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## Sport and Tourism

Last updated in October 2012

### Latest Developments

On the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September, an Informal Meeting of Sports Ministers was held by the Cypriot Presidency. The meeting mainly focused on the issue of active ageing and the role of sport in creating more active and healthy citizens. Under its Presidency term, Cyprus has chosen sport and health as one of the priority themes for their work.

The topic of health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA) will be emphasised in the foreseen Council conclusions and will form part of the discussions at the informal meeting of EU Sport Ministers. The promotion of HEPA was also addressed by EU Sport Directors at their meeting under the Danish Presidency. As part of HEPA, the importance of physical activity practiced by senior citizens has come to the foreground recently. The present ageing characteristics of Europe's population are posing huge challenges for health and social service systems and society at large. In this regard, the preservation of functional independence and the maintenance of quality of life of elderly people have become essential issues.

Link:

[http://www.cy2012.eu/index.php/en/file/XBtzP4u5kd\\_2nxXo9+AUZw==](http://www.cy2012.eu/index.php/en/file/XBtzP4u5kd_2nxXo9+AUZw==)

On 19<sup>th</sup> July Marian Harkin, an Irish MEP (ALDE) raised a question to the European Commission on the call for proposal on European Partnership on Sports. She asked whether the Commission recognise that a new criterion in the annual European Partnership on Sports, whereby a minimum of 20 % of the total eligible cost of the action has to be provided by one or more private third parties.

Link:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bWQ%2bE-2012-007295%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>

On 19<sup>th</sup> September Erik Bánki, a Hungarian MEP (PPE), expressed his concern on the lack of sport has caused detrimental effects not only for people's individual health but also for healthcare systems in the Member States and for the economy at large, given the significant direct and indirect costs of physical inactivity. In terms of the EU funding scheme, he asked which schemes and/or programmes were available for Member States to seek financial support to set up sport infrastructure at stake.

Link:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bWQ%2bP-2012008229%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>

Impact for golf management



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- Funding
- Promotion of golf and its linkage to health, environment, etc.

## Background

### **Overall assessment of sports and tourism developments and impact on golf in Q2 2012:**

On 22 June the [Report on the European dimension in sport](#) by Santiago Fisas Aixela (EPP), Member of the Committee for Culture, Education and Sport of the European Parliament (EP), was adopted by the EP.

The report contains the following points of interest for R&A:

- Mentions the necessary balance between the social benefits coming from nature to sports and the importance of the protection of the natural environment
- Urges the European Commission to annually organize a 'European Day of Sports' and designate and co-finance 'European capital of sport' under the umbrella of ACES (European Capitals of Sport Association)
- Urges the Commission to propose "a dedicated and ambitious budget" for sports policy in the financial multiannual framework for the years 2013-2020

Although this resolution has no legally binding implications, it expresses the official position of the EP and therefore is likely to be taken into account by the European Commission in its future legislative or executive activities.

On 29 March 2012 the European Commission (EC) adopted the 2012 Annual Work Programme on "grants and contracts for the Preparatory Action - European Partnership on Sports and for the Pilot Project - Knowledge Partnerships". This has been followed by the launch of a [call for proposals](#), through which the EC foresees to distribute in 2012 €3.5 million to support transnational projects in the field of sport, led by public bodies or civil society organizations.

The projects in the following areas can be granted financial aid:

- The promotion of physical activity supporting active ageing
- Awareness-raising on effective ways of promoting sport at municipal level

The EGA GCC should assess if they would be eligible to participate.

### **Overall assessment of sports and tourism developments and impact on golf in Q4 2011:**

On 10 November, the Committee for Culture, Education and Sport of the European Parliament endorsed a proposal submitted by MEP Santiago Fisas (EPP) to set an insurance mechanism to compensate clubs allowing players to play in their national team and to regulate at the European level the profession of sports agents. However, the report underlines that insurance mechanism cannot be applied to all sports. The Royal and Ancient proposed amendment on taking account environment factors when building sports facilities was taken into account. The report will be voted in the February plenary session.

Link:



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<http://136.173.161.106/Press/showpr.asp?PRControlDocTypeID=1&PRControlID=10760&PRContentID=18103&PRContentLG=en>

### **Overall assessment of sport developments and impact on golf in Q3 2011:**

*From an EU sports and tourism policy perspective, there have been two developments of note in the last quarter. The first one being that a recent independent evaluation of funding for EU sport, found that the sector is considerably underfunded. In addition an own-initiative report prepared by MEP Carlo Fidanza (EPP, IT), on the role of tourism in making Europe more competitive, was also adopted by the Parliament.*

The results of an independent evaluation of EU sports policy were announced at the beginning of September, with researchers finding that a dramatic increase in funding is needed in order to be fully effective. As it stands a 25.5million euros has been earmarked for funding sports in the EU between 2009-2011, however the report has found that at least 20 million euros would be needed annually, to maximise the benefits.

Speaking after the publication, Dennis Abbot, a spokesman for Androulla Vassiliou, the EU Commissioner responsible for sport, said "*this is an independent report for the Commission which provides a useful contribution to its work*".

#### [Report](#)

At the end of September the European Parliament adopted a resolution on "Europe, the world's No 1 tourist destination – a new political framework for tourism in Europe", prepared by MEP Carlo Fidanza (EPP, IT). The own-initiative report, has a particular focus on how to make Europe more competitive and modern through the promotion of tourism and although the text will have no direct legislative impact, it will nevertheless influence stakeholders. SMEs are encouraged to take advantage of tourism to become more competitive and dynamic, while the importance of recognising and raising awareness of the impact tourism has on environment, is also addressed.

#### [Report](#)

### **Overall assessment of sport developments and impact on golf in Q2 2011:**

*The new EU competence in sport will be an opportunity for the EGA GCC to become even more engaged in EU policies. The EGA GCC has already become active by submitting an amendment to Mr. Santiago Fisas, EP rapporteur on the Commission proposal "Developing the European Dimension in Sport". The amendment suggests the need for sports facilities to be developed and managed so as to contribute to the environmental goals of the European Union. In particular, this will be done by providing facilities which are compatible with a high level of environmental protection and in line with the principles of sustainable development and by preserving and enhancing biodiversity.*

On 15 June, Mr. Santiago Fisas presented his thoughts on his report "The European Dimension in Sport." The report will focus on strengthening cooperation of sports between the Member States and will look into education, social inclusion, health and environment. The draft report is



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scheduled to be available for after the summer.

On 23 June, the Environment Committee drafted an opinion to this report. The draftswoman of the report is Ms. Sophie Aucione, French conservative. The environment committee calls for Mr. Fisas to incorporate the idea that sport can make a worthwhile contribution to achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth of Europe. In addition, the committee would also like the report to include the health benefits from sport.

On 31 May, there was a hearing in the European Parliament on the Grassroot Sports organized by the ISCA (International Sport and Culture Association) in cooperation with British Conservative MEP Ms Emma McClarkin (ECR, UK) who is a member of the European Parliament's sport intergroup. Main topics discussed during the hearing were related to the individualization of citizen's physical activity and the sources for funding of grassroots sports. However, there was a direct mention of pesticide legislation and its impact on golf courses. MEPs called for the EU to take into account possible impacts on sports whenever a piece of legislation is put forward. This supports the need for our advocacy on environmental legislation and confirms the need for the golfing industry to showcase all of its best practices on sustainable golf course management in order to demonstrate that the industry is using resources and pesticides responsibly.

On 20 May, the EU's first ever Work Plan for Sport was approved by the sports ministers. This is a new area of EU competence introduced by the Lisbon Treaty. Another issue addressed at the meeting was sport-related aspects of on-line betting, which was discussed between EU and national public authorities and representatives from the sports movement. For the period 2011-2014, the main objective of the Work Plan is to strengthen cooperation in the field of sport between member states and the EU. The document identifies three priority themes for action: integrity, social values and the economic aspects of sport. Several working groups will be set up to address issues such as anti-doping, education and training in sport, and sport statistics.

On 30 March, the EPP Hearing on Sport was organized by the European Parliament's Intergroup on Sport. The discussion focused on three main sessions addressing the social dimension of sport, the dual career of sportsmen and professional sport. The first session focused on furthering sports via schools and volunteer organizations. The director of a sports school in Austria called for more flexibility in adapting the school's calendar to the special needs of athletes. The representative of the Gaelic Athletic Association was in favour of more support for amateur coaches and recognition of volunteers. The second session focused on the dual career of professional athletes. They discussed the need for more support and flexibility in the field of politics, business, education and sports associations in order to make dual careers for professional athletes possible so that professional athletes have enough skills to pursue a career after they retire. The third session on professional sports addressed various issues such as doping and good governance in sports. The representative from UEFA highlighted the improved relationship of the EU and the sports world and urged to refrain from a liberalization of the online gambling market.

Mr. Santiago Fisas, EP rapporteur on the Commission proposal "Developing the European Dimension in Sport" concluded the hearing by stating that the discussion will be a good starting point for his report and that he would like to add a chapter on the European identity with a European Day and European Erasmus for sports. Moreover, at the end of the meeting a short film about the Ryders Cup was shown to demonstrate the European component. As Mr. Fisas would like to develop a part in his report on the "European" dimension in Sport, he felt that the



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Ryder Cup film illustrates this as it is the only sport with the EU flag representing it.

On 18 January 2011, the European Commission adopted a Communication entitled "Developing the European Dimension in Sport". This is the first policy document issued by the Commission in the field of sport after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, which gives the EU a mandate to support, coordinate and supplement sport policy measures taken by Member States.

- Sport has become a new EU Competence
- The Treaty of Lisbon has given the EU new powers to initiate and manage a direct and coherent European sports policy and to allocate financial resources to it.

The Commission's 'Communication' gives the EU Competence in the following areas:

- Cooperation between bodies responsible for sports
- Anti-doping
- Combating violence and corruption in sport
- Promotion of good governance
- Funding programmes on social inclusion and social change
- Health promotion
- Education and training
- Volunteering
- Protection of minors
- Supporting the development of research on current issues in individual Member States.

#### Links

European Commission on Sport  
[http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/news984\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/news984_en.htm)