



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 28 SEP. 2011  
C(2011)6860 final

Dear Chairman, *Dear Lord Roper,*

*The Commission wishes to thank the House of Lords for its response to the Commission Communication on Developing the European Dimension in Sport {COM(2011) 12}.*

*The Commission shares the Committee's views on the importance of grassroots sport and on the benefits of integrating sport into policy making in other policy areas. This is one of the guiding principles of the Communication, which proposes new actions on the basis of the new EU competence in the field of sport, building on the achievements of the 2007 White Paper on Sport.*

*The Commission is working in the direction indicated by the Committee on the basis of an external evaluation of the 2009 and 2010 Preparatory Actions and special events in the field of sport, which was completed and published in July 2011. The Commission has proposed targeted incentive measures for sport under a dedicated sub-programme within the Education Europe programme in the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework for the 2014-2020 period. Furthermore, the mainstreaming of sport into other EU funding streams has proved its value in the past and the Commission intends to continue to provide support for sport projects in other existing EU programmes within the framework of applicable financial provisions.*

*The EU Work Plan for Sport, adopted by the Council in May 2011, aims to contribute to the improvement of Member State performance in developing national policy initiatives in the field of sport in line with the House of Lord's recommendations. This new EU Work Plan will target concrete outcomes in areas such as the fight against threats to the integrity of sport, health-enhancing physical activity, education and training in sport, sport statistics and the sustainable financing of sport.*

*Work is also ongoing at EU level in the field of data collection. An EU Conference on sport statistics took place on 23 March 2011, which, inter alia, confirmed stakeholder demands for better and more comparable statistical data in the field of sport.*

*Regarding the statements of the House of Lords on issues related to intellectual property and their impact on grassroots sport, the Commission has launched a study on the financing of grassroots sport that addresses income streams from different sources into sport. The draft*

Lord Roper  
Chairman of the European Union  
Select Committee  
House of Lords  
Palace of Westminster  
UK-LONDON SW1A 0PW

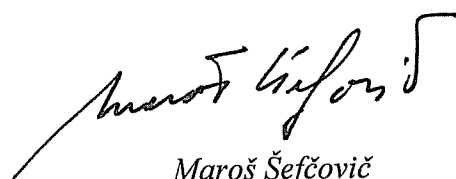
*final report is currently under review. As a follow-up to this study and its recommendations, the Commission intends to enhance the exchange of best practice among existing funding mechanisms at EU level together with the Member States and the sport movement. Furthermore, the Commission's ongoing consultation on online gambling in the internal market will also address these issues.*

*The Commission Communication reconfirms the specific nature of sport as recognised in Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('TFEU'). The Commission reiterates its commitment to working together with sport stakeholders to provide as much legal clarity as possible; to explain, on a theme-per-theme basis, the relationship between EU law and sporting rules in professional and amateur sport; to provide further guidance; and to find suitable solutions to the problems encountered. This may take different forms: ad-hoc meetings with Member States and sport stakeholders, conferences, seminars, but also bilateral discussions.*

*Finally, the Commission shares the House of Lords' views on the importance of dialogue between sport stakeholders and the Commission. The Committee's suggestion to put in place measures to better inform grassroots organisations about work being undertaken at EU level and about the opportunities for them to present their views, will be duly taken into account. However, the proposal to establish an interactive web-portal for grassroots organisations or to significantly enlarge the attendance at the Sport Forum will have to be considered carefully, notably with regard to the available resources for managing this policy area.*

*I would like to thank you again for your report and look forward to continuing our political dialogue in future.*

*Yours faithfully,*



*Maroš Šefčovič*  
Vice-President