



European Union and Sport

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European Union and Sport

The Belgium EU-Presidency

On 1 July Belgium will take the Presidency of the EU for 6 months.



On Friday 25 June, at the official presentation to the European press of the Belgian EU-Presidency's work programme, Yves Leterme, Belgium's acting prime minister, reaffirmed that the unstable situation in Belgium - elections took place on 13 June and a new government is currently being formed - will "in no way affect" Belgium's EU-Presidency. He underlined the fact that Belgium has adopted a "sober method" based on an "ambitious but realistic" programme to run the next EU-Presidency.

Regarding to sport, 3 priorities have already been identified. The Belgium Presidency wants to focus on:

- "Sport and Education", especially on dual career, mobility in sport, qualification in sport and youth education as well as protection of minors.
- "Fight against doping" thanks to a stronger involvement of the EU in this field.

- "Social inclusion through sport". In this respect a new working group will be implemented on social inclusion followed by a conference in Leuven on 14 – 15 October.

All these priorities have been emphasized during the first EU Council of Sport Ministers which took place this year on 10 May in Brussels.

Some meetings concerning sport issues have already been scheduled:

- 15 September: Meeting of the Sport Directors in Genvat
- 21-22 October: Informal meeting of Sport Ministers in Anvers
- 19 November: Formal Sport Minister Council in the frame of the Education, Youth and Culture Council in Brussels.

Further information:

Belgium EU-Presidency website:
<http://www.eutrio.be/>

EU-Commission: New Director for Sport in the DG Education and Culture

The DG Education and Culture gets a new director for Sport. The British historian **Gregory Paulger**, had already been Head of Cabinet to Mrs. Viviane Reding, Member of



the European Commission for Education and Culture, in 1999, before taking up the position as Director of the division "Audiovisual, Media, Internet" within the DG "Information Society and Media" in 2005. Now he returns



to his former operational area by replacing Pierre Mairesse, with whom the EOC EU Office already established a long-term and successful co-operation. The EOC EU Office is

looking forward to continuing the trustworthy partnership.

European Parliament in Favour of EU-Licence for Players´Agents

In its session on 17 June 2010 the European Parliament adopted a resolution asking for the introduction of a European licensing system for players agents in order to stop illegal practice involving football players´agents. By submitting this resolution the European Parliament asks the EU-Commission to support the Sport Federations in their objective to regulate players´agents activities. In this context it does not exclude the adoption of an EU-Directive.

In detail, the European Parliament calls for the following:

- Strict standards and examination criteria before anyone could operate as a players' agent,
- Transparency in agents' transactions,
- A prohibition for remuneration to players agents related to the transfer of minors,
- Minimum harmonised standards for agents' contracts,

- An efficient monitoring and disciplinary system,
- The introduction of a EU wide "agents' licensing system" and agents' register,
- The ending of the "dual representation",
- A gradual remuneration conditional on the fulfilment of the contract.

The EU-Commission had already referred to the player´s agents topic when publishing the White Paper on Sport in 2007 and indicated it might initiate legal measures in this regard.

Further information:

„EU-Study on Players´Agents“:
http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/news917_en.htm


EP-Resolution:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+MOTION+B7-2010-0343+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>



The European Commission closes case against the Luxembourg Football Federation

The European Commission closed on 3 June 2010 the legal proceedings against Luxembourg over quotas for foreign football players.



 The Commission initiated infringement proceedings against Luxembourg in July 2004 because of rules limiting the number of foreign footballers

playing for clubs in the Luxembourg Football Federation.

These are the two relevant rules:

- The first one imposed, at a start of a match, a minimum of seven players of Luxembourg nationality or having obtained their first licence to play in Luxembourg
- The second one limits the number of players who had been transferred to four within one season

The Commission considered that these rules could be discriminatory on grounds of na-

tionality, representing a barrier to the free movement of workers.

In response to the comments from the Commission, the Luxembourg authorities adopted the following changes:

- Concerning the first rule: the obligation to have the Luxembourg nationality has been removed. Concerning the licences, statistics provided by the Luxembourg authorities showed that, in practice, this rule does not preclude employment of foreign players and therefore does not constitute any discrimination against EU nationals.
- Regarding the second rule: Statistics show that, on average, the number of players transferred is less than four per season.

Further to these modifications the Commission accepted this new regulation.

Further information:

Press release of the European Commission:
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=820&furtherNews=yes>

European Symposium on Sport in Spain

Approaching the end of its semester, the Spanish Presidency of the EU organised a symposium on sport in early June in Madrid. The symposium was made up of panel discussions which aimed at discussing and reflecting on problems which affect sport and physical activity transver-



sally. Additionally, the role of sporting organisations and elite sportspeople, the role of governments and European public institutions in passing on sporting values and habits to people in Europe were addressed.

In his opening address, the Secretary of State for Sport Mr Jaime Lissavetzky Díez framed the setting of the symposium by em-



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phasising both the global and local nature of sport and its asymmetries. "Sport is an unequal global phenomenon", he said, referring to the existing challenges in gender equality in sport, to the need for respect of diversity and tolerance in sport and to issues of global governance in sport, notably the need to respect and understand the autonomy and specific nature of sport.

Well-known Spanish opinion leaders, elite athletes and influential international guests participated in the panel discussions. The topics of the discussions ranged from sport

and the media to the individualisation of society and from gender equality to child protection. Interaction with the audience, comprising mainly of Spanish sports actors together with some representatives of the international sports community and other EU Members States, was made possible by way of written questions to the panellists.

Further information:

<http://www.eu2010-sportsymposium.org/?lang=en>

International Sports Forum on Doping in Brussels

An International Sports Forum organized by the *Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung* took place in Brussels on 2 June 2010. This forum was focused on the question how to coordinate doping rules without violating sports autonomy. This is all the more important since the European Commission has already declared the fight against doping as one of its main priorities in the field of sport when having published the "White Paper on Sport" in 2007 and became a more significant issue with the integration of Art. 165 in the Lisbon-Treaty. The forum started with a presentation of Professor Arne Ljungqvist, Chairman of the Medical Commission of the IOC. He summarized the history of the fight against doping since the 1960s. Then he stressed the fact that the fight against doping has made considerable progress over the past decade especially with the creation of the WADA and the adoption of the WADA Code. Nevertheless, in order to be really efficient Ljungqvist asked for an increase in funds dedicated to the fight against doping as well as a harmonization of the anti-doping rules.

Doris Pack, Chairwoman of the Committee on Culture and Education at the European Parliament, emphasized the importance of



sport as a transnational social phenomenon and the necessity to defend the values of sport. From her point of view, Art. 165 of the Lisbon

Treaty offers a new visibility for sport on EU level. In this respect, the fight against doping is a priority also for the European Parliament since it does not only concern elite sports. Pack added that the EU will become more active in sport issues. Anti-doping measures as well as a legislative proposal on sport agents are two areas in which the European Union could act. Moreover, the European Parliament supports the financial fair play regulations of the UEFA, underlined Pack in this issue. Another initiative on European Sports policy is expected in autumn, when the EU-Commission intends to publish a communication on sport. So far preliminary measures for a future EU sport programme have already been implemented. The rest of the conference focused on ethics and scientific issues related to doping and thereby provided an excellent overview of this complex topic.



EU-policy matters

Recommendations on Sport Betting Adopted by the Olympic Movement

The IOC held in Lausanne on 24 June 2010 a conference on gambling entitled "Sports Betting: A Challenge to be Faced". The seminar focused on the economic and legal aspects of the financing of sports organisations through betting activities as well as on finding solutions to combat the risks inherent to irregular betting.



The IOC, together with representatives of International Sports Federations (IFs) and National Olympic Committees (NOCs), adopted common recommendations aimed at protecting and maintaining the integrity of sport if and when put at risk by irregular betting.

These recommendations, which will serve as guidelines for all stakeholders involved, propose the following:

1. To adopt internal regulation on sports betting that includes 7 major principles (e.g., "the prohibition for all participants to disclose confidential insider information on their sport").
2. To implement a Communication, Education and Prevention Programme
3. To develop collaboration with public authorities (national and regional governments)
4. To establish a Working Group involving representatives from all constituents of the Olympic Movement in or-

der to analyse the best way to monitor sports betting.

The IOC has approached the topic of irregular betting in a preventive way to protect the Olympic Games. The IOC requires that all athletes, coaches, officials and journalists agree not to engage in Olympic-related betting or promote betting companies during the Games. The IOC Code of Ethics also prohibits betting on any Olympic competition by IOC members, IOC staff or any accredited IF and Olympic Games Organising Committee personnel.

For the Games of the Olympiad in Beijing in 2008 and the Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver last February, the IOC set up a dedicated monitoring system.

"For the sports movement it is crucial to develop a unified strategy and to collaborate closely with public authorities and the legal gambling industry. Only then will we be able to address efficiently this complex issue," IOC President Rogge concluded.

Further information:

IOC Press release

<http://www.olympic.org/en/content/Media/?articleId=92584&articleNewsGroup=-1>

IOC Recommendations on Sport Betting

http://www.olympic.org/Documents/Conferences_Forum_and_Events/2010-06-24_Final_Recommendations_IOC_Seminar_Eng.pdf



UEFA Adopts Financial Fair Play Regulations



UEFA Executive Committee adopted on 27 May 2010 regulations on Financial Fair Play which aim to improve the economic equilibrium between the European Football Clubs in order to establish long term stability in European Team Football.

The main pillars of these rules, which have been presented at the European Parliament on 1 June 2010, are the following:

- Break-even requirement – clubs must not spend more than they generate over a period of time,
- No overdue payable during the season – towards other clubs, employees and/or social/tax authorities,
- Provision of future financial information – to ensure clubs can meet their future obligations.

Furthermore, these fair play regulations, having been established in collaboration with the European Club Association, should encourage clubs to invest in youth training and improvement of sport facilities since the amounts invested in these areas are not

supposed to become part of the deficit calculation. The approach adopted by UEFA with these financial fair play regulations is preventive. An implementation period will be undertaken over the next three years starting in 2012 and being fully accomplished in 2015.

Further information:

Full text of “Club licensing and Financial Fair Play Regulations” on the UEFA website:
<http://en.uefa.com/uefa/aboutuefa/organisation/executivecommittee/news/newsid=1493078.html>

Press release following the presentation at the European Parliament on 1 June, 2010:
<http://en.uefa.com/uefa/footballfirst/protectingthegame/financialfairplay/news/newsid=1494481.html#financial+fair+play+explained>

Press release following the publication of the UEFA Financial Fair Play regulations on 24 June, 2010:
<http://en.uefa.com/uefa/footballfirst/protectingthegame/financialfairplay/news/newsid=1500331.html>



Funding programs and studies

EU Funds: Commission Reviews Rules for Access

On 28 May 2010, the Commission adopted changes to simplify access to EU funds by cutting red tape and saving costs for EU beneficiaries. The new rules will also provide more scope for combining public and private funding for a bigger investment impact. The changes will apply for the new generation of EU programmes from 2014 onward.

With these rules the Commission intends to battle bureaucracy and to apply simplified administration procedures for the application of EU financial funding. Therefore, the ceiling under which grants require simpler administrative procedures is increased up to € 50,000 (instead of € 25,000).

The Commission's long-term goal is to shift the emphasis of the grant system from re-

imbursing cost claims to paying for the delivery of results. The beneficiaries should demonstrate they acted effectively and efficiently instead of merely reporting individual cost items.

Since sports projects are eligible for EU funds as well these new rules apply to them as well. The Commission's proposal must be adopted by the Council and the European Parliament.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/629>

A2B Meets Dual Career in Finland



"Dual Career for Finish Athletes" – was the headline of the last A2B-study visit to Helsinki's Mäkelänrinne Swimming Centre and the Sports Museum of Finland on 9 and 10 June 2010. The A2B partner, the Finnish Olympic Committee, took the opportunity to present excellent practice examples for the establishment and application of dual career structures.

The central feature of the Finnish "dual career programme" is a strong network and a flexible study system combined with innovative E-Learn-Technology, allowing students to profit from a long-distance learning edu-

cation system. The infrastructural network, of so-called 'sport academies', dedicated to young high level athletes, associates sport organisations and education institutions in the interest to facilitate a joint education and sports career for young athletes.

The study visit was enriched by Hannu Takula, Finnish Member of the European Parliament, who contributed with a speech on dual career from a European perspective. He presented potential possibilities for the promotion of dual careers in sport by developing EU legal frameworks and setting up pan-European networks. The study visit included presentations by athletes, coaches, educational institutions, sport organisations and an employment company. The outcome was that Finish athletes profit mainly from the



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excellent network within the “sport academies” allowing them to follow their individual competitive sports and educational career. After their sports competition career, athletes also have the possibility to take part in an Athlete Career Programme to facilitate their access into a business profession.

Within the framework of A2B activities, this second study visit has helped to further identify as well as share good practices and improve networking. The information gath-

ered will flow into workshop discussions and serve as a basis for producing recommendations.

The A2B team would like to thank the Finnish team for the brilliant seminar!

Further information:

www.athletestobusiness.eu

Youth in Action Programme: Two Calls for Proposals

The European Commission recently launched two calls for proposals within the Youth in Action Programme.

1) Youth in Action Programme- Call for Proposals “Youth Support Systems”

The first call aims to support, on an experimental basis, youth workers' mobility and exchanges with a view to promoting the acquisition of new skills and competences in order to enrich their profile as professionals in the youth field, as well as to help them better adapt to the changing needs of young people.

The objectives of the call for proposals are as follows:

- To give youth workers the opportunity to experience a different working reality in another country,
- To gain a better understanding of the European dimension of youth work,
- To improve youth workers' professional, intercultural and language competences,

- To promote the exchange of experiences and approaches to youth work and non-formal education in Europe,
- To contribute to developing stronger and better quality partnerships between youth organizations across Europe and to strengthen the quality and the role of youth work in Europe.

Eligible applicants:

Proposals must be submitted by non-profit organisations such as sport clubs and federations.

Partnerships:

Projects should be based on a solid partnership between two partners from two different programme countries of which at least one from an EU Member State, acting respectively as sending and host organisation of the youth worker(s) involved in the project.

Start of the projects:

The projects must start between 1 March 2011 and 30 June 2011 and are supposed to have a maximum duration of 12 months. The activity will last at least 2 months and maximum 6 months.



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Budget:

The global budget allocated will be € 600,000 and the maximum grant per project will be € 25,000.

Deadline for applications: 22 October 2010.

Further information:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2010/call_action_4_3_en.php

2) Youth in Action Programme- Call for Proposals "Partnerships"

The second call aims to support partnership projects with regional or local public bodies (i.e. regions, municipalities, etc.) or with organisations active in the youth sector at European level, such as Sport organization, which intend to develop or reinforce their long-term actions, strategies and programmes in the field of non-formal learning and youth.

Partnerships:

For all types of activities the project must involve partners from at least two different Programme Countries (including the applicant organisation), of which at least one is a Member State of the European Union.

Start of the projects:

The projects must start between 1 April 2011 and 1 September 2011. The program of activities may run for two years.

Budget:

The global budget allocated to the co-financing is estimated at € 1,200,000 and the maximum grant per project shall not exceed € 100,000.

Deadline for applications: 8 October 2010.


Further information:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/funding/2010/call_action_4_6_en.php



EOC EU Office: Internal News

EOC EU Office: Funding Seminar in Bucarest

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"How to obtain EU-funds for sports projects?". This question was the central point of the 2-days seminar organized by the EOC EU Office in collaboration with the Rumanian Olympic Committee on 16 - 17 June in Bucharest.

The participants received an overview on "EU and Sport" related topics as well as an intro-

duction to the EU-funding rules. This was followed by a presentation of a case study and a practical workshop.

This seminar was the first of its kind carried out by collaborators of the EOC EU Office in Eastern Europe. Based on the positive feedbacks of the participants it is to expect that other seminars of this type will follow in other parts of Europe.

International Ice Hockey Federation: New Partner of the EOC EU Office as of 1 July 2010



The EOC EU Office is delighted to welcome the International Ice-Hockey Federation (IIHF) among its partner organisations as of 1 July 2010. The IIHF, located in Zurich, is the governing body of international ice hockey and inline hockey and was founded on 15 May 1908 in Paris. It represents the interests of 69 member asso-

ciations, each of which is the national governing body of the sport in its nation. The IIHF is – in addition to Football, Handball and Rugby - the fourth team sport association among the EOC EU Office partners.

Further information:

<http://www.iihf.com/iihf-home/home.html>

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