



# **Expert Group "Good Governance" (XG GG) Report from the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting - 5 March 2015**

## **1. PARTICIPANTS**

Experts from 18 Member States: Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Five MS members were absent (Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Malta).

European Commission: DG Education and Culture (DG EAC), and DG JUST (afternoon only).

28 observers and the Council of the EU.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

The Expert Group on Good Governance (XG GG) was created by the Council in May 2014 and on 5 March 2015 held its second meeting.

The chairman, Darren Bailey (UK), welcomed the participants and gave the floor to the European Commission (EC) to give an update on the latest developments in the field of sport at EU level. The EC also informed the group that the secretariat of the group will now be ensured by Paola Ottonello, who will also take over the file "gender equality in sport".

The chairman then briefly summarised the mandate and deliverables of the group and stressed the importance of open dialogue and trust between the members and the observers. He referred to the existing 10 principles of good governance and pointed out that the work of the present XG should build on these, entering into a further level of detail where appropriate. The aim was to provide some value added at EU level. The resulting principles should be practical and useful for different stakeholders, at different starting points and different levels of progress. He also reminded the participants of available tools such as "CIRCABC", which could be useful for sharing information in between meetings.

The introductory session ended with a brief "tour de table" of all observers, who were participating for the first time.

The XG adopted the draft agenda without comments.

### **3. DISCUSSION ON DELIVERABLES - Guiding principles relating to democracy, human rights and labour right, in particular in the context of the awarding procedure of major sport events.**

The lead expert, Jan Loorbach (NL), framed the discussion by focusing on the importance of producing a final document that would be concrete and acceptable to all EU Member States. He also stressed the specificity and important role of sport, as well as that of sport organisations and awarding bodies. In the context of the awarding of major sports events being a largely global activity, he saw it important to establish a working definition and a set of rules for both the awarding organization and the host country/city.

Those who had submitted specific comments in advance were invited to present them to the XG. The main points raised were:

- IOC: Credibility of sport as a whole is at stake; general principles should be applied regardless of the size of the event
- EOC EU Office: Transparency and governance of awarding procedure are import, both for the organisations and the host countries.
- FIFPRO: Important to ensure that human rights and labour standards are respected, not just for people involved in the construction, but also for athletes. These should be preconditions for the candidates. Joint hosting country and IOC responsibility was highlighted.
- Germany: Sport organisations have a responsibility to make sure hosts respect certain rights. A minimum standard to sporting events and the country has to be defined. Specific reference was made to the UN initiative <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/>. The question was also raised whether principles should only relate to the sport event, or the country as a whole.
- ICSSPE: Stressed the difficulties defining a "major sport event" and pointed out that often athletes are children, who should have precise rights.
- Play the Game: Accountability is essential, wording should be stronger. Principles should also take into account the environmental, economic and social impact (infrastructures, but also fan travel and outdoor sport) and the long-term sustainability of the event.
- Transparency International Germany: Importance of starting early in the process (bidding/awarding) to have leverage. They highlighted that

although sports events should have a positive effect it was not always the case. Gender equality should also be taken into account in the principles.

During the ensuing general discussion, a number of other points were raised:

- Good governance and sustainability in all aspects are important elements for the administration of sport organisations as well as for organizing sport events.
- General principles should be applied to all, but there is more at stake for major sport events and they should have higher standards.
- Rules should be in place for the organisers, but also for the host countries (three key stages: bidding – awarding - monitoring).
- Minimum standards acceptable for all countries should be defined, as well as potential additional standards.
- Economic benefits and impacts of major events (positive and negative).
- Importance of concrete and objective criteria, as well as a robust ex-post evaluation.
- When drawing up its recommendations, the XG should refer to existing documentation and policy initiatives on major sports events (e.g. MINEPS V deliverables and available UN documentation).
- Need to take into account the rising trend for multi-country events.
- The considerable social, economic and culture impact of MSEs.
- Focus on sport federations and organizations.
- Possibility to consult on an ad-hoc basis the organisation 'Peace and Sport'.

The chair then initiated a discussion on the extent that sport could use its influence beyond 'the bubble' of the mega sports event. One of the issues raised is that there isn't always a bidding procedure (which could be regulated) but also that events in "problematic" countries can have positive effects in putting the spotlight on the country in question. Social change needs time. Even if there are different standards applied with regard to the sports event, it could still have a positive effect. It was important to be ambitious, but also pragmatic.

Conclusions: Principles should apply to all sport events and all host countries, but higher standards should be in place for mega sport events

(credibility, transparency). The XG should not limit itself to minimum criteria, but use the soft power of sport as leverage and aim higher whenever possible (EU should "inspire"). The XG should focus on the three crucial stages of the process: bidding, awarding and monitoring.

#### **4. DISCUSSION ON DELIVERABLES – recommendations or guidelines on gender equality in sport followed by a pledge board.**

The lead expert, Cédric Chaumond (FR), underlined that the recommendations will be based on the existing document "Gender Equality in Sport – Proposal for Strategic Actions 2014- 2020". Notably, there will be 4 action points: information/training for all actors; communication and creation of networks; monitoring and measurement tools; commitment/rules to be adopted.

By way of introduction, two presentations were made to the XG:

- EC gender equality policy, by European Commission (DG JUST), which gave an overview of some general issues on gender equality in the EU.
- "Gender Equality in Sport – proposal for strategic actions 2014-2020", by European Women and Sport (EWS). They also pointed out that EWS will host a conference in 2016 based on the 4 action points, which could be an opportunity to present the XG guidelines.

The representatives who had submitted specific comments in advance were invited to present them to the XG:

- EOC EU Office: Guidelines are a good starting point, though perhaps the XG should concentrate on a few per area and focus on the implementation. Monitoring and follow-up will be crucial. It will be important to collect existing best practices for each area and from each MS.
- ENGSO: Stressed also the importance of developing National Actions Plans with regards to gender equality in sport and taking into account each country's' specificity. Considered the pledge board as a potential and useful tool. Recalled the Brighton Declaration and Sydney Scoreboard as reference documents.
- Estonia: The Council of Europe Recommendation on gender mainstreaming in sport should be taken into account. The XG should also consider issues such as human trafficking and prostitution, linked to major sport events.

- ICSSPE: Referred to their written contribution.
- Play the Game: Stressed the importance of adopting guidelines for sport organisations, with particular attention to the adoption of quotas for female governing body members.

The Council of Europe added further information on the above-mentioned recommendation and encouraged the XG to look at the CoE publication collecting best practice on the issue.

During the ensuing general discussion, a number of other points were raised:

- The need for concrete examples of pledges and pledge boards.
- Precise measures are needed, not just principles.
- Make use of already existing documents as basis for concrete actions, especially EU and CoE documents.
- Importance of increasing media coverage, also to "normalise" the sport (football and boxing for example).
- There is scarcity of data on violence in sport, so experience of others is important.
- XG should consider both participation in competition and gender equality in management.
- Gender equality was one of the 20+20 Olympic recommendations.
- Importance of monitoring and peer pressure to drive results.
- Closing the gender gap in coaching, especially elite coaching.

Conclusion: The XG agrees on the structure and on the importance of concrete recommendations, followed by appropriate monitoring. The XG would also welcome a list of good practices. A draft will be circulated at the next meeting in June and the final document should be approved in October.

## **5. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS**

The next meeting will be held in Brussels on Tuesday 9 June 2015.

Closing session without observers:

## **6. MISCELLANEOUS**

The Commission (DG EAC) gave a presentation on the pledge board tool, as foreseen by the Working Party on Sport. The pledge board will be a voluntary self-reporting opportunity to chart progress and a systematic review mechanism could be put in place (e.g. a yearly questionnaire regarding the implementation). The list of commitments that sport organisations and Member States may wish to make should be presented to the Working Party.

## **ANNEX 1: List of participants**

### European Commission

DG EAC LE LOSTECQUE Yves, PATERSON George, OTTONELLO Paola

DG JUST DAVOINE Lucia

### MS Experts

BE	VERMEERSCH An	Ghent University, Flemish Community
BE	RATHMES Kurt	German Speaking Community
BE	TRICARICO François	Min. de la Féd. Wallonie Bruxelles
CY	SOPHOCLEOUS Philippos	Cyprus Sport Organisation
DK	VOIGT TINNING Anders	Ministry of Culture
DE	WEIDEN Torsten	Federal Ministry of the Interior
DE	WITTE-ABÉ Kirsten	Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund (DOSB)
EE	KLAAN Margus	Estonian Ministry of Culture
FI	SULANDER Heidi	Ministry of Education and Culture
FI	TOROI Niina	Finish Olympic Committee
FR	CHAUMOND Cédric	Min. de la ville, de la jeunesse et des sports
HU	BERTANE GONTER Krisztina	Ministry of Human Ressources-
HU	STERBENZ Tamas	Ministry of Human Ressources-
IE	CLARKE Emma Jane	Irish Sports Council
LU	HUSTING Alexandre	Sport Ministry Luxembourg
NL	KUPER Wendela	Min. van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport
NL	LOORBACH Jan	Law Firm NautaDutilh NV
NL	SLOT Geert	NOC * NSF
PL	BARAN Bartosz	Ministry of Sport and Tourism
PT	ALVES Rui	l'Institut portugais du sport et de la jeunesse
RO	PREDA Dragos	Ministry of Youth and Sport
SK	MALZOVÁ Elena	Min. of Education, Science, Research and Sport,
SI	VEROVNIK Zoran	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
SE	LINDMAN Tomas	Perm Rep
UK	BAILEY Darren (Chair)	The FA Group
UK	NATALE Lara	UK Perm Rep

## OBSERVERS

ECA - European Club Association

EHFA / Europe Active

ENAS - European Network of Academic Sports

EOC EU OFFICE

ENGSO - European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation

EOSE – European Observatoire of Sport & Employment

EPAS - Council of Europe

EPFL- European Professional Football Leagues

EU Athletes

EWS - European Women and Sport

FIFA - Fédération Internationale de Football Association

FIFPro

FIVB - Federation Internationale de Volleyball

Golf Europe

ICCE - International Council for Coaching Excellence

ICSS - International Centre for Sport Security

ICSSPE - International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education

IOC – International Olympic Committee

ISCA - International Sports & Culture Assoc.

Play the Game

SportAccord

Supporters Direct Europe

Transparency International Germany

UEFA - Union of European Football Associations

UNI Europa

Council of the EU