

## The House of European Sport

### Tweets of the month



#### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice May 02

The @EU\_Commission proposal for the EU budget for the 2021-2027 period is out! We are pleased to see that the budget of the @EUErasmusPlus is proposed to be doubled. Now we look forward for a strong support to its #sport chapter in future as well!

#### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Apr 27

A new #CallForProposals for #Sport as a Tool for #Integration & #SocialInclusion of #Refugees has just been launched

@EU\_Commission! Total budget 1.4M EUR. Deadline 07/06/2018 (12 noon Brussels time). More: [https://ec.europa.eu/sport/calls/eac-s16-2018-integration-social-inclusion-refugees\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/sport/calls/eac-s16-2018-integration-social-inclusion-refugees_en) ...

#### EurOlympic

@EOCmedia Apr 23

Sport Cooperation at the core of the EOC EU Office annual partner meeting

<http://www.eurolympic.org/sport-cooperation-at-the-core-of-eoc-eu-office-annual-partner-meeting/> ...

#### POINTS Project

@POINTS\_EU Apr 10

Ready to welcome all participants in @iocmedia building, in Lausanne for the second meeting of the @POINTS\_EU Project Looking forward to hear from @UEFA @FIVBVolleyball

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### EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

With the presentation of its proposal for the Multi-Annual Financial Framework, the European Commission has started the hot period of the negotiation process on the next EU-Budget for 2021-2027. The discussions on the Financial Framework have always been a diplomatic masterpiece since net payers and beneficiaries always linked their agreement to political concessions. At this stage it is hard to estimate how these concessions could look like from each side. For all observers in Brussels it seems obvious that these negotiations will probably be the most challenging in the history of the EU. How to compensate the Brexit, how to bridge political frictions with the Visegrad Group and how to get the new Franco-German motor started are the major problems to be solved. In any case Commissioner Oettinger tried to find a compromise by proposing reductions to Cohesion and Agricultural Policy and to link them to political criteria that are going beyond economic figures. This is a new political approach and it remains to be seen how long it will take until the Council will adopt unanimously the whole financial package.

What does it mean for the funding of sport related projects in the future? Erasmus+ could be the big winner of the new budget. Even though, it is questionable, if the proposal of the Commission to double the budget of the Erasmus+ survives the negotiations, however, it is clear that there is a big coalition from all EU-Institutions that regards Erasmus+ as the most successful programme of the EU. Therefore the main objective should be to safeguard that the sport chapter remains in the Erasmus+ programme. During the current financial period, the EU funded sport projects in policy fields such as good governance, dual careers, antidoping or social inclusion have certainly created an European added value. Sport is an integral part of our society and contributes significantly to the wellbeing of citizens as well as is a driver for inclusion at local level. This message needs to be better promoted by all stakeholders in sport to safeguard the position of the sport chapter in future as well.

Apart from the Erasmus+ programme there are other policy fields in which sport should be better integrated in the future. In spite of all scientific evidence, physical activity is not sufficiently reflected in the current EU Health programme. This is incomprehensible since physical activity is the cheapest and most simple way to improve the health of citizens. That should be taken into account when the new Health programme will be designed.

At the end of the editorial I just want to remind that the new EU data protection framework enters into force on 25 May 2018. The protection of personal data of the EU citizens is the overall objective of this major reform. The EOC EU Office has worked on this issue from the early beginning since all sectors, including sport, are affected. Sport federations have to check which personal data are really required for their activities and on which legal grounds these data have been saved or transferred. Please see as well our article on this topic on page 4.

Enjoy your read,



Folker Hellmund  
Director EOC EU Office

## EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

### EU Commission's proposal on the Multiannual Financial Framework for the 2021-2027 period

On 2 May 2018, the EU Commission announced its proposed Multiannual Financial Framework for the 2021-2027 period. Commission's President Jean-Claude Juncker as well as Commissioner Günther H. Oettinger who is in charge of Budget and Human Resources stressed the importance of 'delivering efficiency and fairly on the things that really matter in the daily lives of citizens'. To achieve that, the proposed framework should be easier, more focused and more flexible as well as provide a realistic and balanced answer to the new, 27 Member States structure of the EU.

The Commission, taking into account factors such as withdrawal of the UK from the Union, the refugee crises and the lessons learnt from the 2008 financial crises, proposed to increase the overall budget to 1,279 billion € which is equivalent to 1,114% of the EU27 Gross National Income. To meet the budget objectives, Member States will be expected to reasonably raise their contributions while the rest of money has to be raised partly by savings, such as cuts to the Common Agricultural Policy and the Cohesion Policy budgets, as well as redeployments from existing programmes.

For sports organisations, the most important development is a proposal to more than double the Erasmus+ fund which will continue to support young people's education and mobility. The Erasmus+ budget will amount to 30 billion € over the period. It is not clear just yet what proportion of that money pot will be dedicated to the Sports Chapter but the EOC EU Office is advocating for an increase in the area and is closely monitoring relevant developments.

Furthermore, the Commission proposed strengthening of the link between EU funding and

respect of the rule of law. Decisions threatening sound operation of the financial management of the EU will have implications on the grants available to Member States Commission. The assessment of the alleged infringements and their potential implications will be conducted by the Commission and voted on by way of reversed qualified majority by the Council.

Furthermore, two new innovation programmes have been proposed. InvestEU and Digital Europe Programme will benefit from 64% rise in the Research, Innovation and Digital budget. Also the resources dedicated to the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation instrument are intended to rise by 30%, whilst the support to the Pre-Accession Instrument is to be increased by 20 %. A reduced by 5% Cohesion Policy budget is proposed to include the Health programme under European Social Fund+. The current administrative share is proposed to be maintained at the current rate of 6.7% of the overall budget.

The mid-term review of the budget in 2023 will show whether the new framework, if agreed upon, is fit for the purpose of achieving the Union's objectives. Furthermore, the Commission expressed the view that progressive synchronisation of the Multiannual Financial Framework with the five-year political cycle of the EU institutions is desired but due to time and constraints, it would not be an adequate solution for the 2021-2027 period. It may however become a part of the Commission's proposal for 2028, if it chooses so.

The Commission is expected to publish its proposals for different sectoral programmes end of May or beginning of June. The EOC EU Office

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will closely follow these developments, especially focusing on the Erasmus+ and its sport activities, cohesion policy and health activities.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions](#)

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## General Data Protection Regulation coming into force on 25 May!

On 25 May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will enter into force. The application of this regulation will fundamentally change the way that personal data of EU residents has to be protected, giving citizens more control over which data is saved by organisations and for which purposes, as well as creating a uniform framework for legislation in Europe. This regulation will also apply to sport organisations in and outside the EU in so far as they collect and process data of people based in the EU, requiring them to evaluate their current processes, potentially adapt their practices and to set up new mechanisms for requirements.

The GDPR aims to protect EU citizens in the global economy, adapting data protection to the internet and other new technologies as well as to give them full control over all their personal data, by putting consent as a central piece and giving citizens better control of what they share and for what purposes. It also introduces significant penalties for data breaches, including potential fines of up to 4% of annual global turnover, or 10 million €.

While the GDPR as a European regulation has direct effect, therefore enabling individuals to immediately invoke a European provision before a national or European court, there are several aspects that either require or allow deeper national regulation. Reasons for this are that Member States might have constitutional rules in these areas or that the EU does not have legislative competence in these issues.

In order to prepare for the new rules, sport organisations should:

- Draw up or verify their directory of data processing operations, in order to control the lawfulness of all activities under the new rules. This is especially necessary as the new regulation bases large parts on free, distinct and informed consent, meaning that data subjects might need to re-confirm their agreement on the respective data handling.
- As the GDPR furthermore gives a number of direct rights to citizens (rights to be informed, to access and portability, right to correct, right to be forgotten...), organisations have to take measures to allow for an efficient treatment of such requests.
- In some cases, sport organisations might have to appoint Data Protection Officers (DPOs). National regulations can add further cases where this is necessary, so sport organisations should verify these as well.
- Potentially, contracts with third parties will need to be adapted in order to oblige them to respect the data protection rules if they potentially have access to personal data due to their work.
- The necessary processes, when encountering data breaches, have changed, making organisations subject to a general personal data breach notification regime. All breaches have to be reported to the supervisory authority without undue delay and, where feasible, not later than 72 hours after becoming aware of it.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[EU Information Portal on Data Protection](#)

[List of national data protection authorities \(DPAs\)](#)

## First meeting of the Expert Group on "Integrity in Sport"

On 23 and 24 April 2018, the European Commission organised the first meeting of the new European Commission Expert Group on "*Integrity in Sport*", in Varna, Bulgaria.

As for the Expert Group on "Skills and Human Resources Development in Sport", this Group is regulated by the '*Horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups*', adopted by the Commission in 2016. These rules offer the opportunity for the Commission to involve sport organisations by inviting them as observer to the meetings in addition to the representatives of Member States. Several sport organisations were invited to take part of the meeting including IOC, EOC EU Office, UEFA and FIFA. In addition, other relevant organisations such as INTERPOL, EUROPOL, UNODC and Council of Europe were also represented.

This two days meeting was used to discuss three key topics: 1. Manipulation of Sport Competitions 2. Good Governance, 3. Fight against corruption.

As foreseen by the new working method of the Expert Group, the main focus of this first meeting was to establish the type and the scope of the activities the Group will conduct in the upcoming months. In that perspective, the Commission started discussions on each topic with a general update followed by an introduction on the topic and an exchange on the upcoming activities of the Group.

It is interesting to notice that Member States and the Commission showed a deep interest towards the different activities presented by sport organisations to protect the integrity of sport including the POINTS project of the EOC EU Office, the review of International Federation Governance by ASOIF, the governance reform

conducted by FIFA or the network of integrity officers established by UEFA.

In addition, exchanges also underlined the strong cooperation and the various activities engaged between sport organisations and relevant stakeholders. INTERPOL stressed for instance its collaboration with the IOC as well as its involvement in IPACS with ASOIF, IOC and the Council of Europe while UNODC highlighted their anti-corruption initiatives with the IOC.

In the field of manipulation of sport competitions, all participants underlined the necessity to move forward regarding the implementation of the Convention, despite the lockdown at the Council level. In this regard, the Group agreed to have regular updates on national and European initiatives while the Commission will consider to produce a legal analysis of all elements of the Convention which can already be set up by the Member States, without requiring the entry into force of the Convention.

Good Governance in sport is still a key concern of the Group and Darren Bailey, former Chair of the EU Expert Group on this topic, stressed in his presentation, the multiple challenges that sport organisations are facing at the moment. However, the general feeling was that the EU has already been very active in this field and that a lot of positive activities are currently conducted by sport organisations. In this perspective, the Commission proposed to focus on the promotion and the development of its pledge board for Good Governance.

The presentation of Dr. Argyro Elisavet Manoli, Loughborough University, initiated intense discussions between participants on the definition of corruption in sport and allowed several Member

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States and stakeholders to detail their current activities. The Group decided to further explore the current initiatives to avoid duplication in future activities.

The next meeting of the Expert Group is planned to take place in October 2018.

## First meeting of the Working Group on Action 3 “Integrity” of the Kazan Action Plan

Following the adoption of the Kazan Action Plan by UNESCO’s Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, MINEPS VI, in Kazan in July 2017, the Working Group on the Action 3 of the Action Plan related to the integrity topics met for the first time in Paris on 25 April. The aim of the Working Group is to follow-up the Action 3, and more precisely to draft guidelines regarding international standards which support the role of Sports Minister’s in promoting sport integrity. According to the process framework this is to be developed within an inclusive process involving UNESCO Member States, sports organisations and other competent stakeholders. Thus, the participants of the meeting included Member States’ representatives from all around the world, sport organisations, but also other stakeholders such as Interpol, Unicef and International Labour Organization.

The guidelines “*Unify and further develop international standards supporting sport ministers’ interventions in the field of sport integrity*” include five main areas and in the meeting, the presentations and discussions took place around these areas:

- Safeguard athletes, spectators, workers and other groups involved
- Protect children, youth and other vulnerable groups

- Foster good governance of sport organisations
- Strengthen measures against the manipulation of sports competitions
- Ensure an adequate anti-doping policy framework, its implementation and effective compliance measures

The plan is to collect information on these main areas with a questionnaire to identify the cross-cutting areas by the end of this year. The next meeting of the Working Group is planned to take place in January 2019 and the Group is expected to finalise the draft guidelines by October 2019.

The question on the monitoring of the guidelines was also raised in the meeting. In the discussion, it was highlighted that the autonomy of sport, as well as the freedom of association as a basic principle of democracy should be respected, also in the possible monitoring activities. EOC EU Office finds this as a crucial basis for the work and will follow the development of the Group’s work.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Kazan Action Plan](#)



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### Cluster Meeting on the Economic Dimension of Sport

On 11 April 2018, a second cluster meeting under the EU Workplan for Sport, dedicated, this time, to discussions on 'The Economic Dimension of Sport – why Sport matters?' took place in Brussels. A number of stakeholders, including representatives of the EU institutions, Member States, international sports federations, economists and academics took part in the debate which, in the closing words of Yves Le Lostecque, resulted in a very successful and fruitful meeting.

The economic basis for the debate were laid down by researcher Christian Helmenstein of SportsEconAustria. He observed that, in light of the latest figures suggesting that sport contributes 80 billion € a year to the EU economy (soon to be published update of the [2012 Study on the Contribution of Sport to Economic Growth and Employment in the EU](#)), people tend to be too cautious when estimating the impact of sports in the EU. In other noteworthy statistics, he visualised that between 2005 and 2012, the EU sports sector grew by 20% and as a result (being one of a very few sectors that resisted the downfall trends during the recession of 2008), every 47<sup>th</sup> Euro is generated in the sector that employs every 37<sup>th</sup> citizen of the EU. Furthermore, according to the statistics presented, the countries that benefit most from sport are Austria, Germany and Poland, all of which represent labour intensive nature of continental sports sector as opposed to the capital intensive model in the UK. Yet another aspect that was brought to the participants' attention was the underestimated dimensions of sports, such as volunteering, integration effects and innovation inducement. The value of sports can also be looked at in terms of inactivity costs – an example of Austria was given to support this stance. If there was a mere 10% increase in activity levels in Austria, the country would benefit from additional 6.6 billion € and 40 thousand employees in the market.

After this informative introduction to the topic, the attendees welcomed the first panel of speakers. The topics discussed ranged from measuring the

tangible benefit of hosting sporting events to the hosting territories, sharing good practice on collecting data and variety of available models for doing so and about sport being potentially the best horizontal tool for partnership making. The speakers seemed to agree further that European sport faces a major problem due to the lack of uniformity in data collection which makes it practically impossible to compare the results and utilize them to the maximum. Therefore, the panel called for a standardized procedure for data collection on both local and EU level.

The second panel was opened by a discussion on how awareness on economic benefits of sport can help convincing public authorities to invest in sport- and physical activity-related measures to fight obesity (how much physical inactivity costs the public budget). Further, the speakers observed that we have to be cautious with tailoring our policies and debates only to major sporting events as it is the grassroots sports that contribute most to the economy and the employment. The specific examples of relevant policy decisions in the UK and Latvia were considered and the panel was concluded with some confrontational statistics. Sport does not only bring already mentioned 80 billion € a year but raising activity levels amongst Europeans would contribute to saving some 500,000 lives each year.

In the third panel, the speakers considered potential solutions to the issue of incentivizing stakeholders such as local authorities to invest in sports even if they are not the ones who will receive the tangible benefit of such investment. The individual responsibility of the Member States to work towards better use of sports for the economic benefit was outlined in a discussion on policies adopted in Estonia that seem to be successful. All this was further reinforced by the consideration on the Dutch system and a common agreement that presenting hard facts to the authorities is likely to help with obtaining their support for sport-related projects.

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At the end, Barbara Spindler-Oswald, future Chair of the Council Working Party on Sport, took the opportunity to brief the participants on the priorities of the upcoming Austrian Presidency of the EU. She named health and sport activities in the workplace, a relationship between physical inactivity and public financing, boosting volunteer

engagement and innovation in sports linked to regional development as the key focus areas for the second half of the 2018, in which Austria will preside over the Council of the EU.

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## EP Sport Intergroup discusses the topic of empowering women through sport

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On 10 April, the EP Sport Intergroup animated a conference on “Empowering women through sport”. Discussions were divided into two panels dealing with two different aspects of the topic. The first panel focused on “active women and girls” and the second dealt with “safe sport”.

Speakers of the first panel explained progress made in the field of women and sport in their organisations and provided information on several projects in the area. For example, the [“Kicking Girls”](#) project from Germany aims to give disadvantaged girls access to football. The [Club of 100 Women](#) project of the French Football Association then targets the governance and administration sector and has for its aim to gather women wishing to be employed in football clubs and organisations. Moving from projects to internal governance matters, Katie Sadleir of World Rugby offered a detailed insight in the recent changes in the governing body’s statutes. World Rugby will increase the number of Council members from 32 to 49, with the 17 new representatives to be women. This will leave the Council with at least 30 % of women in all future instances.

All speakers agreed on the role played by sport in building social cohesion as well as its importance

regarding combating stereotypes. Panellists also stressed the need to increase media coverage of women in sport.

The second panel - “Safe Sport” - addressed the issue of sexual violence in sport. After an account of a personal story by Gloria Vicerias, former Spanish Olympian and survivor of sexual violence, Belgian researcher, Tine Vertommen, who is involved in the Erasmus+ project “VOICE”, specified that violations of athletes’ integrity affect as many boys as girls. She emphasised that actions needs to be taken at different levels: good quality of children’s rights in sport, accurate prevention measures, and suitable sanctions. Representatives of the High Council for Sport in Spain then demonstrated how these different levels can be put in practice on the example of its Strategic Plan 2016-2020 which encompasses many different areas including the creation of a safe environment in sport.

The EOC EU Office addresses the issue of integrity in sport organisations in its 3-years-long project [POINTS](#), co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme.

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## Match-fixing in Football – finding a way forward

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On 10 April, Emma McClarkin MEP (UK - ECR) hosted, at the European Parliament, a conference discussing potential solutions to tackle match-fixing in football. Diverse panellists including representatives of sport organisations, UNODC, Europol, the co-founder of the movement New FIFA Now and a former football player were invited to share their views on the topic.

Sport organisations opened the discussion with a presentation of FIFA policies implemented prior to the World Cup 2018, in Russia, in which they detailed the strategy with three integrity workshops for the representatives of national federations, integrity focused briefings for all the referees and integrity monitoring and control centre set up for that purpose. Then, the UEFA representative also shared the organisation's priorities and explained monitoring systems that help them detecting match-fixing in football.

Both speakers agreed that cooperation with national and international public authorities and law enforcement is crucial as sport bodies do not have required authority or resources to deal with the matter alone.

This statement was confirmed by speakers from Europol and UNODC. They also outlined positive trends in international cooperation in terms of data sharing and common policies which contribute significantly to their strategies related to corruption

matters. UNODC finally stressed that focus should be put on developing parts of the world where corruption in football also has an impact on the European market while other participants stressed the need to put the priority on the European actors.

Then, the panellists discussed the complexity of methods and strategies used to fix football games, with a focus on technology. Interesting statements were made on the need to give more powers to sports organisations, in order to allow them better track and sanction of such behaviours while keeping sport and politics separated. At the same time, panellists stressed that political will is a key element to solve the problem.

Speakers and participants concluded by saying that there is still a long way to go to eradicate match-fixing issue in football. However, they stressed that current initiatives and dialogue between relevant stakeholders show the common willingness to preserve the integrity of the game.

The Olympic Movement is currently involved in several activities to tackle this issue including the IBIS system of the IOC. The EOC EU Office is also active in this topic via the current POINTS project, funded by the Erasmus+ Programme (more info in the dedicated article).

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## FUNDING PROGRAMMES AND STUDIES

### Second meeting of the POINTS Project at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne



On 10 and 11 April, the POINTS project organised its second meeting, hosted by the International Olympic Committee, in its current headquarters. During this meeting, 19 participants from partner organisations of the POINTS Project pursued the work engaged during the Kick-off meeting on the implementation of the first phase of the project focusing on the development of Guidelines for Single Point of Contact.

In her welcoming words, Pâquerette Girard-Zappelli, IOC Chief Ethics and Compliance, stressed the priority given to integrity activities by the IOC and underlined that *“Our obligation, as sport organisation, is to protect the sport as well as the credibility of sport”*. The IOC is an associated partner to the POINTS Project and is deeply involved in the implementation of the project.

Presentations and discussions regarding the structure of the Guidelines were the main points

on the agenda. In addition three external speakers, Carlos Schneider, Legal Counsellor at UEFA, Yann Hafner, Legal Affairs Manager at FIVB and Brett Clothier, Head of the Athletics Integrity Unit of IAAF provided insights from their practical work on integrity topics to the participants.

Following the presentation of the structure of the Guidelines by Folker Hellmund, Head of EOC EU Office and Valentin Capelli, Project Manager, the group agreed on a first set of key elements including the definition of the concept of Single Point of Contact and the framework of his/her activities and responsibilities. Participants also agreed on the necessary flexibility of the Guidelines, in order to allow organisations to adapt the role of their Single Point of Contact according to their specific situations.

The EOC EU Office, in close cooperation with the consortium, will work on an updated version of the Guidelines with the objective to present the document during the next meeting of the group that is foreseen for 10 and 11 July 2018, in Prague, Czech Republic.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Website](#)

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### Commission publishes calls for proposals for “Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees”

On 12 April 2018, the European Commission published a call for proposals for sport projects that covers the topic of “**Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees**”.

The call has an overall budget of 1.400.000 €. Sport organisations can apply for the call on their own and can receive up to 60.000 € of funding with a maximum co-financing rate of 80 %. Projects need to be implemented between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31 December 2019 and the **deadline for applications is the 7 June 2018 (12:00 Brussels time)**.

The Commission plans to fund **around 25 local sports projects** in this field. Beyond concrete actions aiming at integrating refugees through sport, the expected outcomes include promoting the direct engagement of refugees and host communities in strategic locations within the EU and promoting a Europe-wide approach, increasing the potential for European host communities to successfully engage and integrate refugees through sport.

A non-exhaustive list of the main activities eligible under this call for proposals includes the following:

- Sport activities aimed at promoting participation of refugees;

- Development, identification, promotion and sharing of activities and good practices about participation of refugees into sport activities with the clear aim at their integration into host societies. To be eligible the activities should include an evidence based gender equality methodology.

Application will be rated on **relevance of the project** (40 points), **quality** (40 points) and **management of the project** (20 points), with a minimum threshold of 60 for the first two combined and 70 points for all three criteria. From past experience the total points needed for applications under pilot calls is however significantly higher due to a high number of applications. This high interest in these pilot calls does illustrate the potential of EU funding for local initiatives addressing EU-wide challenges.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[EAC/S16/2018: „Call for proposals for Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees“](#)

## INTERNAL AND VISITS

### The EOC EU Office thanks the partners for attending the Annual Partner Meeting on 17 April 2018



On 17 April 2018, the EOC EU Office gathered representatives of 18 different organisations for its Annual Partner Meeting in Brussels.

Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, gave a brief overview of the Office's recent and future activities in the opening and announced that the Office will co-organise a funding seminar for NOCs from non-EU-countries in Serbia on 18 and 19 June 2018. He also mentioned that the Office actively supported those partner organisations that handed in a project proposal to the Erasmus+ sport call in the application process. Furthermore, he raised the active role played by the Office in the public consultations on the future multi-annual financial framework (MFF), long term budget post-2020 of the EU.

After the introductory remarks, partners of the Office shared their recent activities and expressed their views on the recent developments related to e-sport and sport cooperation with China. Active discussion showed that both issues are currently hot topics in the partner organisations. Many partners had a positive experience exchanging know-how with Chinese sport organisations

however it is to be balanced with the importance of preserving the European sport model.

The second part of the morning session was dedicated to the current challenges that the organised sport is facing. Benoit Keane, a lawyer representing the International Skating Union in its litigation against two Dutch speed skaters, explained that the Commission found it disproportionate to sanction athletes with a life-ban, should they wish to compete in independent events. However, the Commission acknowledged the independence of Sport Federations to impose eligibility criteria for organising private competitions, as long as the objectives are legitimate and proportionate. This is important news for safeguarding the European sport model.

It also initiated a discussion on the ongoing dispute between FIBA and Euroleague concerning the competitions calendar.

Further exchange of views took place on various topics such as challenges of rule 40 of the Olympic Charter or the draft Charter of Athlete Rights proposed by WADA.

In the afternoon, the discussions focused on the recent developments in specific EU policy fields relevant for sport. EOC EU Office colleagues presented the process and expectations for the future long term budget of the EU, as well as updates on the implementation of the EU Work Plan for Sport, data protection, visa policy or the reform of VAT policy.

**The EOC EU Office thanks all its partner organisations for their participation and valuable contributions during the meeting.**

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## NEXT MONTH

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<b>10 May</b>	EOC Executive committee, Belgrade
<b>11-12 May</b>	2018 EOC Seminar, Belgrade
<b>14-15 May</b>	12th Joint Meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and Consultative Committee, Strasbourg
<b>22-23 May</b>	Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council, Council of the EU, Brussels
<b>23 May</b>	Football unites, racism divides, European Parliament, Brussels
<b>31 May</b>	Informal meeting Ministries, Declaration on Values of Sport, French Ministry, Paris