

## Tweets of the month



### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Nov 19

In [#NewLeaders](#) session "Balanced Leadership, Better Leadership, Better Governance" Director [@FolkerF](#) highlighted that [#genderequality](#) is part of good governance. He gave [@SIGGS\\_EU](#) self-evaluation tool as concrete example to work to improve gender equality. [#LeadtheChange](#)

### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Nov 19

Janez Kocijancic, President of the [@EOCmedia](#) at the [#NewLeaders](#) Forum: "The future is in the [#NewLeaders](#), we need fresh blood in the sport leadership. We, the old leaders, need to listen to you and we are ready to do so."

### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Nov 18

IOC President Bach at [#NewLeaders](#) Forum: "Gender equality is part of good governance. It is right thing to do and it is smart thing to do. In sport, we cannot afford leaving 50% of potential outside. The message for sport is: change or be changed."  
[#LeadtheChange](#) [#GameChangers](#)

### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Nov 15

Great initiative of [@EuSport](#) to organise consultation of sport stakeholders regarding the implementation of the future of [@EUErasmusPlus](#) sport programme. Priority of the [@EOCEUOffice](#) is to facilitate the access of sport organisations to the programme.

### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Nov 8

Our [@SIGGS\\_EU](#) self-evaluation tool on [#goodgovernance](#) in [#sport](#) was presented today in Vilnius in the GANTT project final conference to representatives of Baltic sport federations. [@h\\_pekkola](#) presented also GG principles & current activities in the field by sport movement & EU.

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## *The House of European Sport*

### EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The mandate of the former "Sport Commissioner" Tibor Navracsics came to an end on 30 November: For five years he was responsible for European sports policy on behalf of the European Commission, what legacy has he left behind?

On the positive side, it can certainly be assessed that, despite reservations in his own Directorate-General, he has placed sport high on his personal agenda and that he managed that sport will continue to be an integral part of the new Erasmus+ programme in the future. Thus, the currently discussed programme's growth rates, which range between doubling or even tripling funding, will also benefit sport. The European Week of Sport has also developed very positively under his aegis. The number of participants and the funds for the coordinators have been increasing substantially and the Week is now involving even countries outside the European Union. On the other hand, initiatives such as the two "High Level Groups" on sports diplomacy and grassroots sport launched by him were not sufficiently implemented. This is all the more regrettable since the reports drawn up by the two groups and the recommendations contained therein have shown good starting points for further concrete steps.

Like all its predecessors, the influence of the "Sport Commissioner" on sport-related policy areas dealt with by other Directorates-General was limited. This is due to the fact that, despite the Commission's principle of collegiality, individual Commissioners are reluctant to interfere in the portfolios of their colleagues. This became particularly clear in policy areas such as the application of competition law to sport or in the discussion on the reform of the structural funds, where the lead Directorates-General and Commissioners considered the interests of other policy areas to a very limited extent.

With the exclusion of sport from the title of the portfolio of the new Bulgarian Sports Commissioner, Mariya Gabriel, the start with the new EU Commission was unfortunate, but should not be seen as a warning sign for future European sports policy. The extent to which issues are taken up and dealt with by the new EU Commission will also depend on all actors in organised sport. Against this background, a more proactive approach will be required to alert the new Commissioner to the problems and challenges of sport, but also to inform and highlight the social achievements of sport.

The EOC EU Office and the Olympic Movement thank Commissioner Navracsics for the good cooperation and look forward to the cooperation with the new EU Commission and wish the new "Sport Commissioner" Mariya Gabriel a good start!

Enjoy reading,



Folker Hellmund  
Director

## EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

### Council of Europe organises a Seminar on Human Rights in Sport

A seminar on “Human Rights in Sport” was held in Strasbourg on 20 November 2019. The event was organised by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe with the support of various entities such as the Secretariat of the Anti-doping Convention and the European Court of Human Rights.

The general aims of the seminar were to:

- provide information on recent institutional developments;
- make awareness on available tools;

The seminar was attended by over 60 specialists from sports ministries and sports organisations, academics and human rights experts from across Europe. The focus of the seminar was on the existing human rights of athletes and their implementation, as well as on specific legal presentations on the impact and role of CAS and in particular by illustrating cases on Pechstein and Mutu.

In her presentation, Katia Mascagni, Head of Public Affairs and Human rights coordinator of the IOC underlined that the values of human rights are enshrined in the founding documents of the IOC, including the IOC Charter, and the IOC Code of Ethics.

The IOC has initiated a comprehensive analysis of its own policies, processes, and practices to understand where in the field of human rights are the gaps and opportunities for improvement. A comprehensive IOC human rights strategy is in the making and the future Advisory Committee on

Human rights, which should take shape in 2020, will be another tool to help the IOC to implement this strategy.

In a panel discussion, Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, acknowledged the work of trade unions, but at the same time reminded that neither the IOC, nor International Federations or NOCs could be regarded as employers of athletes. For that reason, the social dialogue on sport at the EU level that has already started more than 10 years ago was limited to football and not transferable to individual sports. Consequently, the new Athletes Declaration of the IOC is not referring to workers’ rights, but to general topics that are relevant for all athletes in particular on discrimination, integrity, clean sport and dual careers.



#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Seminar on Human Rights in Sport](#)

## *The House of European Sport*

### Winners of the #BeInclusive Sport Awards announced

The second edition of the #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards project culminated on 21 November 2019 at a special ceremony in Brussels. Representatives of the 9 nominated projects gathered in an innovative space “La Tricoterie” together with over 100 guests and speakers to learn who the three winners of the 2019 competition were.

The event was opened by European Commissioner for Sport, Tibor Navracsics, for whom it was the last public engagement on sport in his current position, followed by Tiziana Beghin, Member of the European Parliament, and then by Finnish Minister of Sport, Hanna Kosonen, whose opening addresses were followed by a panel discussion on the role of sport in social inclusion. The formal “warm-up” led to the impatiently awaited moment for the 9 nominees – the winners’ announcement. Selected out of 144 applications, and knowing that they would receive at least 2 500 EUR for having made it to the top 9, the project leaders had the opportunity to showcase their initiatives to the audience in the form of information stands. However, they knew that, ultimately, only 3 of them would reach the #BeInclusive awards and with it a financial reward of 10 000 EUR. In the end, the 3 winners were revealed:

- Ginástica com Todos Associação de Ginástica do Algarve (Portugal)

- Rocking Inclusion!, “Ich will da rauf!” e.V. (Germany)
- Job Goals - Education through Football, Kicken ohne Grenzen

#BeInclusive EU Sport Awards is an initiative of the European Commission. Launched by Commissioner Navracsics in 2018 with the objective to recognise organisations using the power of sport to increase social inclusion for disadvantaged groups, the Awards have become one of the core European Commission initiatives in the EU sport policy realm. The new Commission President Ursula von der Leyen even tasked the new Commissioner responsible for sport Mariya Gabriel with further “promoting sport as a tool for inclusion and wellbeing”, and as part of this with “expanding the BeInclusive EU Sport Awards.”

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Winners of the #BeInclusive Sport Awards](#)

[Mission Letter to Mariya Gabriel](#)

### Sport Ministers Council adopts two Conclusions and discusses the European Sport Model with the IOC

On 21 November 2019, the Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council adopted two conclusions related to sports, namely:

- “Combating corruption in sports”, and
- “Safeguarding children in sports”.

The conclusions on “Combating corruption in sports” were welcomed by Commissioner Navracsics, who highlighted that integrity must be part of the sport DNA and that there are no borders in corruption. He stated that the sport family must work together since corruption is a common battle for all of us.

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The document notably mentioned:

- The intention of Sport Ministers to create a common EU-approach to fight corruption in sport including a call on the European Commission to work on an action plan leading to Council Recommendations on management corruption in sport;
- Positive initiatives from the sport movement and other actors including the work of IPACS;
- The importance of the protection of Whistle-blowers;
- The need to overcome the deadlock regarding the ratification of the Macolin Convention.

Before the adoption of the conclusions on “Safeguarding children in sports” the importance of the topic was raised by several speakers and the Commissioner stressed in his remarks that “a single child suffering is one too many”. In addition, the speakers shared their experiences from different Erasmus+ projects with focus on ensuring children’s participation in sport without being exposed to any social harm. All children should have the chance to practice sport in a safe environment.

The adoption of the conclusions was followed by a policy debate on good governance in sport. The President-elect of WADA (World Anti Doping Agency), Witold Banka, opened the discussions and pledged that WADAs role is growing but that it cannot fight the threats of sports alone. Banka put forward one of his future priorities as transparency and said that the vast majority of papers from WADA meetings should be made public excluding confidential material. He presented a need for more programmes regarding young athletes and a further development of the monitoring process and the inducement of more penalties.

Promoting good governance at EU level has been one of the priorities during Navracsics’ mandate and the Commissioner draw attention to good governance as a crucial part to not damage the picture of sport in society and in making people feel inspired by sport and to not be driven away from it.

In the subsequent discussions, several points were emphasized more than others:

- Ensuring principles and regulations are implemented in practice and are targeted towards the international federations where umbrella organisations play a key role.
- There is a need for a dialogue between Member States, NOCs, and grassroots organisations to cooperate and coordinate joint meetings.
- An Expert Group on integrity in sports is encouraged again in the future.
- Erasmus+ is a great example on how to cooperate within the area and should be further promoted.
- There is also a need for a model and a joint approach within the EU and for EU wide strategies.

It is clear that good governance is of high importance and a problem beyond national borders. A network where to learn from each other was requested by several speakers asking for a comparison of experiences on a sustainable development and a transparency in the administration. In addition, it was mentioned that athlete’s voice must be heard.

The topic of the European Sport Model was also on the agenda of Sport Ministers during the EYCS Council’s Sport lunch debate which took place on 21 November. Christophe De Kepper, Director General of the IOC and Danka Bartekova, Vice President of the IOC Athletes’ Commission, were invited to present the views of the Olympic Movement as well as to discuss the role the EU can play to contribute to the protection of the European Sport Model. Sport Ministers were invited to react to the introductory speeches as well as to focus on the two questions:

1. How do you see the future of the European Sport Model in the 2020’s?
2. What role should governments play in safeguarding the European Sport Model?



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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Combating Corruption in Sports](#)

[Safeguarding Children in Sports](#)

## FUNDING PROGRAMMES AND STUDIES

### New Erasmus+ Sport Call and 2020 Programme Guide for the Erasmus+ Programme published

On Tuesday, 5 November, the European Commission announced the latest call for proposals under the Erasmus+ funding programme. Erasmus+ is the European Commission's programme for education, training, youth and sport. With this instrument, the EU provides funding for EU citizens, enabling them to engage with international opportunities. For the Erasmus+ Programme of 2019, a total of €48.6 million was budgeted for the sport strand making this the largest allocation for sport in Erasmus+ history. However, for the year 2020, another record has been set since the Erasmus+ budget for 2020 has increased by 12% compared to 2019. The total budget foreseen by the Commission for the 2020 call for proposals amounts to €3 207.4 million. From this total budget, €57.6 million is earmarked for the sport strand to finance projects and events.

Alongside the call for proposals, the European Commission also released the 2020 Programme Guide which provides a better understanding of the Erasmus+. This Programme Guide – available in several EU languages – consists of three parts: A) A general overview of the Programme; B) specific information about the Actions of the Programme and C) detailed information on procedures for grant application and selection of projects. Under part B a section is devoted to sport. Under this section, it is explained that you can apply for funding from the sport strand of Erasmus+ in three related actions

(p. 231-248 of the Programme): Collaborative Partnerships; Small Collaborative Partnerships and Non-For-Profit European Sport Events.

#### **Collaborative Partnerships**

Collaborative partnerships is an opportunity to develop, transfer and implement innovative practices in different areas relating to sport and physical activity between various organisations and actors in and outside sport. To apply for a funding, at least five organisations from five different Programme Countries must be involved in these projects. The maximum grant is €400,000 and projects can last up to 36 months.

#### **Small Collaborative Partnerships**

Small Collaborative Partnerships will allow organisations to develop and reinforce networks, increase their capacity to operate at transnational level, and exchange good practices relating to sport and physical activity.

At least three organisations from three Programme countries are required as partners in these projects. The maximum grant is €60,000 and the project duration is up to 24 months.

The specific objectives pursued by the Erasmus+ Programme in the field of sport which are also the funding priorities for the collaborative partnerships

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and small collaborative partnerships, will be pursued through actions that aim to:

- tackle cross-border threats to the integrity of sport, such as doping, match fixing and violence, as well as all kinds of intolerance and discrimination;
- promote and support good governance in sport and dual careers of athletes;
- and to promote voluntary activities in sport, together with social inclusion, equal opportunities and awareness of the importance of health-enhancing physical activity, through increased participation in, and equal access to sport for all.

### Not-For-Profit European Sport Events

Not-for-profit European Sport events aim to support volunteering in sport, social inclusion through sport, gender equality in sport, health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA), as well as the implementation of the European Week of Sport (EWoS).

For events related to the EWoS, the maximum grant is €300,000, whereas for other events the awarded grant can be up to €500,000. Eligible events are required to have participants from at least 10 different Programme Countries. It is important to notice that sport competitions organised by international, European or national sport federations/leagues on a regular basis or professional sport competitions are not eligible for funding.

Note that the applications for the Erasmus+ sport funding are required to be submitted by 2 April 2020 at 17:00 (Brussels time). The EOC EU Office warmly encourages the organised sport and its partners to actively apply funding from the Erasmus+ sport.

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### MORE INFORMATION

[Call for proposals](#)

[Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2020](#)

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## More than 80% of adolescents worldwide are not sufficiently physically active says new WHO-led study

The study finds that more than 80% of school-going adolescents globally did not meet current WHO recommendations of at least one hour of physical activity per day, putting their current and future health at risk. The study, which was published in "The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health" journal, is based on data reported by 1.6 million 11 to 17-year-old students between the years 2001 and 2016. The assessment included all types of physical activity, such as time spent in active play, recreation and sports, active domestic chores, walking, and cycling or other types of active transportation. On average, 85% of girls and 78% of boys were physically active less than one hour per day. In all but four countries (Tonga, Samoa,

Afghanistan, and Zambia) girls were less active than boys, which gives a reason for concern. Dr. Leanne Riley co-author of the study "Opportunities to meet the needs and interests of girls are needed to attract and sustain their participation in physical activity through adolescence and into adulthood."

The researchers see the electronic revolution as one of the reasons for the low level of physical activity among young people. This revolution is supposed to have changed the behaviour patterns of adolescents so that they now sit more and are less active.

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The study points out that urgent action is needed to increase physical activity levels for both boys and girls. Therefore the authors recommend that:

- Urgent scaling up is needed of known effective policies and programmes
- Multisectoral action is needed to offer opportunities for young people to be active, involving education, urban planning, road safety, and others;

According to the study, many European countries perform even worse than the already worrying global average, e.g. Italy, France, Germany, and Belgium. Against this background, policy makers and stakeholders should be encouraged to act for the health of the young generations. The health

benefits of a physically active lifestyle during adolescence include improved cardiorespiratory and muscular fitness, bone and cardiometabolic health, and positive effects on weight, says WHO. There is also growing evidence that physical activity has a positive impact on cognitive development and socializing.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Full study: Global trends in insufficient physical activity among adolescents](#)

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## INTERNAL AND VISITS

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### Visit of “Club of 6” to the EOC EU Office

The “Club of 6”, Elite Sport Directors of six National Olympic Committees – namely Belgium, Brazil, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland – together with Sport Director of the European Olympic Committees Peter Brüll paid a visit to the EOC EU Office on 11 November. The “Club of 6”, which meets regularly to exchange views on the development of elite sport, was meeting this time in Belgium and, as part of the programme, also visited the Office. Director Folker Hellmund and Deputy Director Heidi Pekkola gave an overview on the

current EU sport policy discussions and raised topics that are relevant for the elite sport. The lively debate with the Sport Directors included for instance exchanges on the European Sport Model, Rule 40, artificial turf and the Macolin Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions. In addition, the current and future projects of the EOC EU Office – SIGGS, POINTS and RINGS – were presented.



## PARTNERS' CORNER

### New Leaders Programme concluded by a successful Forum in Helsinki



The New Leaders Forum, organised on 18-20 November 2019 in Helsinki, Finland, invited sports leaders to step up the pace towards gender equality and to build opportunities for young people. The project brought together nearly 200 people from NOCs and other sports organisations in Europe. The event concluded the ground-breaking one-year programme, which trained 30 young “change-makers”, men and women, to act as catalysts for change in their own sports organisations.

The Forum was organised by the Finnish Olympic Committee with the support of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the European Olympic Committees (EOC), the City of Helsinki and the Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland. The New Leaders Programme was the legacy project of Birgitta Kervinen, IOC Women and Sport World Trophy winner in 2017 and a long-standing equality advocate as e.g. ENGSO President. The programme was implemented in collaboration with the Irish, Lithuanian and Azerbaijani NOCs that hosted workshops throughout the programme workshops – in January 2019 in Vilnius, in April 2019 in Dublin and in July 2019 in Baku.

The first day of the conference presented high-level speakers from the Olympic movement and beyond, including IOC President Thomas Bach, EOC President Janez Kocijančič and EOC Gender

Equality Commission Chair and Irish NOC President Sarah Keane.

President Bach congratulated the Finnish NOC and the EOC for their work with the New Leaders Programme, which for its part implements the IOC Gender Equality Recommendations.

“Gender equality and promoting women in sport is not only an issue of fairness. It is for sure not some kind of generous present. It is about attracting the best talent. It is the smart thing to do and it is the right thing to do. Gender equality is part of good governance of any organisation. In today’s world, no organisation, institution or country can afford to leave the skills of 50 per cent of the population behind – either in sport or in society at large”, President Bach said.

Birgitta Kervinen confessed that speaking up for gender equality hasn’t always been easy, and urged the young change-makers to make the most out of their newly finished education and keep up the good work by working together, asking questions, and using the power they have acquired.

“I have heard so many speeches and read so many papers about equality. Now sports organisations need to have the courage to promote equality through concrete actions”, Birgitta Kervinen stated.

In his speech, EOC President Janez Kocijančič said that the sports movement needs new leaders that can provide new solutions to the issues that sport is facing. “Our goal should be 50/50 gender balance, and we should do whatever possible to achieve this goal. The New Leaders Programme is one tool to achieve this goal”, President Kocijančič said. EOC Gender Equality Commission Chair Sarah Keane presented the recently adopted EOC

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Gender Equality Strategy and called the NOCs to take concrete actions to improve the situation.

During the session “How to Change the Game: Four Action Plans by Game-Changers”, four change-makers presented their work, which has carried impressive results already during the New Leaders lifetime.

The programme of the second and final day opened opportunities for discussing best practices and success stories as well as looking beyond 2020. EOC Vice President Niels Nygaard admitted that having only two women in the Executive Committee of the European Olympic Committees is not enough and said that further work to change the situation needs to be done. He also encouraged the NOCs to put female candidates forward in the upcoming elections. During the session titled “Balanced Leadership, Better Leadership, Better Governance”, EOC EU Office Director Folker Hellmund highlighted that gender equality is part of good governance. He presented the SIGGS self-evaluation tool as concrete

instrument for improving good governance. The New Leaders Legacy, presented at the end of the Forum, called on EOC and the NOCs to implement concrete measures that promote gender equality.



### FURTHER INFORMATION

[New Leaders Legacy](#)

[Stepping-up the Change: European Sports Leaders Taking the Lead in Gender Equality and Inclusion in Sport](#)

[IOC President Bach's speech](#)

## DOSB hosts an open forum on sustainable artificial turf pitches

On 6 November 2019, the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) organised an open forum at the international trade fair for urban living environments FSB in Cologne on the future of artificial turf pitches under the title “Sustainable artificial turf pitches - where are we heading?”.

The exchange of opinions was preceded by a panel discussion attended by representatives of the DOSB, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the German Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), the Association of German Municipal Sports Offices (ADS), the International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities Germany (IAKS Germany), the Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND), the Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences, and the Arminia Köln 09 sports club.

In his opening statement, DOSB Vice President Andreas Silbersack, addressed the originally great uncertainty of the clubs, which feared a closure of their pitches due to the ECHA restriction proposal on intentionally added microplastics. Silbersack emphasized that the forum intends to provide a platform for the exchange of ecological, social and economic views on sustainable artificial turf pitches in the future.

Christian Schultheiss of ECHA appreciated the advanced discussion in Germany and the high involvement of sports clubs and associations. In his opinion, the final decision of the EU Commission would probably not be made until 2021. A restriction on the sale of rubber granules as infill material could therefore only enter into force as early as 2022.

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Werner Jung-Stadié of Arminia Köln 09 pointed out that artificial turf pitches continue to be a quality feature in the recruitment of new club members: "The desires exist, as players like to play on artificial turf and otherwise might choose competing clubs."

Summing up the discussion Dr. Karin Fehres, member of the DOSB Executive Board, pleaded for further intensive exchange and stressed that a functioning network had been formed. "There is great interest, especially among the volunteers in the sports clubs, to have reliable framework conditions and to receive recommendations for action." She further concluded that there is no dissent at all about the fact that artificial turf pitches are needed - especially in densely populated areas or in adverse climate. However, there is a need for higher quality product solutions that take into account the entire life cycle, including disposal and recycling.

The background of the event is the current ECHA restriction proposal on intentionally added

microplastics. This includes the rubber granulates used as infill material for artificial turf pitches. A future sales ban is currently discussed. The DOSB has set up a working group on the subject, involving various stakeholders. The working group, among other tasks, develops recommendations for action of pitch operators to reduce the release of microplastics into the environment. In response to the ECHA procedure, numerous financing bodies in Germany no longer support the construction of artificial turf pitches that use rubber granulate as infill. Further information can be found on the DOSB website.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[DOSB Microplastics](#)

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## NEXT MONTHS

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<b>4-5 December</b>	Cluster meeting Dual Careers, Brussels
<b>17 December</b>	Specificity of Sport Seminar, Brussels
<b>9-22 January</b>	Winter Youth Olympic Games, Lausanne
<b>28 January</b>	EOC Executive Committee, Lausanne
<b>28 January</b>	EOC EU Office Board meeting, Lausanne
<b>31 January</b>	Erasmus+ Coordinators information meeting, Brussels
<b>6 February</b>	IPACS European Contact Group meeting, Paris
<b>11-12 February</b>	RINGS kick-off meeting, Brussels