

## [Symposium: Keynote Lecture]

### Sport and the European Union: historical and current aspects

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In 2009, after many years of working on the development of cooperation between sport and the EU, sport was finally included in the EU legislation. It could be assumed that the organized sport has finally reached one of its goals: its recognition in the European Union.

However, this recognition of sport is only one of several motivational factors of the sport movement and the European Union to achieve closer cooperation.

Looking at the long process towards cooperation and especially the advances and the setbacks during this process gives an informative insight into the relationship between sport and the European Union. After having disregarded the matter of sport for many years, the European Union started discussing sporting issues in the mid-eighties, when the Adoninno-Report was published. The EU's perception of sport can be illustrated on the basis of the reports and documents of the European Commission and the European Parliament as well as the decisions of the European Court of Justice. However the expectations

of the sport movement towards the EU are not always congruent with this perception.

The Commission's White Paper on sport, published in 2007, portrays the framework of action that the EU sets itself for the next years. Thereby the European Commission does not only outline what they are planning to do; it also documents the limits of action of the European Union. Against this background the question is what impact Article 165 of the Lisbon Treaty will have for the future relationship between EU and sport.

The activities within the programme "*preparatory action in the field of sport and for the special annual events*" from 2009 till 2013 of the European Commission give a first impression how the involvement of the European Union could look like in the future. From 2014 on the multiannual financial framework of the European Union will therefore contain a subtitle for the financing of sport-related projects.