



European Union and Sport

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European Union and Sport

“Education, Youth, Culture and Sport” Council Meeting

The “Education, Youth, Culture and Sport” Council meeting took place on 10 - 11 May in Brussels. The objectives of the meeting were to examine in a detailed manner the proposals of the European Commission concerning the new European multiannual programmes for the period 2014-2020, “Erasmus for all”.



In addition to the adoption of the general orientations of these programmes various specific points were discussed:

- **Education:** Adoption of a partial general approach on the proposal for a regulation establishing the “Erasmus for all” programme, where the sport events have unfortunately been taken out as eligible activities; adoption of conclusions on the employability of graduates from education and training.
- **Sport:** Adoption of the conclusions on combating doping in recreational sport; public debate from the ministers on the theme “Engaging with young people to release their potential”. The sport chapter of “Erasmus for all”, which was scheduled to be discussed by the Education Ministers, was surprisingly not on the agenda of the Sport ministers.

Concerning the fight against doping in recreational sport, the Sport Ministers ask for:

- The development of educational programmes, information campaigns or other preventive measures regarding doping in recreational sport;
- Close cooperation between public authorities, the sport movement and the fitness sector on developing joint projects, guidelines and regulations;
- A framework of effective and appropriate national measures for the investigation and sanctioning of the production, trafficking, distribution and possession of doping substances in recreational sport.

On this topic, Mrs. Vassiliou emphasized the fact that the preventive measures on doping targeting the amateur sport and fitness are as important as the devices for anti-doping in professional sports.

The ministers’ public debate on the future challenges in the fight against doping:

Considering that doping continues to be a threat to the integrity of sport and public health, Sport Ministers discussed the legal, ethical and operational dimensions of issues such as athletes' privacy and legal rights and the proportionality of anti-doping measures. Furthermore a debate took place on the most effective use of resources and if and how international cooperation between public authorities and international bodies can be strengthened to overcome these problems.



Sport Directors meeting on match fixing

From May 31 to June 1, the Danish EU Presidency organised a Sport Directors meeting in Copenhagen. Representatives of the Olympic Sport Movement, Council of Europe, INTERPOL and from public and private betting companies attended the first day and discussed recent developments in the fight against match fixing.

After introductory presentations by Natasha Cole (Australian Prime Minister Office) on the evolution of match fixing in Australia and by Michaela Ragg (INTERPOL) on the FIFA-INTERPOL 10 years prevention program a lively, but not very controversial debate took place.

The discussion started with an announcement of the upcoming Cyprus EU Presidency to work on a "Nicosia Declaration on Match Fixing" to be adopted by the Sport Ministers in the second half of the year. Cyprus is facing an enormous increase of sport betting activities and is confronted with serious match fixing related problems in football. In this context the representative of Cyprus invited UEFA to become more active due to the reluctant behavior of the national football federation.

Folker Hellmund (EOC EU Office) illustrated the numerous activities against match fixing already implemented by the Olympic Movement on different policy fields as prevention measures, sanctions, modification of statutes and monitoring. He recalled the still existing obstacles regarding investigation and prosecution of cross-border

match fixing. In this regard he called for better cooperation of police and judicial authorities: "Concrete measures are needed now, especially with regard to the division of tasks between betting companies, governments, law enforcement authorities, regulating authorities and the sport movement."

With regard to London 2012 IOC will:

- set up comprehensive monitoring activities;
- sign Memorandums of Understanding with numerous regulating authorities in order to exchange data and
- cooperate extensively with the UK Gambling Commission.

Stanislas Frossard of the Council of Europe (CoE) provided a short overview on the activities regarding a potential convention on match fixing. CoE is now aiming at an international convention rather than a European one. This approach has been welcomed by the majority of participants.

FIFA and UEFA commonly promoted the need for the establishment of property rights of sport event organisers. In addition to that, they called for legal binding agreements between sport event organisers and betting companies in order to protect the integrity of sport events more effectively. UEFA mainly referred to the respective legal situation in France where a sport owner right was already set up in 1992.



Funding programmes, studies and projects

The Olympic and Sport Movement published position paper on "Erasmus for all"

In May, the EOC EU Office and its partners presented a position paper on the Commission's proposal establishing "Erasmus for all" – The European Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport. In the document, the Olympic and Sport Movement expressed their opinion on funding priorities, financial provisions, eligible activities, eligibility criteria and the future implementation process. At the end of the document, a set of recommendations has been added summarising the main concerns.

The following proposals have been made:

- *On European grassroots sport events:* European grassroots sport events, which contribute to the present programme's objectives (such as promoting social inclusion, equal opportunities, health-enhancing physical activity and the integrity of sport) should be supported.
- *On co-financing:* A high level of EU co-financing should be maintained and co-financing of private partners should not be compulsory.

- *On health and physical activity:* The programme should promote health and physical and mental well-being of all European citizens through physical activity.
- *On volunteering:* The programme should develop existing European voluntary structures.
- *On social inclusion:* The programme should support social inclusion in and through sport by bringing people together.
- *On the integrity of sport:* The programme should finance activities regarding the integrity of sport, in particular the fight against match fixing and doping.

The position paper has been addressed to Members of the European Parliament involved in the decision-making process as well as key players from the European Commission and the Council of the European Union.

Further Information:

[Position Paper "Erasmus for all"](#)

EP CULT Committee discussed "Erasmus for all" programme

On 29 May, the European Parliament's Culture and Education Committee (CULT) met to discuss the European Commission's proposal for the "Erasmus for all" programme of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020. This meeting was also attended by representatives of the

European Commission and the Council of the European Union.

Rapporteur Doris Pack (DE, EPP) stressed that the proposed "Erasmus for all" should be clearly divided into three different chapters with individual budgets, namely

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education and training, youth and sport. With regard to the budget, it is unclear what the total figure will be for the whole programme in general and sports chapter in particular.

Concerning the chapter on sport, Mrs. Pack voiced the following concerns:

- *Grassroots sports:* They should, as argued by the Commission, be the main beneficiaries of the sports programme. Until now, this has not been explicitly mentioned and should therefore be added.
- *Volunteering:* The programme should focus more on the voluntary activity in sport.
- *Education:* The proposal should strengthen the link between sport and education.
- *Non-commercial sport events:* Support for these events should be possible through funding, as long as they promote the specific objectives of the programme.

Other Members of the European Parliament mainly agreed on the rapporteur's opinion. Timothy Kirkhope (UK, ECR) for example emphasised the need to focus on grassroots sports. He claims that within the sports chapter young people should be addressed as much as possible. Furthermore, Santiago Fisas Aixela (ES, EPP) stated that just a small amount of the budget is dedicated to sport. He asked for a significant increase. CULT committee Vice-Chair Morten Lokkegaard (DK, ALDE) stressed the importance of health through physical activity as it is a cost-effective measure for Member States.

The next steps within the European Parliament are the following:

- 19 July 2012: Second discussion in CULT committee on technical and management aspects
- September 2012: Report presented by rapporteur Pack
- November 2012: Voting in the CULT committee on the report of Mrs. Pack

The EOC EU Office published position paper on "Health for Growth" programme

In May, the EOC EU Office published a position paper on the Commission's proposal "Health for Growth" - the third multiannual programme of EU action in the field of health for the period 2014-2020, which was proposed by the European Commission in November 2011. With this document, the EOC EU Office intends to contribute to the current discussions on the future EU health programme.

Unfortunately, the proposal of the European Commission lacks a clear reference to the positive impact of sport and physical activity on health. Therefore, the EOC EU Office

suggests specific modifications to the proposal in order to highlight the health-enhancing role of sport and its contribution to combat overweight, obesity and other health risks.

Based on various international studies (notably from the World Health Organisation), the position paper stresses that sport is not only one of the most cost-effective measures to prevent chronic diseases, it is also an excellent tool for social integration. Furthermore, physical inactivity and its associated health problems are a major cause of work absences, resulting in



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economic loss. Finally the document reiterates arguments recently used by the European Parliament, for example, in the resolution of the European Parliament on the European dimension of sport, adopted on February 2, 2012: "(...) *promoting physical activity and sport makes for significant savings in terms of public expenditure on health.*"

The position paper has been addressed to Members of the European Parliament involved in the on-going process of negotiation concerning the "Health for Growth" Programme. The European Parliament shall most likely vote on the proposed regulation in autumn 2012.

Further Information:

[Position Paper "Health for Growth"](#)

Internal and visits

20th Jubilee ENGSO General Assembly

The ENGSO General Assembly took place on 25-26 May 2012 in Sunny Beach, Bulgaria. The hosting organisation, Bulgarian Union for Physical Culture and Sports, arranged extraordinary premises with great hospitality for this 20th Jubilee General Assembly on the coast of the Black Sea.

Elections to fill two vacant positions took place during the General Assembly. Claude Azema from the French National Olympic and Sports Committee; Lotte Büchert, Board member of the Danish NOC and Sports Confederation; Karin Mattsson



Weijber, President of the Swedish Sports Confederation and Kurt Steiner from the Austrian Sports Confederation were running as candidates. After Kurt Steiner's withdrawal, Karin Mattsson Weijber and Lotte Büchert were elected as new members of the ENGSO Executive Committee.

Before the ordinary General Assembly, an Extraordinary General Assembly was organised to adopt changes to the ENGSO statutes. ENGSO members adopted new statutes which now allow new organisations to join ENGSO. According to the new statutes "Members of ENGSO shall be

- 1) National Confederations of Sport,
- 2) National Olympic Committees,
- 3) European Sport Federations or
- 4) European Organisations related to sport.

Membership requests are subject to approval by the Executive Committee. All proposals by the Executive Committee for membership of ENGSO are to be ratified by the General Assembly."

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The traditional ENGSO EU Seminar was titled "Policies, Projects and Possibilities". Participants were updated on EU Sport Policy matters through a presentation by Michal

Krejza, Head of Sport Unit of the European Commission. The issue of funding possibilities for sport projects was addressed as well.

Dates in June

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| 5-6 | Council Expert Group on "Good Governance" in Brussels |
| 18 | Seminar at the European Parliament: Circassians on the Olympic Winter Games 2014 |
| 27 | Council Expert Group on "Sport, Health and Participation" in Brussels |
| 27 | European Parliament conference: Reglementation of gambling in Europe? |

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