



European Update June 2010

1. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

1.1 Report on the EU Sport Forum

The European Commission has produced its report following the ash-disrupted EU Forum early this year. The Commission reported that around 90% of the actions proposed in the 2007 White Paper on Sport action plan were completed or underway. The forum created a platform for discussion and offered sport the opportunity to input into the Sport Unit's development of a new European strategy in sport. Discussions had two main themes - the societal role of sport and the financing of sport.

Particularly in the financing section, areas missed by the 2007 White Paper were discussed and recommendations given to the Commission from the sport movement. These included the needs to address the financial return for sport, especially grassroots sports, from the organisation of gambling; to ensure a transparent redistribution of revenues from professional to grassroots sport; and of defining a property right for the organisers of sport competitions in relation to the event they organise.

Proposals from the forum and the online consultation highlighted in the last *EU Update*, will go towards the creation of a first European sport policy. While the Lisbon Treaty prevents harmonisation of rules and regulations in the field of sport, it is hoped that a positive policy will pave the way to shared best practice across Europe and clarify how EU law in other disciplines affects sport.

The full report can be found on the Commission's [website](#).

2. EU FUNDING STREAMS

2.1 New funding for sport

The European Commission Sport Unit has produced its calls for proposals for funding in the field of sport for next year. The funding makes €2.5m available for sports projects in three fields:

1) Fight against Doping

Supporting projects focusing on prevention measures in on amateur sport or sport for all.

2) Promoting social inclusion

Supporting projects creating exchange of best practice between sports organisations, schools, migrant organisation and/or national and local authorities.

3) Promoting volunteering in sport

Supporting projects which foster the exchange of best practice regarding legal, fiscal and funding related aspects to volunteering in sport.

All projects will require at least five European partners with a total of 13 awards made across the three fields.

The deadline for applications is 31 August. For more information see the European Commission Sport Unit's [website](#) or contact [James MacDougall](#) at CCPR.

2.2 Lifelong learning

As reported in the previous European update, calls for proposals for the Lifelong Learning programme

have been announced, in order to support European projects in the field of education and training. Sport projects which deal, for example, with the motivation of young people with learning difficulties or with the societal integration of socially deprived teenagers, could submit their funding proposals in this context.

The call for proposals is divided into two distinct parts, specifically

raising national awareness of lifelong learning strategies and of European cooperation in education and training and

supporting transnational cooperation in the development and implementation of national and regional lifelong learning strategies.

Sports clubs and sports organisations are included in the target group of bidders. For the first target, applications for funding may be made by one organisation or by a partnership composed of several organisations drawn from one or more eligible countries. For the second target, applications may only be made by partnerships composed of at least five organisations drawn from three or more eligible countries.

The deadline is on 16 July 2010. For further information see http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/funding/2010/call_ecet_2010_en.php

3 CONSULTATIONS

3.1 EU professional qualifications directive

The European Commission is about to start a review of the EU Professional Qualifications Directive which should allow the recognition of qualifications across Europe. This review will, for the first time, include sports people.

CCPR will work with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, DCMS and the European Commission to ensure your thoughts are heard. It is important for CCPR to gather practical examples of any issues that concern you in recognising qualifications or the work of your qualified coaches or instructors abroad.

1) Have you or your members experienced difficulties in using UK coaching / instructing qualifications in the EU?

2) Do you recognise foreign qualifications when employing coaches / instructors?

3) Have you dealt with applications from coaches / instructors from countries where qualifications do not seem of an appropriate standard?

If you have opinions, experience or concerns regarding the recognition of coaching qualifications across Europe, please contact [James MacDougall](#) so that your thoughts can be collated and added to the consultation.

3.2 The EC Green Paper on unlocking the potential of Cultural Industries

The objective of this consultation is to gather views on various issues impacting the cultural and creative industries in Europe. The responses to the consultation will inform the Commission and help it ensure that EU programmes and policies involving cultural and creative industries are "fit for purpose".

Sport has not always been considered in cultural and creative industry debate in the European Union, but recent lobbying for sport to be explicitly involved in debates such as illegal uploading and downloading and conditional access have helped force sport further up the European agenda. Sport, of course, is a major cultural pursuit and a key mover in creative industries, boosting technical innovations such as 3D or super HD television and live internet streaming.

The consultation considers topics as wide ranging as peer-coaching, regional and local development and examining cultural diversity in the creative and cultural industries.

More detail can be found on the Commission [website](#) or send your comments to [James MacDougall](#) at CCPR to have your thoughts included in the CCPR consultation response. The consultation deadline is 30 July.

4. GOVERNANCE

4.1 UEFA'S financial fairplay mechanisms

UEFA's executive committee has approved key regulations which will affect European football competition. Clubs competing in UEFA's Champions League or Europa League will have to balance their books, not spend more than they generate and operate within their financial means. The break-even requirement comes into effect for the reporting period ending 2012, so sanctions could not be put in place before the 2013/14 season and will be calculated on the financial information from the two previous seasons.

So while football teams have a little time to comply, it is not inconceivable that a legal challenge could be brought on the grounds of a restriction of the free market. The counterargument, as successfully used for example to justify the legality of transfer windows, is that rules designed to enable fair competition are allowed through sport's specific nature.

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