

SPORT & EU newsletter

Newsletter of the Association for the Study of Sport and the European Union
 Edited by Andy Smith & Simona Kustec-Lipicer

Issue 1 – December 2006

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of the Sport&EU newsletter in which we bring together a collection of articles from colleagues who are members of the recently formed (in 2005) Association for the Study of Sport and the European Union! We are both pleased and feel privileged to have been asked by Borja García, An Vermeersch and David Ranc to act as Editors of the newsletter which, we hope, and as Richard Parrish points out below, will prove to be a very exciting and increasingly important forum for the exchange of ideas on a range of Sport&EU issues. In this regard, the newsletter is, in effect, a crucial outlet for communicating the work of colleagues with an interest in sports law and policy. Reflecting the mission and objectives of the Association (see further below and also our website, www.sportandeu.com), its purpose is also to disseminate ideas, promote healthy discussion and collaboration between more established academics and postgraduate students, in particular, from a range of theoretical and disciplinary approaches. We hope that the content of this inaugural issue of the newsletter reflects this commitment both to widening the research scope of colleagues with an interest in sports law and policy, but also to help to further facilitate the growth of this increasingly important research community.

The main purpose of this first issue of the newsletter, however, is to introduce colleagues to the work of Sport&EU and to report on past and future activities of the Association. These issues are neatly summarized in the first contribution to this newsletter by the Honorary Chair of Sport&EU, Dr Richard Parrish. Borja García, David Ranc and An Vermeersch then outline the main aims and objectives of Sport&EU, before Professor Wyn Grant reflects upon the Association's very successful first workshop held at Loughborough University in June 2006. Julian Hale, a freelance journalist who has been working on sport policy in the EU for several years now, then considers the role that the EU is seeking to play in managing what some are regarding as the increasingly global problem of obesity. Finally, in a very topical and perceptive summary of his postgraduate research, Chris Platts examines the financial inequalities in English professional football from a figurational sociological perspective. This piece, we hope, should encourage other postgraduate researchers to submit short summaries of their research to the newsletter, not least because this will help them to present their work in a supportive academic environment, further developing their research skills.

More particularly, we hope that colleagues and members of Sport&EU will endeavour to make regular contributions of a similar kind to the newsletter (see page 8 for details) to help ensure that the sterling work that Borja, An and David have already done continues to

pay dividends in the future. At the same time, we would welcome any suggestions from readers about how we can improve the newsletter – in terms of its content, quality, relevance and presentation to its readership. Finally, we are sure that, while this is the first issue of the newsletter, it will continue to grow and prosper in the future and we are both most pleased to be able play some small role in this process.

Dr Andy Smith

*Chester Centre for Research into Sport & Society
 University of Chester, UK*

Dr Simona Kustec-Lipicer

*Faculty of Social Sciences
 University of Ljubljana, Slovenia*

WELCOME TO SPORT&EU

Launched in 2005, the Association for the Study of Sport and the European Union (Sport&EU) has quickly established itself as important focal point for those with an interest in advancing our understanding of the interaction between sport and the EU. We are approaching one hundred members from nearly twenty countries worldwide and our membership is drawn from diverse disciplinary and professional backgrounds. Members of the association do not consider their interest in sport as light relief from their mainstream research interests. Many of our members have been researching sports law and policy for many years as their primary interest and the size and quality of the published output

www.sportandeu.com

newsletter@sportandeu.com

SPORT & EU newsletter

from our members reflects our commitment to the subject.

2006 was another important year for sport and the EU. The EU constitution failed to be resurrected, UEFA adopted the rule on locally trained players, the G14/Charleroi case was referred to the European Court of Justice, the Independent European Sports Review reported and the ECJ handed down the groundbreaking *Meca-Medina* judgment. The year was also an important one for the association. The website took shape, the mailing list grew and acted as an important tool for discussion and dissemination and most importantly we held our first workshop in Loughborough at the end of June. The quality of the presentations, discussion and turnout spoke volumes for the maturity of the discipline. Thanks go to the workshop organisers Borja García, An Vermeersch and David Ranc and also to Loughborough University for their support. Further gratitude is extended to Professor David Allen from the Department of Politics, International Relations and European Studies (PIRES) at Loughborough for his chairing and to Professor Wyn Grant from the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick for his concluding remarks and event summary which was kindly published in the Entertainment and Sports Law Journal, the UACES newsletter and the SLSA Newsletter. We also wish to acknowledge the support of the Department of PIREs generally, the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences and the East Midlands Eurocentre.

Many of the themes discussed at the workshop are likely to feature prominently in 2007. Two central issues need to be monitored. The first is the ongoing debate within sport about governance standards, issues of representation and the age old political question of *who gets what, when and how*. The Charleroi case aptly illustrates these tensions. The second issue is the Commission's White Paper on Sport which will be published in 2007. With the Independent European Sports Review likely to feature prominently in this debate, it is essential that our members contribute to these debates through our research and knowledge transfer activity so that assumptions which are used to justify regulatory choices can be thoroughly examined. This is just one of our objectives for 2007. We also need to focus on;

Knowledge Transfer: Through our mailing list and newsletter we need to continue to debate the issues and alert our members to forthcoming events, conferences, journal activity and potential avenues for research collaboration and funding. Furthermore, through our annual workshop programme we need to discuss current issues, interrogate new research projects and assist the peer review process in preparation for publication. In Summer 2007 we will be meeting at the University of Chester and I would encourage all members to come along to this event and experience the post workshop social event. Thanks to Andy Smith and Chris Platts at Chester in this regard. If your institution is interested in hosting the 2008 event, please let us know.

Influence: Sport&EU wants to be active in the current debates on EU sports regulation. In this connection, we intend to submit evidence to the European Commission's consultation process in preparation for the White Paper. If you have any comments on the White Paper please respond to the call issued on the mailing list and I, with the help of my colleague Samuli Miettinen, will attempt to articulate the emerging positions in a single submission.

Support: Some of our members are postgraduate students researching various aspects of sport's relationship with the EU. Through the association we wish to support these students by contributing to the debates, peer reviewing work or through providing a platform through

which researchers can communicate with one another.

Co-operation: EU sports law and policy is a rapidly growing field of enquiry with an expanding literature and a growing presence on the conference circuit. Sport&EU needs to engage with other interested bodies and subject associations to ensure all our efforts are well supported and the discipline generally has strong foundations. By communicating with each other through this network I would like to encourage debate on when and at what forums we should have a presence. By doing so we should be able to ensure that, in addition to our annual workshop, we meet regularly on the conference circuit and are active within other likeminded subject associations.

If you are reading this message as a member of Sport&EU I would encourage you to actively participate in our association. If you are not yet a member please feel free to join and contribute to our ongoing success. You can find details in this newsletter. Membership is free. Just drop us a line...

Dr Richard Parrish

*Edge Hill University, UK
Honorary Chair, Sport&EU*

ABOUT SPORT&EU

The Association for the Study of Sport and the European Union (Sport&EU), aims to bring together all scholars with an interest on the Union's involvement in sports and its consequences for policies, law and society (largely defined). Academics, doctoral and postgraduate students from every branch of learning (including but not limited to anthropology, criminology, economics, ethnology, geography, history, law, linguistics, political science, sociology etc.), working on any area within the European Union are invited to join. Sport&EU aims to promote interdisciplinary research and to enhance the cross-national and multi sports nature of the discipline. It is also

SPORT & EU newsletter

committed to promote theoretical debate and research within the area of Sport and the EU. The association's main goal is to provide researchers with a network to exchange ideas and information in order to develop a research agenda that could enhance the profile of the discipline of sport within the area of European Studies (both largely defined). Sport&EU is especially interested in providing a friendly and motivating forum for post-graduate research students to present their work in an academic environment. PhD students are encouraged to join the association and to participate in its activities. The association will initially be focusing into three main areas, each one forming a research group: Sports policies and governance in the European Union, Sports law and Regulation in the EU and Sport in Society. Please note that the term EU does not only refer to the supranational level, but it also includes the meso and micro levels. The aim of Sport&EU is to organise one or two yearly conferences, distribute newsletters, and have an active mailing list for its members and promote the study of the topic through its website. Among other activities, the network will convene panels for major conferences in order to disseminate the findings of the member's research and to raise awareness of the importance of sport both socially and politically.

Borja García, Loughborough University
David Ranc, University of Cambridge
An Vermeersch, Ghent University

SPORT AND THE EU 10 YEARS AFTER BOSMAN

The Department of Politics, International Relations and European Studies at Loughborough University hosted on 30 June and 1st July a workshop entitled 'Sport and the European Union 10 years after Bosman: Situation and Perspectives'. The seminar, organised jointly with Sport&EU, the Association for the Study of Sport and the European Union (www.sportandeu.com), was sponsored by the Department of Politics, International Relations and European Studies, the School of Sport and Exercise Sciences and the East Midlands Eurocentre.

This workshop, the first to be organised by the recently formed Association for the Study of Sport and the European Union, coincided with the 10th anniversary of the now infamous *Bosman* decision. Rather than focusing on one particular field of academic enquiry, the workshop was enlivened by the presence of a number of relevant disciplines: law, sociology, psychology, political science and economics. Of the leading disciplines involved in the interdisciplinary study of sport, only social history was absent; but the history of the EU's involvement in sport is a relatively short one. One of the attractive features of the workshop was a willingness to range across disciplinary boundaries and for the delegates to be open to insights from other disciplines. An additional attraction was the fact that the workshop brought together 21 academics and practitioners from 14 institutions in three different countries as delegates discussed the origins, current status and future developments of the European Union's involvement in sport-related matters and to review the state of academic research on the topic.

Richard Parrish, the Association's honorary chair, provided a very helpful introduction to the workshop. He drew the delegate's attention to issues around the extent of legal certainty,

the possible emergence of a space of supervised autonomy and the emergence of a framework of territories. He also emphasised the need for appropriate analytical frameworks.

The conference was relatively football centric despite the best efforts of the organisers to secure papers on a wider range of sports. What is good for football may not always work in other sports. One way of creating a typology is to start with those that are (most usually) played on an individual basis like tennis, cycling and golf; then track athletics where competition is individual, but internationally part of a team; those with small teams like basketball; and the larger teams found in cricket, football and rugby. In the light of Valerie Owen-Pugh's interesting paper on the faltering professional status of basketball in the UK, it is worth thinking about which sports are played in leagues on a professional or semi-professional basis. For example, in the UK one might compare basketball with ice hockey or volleyball. There could also be some interesting further work on the social situation of players in a 'minority' sport.

One theme that came out of a number of papers, for example, that by Chris Platts, was the tension between representation and power. The EU aspires to work towards representative structures and transparency, concepts emphasised in the Independent Review of Sport, but one cannot ignore the fact that power politics are at work, for example, the access to decision-makers granted to the G-14 group of leading European professional football clubs or the final settlement of television rights in the UK which was a good one for BSkyB but arguably a worse outcome for consumers.

Since the European Court of Justice delivered its judgment, UEFA has been clawing back some of the ground that it lost in *Bosman*. However, the Nice Declaration on Sport is not an open-ended invitation to UEFA to ignore EU law. UEFA has to stop seeing social dialogue as a zero sum game.

There was considerable discussion of the role of the fan as consumer. Here one can think of a continuum from the amateur participant in sport

SPORT & EU newsletter

who takes part for recreational reasons, through the spectator as participant, to the follower who watches a team from his couch at home wearing their merchandise. However, in economic terms this media audience is very important. There was concern about the marginalisation of the voice of the spectator. A real challenge is to organise fans effectively, notwithstanding the successes of the supporters' trust movement in the UK. How does one ensure that the spokespersons that emerge are not atypical of fans in general?



Workshop participants at Loughborough

One should not overlook the fact that there are real conflicts of values. Bastian Kern's paper on doping led to a stimulating discussion about what the real issue was here: morality, cheating, or threats to the health of competitors when they are pressurised to take drugs? There was some reference to the 'American model' of organising sport. But is there a single American model any more than there is a single European model? Sport can be linked with attempts to construct a European identity and Charlotte Van Tuyckom's paper made some very interesting use of Eurobarometer data on this point. This provoked some interesting discussion about sub-national identities, for example, in Catalonia or the Basque Country, but as Richard Parrish warned, we are on dubious constitutional territory when we talk about European identity.

It is evident that we are dealing with a multiplicity of actors and venues in relation to EU policy on sport with 'joined up thinking' often lacking. The DG for Education and Culture is tasked with writing the White Paper on Sport which is supposed to appear in 2007 and this could be the basis for a future workshop. However, it is important to recognise that actors engage in 'venue shopping' to find the arena most receptive to their interests.

We have to be careful about treating sport as unique or exceptional. Some systematic comparison with other EU policy arenas would be welcome. We must also be careful about confining ourselves to the EU level which sometimes happens in some American analyses of the EU. We need to know more about sports policy in the 25 member states and how EU policy impacts at the member state level, the theme of the paper by Arne Niemann and Alexander Brand.

There is no doubt that as a policy arena EU sport policy poses questions of complexity,

evident in the fascinating paper by Jean Christian Drolet on transfer rules. The real world is complex, but as social scientists our task is to produce parsimonious models that help us to understand that complexity and patterns of change. If we can do that, we can help policy-makers to make better choices, for example, understanding the risk of unforeseen consequences (as suggested by Chris Platts) and also assist fans to think about the choices they face and how they can become more engaged with decision-making. What is evident is that the study of sport and the EU is now being taken much more seriously than it was, that interest in the area does not simply reflect a perception that it offers 'light relief' and that the quality of work is improving by leaps and bounds.

Professor Wyn Grant

*Department of Politics and International Studies
Warwick University, UK*

Full transcripts of the papers are available at:
<http://www.sportandeu.com/workshop>

EU TAKES STEPS TO COUNTER OBESITY PROBLEM

"Obesity is very much on the agenda in the EU with diet and physical activity projects going on in various countries" says EU Finnish Sports Director Raija Mattila. She says the EU's health and physical activity working group, made up of nine member states, has switched from covering young people only to all age groups. There is also an idea of common European guidelines for HEPA, presumably to be drawn up by the European Commission, being floated to a major EU informal sports ministers at a meeting in Brussels in late November.

There may well be debate about who should be involved in the drafting process, but Mattila believes there should be input from different stakeholders such as WHO Europe, researchers,

SPORT & EU newsletter

scientists and sports bodies. But the question is, which sports bodies, European ones or national ones. The European Commission is often criticised by national sports bodies for not taking them fully into account in its deliberations, but Mattila has sympathy with the Commission's predicament.

"It is difficult to know which sports bodies to consult," she says, adding that "there are different traditions among member states. In Scandinavia, we tend to always consult but this is not the case everywhere". Her understanding is that the Commission's approach is that consulting national sports bodies is the responsibility of member states. With sport having no explicit EU competence and funding/resources therefore likely to be in short supply in the Commission, she seems to have a point.

Sports directors, who are basically one level down from sports ministers, also want health-enhancing physical activity to be taken into account both in the White Paper on Sport and in a possible White Paper on Diet, Physical Activity and Health and for the preparation of the two documents to be coordinated. Mattila says that the EU working group has been pushing sports bodies to join the EU's platform on diet, physical activity and health, with the umbrella body ENGSO showing interest. UEFA is not involved but a UEFA source said that the European football governing body was in talks with Commissioner Kyrianiou on how to cooperate. UEFA sees the platform as being more about diet and nutrition whilst their focus is on physical activity.

Julian Hale

*Freelance Journalist, Deputy Editor of EU affairs internet TV EUX.TV
Journalist for Europolitics*

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

Financial Inequalities in English Professional Football: A Figurational Analysis

During the last two decades or so there has been growing concern over the emergence of what has been described as a financial 'crisis' in professional football in several European countries, including England (Lago, Simmons and Szymanski, 2006; Buraimo, Simmons and Szymanski, 2006). In the English context, much of the available literature has traced the roots of this process back to the 1980s and, more particularly, to the introduction of some of the recommendations of the Taylor Report (1990) published in the aftermath of the Hillsborough tragedy in 1989, and, perhaps most significantly, the formation of the Premier League in the early 1990s. Despite this expanding body of literature, much of this work is often written from the view of political science, economics or sports law and there exists very little sociological writing on the widening financial inequalities between groups of football clubs at the elite level in England. Set in this context, the central objective of this study was to test the capacity of the figurational sociological approach in helping to explain how the present financial situation in which English professional football clubs currently find themselves has developed, and to identify the differential impact of this process on different groups of clubs.

Perhaps the most central finding of the study was that in order to understand adequately the development of financial inequalities that exist in English professional football it is

important to examine all the groups of people with an interest in the game in terms of the differential interdependency networks in which they are located, and of which they are a part, as well as the various power struggles between the groups who constitute these networks.

Although players' agents need to be included here too, Dunning (1999: 126) has noted that the relational network or figuration characteristic of English professional football has come to incorporate, the following interlocking groups and organizations: 'the owners, sales, administrative and other non-playing personnel of clubs; overall controlling organizations such as the FA, the FA Premier League and the Football League; players, managers, and coaches; the mass media, increasingly, in recent years television, both terrestrial and satellite; and finally, the fans.'

By conceptualizing the whole 'composite unit', that is, the football figuration as a whole, it becomes clear that the complexity of the interactions that arise from these relational networks leads to many outcomes that were unplanned and unforeseen. In this regard, it is claimed that these outcomes, which develop out of the intended and unintended actions of interdependent human beings, have further exacerbated the financial inequalities in English professional football as more powerful groups have sought to protect, maintain and advance their own positions. Thus, from a figurational perspective, when conceptualized in this way the development of financial inequalities in English professional football can be properly conceived of as a blind social process that results from differential power relationships and takes a form that no one single person or group of people has designed or intended.

It is also claimed that while the widening financial inequalities in English professional football is a process that has been exacerbated by the formation of the Premier League, it has deeper historical roots than is often implied in the existing literature. Indeed, it is a process the roots of which can be traced back to the emergence of class tensions surrounding the

SPORT & EU newsletter

growing professionalization of the game in the nineteenth century, and developments since the 1950s in particular. Such a process has included, among other things, the abolition of the maximum wage and the George Eastham case, granting the home club the right to retain gate money, the implications of the Hillsborough disaster, Taylor Report and the *Bosman* ruling, as well as the increasingly skewed distribution of TV revenue and growing internationalization of the professional form of the game. When viewed figuratively, all these processes, which result from differentially interdependent people in action, have made a central, though largely unplanned, contribution to the increasingly unequal concentration of financial resources among only a handful of clubs in English professional football in the twenty-first century.

The need for a clearer, more adequate, understanding of this has been brought further into focus over the past year following the publication of the Independent European Sport Review (IESR) which contains proposals for reforming the governance of football. Although none of the reforms outlined in the IESR have yet to be implemented, it is worth briefly reflecting upon some of the practical implications that a figurative analysis of the development of financial inequalities within English professional football can offer for policy-makers.

Perhaps the first point to note is that the policy-makers involved in the development of the IESR appear to have failed to recognize sufficiently the relational complexity that characterizes the dynamic human figurations within which government ministers, clubs, players and other groups who constitute the European football figuration find themselves. This failure to examine realistically the relational networks and differential interest groups involved is not altogether surprising given their own level of involvement, and given the internalized and external constraints they were under in order to do something about the financial problems being experienced by football clubs in Europe. In this regard, there is a need for policy-makers to focus on the composite unit characteristic of European football and to locate these in wider and changing relational networks or figurations on a global scale, for it is not adequate to focus exclusively on the values, priorities and intentions of the groups involved in English football specifically, and European football more generally.

Placing human interdependencies at the heart of one's analysis helps to reveal the ways in which these figurations that enable and constrain actions consist of different groups of people seeking to maintain, protect and advance their individual and/or their group interests.

Only in this way is it possible to begin to anticipate some of the almost inevitable unintended outcomes that will result from the combined actions of the groups involved, and the associated power struggles that will accompany the implementation of any of the proposed reforms in the IESR. Doing so also gives us an indication of what is in fact within the realms of possibility, that is, what realistically the strategies outlined in the IESR are likely to achieve, and what unintended outcomes are likely to emanate from the implementation of those strategies. This having been said, it seems that whilst the IESR policy-makers were involved in networks of relationships which constrain them to deliver results in the short-term, they appear to have conceptualized the financial inequalities in European professional football in present-centred terms. That is, they have failed to ask questions about the long-term development of the phenomenon and, in that respect, the proposed reforms are based on a poor understanding of the problem and do not account for the fact that the pursuit of any of them is likely to impact different groups of clubs differentially. An additional problem with which the policy-makers who developed the IESR

are likely to be faced is that the reforms they may wish to implement do not exist in isolation from other reforms that may serve to undermine it. They are but one element in other human figurations and this is bound to have other, as yet unforeseen and unintended, consequences.

In the light of these preliminary comments, the reforms set out in the IESR are not likely to reverse the financial inequalities in English football and in the whole of Europe, where much of the wealth in world football is concentrated. For any reform such as the proposed introduction of salary caps, which themselves are problematic, to be effective in tackling financial inequalities, UEFA will be required to obtain a degree of co-ordination with the European Council to help constrain clubs to operate like any other commercial organization. However, at the time of writing the signs are that, with some exceptions, many clubs will remain operating under intense financial constraints that will continue to limit the extent to which they can remain competitive both financially and on the pitch.

It would seem, therefore, that for any reduction in the financial inequalities characteristic of professional football in England and elsewhere in Europe there is a real need for a fundamental restructuring of the game to take place, with UEFA being at the forefront of this process. Finally, while it will be difficult for policy-makers with an interest in reducing the financial inequalities in professional football to begin to translate into practice some of these insights that they may derive from figurative sociology, 'those who are able to do so will almost certainly encounter fewer problems and will also enhance their chances of achieving rather more of their stated goals' (Dopson and Waddington, 1996: 545).

References

- Buraimo, B., Simmons, R. and Szymanski, S. (2006) English football, *Journal of Sports Economics*, 7, 29-46.
- Dopson, S. and Waddington, I. (1996) Managing social change: A process-sociological approach to understanding organisational change within the National Health Service, *Sociology of Health and Illness*, 18, 525-550.
- Dunning, E. (1999) *Sport Matters*. London: Routledge.

SPORT & EU newsletter

Lago, U. Simmons, R. and Szymanski, S. (2006) The financial crisis in European football: An introduction, *Journal of Sports Economics*, 7, 3-12.

Chris Platts

*Chester Centre for Research into Sport & Society
University of Chester, UK*

WHITE PAPER ON SPORT CALL FOR OBSERVATIONS

As some of you may be aware, the European Commission has decided to elaborate a White Paper on Sport on the initiative of Commissioner Jan Figel. The White Paper is the Commission's response to calls from sport governing bodies, national governments and the European Parliament to put in place a strategy to ensure a healthy future for European sport (see http://ec.europa.eu/sport/doc/figel_federations_Report_en.pdf). Moreover, the White Paper intends to set the next movements of the Commission in sport-related issues now Article III-282 of the European Constitution seems to be lost for good.

The White Paper, which is due to be discussed by the College of Commissioners around mid-2007, will have three main pillars: The societal role of sport, the economic impact of sport and the organisation (or governance) of sport. The Sports Unit within the Commission has already started a consultation process aimed at gathering as much information and opinions as possible. The intra-services consultation has been going on since the summer and the consultations with the sporting organisations started in September. The Commission is about to launch a public consultation through its website in order to allow the civil society to participate in the process. One of the aims of Sport&EU is to disseminate the findings of our research and to inform decision makers, hence being influential in the policy-making process. The level of expertise and output production of Sport&EU is probably second to none in this field, therefore we have here the opportunity to put it into practice. In this connection, Richard Parrish and Samuli Miettinen from Edge Hill University have agreed to act as rapporteurs for this project and are now issuing a call for observations to be submitted to them. Please structure your comments around the three themes identified above (The societal role of sport, the economic impact of sport and the organisation [or governance] of sport). The authors of individual contributions will be referenced in the final submission which, if time allows, will be circulated to members prior to submission. The rapporteurs are particularly interested in submissions linked to past or ongoing research projects bearing in mind Sport&EU is an academic network. The consultation process for the Independent European Sports Review was a great disappointment in this respect and here we have an opportunity to subject many of the assumptions underpinning sports regulation to scholarly rigour.

Please submit your comments and observations on the White Paper via email to Richard Parrish (parrishr@edgehill.ac.uk) as soon as possible.

Dr Richard Parrish

*Edge Hill University, UK
Honorary Chair, Sport&EU*

12TH ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SPORTS LAW (IASL)

The 12th Annual Congress of the International Association of Sports Law (IASL), which is an international scientific association founded in 1992 in Athens, was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia during 23-25 November and was co-organised by the IASL and the Olympic Committee of Slovenia – Association of Sports Federations. As a member of Sport&EU, Simona Kustec-Lipicer gave a presentation on the role of the state and anti-doping legislation in professional sport. The theme of this year's congress central topic was 'Legal Aspects of Professional Sport'. It was structured into six different working panels, dealing mainly with legal, sociological and political perspectives on the analysis of various phenomena in the world of professional sport. More than 100 congress participants from 26 states world-wide listened to 28 paper givers who presented their latest research findings and reflections about different professional sport issues. In the panel on 'Professional Sport Activities and Lex Sportiva' various approaches of understanding public and private, as well as national and international law in relation to professional sport in Europe and North America, were examined.

In the panel on 'Labour Relations' the issues of freedom of movement, safeguarding labour rights and also social dialogue questions were stressed, while in the panel on "Taxation" the dilemmas surrounding image rights were considered. The panel on 'Security of Sports Events and Spectators' Transport' was equally topical, with different experiences in the United States, EU and United Arab Emirates, in particular, featuring amongst the discussions. A 'Sports Law and Special Contract' themed session also examined issues surrounding the protection of athletes, transfers, sponsorship agreements and problems of fraud and betting in professional sport. Finally,

SPORT & EU newsletter

the panel on the 'Jurisdiction Systems in Professional Sport' focused upon other key areas that are of interest to members of Sport&EU. These include the Acts of Insubordination to competition law, autonomy of sports organizations and the application of sports law to doping.

All of the presentations in each of these themes clearly demonstrated that understanding professional sport cannot be understood and explained from one theoretical or disciplinary perspective alone, particularly in relation to the organizational structure and governance of professional sport in Europe and North America. The president of the IASL, Professor James A. R. Nafziger, also argued in his presentation that the actual differences between European and North American models of professional sports organizations are not as clear as they appear at first sight, and that more research is needed to examine more systematically both the similarities and differences in the structure and governance of sports in these states. Further information on the programme, including copies of abstracts and powerpoint presentations can be found online at: <http://www.iasl2006.si/>. It is also anticipated that the papers presented at the Congress could appear in a forthcoming special issue of the International Sports Law Review.

Dr Simona Kustec-Lipicer

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

2007 ANNUAL SPORT&EU WORKSHOP

We are pleased to announce that, subject to receiving funding, the 2007 Sport&EU workshop will be hosted in June by the Chester Centre for Research into Sport and Society and the Department of Sport and Exercise Sciences at the University of Chester. The Independent European Sport Review and forthcoming Commission White Paper on Sport in the EU have recently focused attention upon the role of the EU in the governance of sport. The purpose of this second workshop, which once again brings together a newly-formed network of researchers with an interest in sports law and policy, is to encourage interdisciplinary discussion on the future role and involvement of the EU in the governance of sport. In doing so, the workshop seeks to examine the broader relevance that focusing on sport has for EU studies generally, and understanding the potential role of the EU in other systems of governance in particular. In light of this success and the continuing development of Sport&EU, the workshop will once again bring together a group of young academics and postgraduate students with an interest in contemporary European studies, sports law and policy alongside more established colleagues in these fields. Jonathan Hill, the Head of Union des Associations Européennes de Football (UEFA) representative office in Brussels is being approached to act as the up front speaker for the workshop. Papers presented at the workshop will be the core for a panel(s) proposal for the upcoming UACES Conference 2007 in Portsmouth (see below), after which it is intended that they will be included in a special issue proposal for the Journal of European Integration or the Journal of Sport in Society. In the medium term, it is envisaged to follow up the workshop through an Study Group, whose work will ultimately lead to a much needed collective text book on the EU and sport. We hope to be able to inform colleagues of further details of the workshop in the next issue of the newsletter and via the Sport&EU website (www.sportandeu.com) and the mailing list as they become available.

Dr Andy Smith and Chris Platts

*Chester Centre for Research into Sport & Society
University of Chester, UK*

CALL FOR PAPERS UACES 2007

UACES, the University Association for Contemporary European Studies has launched the call for papers and panels for its conference, to be held in Portsmouth on 3-5 September 2007. This is one of the main outlets for European Studies academics throughout the year and sport has featured several times in their programme in the past. We would like to encourage Sport&EU members to get in contact through the association's mailing list to set up panel proposals for this conference; deadline is 15 January. Those interested in participating in a panel on 'EU and the governance of sport', please contact Borja García (details in www.sportandeu.com) before the end of December.

JOINING SPORT&EU

Sport & EU is always happy to welcome new members who have an interest in Sport and the European Union. Academics, including research students, are especially welcome. Send an email with your contact details to join@sportandeu.com in order to join the association. To join the Sport&EU email list simply send the following information - join sportandeu "firstname(s)" "lastname" (e.g. join sportandeu Joseph Blatter) — via email to: sportandeu-request@jiscmail.ac.uk. You will then be sent a separate message containing instructions to confirm your subscription.

SPORT & EU newsletter

SUBMITTING TO THE NEWSLETTER

As Editors of the new Sport&EU newsletter which will be distributed via the Sport&EU mailing list and available to download at www.sportandeu.com, we would like to invite all colleagues, particularly postgraduate students, to submit contributions on a range of sport and EU related matters for inclusion in future issues.

Potential contributions to the newsletter, which should be of interest to all colleagues, may include: summaries of Sport&EU activity; abstracts of recently published or soon to be published papers; details of forthcoming books etc; executive summaries of recently completed research projects; thoughts/reflections on recent and forthcoming developments in the field that will be of interest to readers (e.g. the The Independent European Sport Review and Commission White Paper on Sport in the EU); book reviews; available courses/opportunities in sports law, policy, politics, sociology etc; and anything else that you think might be of interest!

Contributions should be between 500 and 1,500 words approximately, excluding references which should be kept to a minimum. Whilst the article should be written with an academic audience in mind, please avoid using jargon that may be potentially confusing and unfamiliar to our readers. All contributors should send articles, ideally in Microsoft Word format, via email to the Editors at: newsletter@sportandeu.com.

Dr Andy Smith

Chester Centre for Research into Sport & Society, University of Chester, UK

Dr Simona Kustec-Lipicer

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia