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Sport and Tourism

Last updated in October 2013

Latest Developments

Overall assessment of sports and tourism developments and impact on golf in Q3 2013:

During Q3 2013, the European Commission adopted its first ever proposal for a Council Recommendation on Sport. It also announced its intention to organise an Annual European Week of Sport (EWoS) as of 2015. In October, Sports Ministers met to discuss the role of sports in the economy.

On 28 August 2013 the European Commission adopted an initiative on health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA), the first ever proposal for a Council Recommendation on Sport. The initiative builds on the EU Physical Activity Guidelines and on-going efforts in Member States to promote physical activities. It encourages new measures across all policy sectors that can enable citizens to be more physically active.

[Press Release](#)

[Proposal for a Council Recommendation](#)

[Physical Activity Guidelines](#)

An informal meeting of the EU Sport Ministers took place on 1 October 2013. Discussions focused on strengthening sport as a sector of the economy, one of the key issues identified by the Lithuanian Presidency in the area of sport. Ministers discussed the impact of major sporting events on the welfare of EU Member States and the contribution of sports to economic growth.

[Press Release](#)

The European Commission is planning to organise an annual European Week of Sport (EWoS) that would promote participation in sport and physical activity throughout Europe. The first EWoS should take place in 2015. The Commission asked stakeholders to provide views and ideas and to identify existing good practices.

[European Commission Questionnaire](#)

The EU Sport Forum 2013, an annual event organised by the European Commission, took place in Vilnius on 30 September 2013. During the event, the Commission informed the sport movement about its current and future activities. Participants also discussed the Sports Chapter of Erasmus+, the EU Work Plan for Sport 2011-14 and future priorities.

[European Commission webpage](#)

[Press Release](#)

During his visit to Beijing, on 14 October, the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne announced that the UK intends to make it easier and faster for the Chinese tourists to obtain visas. Initially, a "super priority" visa service will allow Chinese business people to receive their visas within 24 hours. The second stage will be a pilot project to select the Chinese travel agencies that will be enabled to request a UK visa for their clients simply by completing the form used for Schengen visas.



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[Press Release](#)

The 12th European Tourism Forum 'Tourism – a Force for Economic Growth, Social Change and Welfare', organised by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania in cooperation with the European Commission, was held in Vilnius on 17-18 October 2013. Forum participants discussed the benefits of tourism for the EU economy and competitiveness, the diversity of tourism products, the future of tourism and tax issues in the tourism business. The Forum started with the Informal Ministerial meeting, where Vice President of the European Commission Antonio Tajani, ministers and representatives from the EU Member States in charge of tourism discuss visa policy and tourism related funding under the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020.

[Press Release](#)

Impact for golf management

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

Background

Last updated in July 2013:

Overall assessment of sports and tourism developments and impact on golf in Q2 2013:

The European Commission and MEPs are increasingly active on sports issues. The Commission has launched a number of initiatives to support sports and has published a Eurobarometer Survey which revealed that involvement in sports clubs is the most popular activity among young Europeans.

On 10 June, Androulla Vassiliou, the European Commissioner responsible for sport met with Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as part of the Commission's 'structured dialogue' with the sport movement. They discussed the current EU Work Plan for Sport (2011-2014) and the priorities of the future Work Plan and exchanged views about the organisation of a European Week of Sport, scheduled for 2015.

[European Commission Press Release](#)

In June 2013, the European Commission launched a call for proposals to support transnational projects presented by public bodies civil society organisations in the field of sport. The projects will be supported through the 2013 Preparatory Action "European Partnership on Sports" and will cover:

- (1) good governance and dual careers in sport;
- (2) protecting athletes from health and safety hazards by improving training and competition conditions; and
- (3) promoting traditional European sports and games.

[European Commission Press Release](#)

On 10 June, the European Commission published its European Language Label priorities for 2014-2015 on the basis of the Commission working paper "Language competences for employability, mobility and growth" which accompanies the communication "Rethinking Education: Investing in skills for better socio-economic outcomes". In these Priorities, the



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Commission affirms that there is a clear link between youth exchanges in the field of sport and the need to understand and use foreign languages.

[European Language Label priorities](#)

In May 2013 the European Commission published a Eurobarometer Survey "European Youth: Participation in Democratic Life" which studied EU citizens' participation in society among young Europeans aged 15 to 30. Involvement in a sports club came up as the most popular activity among young people in each of the EU Member States (35% had participated in a sports club in the past year). Respondents in the Netherlands are the most likely to have participated in a sports club in the last year (59%), followed by those in Ireland (53%), Sweden (48%), Luxembourg (48%), Denmark (48%) and Belgium (46%).

[European Youth: Participation in Democratic Life; Summary](#)

On 30 May, the 5th World Conference of Sports Ministers in Berlin (MINEPS V) adopted the so called Berlin Declaration - an extensive list of recommendations to curb corruption in sport, share the socio-economic benefits of sport more equitably and ensure access to sport for all. The Berlin Declaration emphasises that sport is a fundamental right for all, regardless of ethnic origin, gender, age, impairment, cultural and social background, economic resources or sexual orientation. It also underscores the threat to the integrity of sport from transnational organised crime, doping, the manipulation of sports competitions and corruption, which, like sport itself, has become a global phenomenon.

[5th World Conference of Sports Ministers in Berlin; Berlin Declaration](#)

On 7 May 2013, Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou responded to MEP Hannu Takkula (ALDE, Finland) who had tabled a question urging the Commission to consider a campaign to elevate sport and physical activity to the status of an 'industry'. Ms Vassiliou said that the Commission has recognised the role of sport and physical activity as an important source of growth and job creation in its 2007 White Paper on Sport and the 2011 Communication on Sport. According to the 2012 study on the Contribution of Sport to Economic Growth and Employment in the EU, the sector contributes EUR 174bn to the EU GDP (1.76%) and employs 4.46 million people (2.12%). The Commission is planning to use these findings in future policy initiatives and funding, in particular through the Commission proposal for a future Erasmus for All programme.

[Question by MEP Hannu Takkula](#) and [Answer by the Commission](#)

Responding to a question by Italian MEP Oreste Rossi (EFD) on the relationship between sport, health and social life, Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou said that in the context of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development's health theme, the Commission has been funding several research projects that promote physical activity as a means to improved health and is currently negotiating three projects implementing innovative approaches to enhance the level of physical activity in the population. She also noted that the new Sport Chapter of the proposed Erasmus for All programme (2014-2020) is designed to promote transnational projects in the field of sport.

[Question by MEP Oreste Rossi](#) and [Answer by the Commission](#)

On 3 June 2013, Italian MEP Patrizia Toia (S&D) asked the Commission to coordinate with Member States a campaign for the promotion and adoption of the European Charter of Women's Rights in Sports and enquired about the steps it is planning to take to encourage increased participation among women in sports and in the decision-making bodies of international and national sports federations.

[Question by MEP Patrizia Toia](#)



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Overall assessment of sports and tourism developments and impact on golf in Q1 2013:

Discussions around sports policy have picked up in the last quarter. Sports policy is becoming more debated in Brussels. In Q1, there were many questions posed by MEPs regarding the promotion of sports in the EU. In particular, there was also a question about golf and if it is eligible for EU funding.

On 18 March 2013, the Finnish liberal MEP Hannu Takkula tabled a question to the Commission where he claimed that sport and leisure is a sector in which the EU could achieve internationally significant new growth in the future and suggested that the Commission should consider a campaign or communication whereby sport and physical activity would be systematically elevated to the status of an 'industry', following the example of the US.

[Question by MEP Hannu Takkula](#)

On 14 March 2013, seven MEPs tabled a question on behalf of the EPP group enquiring about the Commission's intention to present proposals that promote and enhance sports and other physical activities among EU citizens, noting that grassroots sports and investments in relevant infrastructure play an important role in meeting evolving needs with regards to sports and physical activity.

[MEPs question](#)

On 16 January 2013 Spanish MEP Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL) expressed his concern about the change of use of an urban park in the Spanish town of Palencia that is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The MEP claims that the current Palencia Council has decided to convert part of the public park into an extension of the nearby Municipal Golf Course and asks the Commission whether it is aware about this change of use, whether it complies with the ERDF co-financing conditions and what measures it is planning to take to prevent this change. In his reply, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Dacian Cioloş notes that golf courses are not considered eligible for support under the payment scheme.

[Answer by the Commissioner](#)

[Question by MEP Willy Meyer](#)

In January 2013, the organisation Assembla Aturem Bcn World launched a Change.org petition calling on the Catalanian authorities and the municipalities of Vila-Seca and Salou to withdraw their support for the Barcelona World project (BCN world), a leisure and tourism macro-complex. The organisation claimed that the project would have an adverse impact on important habitats, restrict public access to the coast and threaten the security of water and energy supplies.

Links (in Spanish): [Alba Sud](#) and [Change.org](#)

In January 2013, Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik responded to a question that had been raised by the Portuguese Conservative MEP Nuno Melo on the intention to build hotels, holiday villages and a golf course in the area of the Salgados Lake, a popular birdwatching destination in Portugal. Commissioner Potočnik claimed that the Commission is following closely the situation in Salgados and has requested explanations from the Portuguese authorities.

[Answer by Commissioner Potočnik](#)

[Question by MEP Nuno Melo](#)



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Links

European Commission on Sport
http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/news984_en.htm