



MESSAGE FROM THE EOC ACTING PRESIDENT



Dear colleagues,

With the countdown clock to Tokyo 2020 now at well under 100 days to go, this summer's Olympic Games are quickly approaching. As the National Olympic Committees of Europe and our athletes put the final touches on preparations, the latest Playbooks from the International Olympic Committee have given us valuable insight into what this special edition of the Olympic Games will be like.

They will unquestionably be different from what we have been used to, and it is clear that each Olympic stakeholder will have to exercise a great deal of flexibility and patience to make these a safe and successful Games for everyone involved. But I remain convinced that we will pull it off as long as we remain united in our purpose – to ultimately provide, through sport, a little hope and encouragement to the world after such a trying and tragic period for humanity.

Looking slightly further ahead, the European Olympic Committees continues to make real progress with regard to the European Games Krakow-Malopolska 2023. Last week the EOC Coordination Commission for the Games gathered in Antalya, Turkey for meetings with a range of important stakeholders, including potential partners, who will help us deliver the best edition of our continental Games yet. More information will be communicated to you on this subject in due course.

Unfortunately, as you will all know, the Vuokatti Winter EYOF was recently postponed to March 2022, but I think everyone will understand that it was the only choice and will provide the local organisers more time to prepare the festival in the best way. I thank the organising committee, NOC of Finland and the EOC CoCom for agreeing on a good solution for all parties, including of course the young athletes.

Finally, the elective EOC General Assembly in Athens is now only one month away. While the GA will be heavily focused on the future of the Olympic Movement in Europe, we will also be taking a trip down memory lane as this will be the EOC's milestone 50th GA. As such, we will be celebrating all the best moments of European sport at the meeting, as well as on our EOC social media channels and website. Thank you in advance to everyone for their contributions to this project.

I wish you excellent preparations for Tokyo 2020 and look forward to seeing you all next month in Athens.

Best regards,

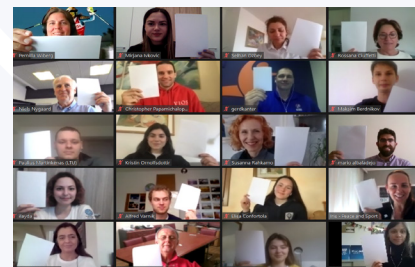
Niels Nygaard
EOC Acting President

EOC

European Young Olympic Ambassadors celebrate International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

On 6 April, the EOC celebrated the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) through a webinar addressed to the European Young Olympic Ambassadors (EYOA) for the Winter European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) Vuokatti 2021.

Opened by EOC Acting President **Niels Nygaard**, the meeting was an occasion to raise the EYOAs' awareness about the importance of the Day as well as to spread a positive message of solidarity, peace and inclusion through sport.



“Today we celebrate the role that sport plays in society and its power to foster dialogue, understanding, social inclusion and peace,” said Nygaard.

“The EOC is grateful for the work being carried out every day by sports organisations, athletes, coaches and by you – dear Ambassadors – to convey these educational values of sport to people of all ages throughout the world. We feel very lucky to count on your support to spread this very important message!”

Organised in collaboration with Monaco-based organisation Peace and Sport and the EOC Olympic Culture and Legacy Commission, the webinar was attended by Champion for Peace and two-time Olympic champion **Pernilla Wiberg** and EOC Athletes' Commission Chair and Olympic discus champion **Gerd Kanter**. [Read more](#)

EUROPEAN GAMES

EOC European Games 2023 CoCom meets in Antalya



From 25 to 27 April 2021, the EOC Coordination Commission (CoCom) for the European Games 2023 met in Antalya, Turkey and held discussions with European Athletics (EA), the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and TOP Olympic Partner ATOS.

Led by Chair **Hasan Arat**, the EOC CoCom discussed with the respective parties their possible collaboration for the organisation of Krakow-Malopolska 2023.

The meetings were also attended by a delegation from Poland, which was led by Polish Olympic Committee President **Andrzej Kraśnicki**. The EOC CoCom held constructive talks with the EA Board, also present in Antalya for meetings, focusing on the format of the athletics competitions at the 3rd European Games. They also met with representatives of ATOS to explore how they can support EOC on its digital transformation.

Finally, an online meeting was held with the EBU to agree on some important steps forward related to host broadcasting and TV rights, which will potentially bring the Games to the widest audience yet both in Europe and elsewhere around the globe.

More details will follow in the coming weeks.

Cycling, Sport Climbing and Triathlon join European Games 2023



The sports programme for the European Games Krakow-Malopolska 2023 continues to grow with the inclusion of [cycling, sport climbing and triathlon](#).

This will be the third appearance for cycling at the European Games after featuring in the inaugural edition of the Games at Baku 2015 and the second edition at Minsk 2019.

This time around for 2023, mountain biking and freestyle BMX will take centre stage in Poland, with both events acting as European Championships and offering ranking points to athletes attempting to qualify for the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

Sport climbing, which is set to make its Olympic Games debut this summer at Tokyo 2020, will be making its first appearance at the European Games in 2023, and will offer qualifying opportunities for the following year's Olympic Games Paris 2024.

Meanwhile, triathlon will return to the European Games fold in 2023 for the second time, after featuring at the first edition in Baku in 2015.

“Cycling, sport climbing and triathlon are exciting Olympic sports that we are thrilled to welcome to the Krakow-Malopolska European Games,” said Chair of the Coordination Commission for the European Games 2023 **Hasan Arat**. “All three sports are fan favourites, and they join an already solid line-up of sports for 2023 that we are confident will be the most comprehensive and innovative yet for a European Games.”

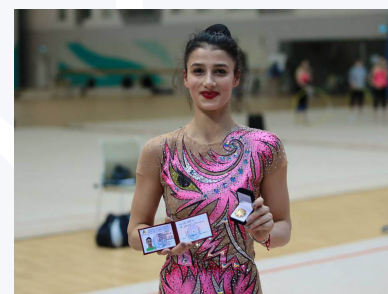
ROAD TO TOKYO

No obstacle too tough for Azerbaijani gymnast on road to Tokyo

They say it's not how many times you get knocked down that counts, it's how many times you get back up again.

By this measure, Azerbaijani rhythmic gymnast **Zeynab Hummatova** is elite-level, having experienced a string of setbacks throughout her sports career but each time having found the strength to come back stronger than ever.

“We women can overcome any challenge,” the 21-year-old says, adding that sport is the perfect outlet for goal-oriented, hard-working women. [Read more](#)



Promising prognosis for Danish distance star



Thijs Nijhuis has spent the last eight years rewriting the Danish athletics record books.

Not long ago he was concurrently the national champion in every distance from the 1,500m through to the marathon, a feat he accomplished after posting a Danish record in the first marathon in which he ever competed back in 2018.

The 28-year-old, who has been focusing on running the longer distances since his impressive marathon debut, qualified for his first Olympic Games during the Seville Marathon early last year.

“I certainly thought I could do it,” he says when asked about his experience in Spain. “I had put down a good training block over the summer, and finishing 31st in Doha at the World Championships in 2019 showed me I was on the right track. During the race in Seville there was a group of 20 people all aiming for that Olympic standard, which was great.”

And despite never having run a marathon until his mid-20s, Nijhuis always had an inkling that he might one day be on

the path on which he currently finds himself. “My first Olympic memory that really stands out is the Athens 2004 marathon where Brazilian runner **Vanderlei de Lima**, who was leading the race, gets pushed off the course [by a spectator], leaving **Stefano Baldini** [of Italy] to win the race,” Nijhuis says. “This made me think that everything and anything can happen in a marathon. At age 16 after running for some years, I told a local newspaper that my dream was to make the Olympics in the marathon.” [Read more](#)

EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPIC FESTIVAL

Vuokatti 2021 – EYOF delayed to March 2022



EYOF
2022
VUOKATTI

To protect the safety of participants while ensuring that all the best athletes are able to compete, the EOC Executive Committee has decided, in agreement with the Finnish Olympic Committee and local organisers, that the winter edition of the 2021 European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) will be rescheduled to 20 to 25 March 2022.

The decision comes as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to grip the European continent, while a three-month delay will also allow for more optimal snow conditions in the north of Finland, thereby providing the best possible platform for ski and snowboard athletes. The delay will also help the hosts save on snow-making costs.

In a unique, one-off decision, it was agreed that the boys' ice hockey tournament will take place in December as originally planned, to allow the best players from Europe to take part in the event. All other sports, including girls' ice hockey, will be rescheduled for March. [Read more](#)

Banská Bystrica 2022 – Organisers update National Federations on event preparations

The Organising Committee of the European Youth Olympic Festival Banská Bystrica 2022 has held a meeting with representatives of 11 National Federations in Slovakia to discuss preparations for the event.

Representatives from the national bodies for athletics, swimming, triathlon, tennis, basketball, badminton, cycling, judo, handball, volleyball and gymnastics met with EYOF organisers and **Ivan Husár**, Slovakia's State Secretary for Sport, to discuss the conditions for participation of the 11 sports that will be part of the event from 24 to 30 July 2021.



“Our goal is to prepare the EYOF, which will make Slovakia and Banská Bystrica visible, and give us the opportunity to show that our small country is also capable of organising big international events,” said **Ján Nosko**, President of the Organising Committee and Mayor of Banská Bystrica.

“The EYOF can also help with the development of sport in Slovakia and its popularisation among young people.”

Six sports are set to take place at the sports park in Štiavničky - athletics, swimming, judo, tennis, badminton and triathlon.

“The national sports associations will help us with quality people in terms of staff, material and technical support, as well as promotion,” added **Peter Hamaj**, executive director of Banská Bystrica 2022. [Read more](#)

ENOCs

AZERBAIJAN – First Digital Communication and Media Seminar organised in Baku



The NOC of Azerbaijan has held an online meeting focused on Digital Communication and Media, as part of a series of seminars run by NOCs in cooperation with Olympic Solidarity.

In attendance were around 27 participants from 15 NOCs of European and Asian countries, including Azerbaijan, Serbia, Czech Republic, Croatia, Russia, Ukraine, Slovenia, Slovakia and Albania.

The first regional seminar was held in Baku (Azerbaijan), and the second in Madrid (Spain), in cooperation with the Olympic Channel at its headquarters.

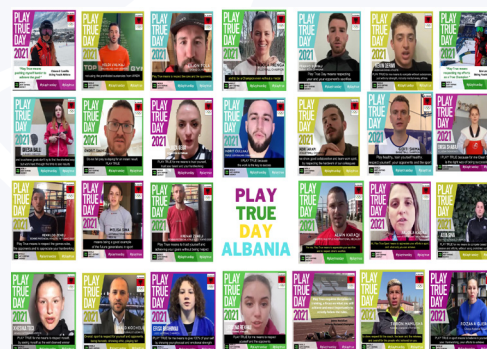
During the online meeting, alongside an overview of the work done in 2020, successful projects developed were discussed, including online Olympic Day celebrations and other social media activations. [Read more](#)

ALBANIA – NOC joins ‘Play True Day’ celebrations in fight against doping

The Albanian National Olympic Committee took part in the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) digital campaign “Play True” on 9 April 2021.

Albanian Olympians, young athletes, coaches and sports journalists spread their messages for clean sport on social media by answering the question “What does Play True mean for you?”.

The Albanian NOC also organised an online conference with the Albanian National Anti-Doping Organisation, in which the anti-doping policies and educational projects or seminars in the country were discussed. [Read more](#)



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – NOC selects its Ambassadors for European Week of Sport 2021



The National Olympic Committee of Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH) has selected two elite athletes to be the Ambassadors of the European Week of Sport (EWS) 2021.

Cyclist **Lejla Tanović** and promising young star swimmer **Lana Pudar** will represent their country during EWS activities and encourage their fellow citizens to be active and stay healthy throughout the year.

Tanović is the country's best cyclist and is currently eighth in the Cycling World Championship rankings, while Pudar has successfully qualified for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and has earned the title of best young European swimmer.

“I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and the opportunity to guide Kosovar sport for four years. The biggest winner is you and the sport of Kosovo. I dedicate the victory to my brother. Thank you all for your trust,” said President Krasniqi.

ESTONIA – Athletes raise white card to fight abuse

On 6 April 2021, the Estonian Olympic Committee celebrated the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) with athletes raising the white card to encourage people to notice abuse and challenge it.

“Safety in sport means respect, justice and the absence of any intentional violence,” said NOC President **Urmas Sõõrumaa**. “However, there are those who have been deprived of the option of enjoying sport safely, and the violence inflicted on them is not only physical but also emotional. The trauma of abuse will, sadly, stay with a person for life. Let us notice and help those who need help!”



The members of the Athletes' Commission, including Olympic discus champion **Gerd Kanter**, also took part in the campaign and participated in a video, which can be watched [here](#)

GEORGIA – NOC celebrates Sport for Development and Peace on April 6



The Georgian National Olympic Committee celebrated the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace on 6 April, with the engagement of Olympic champions, NOC Athletes' Commission members, and some of the country's sports role models.

Current challenges and the exceptional pandemic circumstances clearly proved the significance of Sport for Development and Peace.

The NOC Executive Board members also joined the 6 April campaign by taking a picture while holding the white card. [Read more](#)

GREECE – NOC President Capralos meets Secretary General of Kuwait Olympic Committee

Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) President and IOC Member **Spyros Capralos** met Secretary General of the Kuwait Olympic Committee **Husain Al-Musallam** in Athens, Greece, on 26 April 2021.

Husain Al-Musallam, who is running in the presidential elections of the International Swimming Federation (FINA), visited the HOC headquarters during his recent trip to Athens.



“We welcomed Husain Al-Musallam to the premises of the HOC and wished him all the best for his forthcoming election in FINA,” Capralos said. “I have known him for many years, and he told us that he is visiting our country because Greece is playing an important role in the International Olympic Movement. I am sure that we will have very constructive cooperation in the future.” [Read more](#)

IRELAND – NOC launches new Olympic schools challenge ‘Road To Tokyo’



On 13 April 2021, the Olympic Federation of Ireland, in association with FBD Insurance, launched its new Olympic Schools Challenge, “Road to Tokyo.” The challenge is part of the Olympic Federation of Ireland’s “Dare to Believe” schools programme and sees Team Ireland calling on schools and families across the country to join them on an interactive journey from Ireland to Tokyo from 4 to 31 May.

Road to Tokyo offers schools across the country the opportunity to take part in a fun, interactive and educational journey with a host of Team Ireland athletes as they begin preparations for the final months on the road to this year's Olympic Games.

Schools and families can get involved by logging their physical activity and workouts, which convert to kilometres and move them closer to Tokyo each step of the way. There will be four stopovers en route for all involved, where students will learn about the Olympic Games, Tokyo, and get some insights and pro tips from Team Ireland athletes. There will be spot prizes, art challenges and quizzes to make sure that all interests are catered for. [Read more](#)

LIECHTENSTEIN - NOC presents new vision, mission and strategy

Over the past few months, the Liechtenstein Olympic Committee (LOC) has been reviewing its vision and mission and has consequently defined its strategy for the 2021-2024 quadrennium, with the goal of making the country healthy, successful and sustainable.

As the umbrella organisation of 49 sports associations, the LOC has a special responsibility in the sports structure of Liechtenstein. Since 2019, the LOC has been responsible for the promotion of association-organised mass and performance sports. During the implementation of new methods for sports promotion, valuable inputs for the further development of the sports system and the future direction of the LOC were received and processed through many discussions with athletes and associations.

The strategy of the LOC is characterised by three guiding goals:

- To promote and challenge the amateur and competitive in both junior and adult sports;
- To further develop, together with the federations, the Liechtenstein sports system; and
- To live by and spread the Olympic values.

These guiding goals are divided into 25 concrete sub-headings that support and enable the implementation of the vision and mission. [Read more](#)



LITHUANIA – Fans will follow Tokyo action from Nida



The National Olympic Committee of Lithuania (LNOC), together with Neringa Municipality, will organise an Olympic Festival in Nida, Lithuania, during the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

When the world's best athletes compete in Tokyo from 23 July to 8 August, fans will be able to follow all their favourite sport events from Nida's "Arts Zone."

"Although fans from abroad will not be admitted to the Olympics, I have no doubt that their support from Nida will reach out and inspire our Olympians in Tokyo," said Olympic champion and LNOC President **Daina Gudzinevičiūtė**.

"Nida is an exceptional place not only in terms of its amazing nature, but also by its special atmosphere. The representatives of the International Olympic Committee were impressed to learn about the place where we are planning to hold the festival."

"We follow the news related to the epidemiological situation every day and will do everything to ensure that the participants of the festival can safely enjoy sports events and together support the athletes."

In addition, the annual Olympic Education Forum, which was launched six years ago by the LNOC, was recently attended by 1,300 participants.

With the topic "Physical Literacy: a Different Point of View," this year's Forum was held virtually for the first time. Also in attendance were First Lady of Lithuania **Diana Nausėdienė**; Minister of Education, Science and Sport **Jurgita Šiugždinienė**; and LNOC President Gudzinevičiūtė.

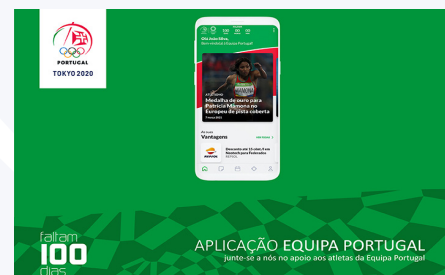
Dr Kremlin Wickramasinghe, Programme Manager of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity at the World Health Organisation (WHO), spoke about the WHO programmes promoting health-enhancing physical activity in the European region. [Read more](#)

PORTUGAL – Fans will follow Team Portugal in Tokyo through app

On 14 April, to mark the 100-day countdown to the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the NOC of Portugal and Repsol launched the Equipa Portugal app, which will allow all Portuguese people to follow the activities of Team Portugal athletes preparing for the Games.

The Equipa Portugal app provides information on competitions, results, the agenda and the biographies of the athletes who have qualified and are preparing for the Olympic Games.

The app was presented during an online event attended by NOC President **José Manuel Constantino** and Managing Director of Repsol Portugal **Armando Oliveira**. [Read more](#)



RUSSIA – NOC signs agreement with NOC of Armenia



The Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) and the National Olympic Committee of Armenia signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on 9 April 2021.

Stanislav Pozdnyakov and **Gagik Tsarukyan**, the Presidents of the respective NOCs, agreed on jointly holding sports, educational and training events in the interests of the athletes of both countries, which have significant and well-prepared sports facilities.

In addition, the Athletes' Commission of the ROC held a conference call this month on the Tokyo 2020 Playbook for its athletes and officials.

SERBIA - Olympic Committee of Serbia presents Sakura Olympic tree line project for Tokyo 2020

The NOC of Serbia has partnered with the Japanese Embassy, the City of Belgrade and the Japanese Business Alliance in Serbia (JBAS), planting 67 trees, symbolising Olympic rings with the aim to promote a healthier and better environment, at the same time sending a strong message of friendship and solidarity between the two nations and leaving a legacy for future generations.

The Sakura Olympic tree line was planted in the centre of Belgrade at the Sava river boardwalk, a popular recreational, sport and leisure area of the city. Watch the video [here](#).



In addition, the NOC of Serbia marked 100 days until the beginning of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 by opening an exhibition entitled "On the right track," dedicated to the Olympic heritage of Serbia from 1912 to 2016. The exhibition is being held in the prestigious gallery of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Belgrade. [Read more](#)

SPAIN – NOC marks Earth Day announcing agreement with Banco Santander



To mark Earth Day on 22 April, the Spanish NOC announced a cooperation agreement with Banco Santander, which will become the NOC's worldwide sustainable development strategy partner.

NOC President **Alejandro Blanco**, Olympic champion **Mireia Belmonte** and the Head of Sponsorships, Events and Social Media at Santander Spain, **Felipe Martín** (see photo), formalised the agreement at a ceremony held at the NOC headquarters in Madrid.

Among other things, the agreement offers a wide range of sustainable products and services to all national and autonomous community federations, from hiring hybrid and electric cars to energy efficiency loans to optimise, for example, energy consumption in sports facilities. [Read more](#)

UKRAINE – NOC joins celebrations of International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

The Ukrainian Olympic Family joined the celebration of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace on 6 April 2021.

Every year, the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine supports the #WhiteCard initiative, uniting hundreds of sports admirers around the Olympic values of friendship, respect and excellence. This year, over two weeks, famous athletes, Olympic Games medallists, World and European Champions and all the Ukrainian sports community raised a white card testifying to their commitment to promote peace in the world through sport.



During an online conference, IOC Member and NOC of Ukraine President **Sergey Bubka** raised a white card together with the heads of all NOC regional offices and fellow athletes representing 26 Olympic centres.

“In these challenging times, this Day has a special meaning. Sport has a unique power that allows you to overcome difficulties and move forward. As UNESCO Champion for Sport, I can confidently assert that sport is an ambassador of peace and unity,” Bubka stressed. [Read more](#)

IFs/EFs

Muaythai, a sport for all



Muaythai is a combat sport and martial art that originated in Siam, which has since evolved into what we know as modern-day Thailand. The International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA), the world governing body for the art and sport of muaythai recognised by the IOC, has 148 national federations in all five continents.

Muaythai is a sport for everybody. It promotes inclusion, non-discrimination and equality. Muaythai reached full gender equality in 2018. Muaythai will make its European Games debut in 2023, featuring seven women, seven men and two mixed-gender competitions.

Off the field of play, two of the five continental presidents are women. For the European Games, besides muaythai as a ring sport in the combat disciplines, we also will see the important cultural disciplines of mai muay and waikru. Every competition of muaythai has a live band called pee muay consisting of four musicians, and the athletes prepare a pre-competition ritual.

The IFMA prioritises its youth development programme combining sport, culture and education. The elite program of muaythai has arenas packed to bursting point. Muaythai is one of the only combat sports ever nominated for an international Emmy. The TV hit show, Contender Asia and Challenger muaythai were followed by 400 million people worldwide.

Giving back to society and harnessing the transformative powers of sport for positive change play an important part of the IFMA. Over 30,000 young people from challenging socio-economic backgrounds are part of the Sport is Your Gang programme, which was awarded the World Spirit of Sport Award in 2014.

The IFMA and muaythai are built on five important pillars: respect, honour, tradition, excellence and fair play, which are practised on and off the field of play.

OLYMPIC GAMES

Tokyo 2020 - Version 2 of Tokyo 2020 Playbooks Released

On 28 April 2021, the International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 (Tokyo 2020) launched the second editions of the Tokyo 2020 Playbooks, this version for athletes and team officials.

Speaking about the Playbooks, IOC President **Thomas Bach** said: “Tokyo and Japan have accepted the unprecedented challenge of organising the first postponed Olympic and Paralympic Games in history. We thank them for their great work in this respect and, as partners, we understand the great responsibility that everyone attending the Games must accept so that all participants and the Japanese population remain safe. This is why we have created the Playbooks, based on science and the best medical and event expertise available to us.”

He continued: “Providing more details about the operations that stakeholders can expect at Games time, we have also remained flexible to the evolving global situation, combining numerous countermeasures to create the safest possible environment. Increased testing for athletes and stakeholders, before and during the Games, is one important example. We’re also encouraged by the growing number of vaccinations being administered throughout the world. These tools will only work, however, if everyone shows solidarity and follows the guidelines. This is why those violating the rules can expect to be strictly dealt with in Tokyo. This is our commitment to the people of Tokyo and Japan, who are so kindly welcoming us to their city and country this summer.” [Read more](#)

IOC

President Bach defends European Sport Model at UEFA Congress



IOC President **Thomas Bach** was in Montreux, Switzerland, on 20 April for the Opening Session of the 45th UEFA Congress. He told the delegates: “The fact that you are able to hold this Congress in person, while respecting the anti-coronavirus measures, gives all of us good reason for optimism.”

He also praised UEFA for the actions it has taken to organise major live sports events. He told the Congress: “Our organisations share the unprecedented experience of having to postpone our major events. We set the same priority of ensuring the health and safety of all participants.”

He also spoke of the increasing threat to the European Sport Model, particularly in the context of recent developments in European football.

“Unfortunately, we have to realise that this European Sport Model is under threat today. In fact, the very existence of the values-, solidarity- and volunteer-based model is under threat. It is challenged by a purely profit-driven approach that ignores the intrinsic values and social mission of sport.” He went on: “It is losing ground to the purely profit-oriented goals of commercial sport providers and investors. If everything is only looked at from a business perspective, if only economic rules are applied to measure the impact of sport on society, then the social mission of sport is lost.” [Read more](#)

Rule 50 recommendations endorsed by IOC Executive Board

The IOC Executive Board (EB) fully endorsed the IOC Athletes’ Commission (AC) recommendations in regard to Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter and Athlete Expression at the Olympic Games.

Presented by IOC AC Chair **Kirsty Coventry**, the recommendations are the result of an extensive qualitative and quantitative consultation process implemented by the IOC AC which started in June 2020 and involved over 3,500 athletes, representing 185 different NOCs and all 41 Olympic sports, and ensuring fully gender-equal representation.

The consultation was supported by the Continental Associations' Athletes' Commissions and the World Olympians Association. The IOC AC made six recommendations: Increase opportunities for athletes' expression during the Olympic Games; Increase athletes' expression outside the Olympic Games; Preserve the podium, field of play (FoP) and official ceremonies; Provide clarity on sanctions; Provide more information around Rule 50; Restructure Rule 50 into two rules and increase clarity of Rule 50.2. [Read more](#)

IOC and Airbnb launch Athlete Travel Grants programme

About 500 athletes will receive USD 2,000 in Airbnb credits to cover accommodation costs related to their sporting careers annually for the next eight years, after the renting platform and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched an Athlete Travel Grants programme. In 2019, Airbnb signed an eight-year agreement with the IOC to be a TOP Partner. To date, the joint projects they have launched have provided a total of USD 40 million of direct support to athletes worldwide.

The IOC also vowed to provide at least USD 28 million worth of Airbnb accommodation available for athletes competing at both the Olympic and Paralympic Games for training-related trips. "With thousands of athletes already using Airbnb for travel needs related to training, qualification and competition, this new programme will provide much-needed additional economic support," said Airbnb Head of Hosting **Catherine Powell**.

Last year, the IOC and Airbnb launched an Olympian and Paralympian Experiences programme that gave direct earning opportunities for athletes and connected them to fans worldwide, while sporting competitions were on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. IOC Athletes Commission Chair **Kirsty Coventry** said the Travel Grants and the Experiences programmes provided much-needed financial support for athletes through the IOC's partnership with Airbnb.

[Read more](#)

EUROPEAN UNION

Conference On The Future Of Europe launches new online platform



On 19 April 2021, the new interactive multilingual digital platform of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) was launched.

As the CoFoE's hub, the platform offers different ways for Europeans to get involved in the European democratic process and share their ideas directly through the platform, or during labelled events mapped on it.

When entering the platform, it is possible to click on three options:

- 'Attend an event near you,' leading to an online map identifying all in-person events labelled by the CoFoE and taking place in different European languages;
- 'Share your ideas' on chosen subjects among a list of targeted topics. Under a public chat format, participants can share their own ideas and receive endorsements and/or answers from others. It is also possible to follow some specific discussions or topics, and receive notifications each time someone is taking part in the public debate;
- 'Organise your event,' offering access to guides that will help in organising successful events and contributing to the CoFoE objectives. Some tips on the functioning of the platform are also provided.

An inaugural in-person event is scheduled to take place on Europe Day, on 9 May 2021 in Strasbourg, France. To date, more than 400 participants have subscribed to the platform, 150 events have been registered, 800 ideas submitted and 1,200 comments written. [Read more](#)

MISCELLANEOUS

Mediterranean Games - 70th anniversary celebrated with launch of digital museum

2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the first Mediterranean Games, held in 1951 in Alexandria, Egypt.

The International Committee of the Mediterranean Games (ICMG) has decided to celebrate the 70th anniversary with the creation of a digital museum that aims to bring together as many elements as possible, from all the members of the Mediterranean Sports Family and more particularly from the host countries, in order to revive the glorious history of the Mediterranean Games.



In addition, the ICMG Executive Committee met for the second time this year, on 22 April 2021. Discussions focused on important topics such as the 2021 Ordinary Elective General Assembly and the progress of preparations for the 19th Mediterranean Games Oran 2022, the 20th Mediterranean Games Taranto 2026 and the Mediterranean Beach Games Pesaro 2023.

The Executive Committee decided to organise the 2021 ordinary General Assembly on 14 October 2021 in Oran, Algeria, the day after the Chefs de Mission Seminar of the 26 countries participating in the 19th Mediterranean Games Oran 2022. [Read more](#)

WADA - Play True Day campaign reaches over 87 million people



The World Anti-Doping Agency Play True Day Campaign 2021 - centred around the theme "What does Play True mean to you?" - reached over 87 million people around the globe.

"Thank you to all who took part in WADA's 2021 Play True Day Campaign. It is amazing that the clean sport message was shared with over 87 million people worldwide," WADA President **Witold Bańka** said. "This demonstrates what we can achieve when the anti-doping community unites towards our common goal of a healthy sporting environment."

The campaign, which took place on 9 April, once again saw athletes, National and Regional Anti-Doping Organisations, Sports Federations, governments, major event organisers and other stakeholders from the global anti-doping community unite in celebration of the Play True message.

Since 2014, in April every year, WADA and the anti-doping community worldwide have celebrated Play True Day - a day that is dedicated to raising awareness among athletes, the sporting public and others about the importance of protecting clean sport.

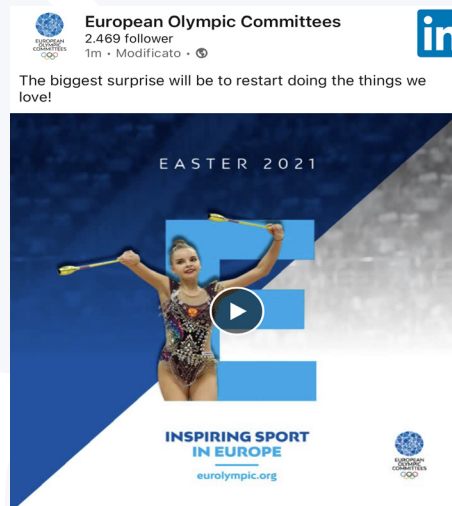
To highlight the success of this year's campaign, WADA has created a Play True Day 2021 recap [video](#), which showcases stakeholder celebrations around the world through their photos, videos and campaigns on social media.

SOCIAL MEDIA HUB

In case you missed it...



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