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High-level structured dialogue and Sport Council Meeting: The fight against doping at the heart of discussions

On 17 May, the Irish presidency organised both its first Sport Council Meeting as well as an high-level "structured dialogue".

Scheduled for lunchtime, the structured dialogue addressed the issue of the fight against doping. It gathered together EU sport Ministers and representatives of the sport movement, including notably **Travis Tygart** (CEO of USADA), **Patrick Hickey** (EOC President), **Pat McQuaid** (UCI President), and **Olivier Niggli** (Legal Director of the WADA). The EU Commissioner in charge of sports, **Androulla Vassiliou**, also attended this meeting.

The Council Meeting of the sport ministers took place right after the structured dialogue. Three topics were on the agenda, reflecting the priorities of the Irish Presidency in the field of sports: the European Commission's mandate to take part in the negotiations regarding the Convention of the Council of Europe to combat the manipulation of sports results, the promotion of dual careers for athletes and the fight against doping.

1. Patrick Hickey's participation in the structured dialogue

Patrick Hickey had been invited by the Irish Minister of sports, as a representative of the Olympic Movement, to take part in the debate on doping. During the high-level structured dialogue and the press conference, Mr. Hickey explained that the use of performance-enhancing drugs was a plague hard to combat. Therefore, he paid

tribute to the actions implemented by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the USADA, and other sports organisations addressing the issue of doping, urging them to keep up the fight.

In the same vein, Mr. Hickey particularly insisted on the importance of the new EU sports chapter and complimented the Commissioner for its creation. According to Mr. Hickey, this chapter will provide "*an amount of money available to help organisations to work with local authorities, government agencies, etc. to combat doping.*"

2. Council Meeting of the Sport Ministers

Following the high level structured dialogue, the Council Meeting enabled the Ministers of Sports to deal with three main topics:

- **The Commission's mandate for the negotiations on the Convention of the Council of Europe to combat the manipulation of sports results:** The presidency provided the Ministers with a note of information concerning the state of play of the discussions with the European Commission. As a reminder, these discussions are aimed at authorising the European Commission to "*participate, on behalf of the EU, in the negotiations for an international convention of the Council of Europe to combat the manipulation of sports results.*"
- **Dual careers for athletes:** The Ministers agreed on a set of actions to facilitate dual



careers for athletes. Among which is the composition of guidelines designed to improve conditions for successfully combining sport careers with education or work, especially thanks to the establishment of specific arrangements. This topic will be taken up in the implementation of the sport chapter in the Erasmus for All programme.

- **Anti-doping:** The Irish Presidency provided some updates on the ongoing review of the WADA code. The review procedure, which started in November 2011, will be completed in the coming months. The final draft will be submitted for approval at the next World Conference on Doping in Sport, in November 2013.

Within this context, the Council had a policy debate on the role of public authorities to tackle the issue of increased sophistication of doping in sport. Travis Tygart was invited to participate in the debate. According to him, the success of

the anti-doping fight can be summarised in one word: **LIFE**; the doping plague will be properly addressed only when: **Legislation** is strictly established, the anti-doping agencies' **Independence** is preserved, the **Funding** is consistent with the scale of the issue; and the **Engagement** of stakeholders to seize the problem is unconditional. The EU ministers acknowledged that combating doping is a cross-border and a cross-sector challenge, involving all sport actors. While some agreed to develop and to improve the tools of the anti-doping fight, others emphasised the need not to overrule athlete's human and legal rights in doing so.

Further information:

[Press release of the Council meeting on Education, Youth, Culture and Sport](#)

[Press release of the Irish presidency](#)

[Press conference on sport issues at the Council](#)

State aids and sport: the European Commission approves the public co-financing of multifunctional arenas in Denmark and Sweden

In 2011, both the Swedish and the Danish States had notified plans to back the building of two new multifunctional arenas, respectively in Uppsala and Copenhagen. In Uppsala, the project is budgeted at around €72 million. €16.5 million of this amount was meant to be financed by the municipality. Regarding Denmark, the total cost of the Copenhagen arena amounts up to €148 million. From that budget, €43.7 million was meant to be paid by the municipality. Moreover, the land on which the Copenhagen arena is foreseen to be built has been provided for free by "By & Havn," a



structure co-owned by the City (55%) and the State (45%).



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In March 2012, the European Commission decided to investigate on these two multifunctional arenas, in order to assess whether the public financing would create distortions of competition within the EU. This month, the European Commission delivered its investigation conclusions, and authorised the public co-financing of both multifunctional arenas.

According to Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), a public funding can only be authorised if it is proportioned to the objective pursued and limited to the minimum necessary to attain that objective. In these cases, the European Commission considered that both conditions were met. In this regard, the European Union pointed out that Sweden and Denmark managed to demonstrate that:

- They have been facing a need for additional capacity, which can only be addressed if constructing new multifunctional arenas;

- The public co-financing is limited strictly to realising the project;
- The use of the arena is open to all, without any sort of discrimination between companies;
- The public funding has a limited effect on trade and competition between Member States.

Specificity of sport reference (Art 165 TFEU):

In this context, the European Commission used the argument of the specificity of sport for its decision. Indeed, it acknowledged that the construction of venues for sport and other public events, as well as the support of activities benefiting the general public, are in line with the Amsterdam Declaration on Sport and with article 165 TFEU.

Further information:

[Press release of the EU regarding the Uppsala multiarena case in Sweden \(IP/13/394\)](#)

[Press release of the EU regarding the Copenhagen multiarena in Denmark \(IP/13/434\)](#)

Meeting of the IOC founding working group on irregular and illegal betting: a call for a universal monitoring system

On 13 and 14 May, the IOC organized the fourth meeting of the founding working group on the fight against irregular and illegal betting in Lausanne. The meeting ended with the participants' approval on an array of recommendations aimed at improving and strengthening education, monitoring, intelligence exchanges and legislation on this issue.

As explained in our [February-2012 monthly report](#), this founding working group is made up of representatives of the sports world, governments, international organizations and betting operators. These members are divided into three sub-groups of experts

working respectively on: education and information; monitoring, intelligence and analysis; and legislation and regulation.

1. Creating a universal monitoring system

The meeting concluded with a major announcement; the founding working group called for the establishment of a universal monitoring system for the Olympic Movement. This system, which would copy the London 2012's one, could be used during all the competitions organized by International Federations. It would very much facilitate exchanges of information and



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intelligence between stakeholders regarding suspicious betting activities. Though such a common sports monitoring system still needs to be approved by the Olympic Movement, IOC president Jacques Rogge expressed grounds for optimism on this topic, noting that: *“the work undertaken by the founding working group is paving the way forward and [has] made significant progress since [his] first meeting in 2011.”*

2. Multiplying the measures against irregular and illegal betting

Apart from this call for a universal monitoring system, the founding working group made other recommendations. It advocated furthermore:

- The adoption and the application of its [“Code of Conduct”](#) by all relevant sport organizations.
- The use of any tools, including educational programmes, to raise awareness for the issue of illegal and irregular betting, especially regarding ethical standards and dangers of match-fixing. Judging from the founding working group, both sports organisations and national authorities should act in that direction.

- The development of national platforms of monitoring to reinforce cross-border exchanges of information and intelligence among stakeholders.
- The establishment of a system whereby anyone who witnesses a wrongdoing potentially linked to match-fixing or irregular/illegal betting can report it confidentially.
- The adoption of strong legislations, at State level, to tackle the problem of irregular and illegal betting. Indeed, the founding working group considers that the integrity of sport cannot be achieved without State support. Therefore, it fully supports the *“International Convention of the Council of Europe to combat the manipulation of sport results,”* which could help States initiate this legislative process.

These recommendations now need to be followed through in practice. Their effectiveness will be assessed during the next meeting of the founding working group, which will take place next year.

Further information:
[IOC press release on the meeting conclusions](#)

UNESCO’s World Sport Ministers Conference: Promotion of infrastructure and the fight against Match-fixing in Sports

May 28-30, 2013, delegations from 125 countries met at UNESCO’s 5th International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS V). According to the advice given by the three working groups, the “Berlin Declaration” was presented on the concluding day of this Conference. The sports ministers emphasize within this Declaration that access to sport must be free

of discrimination and should be seen as a fundamental right for all. Regarding the implementation, member states are asked to focus specifically on accessibility to physical education at schools, the inclusion of the disabled, the promotion of volunteerism, the construction or extension of barrier-free sports infrastructure and gender equality.



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Due to the background of sports' value in regard to (public) health, the sport ministers in the Declaration call for further investment in preventive health programmes and in sports infrastructures suitable for the implementation of major sporting events. Major international sport events, in particular, have positive effects on society and the economy of hosting countries. Furthermore, only with the awareness of such major sports events, would it become possible to accommodate sport programmes on a national scale. The organizers of such events have been called upon to decrease financial and logistical demands for implementing major sporting events, in order to enable a broader scope for applicants and bids.

The ministers have further claimed the need for new measures in the fight against match-fixing in sports. The protection of sport integrity must be the common priority requiring enforced collaboration between states and sport organizations. Member States were recommended to add and implement within their respective legislation a reference to "sports fraud", as a ground for prosecution. Furthermore, sport federations are prompted to develop additional preventive means, e.g. the introduction of ombudsmen as contact persons for athletes, or own codes of conducts with sports law specific sanctions in case of misconduct.

Further information:
[UNESCO Website](#)

Priorities of Lithuanian Presidency

During the second half of 2013, the Council of the European Union will be chaired by Lithuania. The Baltic State's Minister of the Interior, Dailis Alfonsas Barakauskas, has now identified the Presidency's priorities in regard to sport:

- 1) Promotion of public health through physical activity will be the main objective. In this regard, the Council will elaborate on its recommendation on the European Network for the promotion of health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA).
- 2) Consideration of the sport sector's input in the Europe 2020 strategy. The assessment will be based on the Council's conclusion on "financial and economic aspects of sport".
- 3) Organization of a policy debate on Good Governance Principles for Sport.
- 4) Promotion of the fight against doping and match-fixing.

As such, the Lithuanian Presidency is in line with a common approach shared by the Ireland/Lithuania/Greece Trio. A provisional schedule for the up-coming meetings has been presented (dates are to be confirmed):

Meeting	Date(s)
Working Party on Sport	12 July, 17 September, 9-10 October, 22 October, 29 October
EU Sports Council meeting	26 November
EU Sports Forum	30 September - 1 October (Vilnius)
Informal meeting of Ministers responsible for Sport	1 October (Vilnius)
Informal meeting of Ministers of Culture	1 October (Vilnius)
EU Sport Directors meeting	2-3 December (Kaunas)

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On the Lithuanian national level, sport is coordinated by the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Dailis Alfonsas Barakauskas, who is also dealing with questions related to sport at the Government and the EU Council.

Further information:

[Website of Lithuanian Presidency](#)

Flemish Minister Muyters confirmed as EU expert in WADA Foundation Board

On 8 May 2013, Mr **Philippe Muyters**, Flemish Minister for Finance, Budget, Work, Town and Country Planning, and Sport, has officially been announced as the EU expert at governmental level for the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Foundation Board.

Muyters, as "expert at governmental level", will be one of the three representatives of the EU for the WADA Foundation Board, along with Leo Varadkar of Ireland (representing the incumbent Trio Presidency) and Romain Schneider of Luxembourg (representing the future Trio Presidency). In force since 1 January 2013, this system has three different seats for the EU and has been designed and approved at a Council Resolution in December 2011.

Muyters will succeed Mr Alexandre Miguel Mestre of Portugal, who was no longer available to carry out the function. Mestre was nominated in November 2012. At that



time, Muyters was already one of the two candidates for the newly created position, but failed to get elected at that stage. Following Mestre's unavailability, Philippe Muyters was nominated again and his candidature was approved by written procedure by all 27

Member States for a period of three years (2013-2015). The designation was arranged urgently as there was a WADA Foundation Board meeting scheduled in Montreal on 12 May 2013.

Further information:

[Composition of the WADA Foundation Board](#)

Funding programmes, studies and projects

Coming up: "Sport 4 Good Governance" Final Conference

After 18 months of various successful activities and events, the "Sport 4 Good Governance" Project (S4GG), managed by the EOC EU Office, is coming to a close at the end of June. In order to disseminate the

results and achievements of the project and to discuss the follow-up, a Final Conference will be organised.

This Final Conference will take place on Tuesday, 25 June, in Brussels in the



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premises of the representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the EU (Rue Montoyer 47 - 1000 Brussels) between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The programme will include a presentation of the project results, guest presentations and a panel discussion. The programme will be available later this month and will be published on the project's website.

If you would like to attend the S4GG Final Conference, please send an email with your

full name and organisation name to northshield@euoffice.eurolympic.org before Tuesday, June 18. We would like to remind you that registration is mandatory.

Due to limited seating capacity, the EOC EU Office retains the rights of approving registrations.

Further information:

[Website of the S4GG Project](#)

Internal and visits

ENGSO General Assembly in Belgrade from 7-9 June

The European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation ENGSO will hold its 21st General Assembly in Belgrade, Serbia 7-9 June 2013. The ENGSO Youth General Assembly will also take place at the same time.

This year elections will take place at the ENGSO General Assembly. The following positions will be fulfilled: The ENGSO Vice-President, the Secretary General and two ENGSO Executive Committee members.

The approval of the annual report and annual accounts as well as the budget and action plans will also be on the agenda. Prior to the General Assembly, the traditional EU Seminar will be held to discuss European sports policy issues.

Further information:

http://www.engso.eu/clanek.php?id=130&tab=la_test_news

Registration for the Nature & Sports Euro'Meet conference

The second Nature & Sports Euro'Meet conference will be held October, 2-4 2013 in Liptovsky Mikulas, Slovakia. This is the largest outdoor sports conference in Europe and is co-organized by the European Network for Outdoor Sports (ENOS).

Goals of the conference are:

- To promote a common European outdoor sports culture ;
- To promote experience transfer by sharing successes and difficulties ;

- To promote the structuring of a European network of outdoor sports actors ;
- To contribute to the inclusion of outdoor sports in European public policies in the field of health, territorial development and environment.

The conference organisers have received support from the European Commission under the 'Lifelong Learning Programme'. Furthermore, European participants have the

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possibility of requesting funding in order to attend the conference from their country's European Agency for Education in accordance with the Grundtvig Visits and Exchanges actions.

Further information:

[Nature and Sports Website](#)

EOC EU Office runs the 20Km of Brussels

Brussels, 26 March 2013, with cloudy skies and 8 degrees Celsius in the air, the EOC EU Office team line up in their starting box for the 20km of Brussels run.

This was the race's 34th edition and welcomed some 30,000 participants from Europe and beyond. In the city's sports agenda, this event is the most popular and widespread event known to the city. The race welcomes foreigners and takes these participants past some of the city's most known landmarks and monuments.

The popularity of this event has grown internationally and in numbers over the years. The first 20km race was held in Brussels on 8 June 1980 with some 4,659 participants. Today it reaches a scale of up to 37,000 racers which include foreigners who travel to the city specifically for this event. This year 122 different nationalities were registered with finishing times between 59:22 and 4 hours.

This annual sports event was an exceptional opportunity for our office members to run together with an array of diverse nationalities including members from our professional working field.

It offered as well a chance to exchange thoughts with other running members notably from the European Institutions.



As rare as the sun is in Belgium, this initiative was likewise a unique occasion for our office members to engage in a sports event outside the office. Representing the EOC EU Office as a team, our runners wore a team t-shirt, produced specifically for this occasion.

Further information:

<http://www.20km.be/>



Dates in June

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| 7-8 | ENGSO General Assembly Meeting, Belgrade, Serbia |
| 10 | Meeting between Jacques Rogge, Patrick Hickey and Commissioner Vassiliou, Brussels |
| 11 | EOC EU Office Board Meeting, Brussels |
| 18-19 | Athletes Seminar on European Affairs, Brussels |
| 20 | Sport 4 Good Governance Training Session, Graz, Austria |
| 25 | Sport 4 Good Governance Final Conference, Brussels |
| 26-27 | Council Expert Group on Education and Training in Sport, Helsinki, Finland |

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