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European Union and Sport

Second top-level meeting between IOC President Rogge and EU Commissioner Figel'

Within the context of the "Structured Dialogue", Ján Figel', EU Commissioner for Sport, met on 8 June 2009 in Brussels with representatives of the Olympic Movement headed by Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The two men had already met on 26 January 2009 in Lausanne to discuss sports policy issues such as the autonomy of sport, its financing, gambling, application of EU competition law and anti-doping.



Ján Figel', Commissioner for Education, Culture and Youth

The two meetings may be seen as a follow-up to the European Council's conclusions on sport of 11-12 December 2008 in which the Heads of State and Government had called for an intensification of

dialogue with the International Olympic Committee and other important representatives of sport.

The meeting of 8 June 2009 allowed an exchange of views on a number of topics currently on the EU agenda for sport which are of interest to the international sport stakeholders and notably for the Olympic movement. The list of topics discussed included:

- The financing of sport, with particular regard for the issue of sport betting rights and fair return to sport

- The fight against doping and the results of the EU Conference on Anti-Doping held in Athens in May.



IOC-President Jacques Rogge

- The implementation of the White Paper on Sport and the launch of preparatory action in the field of sport financed from this year's EU budget.
- The EU training initiative for high-level sportspeople aiming for combined education and sports training ("dual careers"). In particular, allocation of the first tasks was discussed here.
- The continued structured dialogue with the sport movement in view of the next EU Sport Forum to be held in April 2010 and the possible entry into force of the sports provisions of the Lisbon Treaty.

After the meeting, Commissioner Jàn Figel' underlined that the Commission is very supportive of having a regular exchange of views on EU-related topics with the IOC and other international stakeholders. In the view of IOC President Jacques Rogge, organised sport has a unique and important role in European society. Through constructive dialogue between the Commission and the Olympic Movement, the benefits of sport can be better communicated to the European Union and more effective efforts can be



made to combat doping, illegal betting and other threats to sport.

Information on the structured dialogue:

http://ec.europa.eu/sport/consultation-cooperation/doc75_de.htm

Study published on money laundering through the Football Sector

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an inter-governmental body set up in Paris in 1989 whose purpose is the development and promotion of national and international policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, published a study relating to research into criminal activities in international football on 1 July 2009.

The study is a contribution to the implementation of the White Paper on Sport of 2007 in the field of fighting corruption and money laundering (cf. "Pierre de Coubertin" Action Plan, items 44 and 45) and is based on experience and data of FATF's member states around the world, the European Commission and the private sector.

FATF's 42-page final report analyses the football sector from economic and societal perspectives and shows in case studies which areas in the international football market are particularly vulnerable to money laundering and illegal investments. According to the report, these risky areas include for example the transfer market, the purchase of clubs and players, sport betting activities, image rights contracts/ advertising contracts and sponsoring. Some examples show that the football sector is also used as a means of committing other criminal activities such as trafficking in human beings, corruption, drugs trafficking (doping) and tax crime.

The report identifies 3 weak points in the football sector:

1. The structure of the football sector: Due to its very heterogeneous and opaque structure, it is very easy to penetrate the football market from outside. Complicated networks of stakeholders, a diversity of legal structures and a lack of professionalism by those responsible in the clubs make them very vulnerable to criminal manipulation.
2. Football finances: The clubs have a great need for financing and the amounts of money involved are generally large, particularly in the international transfer market (which often even has an irrational character), whereby control of the origin and destination of the payments is weak or lacking entirely.
3. The culture of the football sector: Some players, especially younger players, are particularly easy to influence on account of their often low social status. The results of the study show that they often see an opportunity to rise socially through sport and to gain access to the managing class. On account of football's positive societal role, outsiders are reluctant to shatter sports' illusion of innocence.

Thus, a large number of motives make the area of football interesting for criminals seeking a serious social environment for investments.

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The study aims to draw attention to the different complex forms of money laundering through which the football sector in particular (and the sports sector in general) can be subverted by criminals. The aim is for government politicians, lawyers, the financial sector and sports authorities to understand the problem better and thus to be better equipped to deal with it.

The following seven recommendations are made at the end of the report:

- Building a better awareness;
- Improving financial transparency and greater recognition of good governance;
- Seeking a code of best practices
- Cooperating with sports organisations (FIFA, UEFA, IOC);
- Imposing similar regulations for the sporting industry (e.g. to prevent tax havens);
- Improving international cooperation and information sharing;
- Carrying out further studies on the risks of money laundering in the sport sector (e.g. study on internet betting).

The European Commission welcomes the report and will continue to observe the implementation of EU legislation in Member States in fighting money laundering. The sports sector too, will be given special attention here.

Further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/news789_en.htm

FATF's complete final report is available to download:

<http://www.fatf-gafi.org/dataoecd/7/41/43216572.pdf>



EU policy matters

Swedish Presidency of the European Council

On 1 July 2009, Sweden took over its rotating Presidency of the European Union. Focal areas of the new Presidency of the Council will be fighting the financial crisis, reducing unemployment and questions relating to climate change.



The Scandinavians are taking over the Presidency from the Czechs at a time marked by institutional change and uncertainty. Following the EU Parliamentary elections in June 2009, a new Parliament is currently being formed and a new Commission appointed. The second Irish referendum on the Treaty of Lisbon will also take place during the Swedish Presidency. This new referendum is awaited with anticipation, as Irish votes rejected the Treaty last summer, thereby setting back efforts to reform the EU decision-making process.

Regarding sports policy, the Swedish Presidency of the Council, like its

predecessors, has committed itself to respecting the autonomy of European sports associations and placing the focus of its activities on the following subjects, in keeping with the implementation of the White Paper on Sport and the Action Plan "Pierre de Coubertin":

- The meeting of Sports Directors is planned for 1/2 October 2009;
- Sport and health;
- Anti-doping, whereby the Swedes are particularly concerned to strengthen the European legal position within WADA;
- Qualification and vocational training of young sportsmen and sportswomen;
- Support for voluntary work in sport.

Further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/index_de.htm
<http://www.se2009.eu/>

Second referendum in Ireland on the Treaty of Lisbon to take place in October 2009

The second referendum in Ireland on the Treaty of Lisbon takes place on 2 October 2009.

The majority of Irish votes rejected the Treaty of Lisbon in a referendum held on 12 June 2008 (53.4 % of the votes with

electoral participation of 53.1%). In order to pave the way for a second Irish vote on the Treaty of Lisbon, the EU's Heads of State and Government reached a compromise at the EU summit on 19 June 2009, offering Ireland legally binding guarantees concerning the Treaty of Lisbon, without it



being necessary for other countries to ratify the text again.



These guarantees are one of the factors suggesting that the vote in October will have a positive outcome: The defeat at the European elections of Declan Ganley, founder and head of the Libertas party, which is critical of

Europe, also greatly weakens the anti-Lisbon movement, while the "yes" campaign, which is now better organised, is supported by the Irish government, other parties and celebrities. They include high-ranking business people, political commentators and sports stars who have advocated the Treaty more strongly in recent weeks.

The latest Irish polls indicate that two out of three voters are in favour of the Treaty, with one against. In various ways, this situation

reflects the referendum on the Treaty of Nice, which was rejected by the Irish electorate by 54 per cent to 46 per cent against in 2001 and which was subsequently accepted after being strengthened by a "yes" campaign, with 63 per cent voting in favour and 37 per cent against.

The referendum in Ireland is the decisive hurdle to be overcome for the Treaty of Lisbon to come into force. With it, the European Union will gain additional competence in the field of sport through the new Art. 165 of the Treaty.

Further information:

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/summit-deal-paves-way-second-irish-lisbon-referendum/article-183360>

<http://www.lisbontreaty2008.ie/>

European elections 2009: Results and timetable

The European parliamentary elections took place for the seventh time from 4 to 7 June 2009. Some 375 million EU citizens from 27 countries who were eligible to vote took part in the direct European election.

Across almost all of Europe, the Conservatives and parties critical of the EU emerged strengthened from the election. Europe's Social Democratic parties suffered the greatest losses. Once again, the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) (EPP) will be the strongest parliamentary group in the next legislative period.

Average participation in the elections across the EU fell once again in comparison with the previous election (45.5%), with just 43% taking part this time. Participation in the

election in Germany remained at a low level, also at 43%.

The countries of Eastern Europe, which were taking part in the election for the second time, followed the general trend, with a low level of participation. Here, there was an evident preference for conservative and liberal parties.

The newly elected MEPs will convene at a constitutive plenary session in Strasbourg from 14 to 16 July 2009. At this session, MEPS will elect a new Bureau, consisting of the President of the Parliament, 14 Vice-Presidents and 6 Quaestors. Also on the agenda is a vote on the candidate proposed by the European Council for the office of President of the Commission.



In the autumn, the EU Parliament will hold the hearings of the future Members of the Commission.

Sport will continue to be assigned to the Parliamentary Committee on Culture and Education (CULT), and its members will change in mid-July. The previous Chairman of the European Parliament's sports intergroup, Christopher Heaton-Harris of Great Britain, is no longer working as an MEP in Brussels. Pál Schmitt (IOC Member, Hungary), Ivo Belet (Belgium), Doris Pack (Germany) and Hannu Takkula (Finland) will continue to be "supporters of sport" as MEPs, however.

- The 736 newly-elected MEPs meet to form parliamentary groups.
- 29 June-13 July: Meetings of the newly-formed parliamentary groups.
- 14-16 July: constitutive meeting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg: election of the Bureau including the President of Parliament.
- 20-23 July: first sessions of the newly constituted parliamentary committees
- 24-27 August: Parliament group meetings.

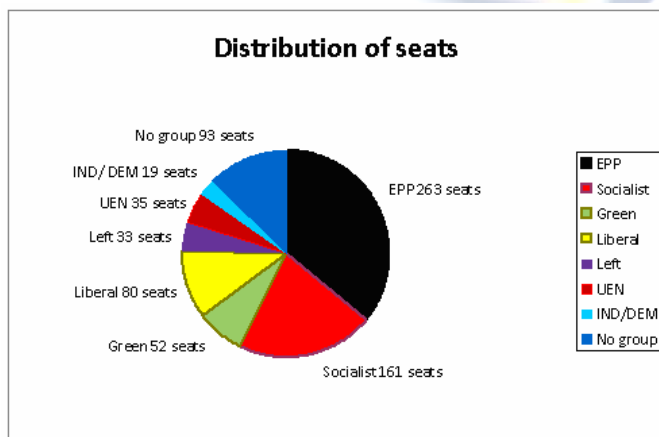
Further information:

http://www.elections2009-results.eu/de/index_de.html

Timetable:

Distribution of seats in Parliament:

Total number of seats: 736





EU promotes the 16th Mediterranean Games in Pescara

The XVI Mediterranean Games took place in Pescara, Italy, from 25 June to 5 July 2009. This sports event, in which athletes from 23 Mediterranean countries competed in 28 different sports disciplines, has been held every four years since 1951 with the aim of promoting peace and international understanding in the Mediterranean Region and extending social dialogue among the nations. For this reason, the organisers also cooperated for the first time with the Monaco-based peace organisation "Peace and Sport" this year.

At this sixteenth event, 3,378 sportsmen and women from Europe, Africa and Asia competed for 782 medals. The most successful country was Italy (64 gold medals), followed by France (48 gold medals) and Spain (28 gold medals).

The most successful participants were Oussama Mellouli from Tunisia (five gold medals in swimming) and the French gymnast Youna Durournet, who won four gold medals.

The Games were co-financed by the European Commission, which contributed 1 million euro within the context of this year's EU budget for "preparatory actions in the field of sport". As well as this contribution, the Commission will also support the 10th European Youth Olympic Festival to be held in Tampere, Finland, this year.

Further information:

<http://www.pescara2009.it/index.php?lang=eng>

Federal Constitutional Court approves the Treaty of Lisbon with amendments

The Second Senate of the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe decided unanimously on 30 June 2009 on the basis of the hearing on 10 and 11 February 2009 that the Act Approving the Treaty of Lisbon is compatible with the Basic Law.

However, in the view of the constitutional judges, it is unconstitutional that the Bundestag and the Bundesrat have not been accorded sufficient rights of participation by the so-called **Act Extending and Strengthening the Rights of the Bundestag and the Bundesrat in European**

lawmaking procedures and treaty amendment procedures.

Immediate consequences of the decision

According to Federal President Horst Köhler's judgement, the Federal Republic of Germany's instrument of ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon may not be deposited as long as the constitutionally required elaboration of the parliamentary rights of participation has not entered into force.

Thus, the ruling of the Federal Constitutional Court approved the Treaty of Lisbon, but at



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the same time it stopped the ratification process in Germany, at least temporarily. The Federal Constitutional Court has specified very precise and extensive requirements relating to how the German parliament can do justice to its democratic mandate in European matters as the representative of the German people.

Timetable

In spite of the summer recess, it is likely that the Bundestag will adopt a law that meets the demands of the Federal Constitutional Court before the Bundestag elections on 27 September 2009. A special session of the Bundestag is to be held on 26 August at which the first reading of the revised bill will take place. The second and third readings are to take place in parliament on 8 September 2009, i.e. consultations are

to be held on the new bill and a vote taken on it. The Bundesrat is then to give its approval on 18 September 2009.

Further information

Press statement by the Federal Constitutional Court No. 72/2009 of 30 June 2009:

<http://www.bundesverfassungsgericht.de/presse/mitteilungen/bvg09-072.html>

Judgment by the Federal Constitutional Court (2 BvE 2/08, 2 BvE 5/08, 2 BvR 1010/08, 2 BvR 1022/08, 2 BvR 1259/08 und 2 BvR 182/09) of 30 June 2009: http://www.bundesverfassungsgericht.de/entscheidungen/es20090630_2bve000208.html



Funding programs

Youth in Action: Call for submission of project proposals

Within the framework of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation, the European Commission published a call for project proposals for the EU funding programme "Youth in Action" on 3 June 2009. This initiative aims to support non-formal education and youth work projects which in particular promote the creativity and innovation of young people.



Thus, priority is assigned to projects focussing on:

- a) media literacy
- b) e-youth work

Proposals may be submitted by not-for-profit organisations (such as non-governmental organisations or public institutions such as e.g. sports clubs) that have been officially registered in one of the programme countries for at least two years at the time of the application.

Partners from at least four different countries must be involved, of which at least one is an EU Member State.

The total amount of funding earmarked for co-financing the projects is 1,200,000 euro. The Commission's financial assistance may not exceed 65% of the total eligible costs. The maximum total amount of financial assistance is 100,000 euro.

Projects must start between 1 December 2009 and 31 March 2010. The duration must be a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 18 months.

Deadline for submission of applications: **30 September 2009.**

Further information and application forms:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2009/call_action_4_4_de.php

EU:SPORT:FUTURE: Continuation of the interactive rounds of discussions in Paris

A total of five workshops are being organised in the context of the European Commission-funded project EU:SPORT:FUTURE. They are to contribute to finding out European citizens' views on sport and Europe and to collect ideas as to what the EU's competence in the field of sport could be like in the future (see Monthly Report May 09, page 7).

Following the discussion rounds held in Vienna in May on the subjects of "Sport and Education" and "Sport and Health", two further workshops took place this month to discuss "Sport and Employment" and "Sport and Volunteering". This time, the majority of participants came from France, Great Britain and Slovenia. They met at the French House

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of Sport in Paris and engaged in a lively exchange of views.

As well as presenting the results of the EU:SPORT:FUTURE poll, the introductory part of the event also presented best practices from the partner countries, such as effective ways of



supporting volunteering and employment in sport. In addition, Susanne Hollmann, Representative of the European Commission, also presented the "White Paper on Sport" and implementation of the measures from the "Action plan Pierre de Coubertin", and discussed possible developments in the field of sport that could come in the wake of ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon. The rounds of discussion following the presentation were chaired by Myriam Antoine and James MacDougall, of the partner organisations CNOSF and CCPR respectively. The participants in the

discussion called for studies, for example, to establish and provide quantitative and qualitative scientific evidence of employment in sport at European level. They also see the European Year of Volunteering 2011 as being a good opportunity to promote voluntary involvement in sport in particular, to draw the attention of citizens throughout Europe to these activities and to motivate them to become involved themselves.

Immediately after this meeting in Paris, the second team meeting of EU:SPORT:FUTURE took place to prepare the workshop on the subject of "Sport and Society" which is to be held in Budapest on 15 September 2009, and to discuss the final conference, which is planned for October in Portugal, at which the results of the project are to be presented.

Further Informationen:

<http://www.eusportfuture.eu/>



Internal Informationen

New partner of the EOC EU Office

The Ligue Européenne de Natation (LEN), Fédération Internationale de Rugby Amateur – Association Européenne de Rugby (FIRA-AER) and the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO) were accepted as partners of the EOC EU office at the beginning of July 2009. The EOC EU Office previously represented mainly national sports umbrella organisations alongside the IOC; now, it is increasingly also representing the interests of international and European

professional associations for sport in Brussels.

In addition, the EOC EU Office also welcomes the new DOSB Desk Officer Stephan Dietzen as a new member of staff in Brussels.

The EOC EU Office looks forward to interesting and successful cooperation with all concerned!

Imprint:

EOC EU Office
52, Avenue de Cortenbergh
B-1000 Brussels
Tel. : 0032-2-738 03 20
info@euoffice.eurolympic.org