



EU Office

Background paper N° 1

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The European Commission 2014-2019



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The EU is entering a new term this year (2014-2019). The Juncker Commission is taking office on 1 November 2014. This article intends to give you a critical overview of both political and structural changes, especially with regard to sport policy.

- 1. A new term (2014-2019)**
- 2. A different way of working, insisting on better coordination**
- 3. Which consequences for sport?**

1. A new term (2014-2019)

The current EU Parliament has been elected by European citizens on 25 May and has started working as of July 2014. Its first main task was to elect the President of the European Commission. The candidate of the European centre-right party (EPP), which came out first in the European elections, has been elected: former Prime Minister of Luxembourg and former President of the Eurogroup, Jean-Claude Juncker.

In September, President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker unveiled his new team of Commissioners. The European Parliament then conducted hearings (“grilling”) of all Commissioners-designate. Following the hearings, the Slovenian Commissioner-designate was changed and some further adjustments were made, **including the addition of sport to Mr. Navracsics’ portfolio**. The European Parliament then voted in plenary session on 22 October and **approved the new college of Commissioners by a rather strong majority (426 in favor, 209 against, 67 abstentions)**. The [new EU Commission](#) will officially start its five-year term on 1 November.

2. A different way of working, insisting upon better coordination

In his political statement, Jean-Claude Juncker underlines that the Commission needs to give Europe a new start. In his eyes, the new College is *“the team that will put Europe back on the path to jobs and growth.”* **His determination to promote change is embodied in the structure of the European Commission.**

One of the biggest structural changes is the **appointment of seven Vice-Presidents with real coordinating powers**. Each Vice-President will lead a project team, i.e. will be steering and coordinating the work of a number of commissioners (see [here](#) the seven project teams). This new composition aims at *“breaking down silos and moving away from static structures”*, thus ensuring a better internal interaction. **Stronger internal coordination is important for sport since it is linked to several policy fields (see below).**

The Vice-Presidents will have the power to stop any initiative, including legislative initiatives suggested by the Commissioners within their project team. Among them, the First Vice-President Frans Timmermans, who will be the right-hand of the President, is explicitly in charge of better regulation. His mission is to ensure that each legislative initiative is relevant and respects the principle of subsidiarity.

Yet, Jean-Claude Juncker and the Commissioners-designate, during their hearing, have stressed that there will be no first-class Commissioners who supervise the others. On the one hand, one can therefore question whether the Vice-Presidents will be able to actually enforce their authority over the team they are leading. It could prove difficult, especially because they will not have a direct link with the Commission’s services working on their policy fields. On the other hand, the Commissioners who are not vice-presidents, but who work directly with the services, could have difficulties to be heard if they are not aligned with the Vice-President responsible for their policy field. The principle of collegiality could therefore be at risk with this new way of working.

Aimed at avoiding excessive regulation and creating a more political and efficient Commission, the new structure designed by Jean-Claude Juncker tries to cope with the inherent complications of the European Commission: a large structure (28 Commissioners, 1 per Member State) and politically diverse (each Member State tends to nominate a Commissioner of the same political affiliation of the national Government). The future will reveal if this “experiment” will be successful.

3. Which consequences for sport?

3.1. Sport : first out, now in

Sport has already been in the spotlight of the new Commission. At first, when President-Juncker introduced his team in early September, **sport was not at all mentioned** (neither in the portfolio title nor in the mission letter of any Commissioner). In fact, it was to remain under the same portfolio, previously named “Education, Culture, Youth and Multilingualism” (Commissioner Vassiliou) and now to be called “Education, Culture, Youth and Citizenship”. The Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Mr. Tibor Navracsics**, had been designated by Juncker to be in charge of this portfolio.

The nomination of Mr. Navracsics has steered criticism. He has been Hungarian deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration and Justice under the criticised Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who has been accused of infringing fundamental rights, such as freedom of press and of association, and led a controversial reform of the national justice system. In his hearing in front of the European Parliament, Mr. Navracsics has tried to distance himself from his former Government and insisted on his commitment to European values. His performance was judged relatively good on both form and substance. Following the hearing, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) approved Mr. Navracsics but asked Jean-Claude Juncker for a change of portfolio, considering that, in view of his political history, he should not be in charge of citizenship.

Consequently, on 22 October, prior to the vote of the Parliament on the whole college of Commissioners, Jean-Claude Juncker announced that citizenship was withdrawn from Mr. Navracsics portfolio. On top of that, he announced that sport was being added to the portfolio’s title. **The new portfolio is thus “Education, Culture, Youth and Sport”.**

The EOC EU Office, which [had condemned the fact that sport was being overlooked](#) in the first version of the Commission, [welcomed this correction](#), pointing out that sport represents 3,7% of European GDP, employs 15 million people and is essential to social cohesion, public health and economic growth.

3.2 Priorities and Commissioners related to sport

Whether the specific mention of sport in the portfolio is only a symbolic move or whether it will induce a higher place for sport on the political agenda remains to be seen. It will depend on the political will of Mr. Navracsics but also of the Commission services and the Sport unit in particular. The Sport unit remains

under the Directorate General “Education and Culture” but moves from a Directorate “Youth and Sport” to a Directorate “Culture and Sport”. As to the cabinet of Commissioner Navracsics, it will be chaired by Jonathan Hill, the former head of the UEFA liaison office in Brussels. In this regard, there is no doubt about existing sport expertise in the cabinet. The challenge will be to channel it in the right direction.

Policy wise, a lot is already in place: a few months ago the Council of the EU has adopted the EU work plan for sport 2014-2017 and the sport chapter of Erasmus+ is already implemented (the second call for proposals has been published in early October). However, **sport is by essence a transversal issue**. So the most important question may not be what the EU is doing under its direct sport competence but rather how sport is taken into account across all policy fields. Underlined by the European Commission in its [Communication on Developing the European Dimension of Sport](#), the mainstreaming of sport is a key challenge and reflects upon the desire expressed by Jean-Claude Juncker to improve internal coordination.

Several policy fields on the European agenda have a potential impact on sport: health, tax policy, data protection, trade, visa policy, social inclusion, gender equality, regional policy, intellectual property rights, gambling regulation, etc. (cf. our priorities document). The digital single market for instance has been defined as a key priority by Jean-Claude Juncker (see his [political guidelines](#)). The upcoming reforms of data protection rules and copyright rules will directly tackle issues such as the protection of property rights for sports organisations as well as their ability to fight against doping and match fixing.

Considering this broad range of topics, several Commissioners will be important for the sport sector:

Non-discrimination of sportspeople	Marianne Thyssen
Free movement and nationality	Marianne Thyssen
Visa policy	Dimitris Avramopoulos
Match-fixing	Elzbieta Bienkowska
Anti-doping	Vytenis Andriukaitis, Vera Jourova
Protection and safeguarding of minors	Marianne Thyssen, Dimitris Avramopoulos
Gender equality	Vera Jourova
Good governance	Tibor Navracsics
Data protection	Andrus Ansip, Günther Oettinger, Vera Jourova
Human rights	Federica Mogherini, Christos Stylianides
Major sport events	Tibor Navracsics
Discrimination and intolerance (racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance)	Vera Jourova, Dimitris Avramopoulos
Inclusion of persons with disabilities	Vera Jourova, Marianne Thyssen
EU funding for sport (including structural funds,	Tibor Navracsics, Kristalina Georgieva, Carlos

excluding Erasmus+)	Moedas, Vytenis Andriukaitis, Corina Cretu
Erasmus+	Tibor Navracsics
Media rights	Margrethe Vestager, Günther Oettinger, Andrus Ansip
Gambling and sport betting	Elzbieta Bienkowska, Günther Oettinger, Andrus Ansip
Intellectual Property rights	Margrethe Vestager, Günther Oettinger, Andrus Ansip
Licensing systems	Elzbieta Bienkowska, Margrethe Vestager
Sport agents and transfers	Marianne Thyssen, Elzbieta Bienkowska
Competition policy (state aid, antitrust)	Margrethe Vestager
Tax policy	Pierre Moscovici
Statistics	Carlos Moedas
Sustainable financing	Tibor Navracsics, Kristalina Georgieva, Carlos Moedas, Vytenis Andriukaitis, Corina Cretu
Trade policy (TTIP/CETA)	Cecilia Malmström
Research & innovation	Carlos Moedas
Alcohol strategy	Vytenis Andriukaitis
External relations and development policy	Federica Mogherini, Neven Mimica
Sport and health /fight against childhood obesity	Vytenis Andriukaitis, Tibor Navracsics
Youth	Tibor Navracsics
Education and training (dual careers and recognition of qualifications in sport, link between school sport and sport clubs)	Tibor Navracsics, Marianne Thyssen
Volunteering	Tibor Navracsics, Marianne Thyssen
Social inclusion (national and ethnic minorities, and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups)	Tibor Navracsics, Marianne Thyssen
Social dialogue	Valdis Dombrovskis, Marianne Thyssen
Environment	Karmenu Vella
Spectator violence	Dimitris Avramopoulos, Tibor Navracsics

Conclusion

The European Commission is the executive body of the European Union and holds the power of legislative initiative. Its weight on the EU political agenda is therefore substantial but of course, the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, as co-legislators, can significantly alter the political options chosen by the European Commission.

This new EU Commission can benefit from a stronger political legitimacy: it is led by the first President to be indirectly elected by the European citizens, it reflects the current political balance of powers across European Governments and it can rely upon the support of a vast coalition (EPP, S&D, ALDE) within the European Parliament. The upcoming months will reveal whether the Commission will make a real use of these favorable circumstances to implement a strong political agenda and whether the first official appearance of sport in the Commission's portfolios will be reflected in a change of EU sport policy.

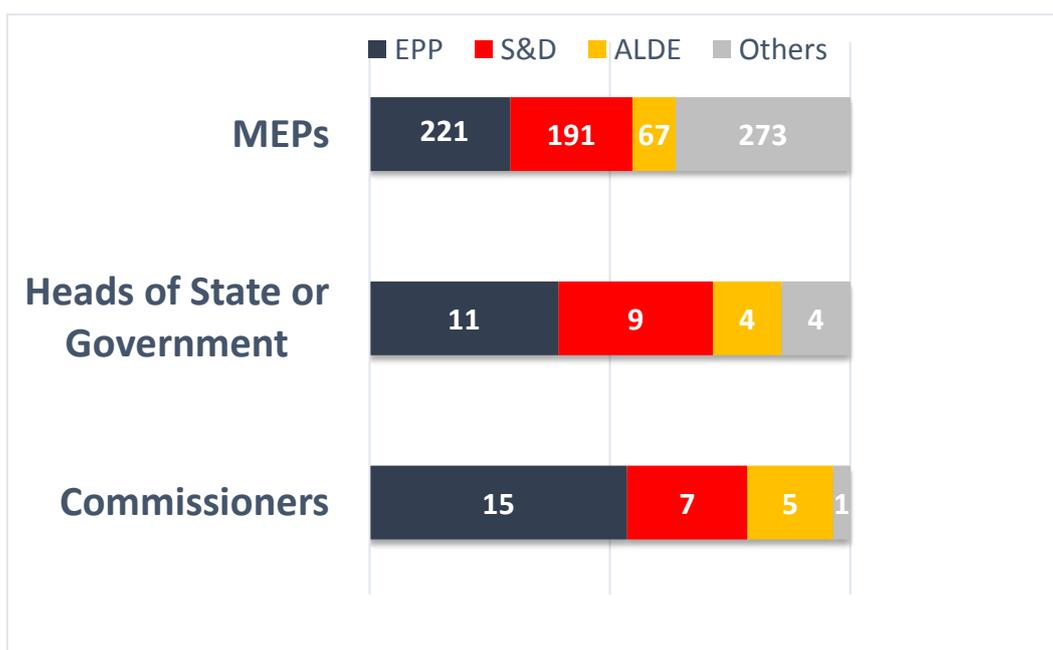
The European Commission 2014-2020

	<p>JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER President</p> <p>@JunckerEU JunckerEU http://ec.europa.eu/about/juncker-commission/</p>		<p>FEDERICA MOGHERINI High Representative of the Union for Foreign Policy and Security Policy/Vice-President</p> <p>@FedericaMog fmogherini</p>		<p>KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA Vice-President Budget and Human Resources</p> <p>@KgeorgievaEU KristalinaGeorgieva</p>
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	<p>ANDRUS ANSIP Vice-President Digital Single Market</p> <p>@Ansip_EU</p>		<p>GÜNTHER OETTINGER Commissioner Digital Economy and Society</p> <p>@GOettingerEU</p>		<p>JOHANNES HAHN Commissioner European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations</p> <p>@JHahnEU</p>
	<p>JYRKI KATAINEN Vice-President Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness</p> <p>@JyrkiKatainen</p>		<p>NEVEN MIMICA Commissioner International Cooperation and Development</p> <p>@MimicaEU</p>		<p>MIGUEL ARIAS CAÑETE Commissioner Climate Action and Energy</p> <p>@MAC_europa</p>
	<p>CECILIA MALMSTRÖM Commissioner Trade</p> <p>@MalmstromEU MalmstromEU</p>		<p>VYTENIS ANDRIUKAITIS Commissioner Health and Food Safety</p> <p>@V_Andriukaitis</p>		<p>DIMITRIS AVRAMOPOULOS Commissioner Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship</p>
	<p>KARMENU VELLA Commissioner Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries</p> <p>@KarmenuVella PeritKarmenuVella</p>		<p>PIERRE MOSCOVICI Commissioner Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs</p> <p>@PierreMoscovici pmoscovici</p>		<p>CHRISTOS STYLIANIDES Commissioner Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management</p> <p>@Stilianides Christos-Stylianides-Χρήστος-Στυλιανίδης</p>
	<p>MARIANNE THYSSEN Commissioner Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility</p> <p>@marianethyssen</p>		<p>JONATHAN HILL Commissioner Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union</p>		<p>VIOLETA BULC Commissioner Transport</p> <p>@violeta</p>
	<p>PHIL HOGAN Commissioner Agriculture and Rural Development</p> <p>@PhilHoganTD PhilHoganTD</p>		<p>VĚRA JOUROVÁ Commissioner Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality</p> <p>anoverajourova</p>		<p>TIBOR NAVRACSIKS Commissioner Education, Culture, Youth and Sport</p> <p>@TiborNavracsics</p>
	<p>ELŻBIETA BIEŃKOWSKA Commissioner Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs</p>		<p>MARGRETHE VESTAGER Commissioner Competition</p> <p>@Vestager MargretheVestager</p>		<p>CARLOS MOEDAS Commissioner Research, Science and Innovation</p> <p>@Moedas</p>
	<p>CORINA CREȚU Commissioner Regional Policy</p> <p>@CorinaCretuEU corina.cretu.7</p>				

Commissioners relevant for sport

- Tibor NAVRACSICS – Hungary (Education, Culture, Youth & Sport)
- Frans TIMMERMANS – Netherlands (First Vice-President, in charge of Better Regulation, Inter-institutional relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights)
- Jyrki KATAINEN – Finland (Vice-President, Jobs, Growth, Investment & Competitiveness)
- Marianne THYSSEN – Belgium (Employment, Social Affairs, Skills & Labour Mobility)
- Andrus ANSIP – Estonia (Vice-President, Digital Single Market)
- Günther OETTINGER – Germany (Digital Economy & Society)
- Valdis DOMBROVSKIS – Latvia (Vice-President, The Euro & Social Dialogue)
- Elzbieta BIENKOWSKA – Poland (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship & SMEs)
- Pierre MOSCOVICI – France (Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs Union)
- Margrethe VESTAGER – Denmark (Competition)
- Cecilia MALMSTRÖM – Sweden (Trade)
- Vera JOUROVA – Czech Republic (Justice, Consumers & Gender Equality)
- Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS – Lithuania (Health & Food Safety)
- Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS – Greece (Migration, Home Affairs & Citizenship)
- Christos STYLIANIDES – Cyprus (Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management)
- Kristalina GEORGIEVA – Bulgaria (Vice-President, Budget and Human Resources)
- Carlos MOEDAS – Portugal (Research, Science and Innovation)
- Karmenu VELLA – Malta (Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries)
- Corina CRETU – Romania (Regional Policy)
- Federica MOGHERINI – Italy (High-Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy)
- Neven NIMICA – Croatia (International Cooperation and Development)

Political forces in Brussels



Sport Unit of the European Commission

RESPONSIBILITY	NAME	PHONE
Head of Unit	Mr Yves LE LOSTECQUE	65232
Deputy Head of Unit - Relations with the EP, the EESC and the CoR; inter-service consultations; planning & reporting; structured dialogue with the sport movement	Ms Susanne HOLLMANN	63872
Secretary - to the Head of Unit	Ms Efthalia KEROULIS	86527
Secretary	Ms Astrid INDEKEU	84759
Programme Officer - EU policies - Implementation of preparatory actions and special events in the field of sport	Mr Pier-Marcello CORRADO	95191
Policy Officer - Governance of sport; preparation of incentive measures in the field of sport	Mr George PATERSON	57699
Policy Officer - Economic dimension of sport, European Sport week, European Sport Forum	Ms Florence MONDIN	86374
Policy Officer - Anti-doping; volunteering in sport; relations with the academic world	Mr Olivier FONTAINE	80544
Programme Officer - EU policies - Legal advice and management related to incentive measures in the field of sport	Mr Michal RYNKOWSKI	94936
Project/Process Assistant - Co-desk for the economic dimension of sport and health-enhancing physical activity	Mr Roland FARKAS	85090
Administrative Coordination Assistant - conferences/seminars - website - project management	Mr Alan WELLS	93782
Programme Assistant - EU policies - Valorisation	Ms Paola OTTONELLO	64847
Administrative Assistant	Ms Marta KUCINSKA	95087
Policy Officer - Education and training; social inclusion; gender equality in sport	Ms Agata DZIARNOWSKA	97913

Cabinet of Commissioner Tibor Navracsics

NAME	PHONE
Mr Tibor NAVRACSICS	55357
Mr Jonathan Michael HILL	51691/50454
Mr Szabolcs HORVATH (dealing with sport)	92867
Ms Luca Magdolna JASKO	55368
Mr Krzysztof KANIA	80842
Ms Adrienn KIRALY	62622
Ms Christine MAI	51634
Ms Patricia REILLY	50371
Ms Solveig JASPERT	62613
Ms Ewa KURTH	50895
Mr Frederic OBLIN	57195
Ms Petya DIMITROVA	58462
Ms Veronique GAUTHIER-BRAUN	62617
Ms Agathe GIAKOUMAKIS	80246
Ms Marjaana OJALA	52505/50854
Mr Szokira TAMAS	
Ms Anna ISOLA	