



## MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2005

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## General policy

### 1st Voting on Services Directive postponed

The leading Single Market Committee of the European Parliament was unable to reach agreement, in its meeting, regarding voting on the Services Directive. A new deadline was set for 21st/22nd November. The vote in the plenum is then scheduled for January 2006.

Officially, procedural errors in the run-up to the vote were cited as the reasons for the postponement. However, it is more likely that the division between the People's Party and the Social Democratic Party regarding compromise motions led to the vote being rescheduled. Differences exist mainly with regard to the area of application of the Directive and to the country of origin principle.

An exemption for lotteries from the area of application is still regarded as highly likely.

### 2nd European Commission withdraws 68 pending bills

The European Commission has decided to withdraw 68 Community draft bills (183 were being examined) that are pending before the European Parliament and the Council. The findings of the examinations are explained in a communication, to which a list of the withdrawn proposals is also appended.

Certain intentions are not, it says, compatible with the aims of the new partnership for growth and jobs (Lisbon) or would not meet the improvement standards. In other cases, the legislative process shows no signs of progress or the proposals are no longer relevant to the current situation.

This applies in particular to one proposal that European associations are monitoring with a degree of expectation: the proposal for a Regulation 1991/0386/COD on the statute for a European association.

The withdrawal of this bill, which has been blocked for years, is a matter of regret above all to CEDAG (European Council for Non-profit Organisations). It points out that non-profit organisations have been waiting for the status of 'European association' for a long time in order to enable them to build up transnational relations and, in this way, make a contribution to the development of European citizenship.

With the aim of improving the existing legal situation, the Commission rang in a new phase, including a work programme in October 2005. The member States, businesses and citizens were invited to point out bureaucratic obstacles and excessive avoidable regulation.



[http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/regulation/better\\_regulation/docs/fr\\_br\\_final.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/regulation/better_regulation/docs/fr_br_final.pdf)

## Sport

### News from the institutions

#### 3rd Updated EN-list for personal protective equipment

The European Commission has published an updated list of European Norms (EN) for personal protective equipment, which is also often used during specific sport activities. The adherence to these norms is voluntary and does not contain any statutory duty, however many insurances use them as orientation for their guidelines. Listed is e.g. protective equipment for water and combatant sports as well as climbing and riding (helmets, lifejackets etc).



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#### 4th Commissioner Figel' meets European sports associations

On 13th October the Commissioner for, among other things, Sport, Jan Figel' met the representatives of European sports associations in order to inform them about events on the European agenda regarding 'Sport and the EU' and to provide an opportunity for an exchange of views.

Figel' explained that, following the negative outcomes of the constitutional referenda in France and the Netherlands, there was no tangible prospect of a legal basis for sport at European level.

Nevertheless he has set goals for 2006, such as more intensive cooperation with the member States, the consideration of sport in Community policies and programmes and the maintenance of contacts with partners from European civil society (particularly sports organisations).

During the first half of 2006, another consultation conference with the sports movement is to be organised. This will discuss the topics 'Sport and health', 'Education and sport' and 'Economic effects of sport'.

Also in 2006, the subjects of 'Voluntary work in Sport', 'Sport and health', 'Financing sport' and 'The social role of sport' are to be discussed at four meetings of experts with government representatives.

At EU sports minister level, a meeting of the directors is scheduled in December 2005, as is a meeting of ministers (or directors) in March 2006

under the Austrian presidency.

In addition, Commissioner Figel' will endeavour to ensure that sport is taken into consideration in future programmes such as, for example, the Youth programme and in the European year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008.

Athletes are also to be invited to future European Commission meetings with representatives of the sports movement.

#### 5th European Parliament: study on sport and the Single Market

On the initiative of Toine Manders, Member (NL) of the European Parliament, the Committee for the Single Market and Consumer Protection has commissioned a study on professional sport in the Single Market, which has now been published. This study, which is available in English only, deals, among other things, with the following subject areas: the legal status of sport within the EU, sports structures in Europe, and the economic and social aspects of sport.



[http://www.europarl.eu.int/comparl/imco/studies/0905\\_study\\_sport\\_en.pdf](http://www.europarl.eu.int/comparl/imco/studies/0905_study_sport_en.pdf)

### Legal questions

#### 6th Salva Calcio Regulation: European Commission abandons legal proceedings against Italy

On 13th October the European Commission abandoned its action against Italy in which the accounting rules of the 'Salva Calcio Regulation' were being heard. In November 2003 the European Commission had instituted criminal proceedings against Italy as it deemed that some rules of the so-called Salva Calcio Regulation were an obstacle to the Community laws on State subsidies and company accounts (see monthly report 2003).

The Commission is now concluding the 'Accounting Directives' part of the criminal proceedings. In doing so, it cites the fact that, due to the amendments to Italian legislation made in August 2005, no further infringement of Community legislation existed (fourth and seventh Accounting Directive on annual accounts and regular company accounts).

The 'State subsidies' part of the proceedings was already abandoned in June 2005 (see monthly report June 2005).

## 7th Concluding report Sector Inquiry 3G

The European Commission has concluded the Sector Inquiry into the competitive situation in the market for new systems of mobile communication that are able to transmit pictures (3G).

The Commission wants to ensure that critical sports content is not held back by anticompetitive conduct during the take up of the new mobile technologies. Such conduct would hamper consumers' choice, innovation and competition within the media sector.

In this regard the Commission organised a public consultation in 2005 and received comments of several organisations (telecom and TV operators, sport organisations, etc.). It presented the preliminary results in May 2005.



[http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/antitrust/others/sector\\_inquiries/new\\_media/3g/final\\_report.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/antitrust/others/sector_inquiries/new_media/3g/final_report.pdf)

## Assistance programmes

### 8th Cutting down red tape for EU project application

Simplify significantly the administrative burden for companies, SMEs and beneficiaries of EU grants while maintaining a high level of protection of the community funds – this is the goal of new measures announced today by the European Commission. Particular attention is given to small organisations and projects: the smaller the amounts and risks, the easier and quicker the access to EU funding will be.

Recent experience shows that many small organisations such as SMEs, NGOs and educational institutions that want to work with the EU Institutions or apply for EU funding are discouraged by the amount of time and expenses required to compile the necessary documents.

The aim is to simplify grant procedures for the newly defined “grants of small amount” (less than or equal to €25,000). Whereas currently beneficiary organisations must partially finance the projects supported by the grant (so-called “co-financing”), they will in certain cases be able to replace this with co-financing in kind (for example through the work done by some of their staff). All educational institutions, and not only secondary and higher education institutions, will no longer be subject to verification of their financial capacity to be able to benefit from EU grants.

The objective is to have the complete simplification package in place by 31

December 2006, before the entry into force of the new generation of EU programmes.

#### 9th Project example of “Public Health Programme”

The public community is hardly informed about the issue of drug abuse in sports (anabolic agents, cannabis, etc.) and the health hazards which may occur. The aim of the project is therefore to harmonise the scientific state of knowledge about the medical side effects of drug abuse in sports throughout Europe and to present it to the general public of all EU-member and EU-candidate states. This is also a basic component for the prevention policy.

The compilation of the scientific knowledge of the participating countries provides the basis for processing the project on a wide geographic basis.

The next step is the development of a network for Europe-wide exchange of information. During an international symposium in Munich the results will be presented to the international public and discussed by a group of experts. The developed teaching material will finally be translated in the languages of the EU-countries and allocated for download on the internet.

Leader organisation is the Department for Sport and Health promotion of the Technical University of Munich. Partner organisations are universities from Greece, Spain, Bulgaria and Poland.

The duration of the project will be 36 months, beginning on 01/10/2005.

Its total cost is 776.741,23 € thereof 457.181,23 € subsidy from the European Commission.

#### 10th Call for ‘European year of Workers’ Mobility 2006’

The European Commission has declared 2006 ‘European Year of Workers’ Mobility – towards a European labour market’. The invitation to submit project proposals has now been published. It is aimed at cooperation and awareness-raising measures as well as pilot projects in the EU member States which serve to improve the opportunities for workers to move around freely in Europe, to promote the exchange of good practices and to inform people about the rights of workers in the EU to freedom of movement. The measures can take place at national, transnational and European levels.

The proposals must be drawn up by a partnership including at least two relevant representatives of interests. These include the following, in particular: authorities and union-management organisations operating at European,

national, regional or local level, non-governmental organisations, businesses, colleges and universities, associations, foundations, local authority districts, chambers of commerce and the media.

The Commission will assume joint financing of the selected projects up to a maximum of 85% of the total amount of the costs eligible for subsidies. The premise is that 20 to 30 projects can be subsidised (the average amount of the financial assistance will amount to 150,000 to 200,000 euro).

The deadline for submitting the applications is 12th December 2005.



[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/calls/2005/vp\\_2005\\_019/index\\_de.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/calls/2005/vp_2005_019/index_de.html)

#### 11th Jobs through sports in Sormland

The Sport Federation of Sormland, Sweden, in cooperation with sport clubs, sponsor companies and the employment agency, educated and supported 40 unemployed people in Eskilstuna in 2004 and 2005. Sport clubs were contributing to the project by providing mentors to support the participants. Before the project was finished, 60 percent of the participant had found a job or attended higher education.

The project was progressing in three steps. First the participants received education to find out what they want, how they can increase self confidence and how they can be able to reach their targets. After this the participants got education and practical training in sport clubs finally also in the sponsor companies.

The budget of the project was 423 000 Euro with funding 169 000 Euro from European Social Fund Objective 3.

## Miscellaneous

### 12th Physical activity on prescription

Since 2002 Swedish medical doctors have been able to give their patients a prescription of physical activity instead of, or in combination with drugs. Research has shown that people will follow a written prescription more thoroughly than if they only get oral advice. Often sport clubs are partners to the healthcare system as they contribute with training for the patients.

Physical activity is used both to prevent and treat diseases. Therefore in Halland there are special classes in sport clubs every week only for attendants with prescriptions on physical activity. The instructors in the sport clubs sometimes get paid for their work and the district health care organisation also support education materials, equipment and rent of facilities. As a positive output, the sport clubs receive more members as the participants sometimes attend the regular classes.

The Swedish Sport Confederation and Swedish Sports Education have recently published an education plan for sport instructors. Moreover the Swedish National Institute of Public Health has published a guidebook for health staff with exercises appropriate for different health problems.

Also in Norway, Finland and Denmark physical activity on prescription has been implemented during the recent years. Several evaluating projects and research about physical activity on prescription are currently conducted in the Nordic countries.

The creation of a European network for those national measures by means of the EU foundation programme "Public Health Programme" should be considered.