The new EU sport policy:
Building networks
in turbulent times

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The legal dimension: No real change

- Application of EU law to sport
  - Unlikely to offer any further ‘protection’ to sports rules
  - EU already receptive to ‘specificity of sport’
  - Case by case analysis necessary and unlikely to change
  - Guidelines will not increase legal certainty

- Constitutional constraints of Article 165
  - No horizontal provisions in Article 165
  - No constitutional obligation to apply article’s principles to other policies (e.g. competition policy)
## New EU sports policy

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**Consequences for governance**

- Role of sport federations is recognised
  - Important support of Commission in strategic issues: TV rights, financial regulation
- BUT they do not win legal exemption
- Focus on good governance structures and procedures that will avoid litigation
- Social dialogue: Not new, but new impetus!
- EU strengthens its role as partner in sport
- EU maintains its supervisory functions
Decisions so far

• Commission communication
  - Focused on narrow set of priorities: Physical activity, volunteering, social role of sport, knowledge and doping
  - Messages on transfers, agents and central marketing: Momentum in favour of legislation on agents/transfers
  - No guidelines on competition policy or specificity
  - Preparatory actions, sports programme (€30m per year)
  - Knowledge base: Network of universities, very active

• Council decisions start to be decisive
  - Structured dialogue
  - Doping: Cooperation and new strategy towards WADA
Opportunities for sport

- Preparatory actions: Identify networks of European partners
- Participate in European Sport Forum, structured dialogue and conferences
- Work with universities in development of network and knowledge base to support policy
- Align priorities to main themes of volunteering, physical activity, education, integration

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Thanks!

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