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NOTE

From:	Presidency
to:	Working Party on Sport
Subject:	State of play in the fight against match-fixing

In preparation for the Working Party on Sport meeting on 17 April 2012, delegations will find attached an information note from the Presidency on the above mentioned subject.

State of play in the fight against match-fixing

Presidency note

I. Introduction

The purpose of this Presidency note is to provide Member States with an overview of the state of play in relation to the fight against match-fixing with a view to ensuring full transparency and providing the best possible foundation for further discussions on the issue, including at the informal EU Sport Directors' meeting in Copenhagen on 31 May-1 June.

II. The state of play in various fora

Discussions on the fight against match-fixing, on securing the integrity of sport, and on betting related aspects of sports integrity take place in multiple fora. For the purposes of this Presidency note, these discussions are treated as being part of the same overall theme, namely the fight against match-fixing. Below is provided a brief overview of the state of play in the three EU institutions (the Council, the Commission, the Parliament), in the Council of Europe, in the international sports movement and among betting operators.

Council related activities

Council has dealt with the fight against match-fixing in the EU Work Plan for Sport 2011-2014 adopted in May 2011¹, in which the integrity of sport, in particular, among other things, the fight against match-fixing, was set out as a priority theme for the period 2011-2014. In addition, Council adopted in November 2011 conclusions on combating match-fixing², in which Member States and stakeholders were invited to, inter alia, encourage the development of educational programmes and encourage close cooperation between all interested stakeholders.

¹ OJ C 162, 1.6.2011, p. 1.

² OJ C 378, 23.12.2011, p. 1.

With the EU Work Plan for Sport 2011-2014 Council also set up the Expert Group on Good Governance (XG GG) whose first task is to produce, by mid 2012, recommendations for future consideration regarding the fight against match-fixing. XG GG, with the support of the Commission, has held two meetings thus far, the first on 6 December 2011 and the second on 13 March 2012, the latter with observer participation. The third meeting of the group is scheduled for 5-6 June 2012. The recommendations of XG GG on the fight against match-fixing are expected to be presented to the Working Party on Sport during the first half of the Cypriot presidency.

The fight against match-fixing will be on the agenda for the informal Sport Directors' meeting in Copenhagen on 31 May-1 June with a view to taking stock of ongoing processes and discussing possible ways forward.

Commission activities

The Commission touched upon the issue of match-fixing in its Communication "Developing the European Dimension in Sport" of January 2011³. In June 2011 the Commission adopted its Communication "Fighting Corruption in the EU"⁴ which singled out match-fixing as an example of sports-related corruption with a cross-border dimension. In September 2011 the Commission (DG EAC) launched a study on "Match-fixing in sport – A mapping of criminal law provisions in EU 27"⁵. The study, carried out by KEA European Affairs, was made public on 10 April 2012. The contractor presented a draft version of the report at the second meeting of XG GG on 13 March, and the Commission will present the final version of the study at the meeting of the Working Party on Sport on 17 April.

³ COM(2011) 12 final

⁴ COM(2011) 308 final

⁵ Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/20120410-study-on-match-fixing_en.htm

The Commission (DG MARKT) also launched in 2011 the Green Paper on Online Gambling⁶, which was supplemented by a series of five work shops during the course of 2011, one of which, held on 10 May 2011, focused particularly on on-line gambling and sport integrity (with a focus on match-fixing)⁷. The Commission has announced that, as a follow-up to the Green Paper, a Communication on Online Gambling is expected to be adopted in 2012.

On 27 February 2012, the Commission (DG MARKT) gathered national betting regulators from EU 27 plus EFTA countries for an informal meeting in Brussels to discuss future cooperation between European betting regulators. The next meeting for the group is scheduled for 20 April in Brussels and one additional meeting is foreseen before the summer. The focus of the group is cooperation in relation to gambling regulation, including in such areas as prevention of fraud and protection of sport integrity.

Furthermore, following the inclusion in the 2012 EU budget of a new Preparatory Action on European Partnerships in Sport, the Commission has announced that it is preparing the testing in 2012 of projects aimed at strengthening cooperation between the private and public sectors, including possibly in relation to the prevention of match-fixing.

European Parliament activities

The European Parliament has touched upon the issue of match-fixing, especially betting related match-fixing, in its 2009 resolution on the integrity of online gambling (the Schaldemose report)⁸.

The Parliament also dealt in more detail with the issue in its 2011 resolution on online gambling in the Internal Market (the Creutzmann report)⁹, in which it, inter alia, touched upon issues related to cross-border police and judicial cooperation, cooperation with organisers of sports competitions and gambling operators, dedication of national networks and contact points to deal with cases of match-fixing and the setting up of a definition of match-fixing at EU level.

⁶ COM(2011) 128 final

⁷ Work shop conclusions available at: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/services/gambling-workshops_en.htm

⁸ OJ C 87 E, 1.4.2010, p. 30.

⁹ [P7_TA\(2011\)0492](#)

The issue of match-fixing was also addressed in the European Parliament's 2012 resolution on the European Dimension in Sport (the Fisas report)¹⁰, in which it, inter alia, urged sport federations to work closely with Member States in order to protect the integrity of sport.

Council of Europe activities

The Council of Europe has dealt with the issue of match-fixing on several occasions. In September 2010 the Council of Europe Informal Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport adopted a resolution on the promotion of the integrity of sport against the manipulation of sports results (match-fixing)¹¹. This resolution was followed by the adoption one year later of the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on promotion of the integrity of sport against manipulation of results, notably match-fixing¹².

In March of this year, the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport adopted a resolution on international co-operation on promotion of the integrity of sport against the manipulation of results (match-fixing)¹³, in which the ministers invited EPAS and other relevant actors to launch the negotiation of a possible new international convention against manipulation of sports results and notably match-fixing.

¹⁰ P7_TA(2012)0025

¹¹ Resolution No. 1 of the 18th Council of Europe Informal Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Baku, 22 September 2010) on the promotion of the integrity of sport against the manipulation of sports results (match-fixing), available at:
http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/epas/Default_en.asp

¹² CM/Rec(2011)10, available at: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/epas/Default_en.asp

¹³ Resolution No. 1 of the 12th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Belgrade, 15 March 2012) on international co-operation on promotion of the integrity of sport against the manipulation of results (match-fixing), available at:
http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/epas/Default_en.asp

In the resolution, the ministers responsible for sport also invited EPAS to explore the possibilities of the establishment of an international network of national authorities in charge of the policy regarding the betting market, in order to address sport integrity issues. An informal meeting of national betting regulators is scheduled for 19 April in Strasbourg with a view to discussing the possible establishment of a formal network of national betting regulators within the remit of the Council of Europe.

Sport movement activities

In March 2011 the IOC established and held its first meeting in the Working Group on the fight against irregular and illegal betting in sport and subsequently set up three expert groups to deal with issues linked to education, intelligence and monitoring as well as legislation. The results of the work of the three expert groups were presented to the IOC Working Group in February of this year¹⁴.

An international initiative that cuts across different sports and could be mentioned in this context is the Sport Accord global programme to stop match-fixing in sport, which was launched in January 2012 and which is targeted at federations, athletes and officials¹⁵. The programme includes an e-learning programme, an integrity guide, a code of conduct and model rules in relation to sports betting. The European Elite Athletes Association, EU Athletes, has also, in cooperation with betting operators, developed a code of conduct on sports betting and an education programme based on face-to-face talks with team sports players¹⁶.

Sport specific initiatives include programmes, such as integrity units and monitoring systems, established by international federations in, for instance, cricket, tennis and football.

¹⁴ Conclusions available at:
http://www.olympic.org/Documents/Illegal_Betting/Fight_against_irregular_and_illegal_sports_betting_conclusions.pdf

¹⁵ Available at: <http://integrity.sportaccord.com/en/>

¹⁶ Available at: <http://www.eusportsbettingcode.org/>

Betting operator activities

Betting operators also play a role in the fight against match-fixing, mainly through betting monitoring systems and the dissemination of betting information. Most of Europe's major online and offline regulated bookmakers are members of European Sports Security Association (ESSA), which through its access to the participating operators' betting data monitor suspicious betting patterns and pass on intelligence to relevant sport federations.

ESSA has agreements (memorandums) with a number of sport governing bodies such as FIFA, UEFA and ATP and has also established relations with the IOC and with EU Athletes.

III. Next steps

The issue of match-fixing will be on the agenda at the informal EU Sport Directors' meeting in Copenhagen on 31 May-1 June with a view to taking stock of ongoing processes and discussing possible ways forward.

The XG GG will meet on 5-6 June. Match-fixing is expected to be on the agenda for 5 June.

In terms of activities in the Council of Europe, the EPAS will hold its annual Governing Board meeting on 20-21 June in Strasbourg.
