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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Respecting Human Rights with assigning major sport events - <i>Information from the delegation of the Netherlands</i>

Delegations will find attached an information note from the delegation of the Netherlands on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under ‘Any other business’ for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 29 November 2022.

Respecting Human Rights with assigning major sport events

Under the 2016 EU Dutch Presidency the Council adopted council conclusions on enhancing integrity, transparency and good governance in major sport events. One of the invitations towards the sports sector was to *“Develop and publish a catalogue of realistic requirements in the bidding phase of major sport events including transparent selection procedures and relevant selection criteria for the awarding of major sport events, regarding specific integrity issues such as human rights, including children’s rights and workers’ rights and gender equality, as well as the prevention of all forms of discrimination, and threats to the integrity of sport such as doping, match fixing and violence”*.

In 2021, Finland took the initiative for a joint letter of the EU Ministers responsible for Sports to Commissioner Mariya Gabriel in order to secure human rights in sport and major sporting events, both within and outside of the European Union. The ministers wished to reiterate the message of the statement made by the EU sport ministers in 2013 where all states that participate in organising major sport events, such as the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, World Championships, were called to respect their international human rights commitments.

The importance of respecting human rights in the organization of major sport events, is more relevant than ever. That is why the Netherlands would like to invite the Commission to map what actions have been taken by International Sport organisations to ensure that human rights are heavily weighed in the assignation of major sport events, while fully respecting the autonomy of the sports sector.

The Netherlands also invites the Member States of the European Union and the European Commission to call on international federations and organizers of other international major sport events to look after human rights (including children’s rights, workers’ rights and gender equality), before, during and after major sports events. And to take action and compensate where necessary together with the organizing committee when rights are affected. In this, the European Commission would be the preferred representative on behalf of the European Union.