



## European Union and Sport

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### European Parliament rejects cut to EU's budget 2014-2020

On 13 March 2013, the European Parliament rejected the agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020 reached by EU leaders at their summit on 8 February 2013. The resolution was approved by a very large majority (506 in favour, 161 against, 23 abstentions). It addresses the cuts in the MFF 2014-2020 and the growing problem of payment shortfalls. Last year's shortfalls meant that several important EU programmes, such as the Erasmus Programme and the Social Fund ran out of funds early in the year.

The European Parliament highlighted that the issue of unpaid bills from 2012 must be settled before concluding the MFF negotiations. It also requested a political undertaking from the Council that all bills falling due in 2013 will be paid in 2013, so as to avoid carrying over a deficit into the

new MFF. The EU legally cannot sustain a deficit.

The budget proposed by the head of the European states and governments is € 908.4 billion, corresponding to 1.0% of the EU's Gross National Income (GNI). This means that the overall expenditure ceiling has been reduced by 3.4% in real terms, compared to the current MFF (2007-2013). Until now the negotiations did not address the sport field. Since the Lisbon Treaty, the European Parliament has the right to co-decision in setting the EU's budget. Without its approval, no agreement can go into effect. Now, the European Council and European Parliament will have to reach a compromise.

#### Further information:

[Press release of the European Parliament](#)

### EU submits third contribution to revision WADA Code

On 25-26 February 2013, the Council approved the third contribution of the European Union to the revision of the World Anti-Doping Code. Consequently the Irish Presidency has been authorised to submit the contribution to WADA. The draft text of the contribution has been prepared by the Council Working Party on Sport by using the text prepared by the Expert Group (XG) on Anti-Doping as a basis. As reported earlier, Claudia Bokel (Chair of IOC Athletes' Commission), Christian Thill (IOC) and Folker Hellmund (EOC EU Office) have represented the Olympic Movement in this XG meeting on 24 January 2013.

This third contribution follows earlier contributions submitted in March and October 2012 and was deemed necessary as the latest drafts of both the revised Code and the related International Standards (IS) continue to have an impact on aspects of EU legislation, notably data protection and free movement. The contribution therefore includes comments to the draft Code 2015 (v. 2.0) and to certain IS (v. 1.0).

Overall the European Union is generally satisfied with the progress made by WADA in reworking the draft Code and the IS. As a result, the aim of this contribution is more to acknowledge this progress and to highlight



positive changes and less to provide detailed comments. However, the EU reiterated its position on certain issues following the requirement of further changes. For example, the EU still has concerns regarding Article 22 of the draft Code on the “involvement of governments” due to the obligations imposed on Member States.

## Further procedure

On 1 March 2013, the third and final consultation phase of the Code as well as the second and final consultation phase of the IS has been concluded. WADA will proceed with its preparation of a third draft of the Code

and with a second draft of the IS, by May 2013. If deemed necessary, the EU may submit a fourth contribution. Finally, the revised Code will be presented at the fourth World Conference on Doping in Sport in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2013.

### Further information:

[press release \(25-26 February 2013\)](#)

[third EU contribution](#)

[Code review plan](#)

## European Parliament: adoption of a resolution on match-fixing and corruption in sport

During its plenary session in Strasbourg the European Parliament adopted on 14 March 2013 a non legislative resolution on match-fixing and corruption in sport. Initiated by Emine Bozkurt (S&D) and supported by most of the political groups, this political text summarised in 23 points, addresses the different actors involved in the fight against match-fixing and corruption in sport: i.e. the European Commission, Member States, the Council of the EU and sport organisations.

The European Parliament welcomes the ongoing discussions on a possible convention by the Council of Europe in the fight against the manipulation of sports results. It also supports the “5th International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport” (MINEPS), which will address the issue of integrity in sport and the fight against match-fixing, taking place in Berlin at the end of May 2013.

The European Parliament calls (non exhaustive list):

### 1) The European Commission:

- To develop a coordinated approach towards the fight against match-fixing and organised crime by coordinating the efforts of the main stakeholders in this area; such as sports organisations, national police and judicial authorities and gambling operators, and by providing a platform for discussion and an exchange of information and best practice;
- To ensure that all Member States prohibit betting on competitions involving minors;
- To facilitate the exchange of information between regulatory bodies with regard to illegal or suspicious sports-related betting activities;
- To establish cooperation with third countries with the aim of combating the organised crime associated with match-fixing.

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The European Parliament finally supports the initiative of the European Commission adopted in 2014 on a recommendation of best practice in the prevention and combating of betting-related match-fixing.

## 2) Member States:

- To include match-fixing in their national criminal law, to provide for appropriate common minimum sanctions and to ensure that existing loopholes are addressed in a way that fully respects fundamental rights;
- To create a specialised law enforcement unit to combat match-fixing and to serve as a hub for communication and cooperation amongst the main stakeholders, and to oblige gambling operators to provide information on irregular gambling patterns to this specialised unit and to sports organisations for further investigation and referral to prosecution authorities.

## 3) The Council of the EU:

- To pursue the aims of the EU Work Plan for Sport for 2011-2014, insisting in particular on the development of education programmes in the Member States with a view to raising awareness of sporting values such as integrity, fair play and respect for others;
- To proceed in a swift and ambitious manner with the discussions on the proposal

for a new money laundering directive to address the use of online sports betting for money laundering.

## 4) Sports organisations:

- To adopt a zero-tolerance policy on corruption (both internally and in relation to external contractors) in order to prevent their members from yielding to external pressure;
- To establish a code of conduct (for players, coaches, referees, medical and technical staff and club and association leaders) which sets out the dangers of match-fixing, includes a clear prohibition on manipulating matches for betting or other purposes, stipulates the associated sanctions and includes a ban on gambling on own matches and an obligation to report any approaches concerning, or awareness of, match-fixing, coupled with an adequate whistleblower protection mechanism;
- To start up and persist with comprehensive prevention and education programmes entailing clear obligations for clubs, leagues and federations, in particular with regard to minors, and to set up a disciplinary body to deal with match-fixing.

### Further information:

[European Parliament Resolution on match-fixing and corruption in sport – March 14, 2013](#)





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## State Aids and Sport: European Commission opens a new investigation of public funding for professional football in the Netherlands

This could be the beginning of a long series of cases relating to sport and state aid.

In our monthly report from October 2012, we presented the investigation launched by the European Commission and its Directorate General Competition on State aid in professional football.

On 6 March 2013, the European Commission opened an investigation to determine whether the measures taken by five Dutch cities for their professional football clubs were in line with EU rules on State aid. According to the press release of the European Commission, «None of those measures, taken in 2010 and 2011, was notified to the Commission, who was alerted by concerned citizens.» The European Commission did not say whether this investigation is related to the outcome of the questionnaire sent in October 2012 to 27 Member States on State aid in professional sports.

Joaquín Almunia, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for competition policy, stated: *"I strongly believe that professional football clubs should be well managed and not ask for help from the tax-payer when facing financial difficulties. If financial support is nevertheless given, then it should be granted under the EU State aid rules for aid to companies in difficulty. As regards these five football clubs, we have doubts that this has been the case."*

The Commission will examine five measures for the following clubs: NEC, MVV, Willem II, PSV and FC Den Bosch:

Name of club	Year of measure	Description
NEC (1st league)	2010	Municipality of Nijmegen bought off a claim made by NEC for €2.2 million.
MVV (2nd league)	2010	Municipality of Maastricht waived a claim of € 1.7 million on MVV and bought the stadium for €1.85 million.
Willem II (1st league)	2010	Municipality of Tilburg lowered rent of stadium with retroactive effect, total advantage €2.4 million.
PSV (1st league)	2011	Municipality of Eindhoven bought land from PSV for €48.385 million and leased it back to this club.
FC Den Bosch (2 <sup>nd</sup> league)	2011	Municipality of Den Bosch waived a claim of €1.65 million on FC Den Bosch and bought training facilities for €1.4 million.

The European Commission considers at this stage that these measures are likely to distort competition and affect trade between Member States. Therefore they might be, in principle, incompatible with EU single market rules (Article 107-1 TFEU). Insofar as the



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clubs involved were facing financial difficulties at the time of the adoption of those measures, public assistance provided by the cities must be compatible with the EU guidelines on state aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty, which is doubtful according to the European Commission at this stage of the proceedings.

The question is now whether the Directorate General for Competition aims to analyze the situation of football and professional sports in general within the 27 Member States.

Announcements made by EU Commissioner Almunia converge towards this goal.

Finally, it should be noted that DG Competition will soon decide (in March or April 2013) pending cases concerning the financing of multifunctional sports arenas in Denmark and Sweden, as well as several cases in Germany.

**Further information:**

[Press release IP/13/192 \(DG COMPETITION\)](#)

## European Commission publishes study on sport education in European schools

Aiming to better understand the situation of physical education in Europe today, a report, entitled *Physical Education and Sport at School in Europe*, has been produced by the Eurydice Network on behalf of the European Commission. The report, published in March 2013, maps the state of play of physical education and sports activities at school in 30 European countries (25 EU Member States and Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey). The report can be regarded as the first attempt by the European Commission to identify key concerns and strengths regarding physical education at school in Europe.

According to the study, physical education is compulsory in all examined national curricula at primary and lower secondary level. For almost all countries, the main aim of physical education lies in fostering children's physical, personal and social development. Among the mandatory physical education activities in schools, games (mainly ball games) are the most common.

Although European countries promote the value of physical education and sport in

schools, prescribed taught time of physical education varies significantly from one country to another as well as between education levels. For example, during the 2011/12 school year, the recommended minimum average taught time at primary level varied between 37 hours in Ireland and 108 hours in France. In addition, the share of taught time recommended for physical education is rather low compared to that of other subjects across all countries.

Around one-third of surveyed countries are currently planning reforms relevant to physical education. Portugal and Finland are, for example, intending to increase the minimum taught time of physical education. Greece and Hungary intend to diversify the provision of organised physical activity at school. National reforms in many countries are also trying to improve the conditions under which physical education is taught and to promote the training of those who teach it.

**Further information:**

[Study on the website of the Sport Unit](#)



## Funding programmes, studies and projects

### S4GG Project to present and test educational toolkit

The logo for the S4GG Project, featuring the text 'SPORT 4 GOOD GOVERNANCE' in a bold, sans-serif font. The number '4' is stylized with a green dot above it.

With just a few months remaining, the "Sport for Good Governance" Project

(S4GG), managed by the EOC EU Office, reaches its final stages. Building on the results of the questionnaire and the fruitful discussions during the various peer reviews in 2012, the project's team has been working hard over the past few months to finalise the educational toolkit. With the intention of helping sports organisations in implementing principles of good governance, this toolkit, titled "the key to good governance in sport", will consist of a master presentation, a self-assessment test, a guide with recommendations and good practice examples.

While the project's team is applying the finishing touch to the toolkit, the team is already looking forward to presenting and testing this toolkit at a number of upcoming meetings.

On Monday 8 April, the preliminary results of the S4GG Project will be presented by Folker Hellmund, Head of the EOC EU Office, and Gabriele Freytag, Director of the Leadership

Academy of the DOSB, at the conference "The Challenge for Europe in the Governance of Sport". At this conference, which takes place at the Silken Berlaymont hotel in Brussels, five EU-funded projects on good governance will be brought together. Participation at this conference is free, but registration is mandatory.



In addition to this conference, two training sessions will be organised with the aim of testing the toolkit. A first training session - hosted by the NOC of Slovakia - will take place on 15 and 16 April in Bratislava, Slovakia. A second training session is scheduled for May or June. A final conference will be organised at the end of June.

More information on these upcoming events soon will be provided. Please feel free to consult the project's website. A download section recently has been added with topic-related documents, to include reports of previous meetings and an analysis of the questionnaire.

#### Further information:

[S4GG Project](#)

[programme Conference 8 April 2013](#)



## Internal and visits

### ENGSO co-organises a Hearing on online gambling and sustainable financing of sport

In partnership with the beneficiaries of the Finnish Lottery Company Veikkaus, ENGSO will organise a Hearing on online gambling and the sustainable financing of sport. The main topics to be discussed include how to ensure high-level consumer protection and the funding of grassroots sport(s). MEP Hannu Takkula (from ALDE), and MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen (from EPP) are the hosts of the event, and ENGSO President Birgitta Kervinen will take the floor to address the

issue of sustainable financing of grassroots sport(s).

The event will be held at the European Parliament in the ASP 5G1 meeting room on 11 April at 14:00 - 15:30.

#### Further information:

If you would like to participate, please register online .

#### Dates in April

8	Conference "The Challenge for Europe in the Governance of Sport" in Brussels
9	Council Expert Group "Good Governance" in Brussels
11	Hearing on online gambling and sustainable financing of sport in Brussels
15-16	"Sport for Good Governance" training session in Bratislava, Slovakia
24	Annual Partner Meeting of the EOC EU Office in Brussels

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