnish Presidency](#)
[Finland's Presidency Programme](#)

EPAS Consultative Committee meeting and joint meeting with the EPAS Governing Board

The annual meetings of the Council of Europe's EPAS Consultative Committee and Governing Board took place in Strasbourg on 5-6 June 2019. The EPAS Consultative Committee is the body which consists of sport stakeholders and its role is to give its opinion on the programme of activities and to provide advice for the decisions of the Governing Board. The EPAS Governing Board represents the governments of the EPAS Member States. European Olympic Committees is a member of the EPAS Consultative Committee and was represented in the meetings by Heidi Pekkola, EOC EU Office Deputy Director.

Consultative Committee had its annual meeting first, which was followed by the joint meeting of the EPAS Consultative Committee and Governing Board, bringing together the sport stakeholders with the representatives of the EPAS Member States.

The main topic on the agenda of the Consultative Committee was the renewal of the Terms of Reference. The Bureau of the Consultative Committee had prepared a draft which was discussed and some of the proposals were voted. There will be no big changes for the election process of the Consultative Committee Bureau, which is taking place every two years to elect

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Chair, Vice-Chair and four members. Elections will take place again in 2020.

Parallel to the Consultative Committee meeting, also the EPAS Governing Board met having the elections of the Governing Board's Bureau on the agenda. The EPAS Member States elected Madeleine Delaperriere from France as a new Chair of the Bureau.

In the joint meeting of the Consultative Committee and Governing Board several topics were discussed. The Ministerial Meeting of the Council of Europe in 2020 will have as main topics the European Sport Model, as well as the renewal of the European Sports Charter, adopted in 1992. Furthermore, gender equality as well as safeguarding of children in sport will be discussed. The meeting will take place in Slovenia, however the exact dates and city are still to be confirmed.

In addition, a discussion on the European Sports Charter and its renewal took place. EPAS is

currently doing a survey with stakeholders and Member States on the impact of the Sport Charter. At the meeting, it was also discussed that what kind of updates and changes would be needed in the Charter to make it to better match with today's sport world and society.

With the topics like European Sport Model and the renewal of the European Sports Charter, it is important that the organised sport is active in this platform and participating in the discussions. In addition to the EOC, e.g. European Athletics, European Paralympic Committees, GAISF, UEFA and ENGSO are members of the Consultative Committee from the organised sport.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Consultative Committee](#)
[Governing Board](#)
[European Sports Charter](#)

Sport Unit Breakfast: "Does sport really has a positive impact on health?"

On 4 June 2019, the Sport Unit of the European Commission organised the Sport Unit Breakfast. This initiative brought together representatives of the Unit, other parts of the European Commission and speakers from the world of sport in order to have a brainstorming and learning session and discuss current topics. In this meeting, the discussion was dedicated to the question "Does sport really has a positive impact on health?".

Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit, welcomed the participants and introduced the speakers, which included Jean François Toussaint working at the French Institut national du sport, de l'expertise et de la performance (INSEP) and Alexander Bielefeld from FIFPro.

Jean François Toussaint started his presentation with the confident answer, "Yes, sport does have positive impact on health." He presented research results supporting the fact that activity is the condition of our life quality and survival:

- The main argument was that sport and physical activity in general have a positive impact on life duration. Jean François Toussaint underlined that life expectancy research shows stagnation and even regression during the last decades.
- The physical activity factor along with healthy lifestyle and medicine play important roles in this matter. It was pointed out that large parts of the population are not moving enough and the time spent for physical activity is drastically decreasing in comparison to the past. Research shows that near 60% of the European population are physically inactive and half of them never do sports.
- Toussaint insisted that physical activity does increase life quality and life expectancy. Physical activity, for example walking, swimming and cycling reduce mortality,

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cancer and CVD risks. He also mentioned that a walking speed faster than 3 km/h was necessary.

- For professional sportspeople, especially Olympians, sport proves to increase life duration by seven years. For people, that are doing physical activity on the daily basis life duration is two to three years longer.

At the conclusion, Jean François Toussaint mentioned the importance of the environment and called to create more active lifestyle opportunities, by creating more walkable and cyclable cities. Thus, it would be triple benefit from active living, covering individual, collective and environmental health.

As the counter argument Alexander Bielefeld, representing interests of the professional football players on the highest level, came up with some negative effects that elite sport have. Starting with the point that all professional players are grateful for their opportunity and thus will do all they can to defend their position at the elite level, he argued that they are pushed to work through pain and ignore injuries. He referred to the recent concussive incidents on the pitch, where players were put back into the game. Intensive matches calendar and workload also bring harm to sportsmen. On behalf of FIFPro, Alexander Bielefeld strongly recommend to:

- revise concussion protocols,
- develop strong standards for workload,
- restructure the (international) match calendar,
- develop enforcement mechanisms to decrease pressure on players and
- recognise the joint responsibility and self-interest by all stakeholders.

Presentations were followed by fruitful and dynamic discussion, which outlined various views on the topic. Interesting questions about the comparison of professional sportsmen and average population indicators, the comparison of career length in different sports, influence of sports on mental health and increased risk of injuries from professional sport were raised. All participants welcomed the need of intersectoral political approach to sports and health. The next Sport Unit Breakfast is planned on 19 September 2019.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Presentations](#)

Artificial turf: ECHA opinions on restriction of eight PAHs published

On 18 June 2019, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) reported that its Committee of Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC) and Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) had finalised work on the restriction proposal on granules and mulches used as infill material in synthetic turf pitches or in loose forms on playgrounds. This restriction especially concerns pitches which use recycled rubber tires as infill.

The proposal was brought to ECHA by the Dutch government after reports and research into

possible health problems related to the infill of football pitches and focuses on eight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

RAC and SEAC support the restriction proposal by the Netherlands not to place the granules and mulches in question on the market if the sum of the listed polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the materials is more than 20 mg/kg. SEAC considers that the restriction proposed by the Netherlands as dossier submitter is the most appropriate Union wide measure to address the

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identified risks taking into account the proportionality of its socio-economic benefits to its socio-economic costs.

Following the publication of the opinions, the SEAC opinion will now still be subject to a [public consultation](#), before the final dossier will be submitted to the European Commission. Deadline of the consultation is 19 August 2019.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[ECHA - PRes release \(18/06/2019\): "ECHA's committees conclude on one restriction and 10 harmonised classification and labelling opinions"](#)

[SEAC Opinion](#)

[Public Consultation on SEAC Opinion](#)

INTERNAL AND VISITS

The EOC EU Office organised its Annual Partner Meeting on 19 June in Brussels



On 19 June 2019, the EOC EU Office gathered its partners, in Brussels, for the Annual Partner Meeting. The aim of this meeting was to inform partners about recent EU policy developments as well as to discuss the political changes at EU level and the activities to be conducted by the Office in this regard. Participants came from various NOCs such as the NOCs and sport confederations of Finland, Austria, Sweden, France, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Netherlands, Croatia, Czech Republic, and Cyprus as well as representatives from the European Volleyball Federation (CEV), the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), Rugby Europe, European Athletics, FIBA Europe.

Following a general introduction made by Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, in which the involvement of sport organisations in the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe was discussed, participants were invited to share their experiences on three areas.

1. The implementation of Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) at national level: Partners discussed potential exemptions /

specific regulations at national level as well as the cooperation with national data protection authorities;

2. The Erasmus+ call 2019 and the ongoing projects involving partners;
3. The entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention on Manipulation of Sport Competitions in September 2019: partners provided information on the situation regarding their national platforms and the cooperation with public authorities.

The aim of the second session was to discuss and prepare with the partners a strategic action plan for the EOC EU Office in the new EU political environment. Heidi Pekkola, Deputy Director of the Office, provided an update on the elections results and the latest rumours regarding institutional changes (see our dedicated article). Then, participants exchanged on the necessary activities to develop positive working relations with the new actors including:

- Identifying MEPs who could support the maintain of a sport Intergroup in the EP;
- Organise high level meetings with the new Commissioners and new MEPs;
- Focus on two main areas: the promotion and the defence of the European Sport Model and the negotiations regarding the future MFF 2021-2027.

The afternoon session was dedicated to a comprehensive update on sport-related EU policies made by the staff of the EOC EU Office. Participants received information on the current

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implementation of the EU Work Plan for Sport 2017-2020 as well as the priorities of the upcoming EU presidencies – Finland, Croatia and Germany. Then, the group entered a fruitful exchange on a key topic for the future of sport, the question of “Intentionally added Microplastics and artificial turfs” (see our dedicated article). An update of different legal cases e.g. Biffi, Rule 40, Kristoffersen, the adoption of the EU Visa policy

and the new developments in the Digital Single Market were also on the programme.

The EOC EU Office would like to thank all partners for their active participation in the discussions.

PARTNERS' CORNER

ENGSO General Assembly elected new ExCom members – Stefan Bergh is the new President

The 27th ENGSO General Assembly was organised on 14–16 June in Frankfurt, Germany. The event was organised in conjunction with the ASPIRE Final Conference and the ENGSO Youth Assembly, and it was hosted by the German ENGSO member, the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB).

After the ASPIRE event on 14 June, the participants were welcomed to Frankfurt with a prestigious evening reception by the City of Frankfurt and DOSB. The second day kicked off with welcome speeches and presentations by Yves Le Lostecque, the Head of Sport Unit at the European Commission, and Stanislas Frossard, Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS). As last session of the morning, ENGSO Youth organised a dynamic workshop on sport and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations.

The election of new Executive Committee members was amongst the most important decisions of the General Assembly. Stefan Bergh (Swedish Sports Confederation) was elected as President for the next four-year term. Leaving his previous position as Secretary General open, the General Assembly decided to appoint Policy Director Kaisa Larjomaa as Acting Secretary General.

Michael Leyendecker (German Olympic Sports Confederation) was elected as Treasurer. The General Assembly also elected four other members to the Executive Committee: Zoltán Bóné (Hungarian Competitive Sport Federation), Filipa Godinho (Portuguese Sports Confederation), Sara Massini (CONI/OPES Italia) and Anna-Maria Wiesner (Austrian Sports Organization).

In the parallel Youth Assembly, Ugnė Chmeliauskaitė was selected as chair of ENGSO Youth, who is the youth representative in the ENGSO Executive Committee.

The other Executive Committee members, who will continue to serve for another two years, are Vice-President Agnė Vanagienė (Lithuanian Union of Sports Federations), Ilva Bierde (Latvian Sports Federations Council) and Lotte Büchert (National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark).

After the elections, the outgoing Executive Committee members and officers – President Carlos Cardoso, Treasurer Karin Mattsson Weijber and members Natasa Jankovic and Stavri Bello – received appraisals for their commitment and work for ENGSO through the past years.

During the meeting, one new associate member was approved – the European Association for Sport Management (EASM). The General Assembly adopted an ambitious new strategy for years 2020–2023, as well as the annual reports for 2018.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Article on the General Assembly](#)

[Article on the ASPIRE final conference](#)

[Presentation of Yves Le Lostecque](#)

[Presentation of Stanislas Frossard
ENGSO Annual Report 2018](#)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

05-06 July

DOSB Mentoring visite, EOC EU Office, Brussels

10 July

SHARE Meeting, Brussels