

# MONTHLY REPORT

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June 2024



EUROPEAN  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEES



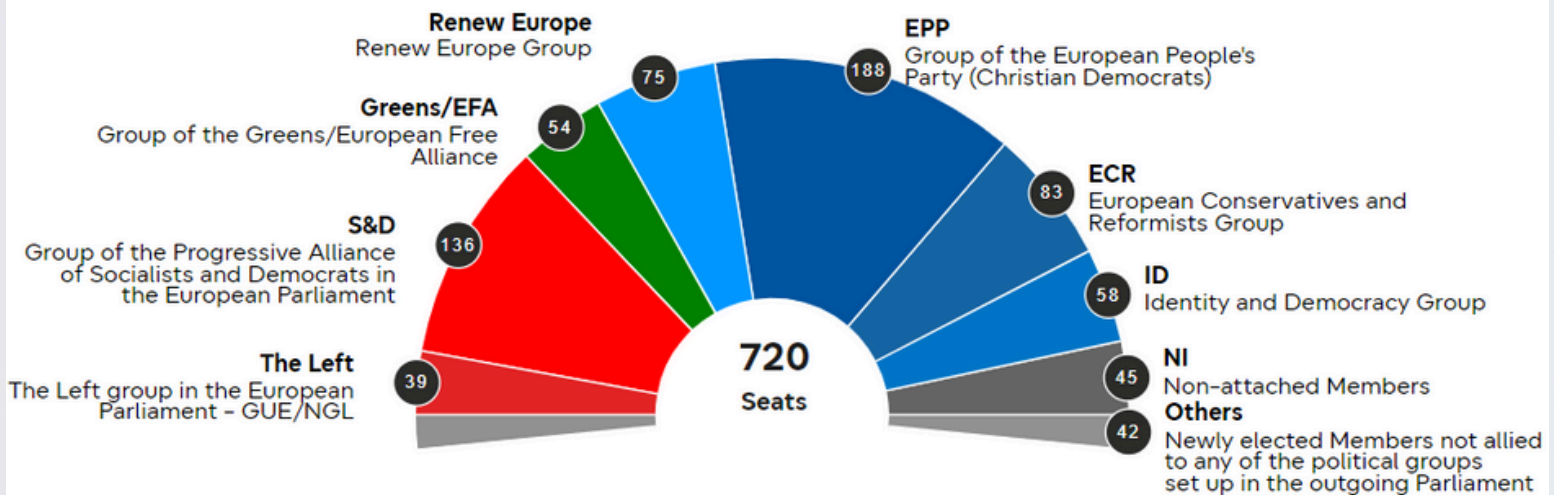
**EU**  
Office



### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 2024 - 2029

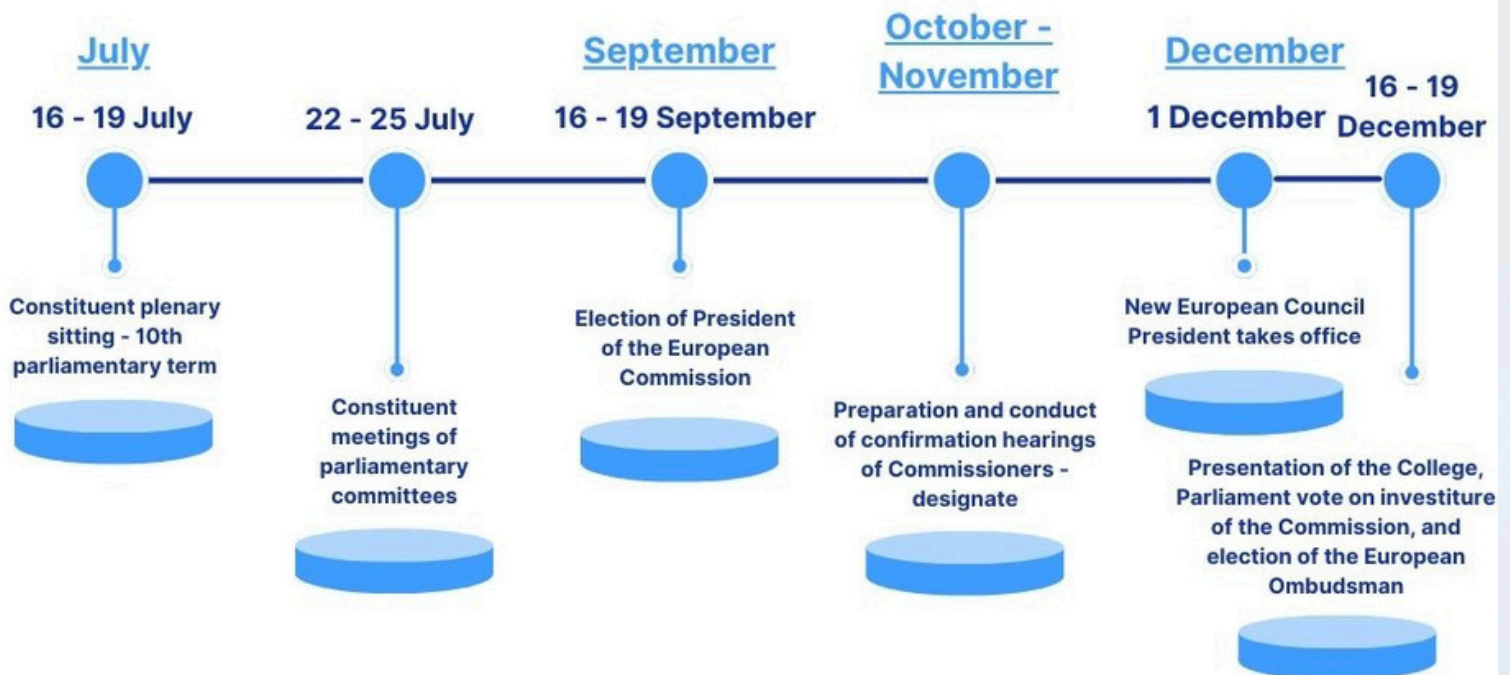


### Provisional results



Source: <https://results.elections.europa.eu/en/index.html>

## Timeline to new EU institutional leadership



Source: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2024/762293/EPRS\\_ATA\(2024\)762293\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2024/762293/EPRS_ATA(2024)762293_EN.pdf)

- Editorial

4



### EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

- Election of the European Parliament: what does it mean for sport? 5
- EOC EU Office hosts the 2nd edition of the in-house training for writing project proposals in the realm of sport 6
- Updated “EU Football Handbook” for security management of football matches with an international dimension 7
- EU Intellectual Property Office Launches “I Play Fair” campaign to combat illegal sport streaming and counterfeit sporting goods 8
- WHO publishes new figures on physical activity 9
- The OCEAN Project hosted its first Peer-to-Peer Roundtable on Carbon Footprint Reduction Strategy 10



### PARTNERS´ CORNER

- New EOC EU Office Toolbox for Good Governance 11
- EOC EU Office attends 53rd EOC General Assembly in Bucharest 12
- Upcoming events 13





### EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The elections to the European Parliament on 6-9 June confirmed the political shift to the right that has been taking place in Europe for some time, but not to the extent that some analysts had predicted. The democratic forces in the future European Parliament still have a clear majority and will have to develop resilient forms of cooperation over the next five years for materialising this majority to in day-to-day politics. The first litmus test is imminent on 18 July. The European Parliament must then decide on the European Council's proposal to keep Ursula von der Leyen in office as Commission President for another five years. Should von der Leyen fall be short of the required 361 votes, the first political crisis would be perfect from the point of view of the democratic parties.

It is not yet clear what impact the composition of the new European Parliament will have on sports policy. The setting up of the committees planned for mid-July will certainly provide an initial indication. The aim of organised sport over the next two years will be to work closely with MEPs to ensure that the interests of sport are given sufficient consideration in the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2024.

The results known so far from the elections to the French National Assembly, which were called at short notice following the results of the European Parliament elections in the country, significantly exacerbate the political challenges at European level. It is to be feared that the emerging cohabitation will impair France's ability to govern and that the current Franco-German engine of the European Union will stutter considerably. This would be a political catastrophe in view of the upcoming challenges at European level. Questions regarding the future political direction of the European Union and its financing of political objectives will have to be decided in the next two years. This will also affect all funding programmes such as Erasmus+ Sport or the European Structural Funds from which sport currently benefits.

The Olympic Games, which begin in just over three weeks, will only be marginally affected by a possible change of government in France. It remains to be hoped that the final technical challenges, including the water quality for the open water competitions, can be resolved. The joy and suspense among all athletes is growing from day to day and the last qualification dates will also end in the next few days.

The Hungarian EU Council Presidency began on 1 July and will focus on the topic of sustainable major sporting events. Council Conclusions on this topic are expected in November 2024.

With kind regards,



Folker Hellmund

Director EOC EU Office



### EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

## Election of the European Parliament: what does it mean for sport?

From 6 to 9 June, citizens across the 27 European Union (EU) Member States elected the 720 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).

### Results and relative shifts in political balances

The European Parliament elections have led to shifts among the various political groups. The centrist Renew Europe group lost 27 seats, while the Greens decreased by 17 seats. However, the liberal-conservative European People's Party (EPP) gained 12 seats, continuing to be one of the largest political groups in the Parliament.

Far-right groups, comprising the Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) and Identity and Democracy (ID), gained 13 seats. Additionally, non-aligned MEPs, who are not affiliated with any formal political group, secured 37 seats.

These changes reflect evolving political trends and will influence the dynamics of legislative processes in the coming mandate, i.e. concerning environmental legislature.

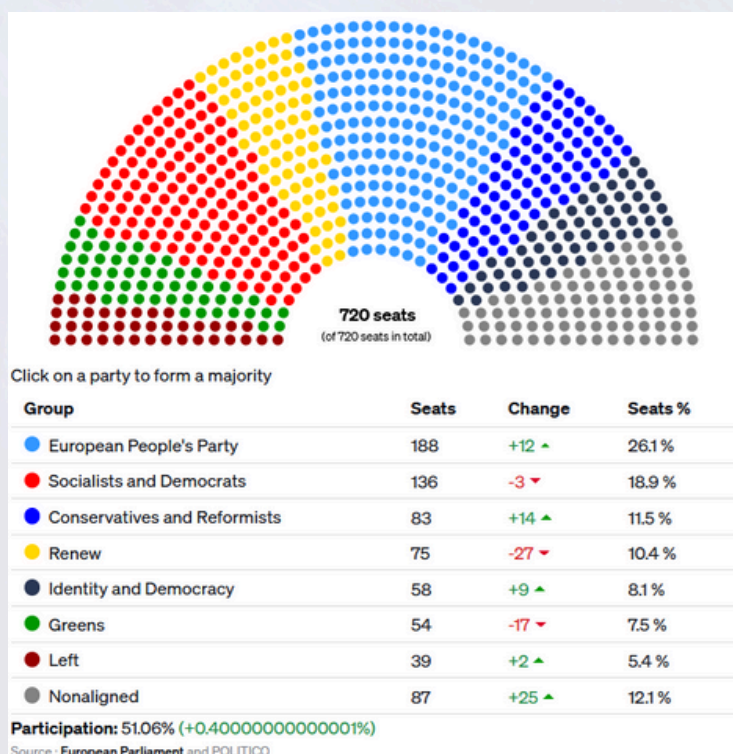
### Formation of Political Groups

Attention now turns to the formation of political groups. As these groups take shape, those representing the extremes of the political spectrum may attract several so far non-aligned MEPs, potentially impacting the overall political balance. The aim is to have the political groups set and leaders elected by the inaugural plenary session 16-19 July to start the official activities of the legislature.

Renew Europe has already restructured its leadership despite seat losses, with Valérie Hayer (Renaissance, France) elected as President and Billy Kelleher (Fianna Fáil, Ireland) as First Vice President. The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) elected Iratxe García as President. The EPP Group re-elected Manfred Weber (Germany, CSU) as Chairman, along with ten new Vice-Chairpersons. The left-wing group adopted a co-chairing model with Manon Aubry (France Insoumise, France) and Martin Schirdewan (Die Linke, Germany) leading.

### Next Steps

- Until 15 July: MEPs will work to form political groups.
- 16-19 July: The new legislature will official start with the constituent plenary sitting. During this session, MEPs will vote for the Parliament's President and determine the composition of its committees. The MEPs might also vote on the next European Commission President.
- 22-25 July: Parliamentary committees will meet to elect their Chairs and Vice-Chairs.
- 16-19 September: The first full plenary session of the new term will take place, including the election of President of the European Commission if not yet done in July.





### Impact on sport and supporters of organised sport

The composition of the new European Parliament will have an important impact on sport-related files in the starting mandate. In particular, the European Parliament plays a significant role in budget negotiations, particularly with the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) negotiations set to start in 2025. The MFF will outline the EU's budgetary allocations (including for sport) and priorities for the next seven years.

In this regard, it will be crucial to ensure the representation of the interests of the organised sport movement towards influential MEPs, in order to safeguard the support sport organisations deserve.

While a number of the previous supporters of organised sport (e.g. MEP Tomasz Frankowski) have not been re-elected, identifying allies for sport will be crucial.

In this regard, EOC President and the EOC EU Office have asked all European NOCs to join forces on a collaborative mapping of MEPs with connections to sports, aiming to establish a group of "Friends of European Sport" to advocate for sports-related issues within the Parliament.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Timeline: New EU institutional leadership](#)

## EOC EU Office hosts the 2nd edition of the in-house training for writing project proposals in the realm of sport



The EOC EU Office - with the support of Olympic Solidarity - hosted the 2nd cohort for in-house training for writing project proposals between 18-20 June. The cohort was composed of 11 participants representing 7 European NOCs (Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Germany, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia) and 3 European Federations (LEN - European Aquatics, European Athletics, European Equestrian Federation).

Since 2023, the EOC EU Office has been delivering the in-house training for writing project proposals to concretely address the needs of European NOCs and Federations to boost its staff capacity to develop, write, and

submit a project application under the Erasmus+ Programme and Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in Sport (PPPAs). Accordingly, the interest is to better inform member organisations to navigate EU Funding opportunities for sport, and to boost cooperation among European NOCs and Federations.

The in-house training was structured in different sessions but complementary sessions to ensure a concrete understanding of the required steps to transform a project idea into a successful project proposal for the Erasmus+ and PPPAs in the realm of sports. The online sessions were held between April and May 2024; accordingly, the in-person sessions aimed to complement previous activities whilst providing the opportunity for peer-to-peer exchanges and networking among different cohorts of the training. Besides, the in-house training also included a complementary social programme in which in-person participants had various opportunities to network so to further reinforce exchanges and cooperation among the various representatives.

Therefore, the 2nd edition of the in-house training has continued to boost capacity-building among European NOCs and European Federations in terms of writing project proposals in the realm of sport, the number of European NOCs and Federations with qualified experts whilst laying the foundation for knowledge-sharing, exchanges and cooperation among European NOCs and Federations, as well as among participants from different cohorts of the training in the future.

In terms of the next steps, the 1st and 2nd cohorts of the in-house training for writing project proposals will hold an online meeting in October 2024.

### Updated “EU Football Handbook” for security management of football matches with an international dimension

As the EURO 2024 continues in Germany, the adoption of the updated “EU Football Handbook” by the Council of the EU is coming to the right time. Initially considered in 1999 and subsequently updated in 2001, 2006, 2010, 2016, and now June 2024, this handbook reflects the evolving need for international police cooperation and security management at international football matches. While the resolution is not legally binding, it offers guidance that complements national provisions and can be applied to other international sports events if a Member State chooses to.

The purpose of the [75-page handbook](#) is to consolidate and enhance policing for international football matches, with a primary focus on maximising the effectiveness of international police cooperation. The content aligns with established good practices of a multi-agency approach to safety, security, and service, and respects existing national provisions and agency responsibilities.

The document underscores the importance of legality, proportionality, and adequacy in international police cooperation and highlights the need for collaboration among police, event organisers, and stakeholders, including supporters.

Good practices in risk assessment and crowd management are highlighted in a dedicated appendix. The responsibility for event safety lies predominantly with the organising Member State, yet neighbouring, participating, and transit states are also expected to assist.

One of the central instruments suggested by the handbook is the establishment of a National Football Information Point (NFIP) in each Member State. This should act as the central national contact point for the exchange of relevant information for football matches with an international dimension and facilitating international police cooperation.

Further information provided in the handbook concerns cooperation between host and visiting policy, including key principles, model protocols, and financial arrangements. It also covers collaboration with event organisers, judicial and prosecuting agencies and supporters, and includes strategies for communication and media engagement.



### EU Intellectual Property Office Launches "I Play Fair" campaign to combat illegal sport streaming and counterfeit sporting goods



On 12 June, the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) launched a public campaign titled "I Play Fair" aimed at tackling the pressing issues of illegal sport streaming and counterfeit sporting goods. This initiative comes just in time for two major sporting events taking place in the European Union that will captivate audiences across the continent this summer: the UEFA EURO 2024 in Germany and the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

#### Youth with higher propensity to stream sports illegally

Illegal sport streaming has become a significant challenge in the digital age. Unauthorized streams undermine the economic model of sports broadcasting, affecting everyone from content creators and athletes to broadcasters and legitimate streaming services. According to the EUIPO's IP perception study, 12% of EU citizens use illegal online sources to access or stream sports content. This figure increases to 27% among young people aged 15-24. In addition, the study on online copyright infringement reveals that streaming is the predominant method for accessing illegal TV content, accounting for 58% of piracy in the EU, while 32% occurs through downloads. By promoting the legal consumption of sports content, the "I Play Fair" campaign aims to safeguard the integrity of sports events and ensure that revenue streams are properly channeled to support the industry.

#### Fake sport equipment threatens economic viability of sport industry and consumers' health

The spread of counterfeit sporting goods poses another serious issue.

Fake merchandise not only deceives consumers but also damages the reputation and revenue of legitimate businesses. According to EU IPO calculations, counterfeit sports equipment costs manufacturers €850 million per year. Counterfeit goods are often of inferior quality and can pose serious safety risks to consumers. The EU IPO's campaign encourages the public to purchase officially licensed products, thus supporting legitimate businesses and ensuring consumer safety.

The "I Play Fair" campaign represents a step forward in the EU IPO's efforts to combat illegal sport streaming and counterfeit sporting goods. By raising awareness and encouraging consumers to access sports content legally and buy officially licensed products, the campaign not only protects the interests of the sports industry but also upholds the principles of fairness and integrity. These efforts are essential in safeguarding the sports industry and ensuring that revenues continue to benefit athletes and sports organizations. As the EU addresses these challenges, the collaboration of consumers, authorities, and the sports community will be crucial in promoting fair play both on and off the field.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Foul play: The high cost of IP infringement in sports](#)

[Campaign Video: Illegal streaming and fake sports gear? | I Play Fair](#)



### WHO publishes new figures on physical activity



Physical activity and participation in sport provide significant physical and mental health benefits. Yet, new numbers published by WHO show that around 31% of adults and 81% of adolescents do not meet the recommended levels of physical activity.

[WHO guidelines](#) suggest that adults should engage in at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity per week. Specific recommendations are also provided for children, adolescents, older adults, pregnant and post-partum women, and individuals with chronic conditions and disabilities. Regular physical activity according to these guidelines improves physical fitness, bone health, and mental wellbeing, while reducing the risk of cardiovascular diseases and type-2 diabetes.

#### Levels of physical inactivity

Globally, approximately 1.8 billion adults are not meeting the recommended levels of physical activity, an increase of 5% from 2010 to 2022. WHO projects that the percentage of physically inactive adults could increase from 31% to 35% if current trends continue.

Physical inactivity is more prevalent among women than men, increases after the age of 60, and affects 81% of adolescents aged 11-17, with adolescent girls being less active than boys (85% vs. 78%).

[Dr Rüdiger Krech](#), Director of Health Promotion at WHO: “We need to find innovative ways to motivate people to be more active, considering factors like age, environment, and cultural background. By making physical activity accessible, affordable, and enjoyable for all, we can significantly reduce the risk of noncommunicable diseases and create a population that is healthier and more productive.”

Collective efforts involving government and non-governmental partnerships, along with increased investment in innovative approaches, are essential to engage the least active individuals and reduce inequalities in access to physical activity promotion and improvement measures. The European Union also addresses physical activity through [health-enhancing physical activity](#) (HEPA) and its [EU Physical Activity Guidelines](#) and provides support for the implementation through Erasmus+.

Additionally in 2015, the European Week of Sport was launched to encourage people to be more active. However, the WHO statistics indicate that ongoing efforts and a stronger role for sports organisations are necessary to reach those who remain physically inactive.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Infographic](#)

[Study WHO and The Lancet Global Health](#)

## The OCEAN Project hosted its first Peer-to-Peer Roundtable on Carbon Footprint Reduction Strategy



On 18 June, the OCEAN Project Consortium gathered online for the first peer-to-peer roundtable.

The session started with an overview of NOCs' state progress in drafting their carbon footprint reduction strategy followed by the presentation of 5 Climate Action Officers (from NOC Slovenia, Denmark, Greece, Slovakia and Croatia). This collaborative opportunity aimed to draw inspiration from others and get feedback from peers to move forward in this process.

Even though NOCs are not comparable in this process, due to their different sizes and countries of origin, this session highlighted the common challenges faced by the NOCs and raised awareness of the range of measures that can be implemented at national level. Climate Action Officers shared that carbon emissions linked to transport, events and procurement are the most challenging to include in the strategy.

The main barriers for most of the NOCs are human resources and time management since sustainability topics is quite new for these stakeholders. They highlighted their needs for support both to convince their leadership and to engage their colleagues as well as to find financial support.

The NOCs are now expected to continue developing their reduction strategies, the adoption of which is scheduled for Spring 2025. A second roundtable will be held in September with the presentation of the other half of the consortium.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[OCEAN Webpage](#)



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### PARTNERS' CORNER

#### New EOC EU Office Toolbox for Good Governance



The [EOC EU Office Toolbox](#) is a comprehensive collection of resources designed to support various key areas in the governance of sport organisations.

It is tailored to provide practical guidance in critical domains such as good governance, gender equality in leadership positions, strategic stakeholder management, carbon footprint of sport organisations, and combatting corruption and match-fixing. All these tools have been developed through projects supported by the Erasmus+ Programme. Stay tuned for the end of the year, when new contents and tools will be made available from the OCEAN (carbon footprint and reduction) and SIGGS 3.0 (Good Governance of sport organisations) will be made available.

#### Features of the New EOC EU Office Toolbox

- **Ease of Access:** The Toolbox can be directly accessed from the homepage, allowing users to navigate resources with ease.
- **Centralised Resource Hub:** All tools developed by the EOC EU Office and its project partners are now consolidated in one convenient location, making it simpler for users to find and utilise them.



- **User-friendly Interface:** An introductory page is available to help users get acquainted with the tools, along with a direct log-in option for quick and efficient access.

The EOC EU Office is dedicated to continuously updating and expanding the Toolbox. This commitment ensures that the Toolbox remains a vital, up-to-date resource for users.

The launch of the updated Toolbox underscores our ongoing efforts to provide support to our partners and stakeholders, promoting better practices and stronger governance.

We encourage all stakeholders to explore the Toolbox and boost their governance.



#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[EOC EU Office | The House of European Sport \(eurolympic.org\)](#)

[Our tools - EOC EU Office \(eurolympic.org\)](#)

[Projects - EOC EU Office \(eurolympic.org\)](#)



### PARTNERS' CORNER

## EOC EU Office attends 53rd EOC General Assembly in Bucharest



At the beginning of June, the EOC EU Office joined the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of Europe who convened in Bucharest, Romania, for the 53rd General Assembly of the European Olympic Committee (EOC).

During the assembly, attendees reviewed advancements in key sporting events such as the European Games, the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF), and the Olympic Games. They also discussed the activities of the EOC Commissions and welcomed Jan Lehmann, the recently hired CEO of the continental organisation.

### EOC EU Office activities

As the EOC EU Office celebrated 15 years of existence in 2024, and 10 years of the Erasmus+ Sport Programme, the EOC General Assembly was a good opportunity to take stock of past achievements and upcoming activities.

The EU projects coordinated by the EOC EU Office were lauded by several speakers as great examples of cooperation among NOCs to progress on societal issues.

- The [GAMES Project](#) (successfully concluded in March), was lauded by Spyros Capralos (President of the EOC) and Annamarie Phelps (Chair of the Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion - GEDI Commission) as a model for promoting women's access to leadership roles in sports organisations.
- The [OCEAN Project](#), engaging 18 NOCs in the reduction of their carbon footprint, was similarly praised by the President and Berit Kjoll (Chair of the EOC Sustainability and Active Society Commission).
- The update of the SIGGS self-evaluation tool on good governance in the framework of the [SIGGS 3.0 Project](#) was announced to all participants. The new tool will be available to all at the end of 2024.



In addition, Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, presented an overview of services provided to European NOCs to support accession to EU-funding. Insights on the uncertain political landscape, in view of the European Parliament elections and the renewal of European Commission were given to the audience, asked to support the EOC EU Office in its efforts to promote European sport in upcoming EU budget negotiations.







### UPCOMING EVENTS

**09 July 2024**

SIGGS 3.0 Mid-term Meeting (Brussels)

**12 - 16 September 2024**

EOC Executive Committee (Paros)

**23 - 29 September 2024**

European Week of Sports

**27 - 28 September 2024**

EOC Seminar (Budva)



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