

# ISCA European Continental Report

The European Continental report will consist of ISCA relations and interactions with inter-governmental institutions of Europe the last two years. Projects and campaigns in Europe are not included here, but are described in the general Annual Reports.

ISCA works with the following European based public inter-governmental institutions:

## **Council of Europe**

- Member of the Consultative Committee for the Sport collaboration (EPAS)
- Bi-annual Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport

## **European Union related institutions**

- **European Commission**
- **Presidency of the Council of the European Union**
- **European Parliament**

## **World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe**

...

## **Council of Europe**

We have had a long collaboration with the Council of Europe's sport initiative for more than 20 years. For the past two years the main focus has been on the revision of the basic document of the Council of Europe – the **European Sport Charter**. The European Sport Charter is a document that prioritises human values and ethics in sport and is meant as policy guidance for the member states in their implementation of and support to sport.

Such a revision of the European Sport Charter should not be complicated. However, two different perspectives on how sport is and should be organised in Europe are 'clashing'. Basically most member states and several observer organisations (including ISCA) support the idea of diversity and pluralism in the organisation of sport. That is the fact and reality of sport in Europe. But a group of sport organisations (IOC and Federations) are strongly promoting the so-called 'Pyramid model', which, among other things, only allows one organisation per activity/or country to take the lead organising role.

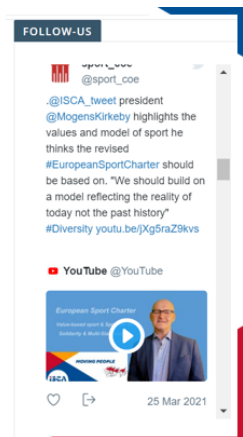
We are happy to say that the revised version of the European Sport Charter is very balanced and does not promote the exclusive 'pyramid model', but diversity, the human right to sport and ethics in sport.



Council of Europe Website – promoting ISCA video on European Sport Charter



40 out of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe have joined voluntary sport collaboration (Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport – EPAS). It is supported by a smaller secretariat based in Strasbourg, France.



### 16th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport – Council of Europe

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the physical meetings planned to take place in Athens from 4-6 November 2020 were cancelled.

### European Union

The European Union consist of various institutions and ISCA has been working together with the following:

- European Commission
- Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- European Parliament

The European Commission programme in sport (Erasmus+ Sport) is an important partner for ISCA projects. We remain focused on presenting and delivering attractive projects to support the grassroots sport perspectives of the Erasmus+ Sport programme.

### Presidency of the Council of the European Union

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union rotates every six months. In the first half of 2021 **Portugal** hosted the Presidency. One of the themes of this Presidency was Sport Diplomacy. ISCA Secretary General, Jacob Schouenborg and ISCA President Mogens Kirkeby were invited to join an expert group of four persons to assist the preparation of the sport directors and sport ministers meeting on European perspectives of Sport Diplomacy.

There has been a very positive attitude towards the concept of Grassroots Sport Diplomacy that we 'invented' three years ago and ISCA representatives were invited to give presentations at the hybrid conference on 3-4 June 2021 hosted by the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

**Slovenia** took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2021. Slovenia then hosted the launch of the European Week of Sport and the new initiative of the Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Ms Mariya Gabriel called **HealthyLifestyle4All**. ISCA supported this initiative by offering a pledge.

The HealthyLifestyle4All signature ceremony took place the 23 September in Bled, Slovenia.

ISCA submitted a joint pledge with the Youth Health Community, JOGG and Schuttelaar & Partners to organise a policy building event at European Parliament to gather stakeholder engagement for the new initiative.



*Photo: Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Ms Mariya Gabriel and ISCA President Mogens Kirkeby is making a Covid19 'handshake' at the pledge signature ceremony.*

### **European Parliament**

ISCA has worked with Members of the European Parliament on various occasions. Quite a few Members of the European Parliament have been very polite in supporting and joining ISCA events, such as No Elevators Day.

This year the European Parliament processed a report on **'EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward'**. The process has been led by MEP Tomasz Frankowski as rapporteur. ISCA contributed at hearings and by commenting on and giving suggestions to the content. The report has now been adopted by the CULT Committee and below you find a short quote:


*'Rapporteur focuses on enhancing a values based sport model in Europe for the next generation. This is grounded in the specific nature of sport and is based on its fundamental social, educational and cultural values. Discussions are ongoing in multiple fora, including the Council of the EU, the European Commission and the Council of Europe. Yet, despite much political will and support, substantive progress on a model of sport has been lacking in the last decade. In particular, the debate has been stymied by semantics about the name, rather than focusing on the substance of the relevant features of the model, what they mean and how best to promote them.'*

### **World Health Organisation - Europe**

For some years we have collaborated with the World Health Organisation's Regional European Office, which includes joining policy processes, promoting guidelines and activating the WHO staff in the European Week of Sport.

ISCA President Mogens Kirkeby was invited to speak in the panel of this online launch event and he emphasised that, when looking at adding more physical activity to our everyday lives, personal motivation and support from different sectors are equally important factors in behaviour change:

# WHO GUIDELINES ON PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SEDENTARY BEHAVIOUR



As mentioned above we unfortunately experience a sports political battle about the narrative of sport in Europe. One could ask: How difficult can it be to describe this reality? It should not be difficult to conclude that European sport is organised by a variety of organisations and with a huge diversity of stakeholders ranging from civil society to public and commercial sectors.

This diversity is very good in ISCA's opinion. It extends our collective reach and positive impact from our efforts to assist more people to become MOVING PEOPLE.

But some organisations see this differently. Very differently. Led by Olympic Committees and some sports federations, many organisations claim that sport in Europe is organised within a so-called Pyramid Model. This model has one federation per sport and one multisport organisation per country that is recognised by public authorities. The claim is also that this model provides a huge amount of resources to grassroots sport. The promotion of this incorrect narrative about sport in Europe is contested by ISCA and other organisations, as well as sports researchers.

We need a narrative of sport that reflects the reality and the principle of Freedom of Association, not a narrative of an outdated pyramid model that actually excludes most sports organisations. That is the message we have promoted in sessions with the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament.