

# MONTHLY REPORT

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October 2024



EUROPEAN  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEES



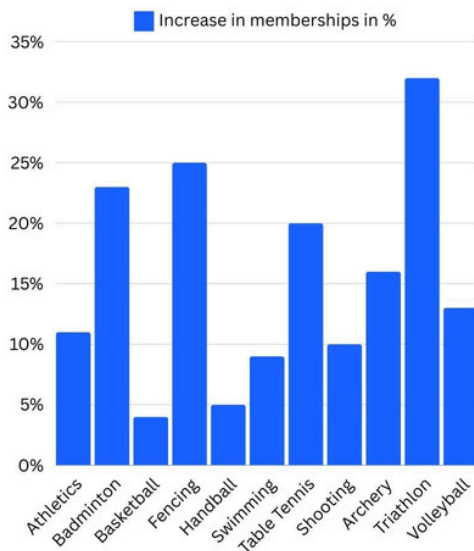
**EU**  
Office

### Figures of the month



#### Olympic Games

### Legacy of Olympic and Paralympic Games 2024



### Increase in the number of members 2024 compared to 2023 in %

Since the end of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, various sports federations in France have seen a sharp increase in the demand for memberships/licenses.

Source: After the Paris Games, French sport sees its number of licensees skyrocket



#### EU Commission

### CONFIRMATION HEARINGS 2024

MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER			
14.30-17.30	M. ŠEŤČOVIČ Trade and Economic Security, Institutional Relations and Transparency	18.30-21.30	A. TZITZIKOSTAS Sustainable Transport and Tourism
	G. MICALLEF Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport		C. HANSEN Agriculture and Food
TUESDAY 5 NOVEMBER			
9.00-12.00	M. MCGRATH Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law	14.30-17.30	D. ŠUICA Mediterranean
	E. ZAHARIEVA Statistics, Research and Innovation		J. ROSWALL Environment, Water and Migration
	D. JØRGENSEN Energy and Housing		M. BRUNNER Internal Affairs
	H. LAHBIB Preparedness and Crisis Management, Equality		O. VÁRHELYI Health and Animal Welfare
	M. L. ALBUQUERQUE Financial Services and the Savings and Investments Union		A. KUBILIUS Defence and Space
	C. KADIS Fisheries and Oceans		V. DOMBROVSKIS Economy and Productivity, Implementation and Simplification
	J. SIKELA International Partnerships		
WEDNESDAY 6 NOVEMBER			
9.00-12.00	H. LAHBIB Preparedness and Crisis Management, Equality	14.30-17.30	P. SERAFIN Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration
	M. L. ALBUQUERQUE Financial Services and the Savings and Investments Union		V. DOMBROVSKIS Economy and Productivity, Implementation and Simplification
	C. KADIS Fisheries and Oceans		
	J. SIKELA International Partnerships		
	A. KUBILIUS Defence and Space		
	O. VÁRHELYI Health and Animal Welfare		
THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER			
9.00-12.00	W. HOEKSTRA Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth	14.30-17.30	V. DOMBROVSKIS Economy and Productivity, Implementation and Simplification
	M. KOS Enlargement		
	P. SERAFIN Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration		
	S. SÉJOURNÉ Prosperity and Industrial Strategy		
	T. RIBERA Clean, Just and Competitive Transition		
	H. VIRRKUNEN Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy		
TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER			
9.00-12.00	R. FITTO Cohesion and Reforms	14.30-17.30	S. SÉJOURNÉ Prosperity and Industrial Strategy
	K. KALLAS Foreign Affairs and Security Policy		T. RIBERA Clean, Just and Competitive Transition
	R. MÍNZATU People, Skills and Preparedness		H. VIRRKUNEN Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy

Glenn Micallef - Commissioner designate for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport

“Strengthening the European Sport Model based on solidarity, values and competitiveness will be one of my top priorities, if confirmed.”



Source: Overview & Micallef written answer

- Editorial

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### EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

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### EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The impact of major sporting events on active participation in sport and membership of sports clubs is a regular topic of discussion. These days, both France and Germany have recorded record numbers of new club members. These figures are encouraging and are certainly due to various factors.

Firstly, the coronavirus pandemic has fuelled many people's desire to engage in physical activity with other people. There is a difference between doing sport alone and doing it in a social environment. In addition to that, the fantastic images of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris have certainly motivated many people to take up sport again themselves and awakened their interest in taking up sport again or learning a new sport under professional supervision in a club.

Even if some clubs are already having problems providing enough coaches and trainers, every effort must now be made to keep the newly registered club members in the clubs. This applies in particular to the many children and young people whose share of enrolments has risen disproportionately.

The hearings of the new EU Commission begin on Monday 4 November with the hearing of the Commissioner responsible for sport, Glenn Micallef. Experience shows that not all designated commissioners are confirmed by the European Parliament. There are a number of different reasons that have led to the rejection of designated commissioners in the past: professional deficits, problems of personal integrity or purely party-political and power-political games between the institutions have played a role in the past as well. Against this background, it would be a big surprise if the new College of Commissioners waste its work still in 2024.

On a personal note, a new colleague, Dr Iva Glibo, started working at the EOC EU Office on 4 November. Iva will strengthen the area of EU funding and will be a great asset to the EOC EU Office thanks to her extensive scientific expertise and practical experience in applying for, implementing and evaluating funding projects. We look forward to working with Iva and wish her much joy and success in her new environment in Brussels!



With kind regards,



Folker Hellmund

Director EOC EU Office



### EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

## New European College of Commissioners set for hearings: Micallef's and Mînzatu's vision on sport and Erasmus+

After the nomination in September of the new European College of Commissioners for the 2024–2029 mandate – which includes Glenn Micallef from Malta as Commissioner-designate for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture, and Sport, and Roxana Mînzatu from Romania as designated Executive Vice-President for People, Skills, and Preparedness with responsibility for Erasmus+ programme – the European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee (JURI) conducted and approved conflict of interest reviews for all 26 Commissioner-designates.

Ahead of the oral hearings, the Commissioner-designates submitted written responses to questions from the European Parliament by 22 October, offering detailed insights into their policy priorities.

### Focus on Sport and Erasmus+

In his written response, Micallef, as the Commissioner-designate responsible for sport, outlined his commitment to enhancing the European Sport Model, emphasising the need for assertive policy action to preserve its core values, such as solidarity, openness and good governance, while addressing challenges like financial sustainability, women's underrepresentation in sport governance, and promoting inclusivity, solidarity and public health.

His key priorities include ensuring sport's accessibility for all demographics, especially through grassroots initiatives supported by Erasmus+, such as the #BeActive campaign and the European Week of Sport, aimed at fostering mental and physical well-being across Europe. Micallef sees sport as essential to community-building, instilling values of fair play and leadership, particularly among young people.

He is expected to work closely with other Commissioners, including Hadja Lahbib, responsible for Preparedness, Crisis Management, and Equality, to ensure that gender equality and social inclusion are integrated across sport and educational policies.

Emphasising the educational potential of sport, Micallef also aims to strengthen synergies between sport and education policies, recognising environments like sport clubs as crucial for building young people's social and personal skills. In line with this goal, Micallef emphasised the importance of Erasmus+ in helping youth engage in society and connect with peers across Europe.

He has expressed full support for the work of Mînzatu, who oversees Erasmus+, to ensure the programme continues to develop skills and intercultural understanding among young people, ultimately enhancing their participation in the European project and strengthening democratic engagement. Additionally, he plans to enhance European sport diplomacy, leveraging major events like the Olympic and Paralympic Games to showcase and spread European values of tolerance, equality, and respect.

Mînzatu's role as Executive Vice-President involves overseeing Erasmus+, a flagship programme in her portfolio aimed at expanding educational and mobility opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged groups. Her focus is on widening access to ensure Erasmus+ benefits reach a more diverse European population and supports lifelong learning across formal and informal settings. Recognising the role of non-formal learning environments, such as sport clubs and youth activities, Mînzatu plans to collaborate closely with the Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture, and Sport to strengthen the educational and skills dimension of these settings, fostering inclusivity and skill recognition across borders.

The EOC EU Office is pleased with the Commissioner-designates' enthusiasm and apparent willingness to collaborate with the sports movement and looking forward to the confirmation of their nomination.

What Comes Next?

The next phase involves oral hearings from 4 to 12 November, where Members of the European Parliament will further assess the Commissioner-designates' readiness for their roles before the final European Parliament vote on the Commission's new College. Glenn Micallef is scheduled to appear before the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) on 4 November. If approved by the Parliament, the new European Commission could potentially begin its mandate in December.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Confirmation hearings for the European Commission](#)

[Written answer to the European Parliament's Questionnaire to the commissioner-designate - Glenn Micallef](#)

[Written answer to the European Parliament's Questionnaire to the commissioner-designate - Roxana Mînzatu](#)

[Written answer to the European Parliament's Questionnaire to the commissioner-designate - Hadja Lahbib](#)

## FIFA Transfer Regulations, Ownership Rules and Contractual Clauses before the European Court of Justice

### The Diarra Case: A Turning Point for Player Transfers and EU Standards

The Diarra case ([C-650/22](#)), recently decided by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) on 4 October, 2024, has brought attention to the compatibility of FIFA's regulations on international player transfers with EU law. This ruling has reignited debate on the balance between the regulatory authority of sports governing bodies and the fundamental rights guaranteed by EU law, particularly the principles of free movement of workers and competition law. The outcome of this case could have wide-reaching implications for the governance of professional sports in Europe.

### The issue at stake

At the heart of the Diarra case lies the question of whether FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP) unduly restrict the freedom of movement of professional footballers within the EU and create anti-competitive conditions in the market for player transfers.

### Facts of the Ruling

The CJEU, ruling on a reference from the Belgian Cour d'appel de Mons, found that several aspects of the FIFA RSTP were incompatible with EU law. The Court determined that these rules hinder the free movement of players who wish to join a new club in another EU Member State by imposing significant legal, financial, and sporting risks on both players and clubs.

The Court specifically identified the following issues with FIFA's regulations:

- Unclear definition of "Just Cause": The RSTP allows for compensation to be paid to the former club if a player terminates their contract without "just cause". However, the Court found this term to be imprecise, leading to unpredictable outcomes and a lack of legal certainty.
- Disproportionate compensation: The Court criticised the criteria used to calculate compensation, arguing they seemed geared towards protecting clubs' financial interests rather than ensuring the smooth running of competitions.

- **Joint liability and sporting sanctions:** The Court deemed the imposition of joint liability on the new club and potential sporting sanctions, such as transfer bans, as disproportionate and exceeding what is necessary to maintain the integrity of competitions.
- **Restriction of competition:** The Court found the system to be akin to a "no-poaching" agreement between clubs, restricting competition in the market for player recruitment.

The CJEU concluded that the FIFA regulations violated both Article 45 (free movement of workers) and Article 101 (competition rules) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

### Expert assessments

Legal experts have offered [various perspectives](#) on the potential impact of the Diarra ruling on the football transfer system:

Experts agree that the Diarra ruling signals a need for reform rather than an end to the football transfer system. Stephen Weatherill (Professor of EU Law, Oxford University) suggests minor adjustments, like waiting periods, to balance player mobility with competition integrity. Mario Flores Chemor (Head of Legal, European Clubs Association) and Sinziana Ianc (Managing Associate, Linklaters) see the ruling as upholding core elements like compensation and sanctions while supporting a more flexible, EU-compliant approach. Carol Couse (Partner, Mills & Reeve) anticipates a shift towards more detailed contracts with buyout clauses to minimise risks of unilateral breaches, while Pieter Paepe (Partner, Edson Legal) calls for greater player autonomy, questioning FIFA's role in enforcing contracts.

Antoine Duval (Senior Researcher, T.M.C. Asser Institute) raises broader concerns, warning that the ruling could concentrate talent in wealthier clubs and reduce the transfer market's role in distributing resources to smaller leagues, which risks further financial imbalance. Duval stresses that collaborative reforms are essential to ensure financial solidarity across leagues.

Dr. Andrea Cattaneo (Senior Lecturer, Edge Hill University) supports Duval's view, seeing the ruling as a prompt for sports governing bodies to engage stakeholders more actively in governance, fostering fairer industry practices.

While directly impacting football, the ruling may also influence transfer and contract rules in other sports, such as handball or basketball. As FIFA revisits Article 17, CJEU-established principles, such as capping compensation for unamortised fees, may temporarily slow transfer activity and affect clubs reliant on transfer revenue.

### RFC Seraing challenges FIFA's ban on Third-Party Ownership: CJEU hearing

On 1st October, 2024, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) held a hearing in the case of Royal Football Club Seraing (RFC Seraing) v FIFA and the Royal Belgian Football Association ([C-600/23](#)). RFC Seraing challenged FIFA's ban on third-party ownership of players' economic rights, asserting that these regulations violate EU law. The club has sought compensation for damages stemming from FIFA's sanctions, which were upheld by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and confirmed by the Swiss Federal Court. The Belgian Supreme Court referred questions regarding the compatibility of these rulings with EU law. The Advocate General is expected to deliver an opinion in January 2025 and the ruling could be issued in the second half of 2025.

### Advocate General's: contract clause requiring young athletes to transfer future income may be unfair if imbalanced

In a separate case ([C-365/23](#)), Advocate General Rantos issued an opinion concerning a contractual clause requiring a young athlete to share a portion of their future income with a company that helped develop their sporting career. Rantos opined that such clauses could be considered "unfair" under EU consumer protection law if they create a significant imbalance between the rights and obligations of the young athlete and the company. He stressed the need for transparency and a reasonable link between the remuneration demanded and the value of services provided. This opinion, while not binding, could influence future court decisions regarding contracts involving young athletes.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press Release Diarra \(C650/22\)](#)

[Judgement Diarra \(C650/22\)](#)

[RFC Seraing \(C600/23\)](#)

[Press Release Contract clause \(C-365/23\)](#)

[Opinion Advocate General \(C-365/23\)](#)

## Reaffirming Commitment to Sport Integrity: Outcomes of the 18th Council of Europe Ministerial Sports Conference

From 8 to 10 October, the 18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport was held in Porto, Portugal, bringing together representatives from over 40 countries, as well as members of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) Consultative Committee. The conference aimed to address the integrity in sport, good governance, and foster inclusion. Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee, delivered a video address on the European Sports Charter, highlighting these themes as foundational pillars of the Olympic Agenda's strategic roadmap.

Commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin Convention), the event further emphasized the importance of enhanced international cooperation to address the growing issue of sports competition manipulation. It furthermore instigated a [declaration](#) reaffirming the importance of the Macolin Convention in safeguarding the integrity of sport and reinforcing the commitment to its continued implementation and expansion.

The ministerial conference led to the adoption of a [Resolution](#) that underscores the necessity of aligning the societal importance of sport with a renewed approach to collaborative good governance in sport, entailing upholding human rights, promoting social inclusion and well-being, addressing economic implications, and calling for enhanced gender equality and good governance practices.



On 10 October, two [focus sessions](#) were held, addressing dual career and leadership through gender equality in sport. During her keynote speech, Annamarie Phelps, Chair of the Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commission of the EOC, cited data on the pervasive gender gap in leadership roles, particularly in sport, and called for decisive actions. During the panel discussion, she mentioned the [GAMES project](#) and its [Pool of Actions](#), as key resources to support organisational changes.

The 19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport is scheduled to take place in Monaco in 2026.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[GAMES project](#)



### ANOC General Assembly: OCEAN Project promoted to 206 NOCs

The OCEAN Project took an important step forward in its promotion, by participating in the General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) in Cascais, Portugal. This event, gathering all 206 National Olympic Committees (NOCs), but also representatives of international federations, the IOC and continental associations, provided an opportunity to share OCEAN's vision and tools for supporting all sport organisations in their sustainability efforts.

#### Presentation to the plenary session

During the plenary session, Eva Rebmann, OCEAN Project Manager, introduced its suite of tools aimed at helping NOCs and sports organisations reduce their carbon footprint. Hence, the timeline for the release of all tools was presented:

- The Carbon Footprint Measurement Tool, available in December, which will allow NOCs to measure and visualize their carbon emissions and set reduction targets in alignment with the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework.
- The Pool of Actions, launching in November, featuring over 100 practical measures to help sports organizations create effective carbon footprint reduction strategies.
- The Guide for Climate Action Officers, to be released in December, providing a detailed roadmap for setting up climate strategies in sport organisations.
- Case studies from 18 NOCs that have implemented their carbon reduction plans, serving as models for other organisations by April.



#### Conversations at the Sustainability Booth

OCEAN's involvement extended to the Sustainability Booth, where it partnered with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework, and Sports for Nature. This space facilitated discussions with NOCs, offering a chance to delve deeper into how these tools can be practically applied beyond the project's consortium.



#### Looking Ahead

OCEAN's team encourages NOCs and sport organisations to take advantage of the upcoming resources to take on climate action. Stay connected as resources will start being disseminated in November.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Watch presentation \(starting at 07:38\)](#)

[LinkedIn Post](#)

[Subscribe to the Newsletter](#)

[OCEAN Website](#)

### The OCEAN Carbon Footprint Measurement and Reduction Tool



- Available for all 206 NOCs in the world
- FREE of use
- In English, Spanish and French

Find more about the OCEAN Project:



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### OCEAN PROJECT

Empowering NOCs to lead example in Climate Action

- 1 **Educate** to lead climate action
- 2 **Measure** NOCs' carbon footprint thanks to a dedicated tool
- 3 **Reduce** NOCs' carbon footprint, in line with UN S4CA



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**13 - 14 November 2024**

EOC EU Office Special Competence Seminar (Brussels)

**02 - 05 December 2024**

OCEAN meeting (Prague)

**16 December 2024**

Erasmus+ Sport InfoDay (online)



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