

Tweets of the month



[EurOlympic](#)

@EOCmedia Jul 03

A huge "thank you" to EU Commissioner

[@GabrielMariya](#)

for taking part in these fruitful discussions on the [#EuropeanSportModel](#), the Erasmus plus sport [#budget](#), the [#BeActive](#) initiatives and much more!

[Mariya Gabriel](#)

@GabrielMariya Jul 02

Pleased to participate

[@EOCEUOffice](#)

Meeting. We appreciate our cooperation w/ [#Olympic](#) movement. Openness & solidarity are key traits of sport.

[@EUSport](#)

[@EUErasmusPlus](#)

stepped up efforts to support [#sports](#) across the EU. We encourage citizens & [#sport](#) to [#BeActive](#) and [#BeInclusive](#)..

[ENGSO](#)

@ENGSOsport Jul 02

Today, we took part in the

[@EOCEUOffice](#)

's Annual Partner Meeting. It was great to exchange views w/

[@GabrielMariya](#), [@Jean6625](#), [@FolkerF](#)

and others on topics such as

[#covid19](#), the [@EUErasmusPlus](#)

Sport budget and the European

Sport Model. Thank you,

[@EOCEUOffice](#) for the event!

[EOC EU Office](#)

@EOCEUOffice Jul 02

Current EU competition policy issues related to sport are presented

by [@KeaneLegal](#). [#APM2020](#)

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

the development of Covid-19 new infections in recent days and weeks has made it clear that sport in Europe will not return to its pre-crisis normal state in the foreseeable future. Not only the major professional sports are affected, whose economic constraints will continue indefinitely due to the loss of already calculated spectator revenues, cost-cutting plans of current or future sponsors and the loss of value of media rights. Even grass roots sport has to work hard to maintain its offer under the most difficult conditions in order to avoid losing members who are the backbone of club-based sport, not only from a financial point of view.

All these developments confirm that the regional, national and European support services, which are slowly being put in place, are absolutely necessary, must be targeted and be maintained beyond the crisis year 2020. The Heads of State and Government were aware of their political responsibility at the special summit on 17 July and, despite all their differences, agreed on a compromise proposal for the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-27, which will amount to €1 074.3 billion, and the Covid-19 reconstruction fund of €750 billion. It is now up to the European Parliament to assess the results and put forward its ideas. The planned doubling of the funds for Erasmus+ will certainly be one of the negotiating objectives. This would also benefit sport in Europe. The national parliaments must also ratify the proposals at the end of the procedure. So there are still some hurdles to be overcome before the MFF is adopted and implemented from 2021.

August is the traditional holiday month for the European institutions. However, the trilogue negotiations will be continued with increased commitment from September onwards under the German Presidency.

The official publication of the Erasmus+ calls in the field of sport is not expected before October 2020. The last call for tenders had record participation figures, certainly not a bad argument to justify increases in funding.

The whole team of the EOC EU office wishes you a relaxing holiday!

Enjoy your read!

Kind regards.



Folker Hellmund

Director EOC EU Office

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

Negotiations between Head of States on the new EU long-term budget and Next Generation EU

On 21 June, after four days and nights of complex and intense discussions, the 27 EU leaders have, finally agreed on their position on the future EU budget for the next seven years. The MFF 2021 – 2027, is planned to be €1.074 trillion and be accompanied by a €750 billion EU recovery fund (“Next Generation EU”). A unique agreement which has been positively presented by President Charles Michel, declaring [“We did it. Europe is strong. Europe is united”](#). Linking to Commission’s priorities, EU budget will aim at powering the European Green Deal and accelerating the digitalisation of EU economy. Commission President Von der Leyen said [in her statement](#), that *“thanks to NextGenerationEU, national reforms will be boosted. We invest in Europe’s future.”* The agreement still needs to be validated by the European Parliament after interinstitutional negotiations.

Different elements of the new MFF have been the subject of intense negotiations between European leaders notably the balance between grants and loans in Next Generation EU. In the end, under the Recovery and Resilience Fund which aims to help countries get their economies through the crisis, €390 billion will be redistributed to Members States in the form of grants and €360 billion in the form of loans. The grants are linked to national recovery plans, which would be evaluated by the Commission and by a qualified majority of 27 Members States. In addition, €47,5 billion will be added to cohesion policy funds via the [REACT-EU](#) mechanism. The proposal to link the EU budget to the “rule of law” was also an issue leading to intense negotiations during the EU summit. Finally, *“a regime of conditionality to protect the budget and Next Generation EU will be introduced,”* with possible sanctions to be adopted by

a qualified majority in the Council, [according to its conclusions](#).

Some EU policies such as health, external relations, InvestEU and migration have seen their programmes and funds considerably cut, creating a significant decrease in the innovative part of the EU budget. Even if the overall budget of Erasmus+, including the Sport chapter, will increase up to 21 208 million € in the Council proposal, this amount is less important than the reinforced Commission’s proposal from May 2020 (24 890 million), or the original proposal from 2018 (26 368 million €).

[On Thursday, Parliament has voted its position on Council’s conclusions](#). A large majority of MEPs adopted a mandate for negotiations with the Council asking to deeply improve the long-term budget deal. Although they acknowledge an *“historic”* agreement, the resolution denounces the *“massive cuts to the future-oriented programmes”* and calls for the full involvement of the Parliament in the recovery instrument. MEPs are fully prepared to not give their consent until *“a satisfactory agreement is reached in the upcoming negotiations between Parliament and the Council, preferably by the end of October at the latest for a smooth start of the EU programmes from 2021”*. So, in the case that the new MFF will not be adopted on time, MEPs recalled for a temporary extension of the ceiling of the last year of the present MFF (2020) provided by [the Article 312\(4\) of the TFEU](#), which would be *“fully compatible with the recovery plan and the adoption of the new MFF programmes.”*

[On 29 July, President Von der Leyen, President David Sassoli and President Charles Michel dis-](#)

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cussed with Angela Merkel, as chair of the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union, regarding the next steps in 'the adoption of the EU's recovery package Next Generation EU and the next Multiannual Financial Framework.' The aim of the discussion was to prepare the interinstitutional negotiations which enable a swift adoption of the package by taking into account both Council's conclusions and the Parliament's resolution adopted on 23 July. EU leaders affirmed the need to reach rapidly an agreement for the coming weeks and agreed "on a method and a calendar to ensure that the recovery package will be in place by 1 January 2021." To achieve it and to enable Next Generation EU to start operating, the European Parliament "is ready to give its opinion on the Own Resources Decision as quickly as possible". And, with regards to the revised MFF, the negotiation on sectoral programmes need to be completed before the end of the year.

Then, in the framework of the EU recovery plan, on 30 July, Commissioners Ferreira and Schmit sent a letter to each EU Ministers in charge of Cohesion Policy to inform Member States on the condition of the use of the REACT-EU fund. As part of the NextGenerationEU, this 47.5 billion € instrument will focus on "supporting labour market resilience, jobs, SME's and low-income families, as well as laying down future-proof foundations for the digital and green transitions and a sustainable socio-economic recovery." Thus, for a rapid deployment of REACT-EU, the Commission advises Member States to follow its recommendations which address geographic areas that are the most impacted economically. Sport organisations should be in contact with the relevant ministers to explore possibilities for to be included in these activities.

Council of Europe organised a consultation on the revision of the European Sports Charter

Adopted by the members of the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), the European Sport Charter (ESC) is providing guidance for the Council of Europe's member states to improve existing legislations or other policies and to develop a comprehensive framework for sport.

Since 2019, EPAS is engaged in a revision of the ESC. Following a questionnaire and a first round of discussion with EPAS governing body and the EPAS Consultative Committee, a survey on the first draft was shared for feedbacks in May 2020.

As a follow-up, EPAS organised, on Monday 6 July, a consultation on "Revising the European Sports Charter – the State of Play" with the objectives to present the results of the survey on the European Sports Charter to discuss selected core

elements identified by the feedback from the survey.

The meeting started with a summary of the survey followed by announcement of the EPAS secretariat that they received 35 answers to the questionnaire. 18 answers came from Member States including 11 from the EU, 14 from Consultative Committee members and 3 from CoE services. The following key elements were raised in the survey:

- Several suggestions to add additional references to other international documents in the preamble;
- Need to better define the different stakeholders and the target groups of the ESC;
- Need to clarify the notion of right to sport;

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- Follow-up and monitoring should be discussed and rephrased.
- Following this introduction, selected organisations were invited to present their views on four key elements:
- Sport movement by the EOC EU Office and ISCA
- Sport ethics by Panathlon International
- Right to sport by ICSSPE
- Implementation and monitoring by Croatia and UEFA

In his presentation, Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, stated that even if improvements were still necessary, the priorities of the ESC have been well updated to better cover the current reality of sport in Europe with the inclusion of some important concepts including the reference to a right to sport which was also welcomed by several organisations. However, he stressed that the document should systematically mention **the fundamental principle of physical**

activity along with physical education and sport, as well as **a right to access safe, inclusive and accessible** to practice sport and physical activity both inside and outside school setting.

Another key point of its presentation was the importance to include in the document **a reference to the European Sport Model**, given that the concept has been acknowledged in previous reference documents of the CoE and has been recently endorsed by the 27 EU Sport Ministers). Finally, Hellmund insisted on the need to better define which stakeholders the Charter refers to and to ensure that their tasks are clearly explained in the document to continue to guarantee to the sports movement its autonomy in decision-making.

To conclude the meeting, EPAS secretariat announced that the summer will be used, by the drafting group of the ESC, to revise the document based on the comments made by all the stakeholders and that another consultation webinar will be organised during the second part of 2020.

European Climate Pact is taking shape

The European Climate Pact is an initiative of the European Commission and part of the European Green Deal. While the Green Deal encompasses a wide range of (forthcoming) legislative proposals, proposals for revisions of legislation, policies or strategies, the European Climate Pact stands out as a unique initiative, which brings “citizens’ dimension” into policymaking. Indeed, the aim of the pact is to “give everyone a voice and space to design climate actions, share information, launch new and support existing activities, showcase solutions that others can follow.” This participatory rationale underpins not only the objective and the envisaged activities of the Climate Pact, but also the process of its creation.



The public consultation, on which we have informed in our previous Monthly Reports, and which was closed at the end of May, was the first step in this process. A total of 3510 contributions

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were submitted, including a position paper, prepared by the IOC and endorsed by 9 European NOCs and 13 international federations, highlighting that *“the sport community is a meaningful and cost-effective partner and should be recognized as an important actor of the EU sustainability policies and practices. It has a transformational impact, is inclusive and multi-stakeholder. It has also developed visible and innovative solutions that help raise public awareness about the impact of climate change. Sport has an unrivalled capacity to advocate, motivate, inspire and gather billions of people across the world around common goals.”*

The European Commission’s Directorate General for Climate Action ([DG CLIMA](#)), which coordinates the preparation of the Pact, decided to take the participatory approach a step further. It has organised two webinars, the second of which ([14 July 2020](#)) had for its aim to follow-up on the public consultation and let participants “co-create” the forthcoming Communication on the Climate Pact. Attended by more than 330 participants, including representatives of the

EOC EU Office, IOC, and other Olympic movement organisations, the webinar provided a discussion platform to go more in depth on the ideas raised in the public consultation. Divided in a number of small groups tackling topics such as Climate Pact Ambassadors, support provided by the Pact or organisational and individual climate pledges, participants provided concrete feedback, ideas and information which the Commission will use in preparation of the Climate Pact Communication.

The Communication and with it the European Climate Pact is to be launched in mid-November 2020. In the meantime, DG CLIMA is to further follow-up with stakeholders, which provides a good window of opportunity for the sport movement to get involved.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Green Deal](#)

[European Climate Pact webinar for organisations](#)

Digital Services Act: Commission opens a public consultation while Parliament prepares various reports, incl. one on sport event organisers

As part of the [European Digital Strategy](#), the European Commission has announced a Digital Services Act package (DSA) to strengthen the single market for digital services. As the legal framework for digital services has been unchanged since the adoption of the [e-Commerce Directive](#) in the year 2000, the Commission sees the need to adapt to a fast-changing online world and to create a modern legal framework for digital services. The DSA is supposed to redefine the online rules in the EU, especially concerning the liability of platforms for the content they host. Against this background, the Commission launched a consultation to help clarifying responsibilities in the digital world as the consultations title clearly indicates: [Digital Ser-](#)

[vices Act – deepening the internal market and clarifying responsibilities for digital services.](#)

For sport organisations, especially those owning sports events rights, the consultation is a good opportunity to have a say on the online market and to point out the different problems such as the quantity of illegal sport livestreams. Therefore, the EOC EU Office encourages its partners to get involved in the conversation and to illustrate to the Commission the challenges identified by sports organisations in the digital world.

Piracy is likely the biggest problem sport rights holders are currently facing, as it results

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in significant financial losses. Ultimately, piracy poses a major threat to the refinancing of sport, including important solidarity payments for grassroots sport. Therefore, sport organisations could potentially use the consultation to ask for a clarification of existing legislation. Currently, once informed, platforms are required to take down illegal content shown on their platforms “expeditiously”. However, the meaning of expeditiously remains unclear. As the value of sport events heavily depends on its live broadcast, for the world of sports expeditiously should not mean days or weeks, but rather minutes.

Whilst the public consultation is open until **8. September** and will serve as a basis for the Commission’s proposal, the European Parliament is already trying to stress fundamental positions beforehand. Three parliamentary reports are being issued at the moment:

- Digital Services Act: adapting commercial and civil law rules for commercial entities operating online: Committee responsible: JURI / Opinion: IMCO & CULT. [Link](#) to procedure & [Draft Opinion](#)
- Digital Services Act and fundamental rights issues posed: Committee responsible: LIBE / Opinion: IMCO & CULT. [Link](#) to procedure & [Draft Opinion](#)
- Digital Services Act: Improving the functioning of the Single Market: Committee respon-

sible: IMCO / Opinion: ITRE, TRAN, CULT, JURI, LIBE. [Link](#) to procedure & [Draft Opinion](#)

Worth to mention that an upcoming EP report that deals with sport in specific, entitled “[Challenges of sport events’ organisers in the digital environment](#)”. The EP’s initiative, specified as legislative initiative procedure, can be seen as a follow-up to the Commission’s promise given in the annex of the copyright directive adopted in 2019. Back in these days, sports events organiser where arguing for a neighbouring right to be included into the copyright directive. Unfortunately, that time, the neighbouring right did not make it into directive. Nevertheless, the Commission published a legally non-binding statement saying that in the future “(...) *the Commission will assess the challenges of sport event organisers in the digital environment, in particular issues related to the illegal online transmissions of sport broadcasts*”. The EP is now taking up that wording in its initiative.

The EOC EU Office will follow closely the DSA package and especially the EP’s sport report.

MORE INFORMATION

[The Digital Services Act package](#)

PARTNERS' CORNER

CHAMP project releases a research report on innovation and sport clubs

As the sports movement is facing turbulent times due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19, the need for sport clubs to find new innovative ways to run their activities has never been more urgent. The CHAMP project, funded from the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, aims at giving the sports movement innovative tools and education for modernisation, and offers fresh insights on current trends and solutions for the promotion of physical activity. CHAMP (Clubs for Health-enhancement, Activation, Modernisation and Participation) is led by ENGSO, the European Sports NGO, in 2019–2021.

The first outcome of CHAMP, a [research review regarding innovation and modernisation sport](#), has now been published.

The report, led by the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICS-SPE), clarifies the connections between a modernised sport movement and increased physical activity. The report provides a solid background to the rest of the project by articulating some of the key terms and ideas related to sport and innovation, and aims at promoting the common understanding of these key concepts. The report also provides relevant information about the nature, organisation and number of sport clubs in Europe.

Later on, the research findings will be publicised through a publicly available online course, offering inspiration and shedding light on new and innovative practices that help clubs increase their membership and thus promote participation in sport. The CHAMP online course will be launched during the European Sport Platform, to be organised on 13–14 November 2020 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The picture regarding the development of sport clubs is mixed. Europe has a strong tradition of sport clubs, with some countries still maintaining large levels of membership. However, there is a growing competition from other sectors, both inside of the larger physical activity sector as well as activities outside of it. In order to stay in the game, sport clubs need to adapt and to adopt new ways of thinking and operating. It's necessary to do so in order to keep their status as integral feature of the European sporting landscape.

The big question is, how can sport clubs adopt and adapt to new ways of operating?

According to early findings of the next project outputs – a collection of good practices from within and outside the field of sport – the answer lies in getting to know the challenges that sport clubs are facing. The findings also indicate that it's necessary to make innovative practices relatable for sport clubs. Innovation, such as new initiatives or activities, can be integrated at all levels in a sport club. It can mean hands-on solutions that helps the club to renew their offer, without taking too much time and resources.

Information regarding the next CHAMP publications and the online course will be published on the CHAMP social media channels.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[CHAMP Definitions and Background Research](#)

[European Sport Platform 2020](#)

[CHAMP on Twitter](#)

[CHAMP on Facebook](#)

[CHAMP on LinkedIn](#)

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NEXT MONTHS

<i>11 September 2020</i>	POINTS Workshop CEV
<i>15 September 2020</i>	European Athletics EU Advisory Group
<i>21 - 22 September 2020</i>	EOC Executive Committee meeting
<i>23 September</i>	Opening of the European Week of Sport In Frankfurt/Main, Germany