

PRIORITIES EU SPORT POLICY 2017-2020

1. GOVERNANCE OF SPORT

Supporting good governance in sport and the recognition of the European sport model and its specificities

- ✓ The unique role of the organised sport structures and the benefits for various areas (e.g. fight against physical inactivity) should be emphasized.
- ✓ The European Sport Model and the specific nature of sport in Europe should be recognised and supported. A differentiation should be made between non-profit sport organisations and commercial providers of sport services. One particular example is the application of antitrust policy as the pyramidal structure of sport with its unique role of federations should be taken into consideration when applying the relevant Treaty articles. This structure ensures the sustainability of grassroots sport and its social benefits (e.g. social inclusion), for instance through the solidarity mechanisms in sport.
- ✓ With good governance being a pre-condition for the autonomy of sport, sport organisations welcome an in-depth dialogue with EU institutions to promote good governance. The EU should acknowledge the ongoing developments in different sport organisations such as the IOC, European Athletics and FIFA and support and encourage the use of practical tools developed by the IOC/Olympic Movement as a result of the implementation of Recommendations 28 (on autonomy) and 27 (on good governance) of Olympic Agenda 2020 and the SIGGS Project of the EOC EU Office.

2. INTEGRITY OF SPORT

Enabling sport organisations to support clean athletes and clean competitions effectively and efficiently

- ✓ A successful fight against threats to the integrity of sport (including doping and match-fixing) is key and should be strengthened for the sake of athletes, coaches, volunteers and all other stakeholders involved in sport.
- ✓ In this regard, the coordination between sport organisations, public authorities and other actors in the EU and at international level should be enhanced, in particular through mechanisms such as the Convention of the Council of Europe on manipulation of sport competitions and the Olympic Movement Unit on Prevention against Manipulation of Competitions.
- ✓ To ensure an effective fight against doping and match-fixing, the transfer of sensitive data is crucial. This should be safeguarded when Member States implement the new Data Protection Regulation and Directive at national level.
- ✓ The EU, through its funding Programmes, should play an important role in education and prevention regarding the topics of doping and match-fixing.

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3. SUPPORT FOR GRASSROOTS SPORT

Facilitating the access of grassroots sport to Erasmus+ and ensuring the sustainable financing of sport

- ✓ According to the Erasmus+ Regulation, grassroots sport should be the main beneficiary of Erasmus+ Sport. Therefore, the EU Commission should minimise the administrative and financial burden to increase the access of grassroots sports to Erasmus+ Sport (e.g. increased pre-financing and simplified application procedures and forms).
- ✓ The future of the EU funding Programme for sport should be safeguarded (for the upcoming multi-annual financial framework). In addition, sport organisations should be able to access other relevant EU funding Programmes such as the European Structural and Investment Funds, the Health Programme and other chapters of Erasmus+.
- ✓ Building on the recommendations of the High Level Group on Grassroots Sport, the EU should encourage initiatives to support and guarantee the sustainable financing of sport, including maintaining the possibility of exemptions or reduced VAT rates for sport in the reform of the VAT Directive.

4. SPORT AS A HEALTH-ENHANCING ACTIVITY

Promoting sport as the most efficient and cost-effective means to improve public health

- ✓ The EU should promote access to sport for all EU citizens.
- ✓ The EU should encourage investment in sport infrastructures (e.g. by better use of the ERDF).
- ✓ Sport should be fully recognised as a preventive tool through better cooperation between sport, the health and the social insurance sectors, with a focus on the use of physical activity as prevention for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), first cause of mortality in Europe.
- ✓ Collaboration between schools and sport clubs should be strengthened and the number of physical activity classes in schools should be increased.

5. SOCIETAL ROLE OF SPORT

Recognising the contribution of sport to the society as a whole

- ✓ Sport has a unifying and educative role within and among societies. The EU should recognise this societal role of sport and support the various initiatives already taken by sport organisations (e.g. on the inclusion of refugees, migrants and persons with physical and intellectual disabilities).
- ✓ The EU should further promote the recognition of informal/non-formal learning and experience acquired in sport (volunteering) within the framework of the implementation of the EQF.
- ✓ The EU should continue to support the dual career of athletes (through the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Dual Career and through the support of Erasmus+ Sport projects)

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- ✓ In the framework of hosting major sport events, public authorities and sport organisations should effectively cooperate to ensure the sustainability of major sport events in all aspects (e.g. environmental sustainability).
- ✓ The EU, through its activities on Sport Diplomacy, should continue to promote “*Sport as an important enabler of sustainable development*” as acknowledged in the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and the European Consensus on Development.

6. PROTECTION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS

Ensuring that sport organisations get a fair return on their events

- ✓ The commercial exploitation of sport events tends to be an important source of revenue for sport. These revenues are re-invested in the development of sport (including into grassroots and youth sports) through the existing solidarity mechanisms.
- ✓ The economic value and integrity of sport events are endangered by illegal use (e.g. illegal live-streaming and illegal online betting).
- ✓ The EU should ensure and improve the legal protection of sport event organisers with regard to the commercial exploitation and integrity of their events. This is in particular important in the framework of the European Commission’s initiative of the Digital Single Market.

POSITION PAPER

of the EOC EU Office and its partner organisations

