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ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Commission Decision

**adopting the Arrangement for Cooperation between the European Commission and the
Union of European Olympic Committees (EOC)**

ANNEX

Arrangement for Cooperation between the European Commission and the European Olympic Committees

1. INTRODUCTION AND BASIS FOR COOPERATION

- 1.1 The European Commission (“EC”) and the European Olympic Committees (“EOC”), (together “the Sides”) share a common objective to promote the social values of sport and the principles of fairness and openness in sport in particular through activities surrounding the first ever European Games within the EU to be organised in Poland in 2023.
- 1.2 The Sides express the common willingness to promote the Olympic and European Union values and the principles of solidarity, accessibility and sporting merits governing sport in Europe.
- 1.3 The Sides consider that an Arrangement for Cooperation will contribute to reinforcing the cooperation between the EC and the EOC. The Arrangement seeks to achieve the common objectives in accordance with the applicable Union legislation.

THEREFORE, the Sides accept this Arrangement for Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the "Arrangement").

2. OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives shared by the Sides are to:

- (a) Promote shared Olympic and EU values, including tolerance, equality, respect for human rights and human dignity, non-discrimination, and solidarity, through activities at all events of the EOC, which should aim to address key issues related to the societal role of sport.
- (b) Promote youth and cultural exchanges between EU citizens and beyond through initiatives such as the European Youth Olympic Festivals (EYOF) summer and winter editions in 2022 (edition 2021) and 2023, which will take place in Finland, Slovakia, Italy and Slovenia and will gather athletes and volunteers from 50 European countries.
- (c) Strengthen cooperation in the areas of long-term interest for sport in Europe, such as sustainability, inclusiveness, gender equality, tolerance, fight against harassment and discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and nationality, good governance, athletes’ participation and integrity as well as the promotion of the key principles and core values of the European Sport Model.

3. AREAS OF COOPERATION

3.1 EOC Events - European Games 2023, EYOF 2022 and 2023 and Games of the Small States of Europe 2023

Promotion of shared values and objectives in the context of EOC Events

- 3.1.1 The Sides intend to use relevant occasions, such as EOC Events, to showcase the vision of a Europe united in diversity. These events are excellent opportunities to promote values of excellence, tolerance and friendship and raise awareness about the conclusions relevant to the context of sport, which will be reached by the Conference on the Future of Europe, among EU citizens and beyond.
- 3.1.2 EOC Events have the potential to contribute to the positive development of host cities and regions by encouraging socio-economic, innovative and sustainable initiatives and investments. These events also create possibilities to generate additional economic activities in the different regions with the involvement of actors from the tourism sector.
- 3.1.3 In line with the cooperation already engaged within the framework of the European Week of Sport, the Sides intend to strengthen their efforts to boost physical activity and to promote the HealthyLifestyle4All initiative. Other existing initiatives such as #BeActive campaigns, activities under the European Year of Youth and EOC Youth Ambassadors project may be used as sources of inspiration for the Sides to investigate the possibility of carrying out joint social media campaign on different topics of mutual interest and in line with shared values.
- 3.1.4 Volunteering is a central element in EOC Events and in related side activities focusing on inclusion in sport and through sport in Europe. Volunteers' engagement in EOC Events contributes to the reinforcement of cultural understanding, social inclusion and intergenerational exchanges between EU citizens and beyond. The Sides intend to promote the involvement of citizens of different social and economic backgrounds, also through the European Solidarity Corps where applicable.
- 3.1.5 Further cooperation between the Sides should be envisaged in the area of skills and competencies of youth athletes, staff and volunteers involved in EOC Events. In particular, it should be considered to promote the non-formal learning potential of sport and exchange information and knowledge about the tools that exist at European level in that regard with the objective to increase their employability and support innovation, entrepreneurship and growth.
- 3.1.6 In line with the Green Deal Strategy of the EU, the Sides intend to highlight the sustainability dimension of multi-sporting events and the positive role sport can play to inspire eco-responsible initiatives and activities.
- 3.1.7 The Sides take note of the importance of addressing common integrity concerns with relevant actors, such as young athletes, coaches, staff and officials. In this regard, topics of clean sport, violence, protection of minors, social inclusion of children and youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, discrimination, participation of persons with disabilities, ensuring accessibility and gender equality might be taken into consideration for further educational activities at relevant occasions.
- 3.1.8 The Sides note the importance of ensuring the positive legacy of EOC events in terms of sustainable and accessible sport infrastructures, capable of contributing to

promotion of public health, as well as to social cohesion, inclusion, rural and urban development, also in line with the principles of the New European Bauhaus.

3.1.9 As sport plays a significant role in the promotion of human rights in our societies and in consideration of its principles of respect and fair play, it has the potential of uniting people across borders and bridging social, cultural, and economic divides. The Sides recognise the importance of identifying appropriate means and good practices in line with international standards, which could assure higher respect of human rights in the context of sports activities, including in all countries designated as hosts of relevant international competitions.

3.1.10 The Sides intend to explore opportunities for joint communication activities, which reinforce and promote shared values, in particular among young people. For example, this could include the distribution of jointly branded communications products or joint events, e.g. in the athletes villages, promoted through the sides respective communication channels.

3.2 Promotion of a framework safeguarding the way(s) sport is organised in Europe

3.2.1 The Sides take note of the importance of the common values and traits of the way sport is organised in Europe. The characteristics, which are integral part of a European Sport Model', are the specificity and autonomy of sport and good governance, the fairness and openness of competitions and the value of merit and equal opportunities, a solidarity and interdependence between elite and grassroots sport, which are part of the so-called pyramidal structure of sport.

3.2.2 Athletes are at the heart of the activities of the EOC and the Olympic Movement. The Sides note the value of the athletes' viewpoints in decision-making processes of sport organisations and in particular the role of the Athletes' Commission. The Sides also take note of the importance of facilitating the access to education and training for athletes as well as encouraging the setting-up of accessible dual career schemes.

3.2.3 The Sides note the central role played by a diverse range of sport organisations, from grassroots to the elite level, in assuring the accessibility of sport for all, and in particular for children and youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, in the building of active communities throughout Europe and in the education and training of youth athletes, officials and referees.

3.2.4 The Sides take note of the importance of financial solidarity schemes allowing revenues generated through events at the elite level to be reinvested at the grassroots levels through development and education programmes for players, coaches, officials, equipment and infrastructure.

3.2.5 The Sides consider that a level playing field contributes to healthy development of European sport. In this regard, it is important that sport organisations safeguard the participation of athletes to competitions at all levels, in particular for national team sport competitions, by setting fair sport calendars.

3.2.6 Protecting clean sport and implementing the highest governance standards are requisite for the credibility of sport organisations and a condition for their self-regulation. The Sides support multi-stakeholder initiatives aimed at fighting all forms of doping, manipulation of sporting competitions, harassment and abuses as well as corruption in sport.

3.2.7 Promotion of Good Governance Principles in sport such as accountability, democracy, inclusivity, integrity, participation and transparency is a common

objective for the Sides. The Sides take note of the need to encourage diversity and inclusion in decision-making processes of sport organisations.

- 3.2.8 In line with the EU Gender Equality Strategy, the Sides re-affirm their support for gender equality with the aim to tackle gender pay gap in sport, to promote women's physical activities, to encourage gender balance in leading positions of sport organisations as well as staff, officials and coaches. The European Commission, for its part, recognises and expresses its support for the efforts of the European Olympic Committees and more generally the Olympic Movement in the area.
- 3.2.9 The Sides recall their commitment to accessibility for persons with disabilities and inclusive sport, in line with the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2019 Council Conclusions on access to sport for persons with disabilities. The Sides will cooperate to strengthen participation of persons with disabilities in sport and combat stereotypes.
- 3.2.10 The Sides note the central role sport plays in the promotion of the European Union and Olympic values within and beyond the borders of the European Union and take note of the fact that sport is organised at pan-European level. The Sides actively support activities aiming at increasing participation of sport organisations in the objectives fixed in the European Neighbourhood Policy, Erasmus+, the European Child Guarantee, and the European Week of Sport beyond borders.
- 3.2.11 The Sides note the enormous impact COVID-19 has had on the sport sector and sport organisations, from grassroots to professional level. It is important to consider the needs of professional and grassroots sport organisations based on the European sport model and to encourage sport and physical activity as key tools of Health prevention. The Sides intend to explore possibilities to strengthen the sustainable financing of sport in the future.
- 3.2.12 The Sides note the importance of the role of sport event organisers in ensuring sustainable financing of sport activities at all levels in the EU and take note of the necessity to combat illegal activities surrounding sport events in order to protect broadcasting rights of sport event organisers.

4. MEANS OF COOPERATION

- 4.1 In order to promote cooperation and further these shared objectives, the Sides intend to:
- (a) identify and participate in joint events, projects, communication activities, programmes and other initiatives;
 - (b) facilitate regular dialogue, coordination and cooperation with relevant bodies and authorities, in particular, at European level;
 - (c) exchange information, knowledge and best practices.

5. WORKING METHODS

- 5.1 The EOC EU Office in Brussels is the contact point for the European Commission for general matters pertaining to the implementation of this Arrangement.
- 5.2 The Sides agree to hold regular meetings to deal with the technical and operational issues related to the Arrangement.
- 5.3 Ad hoc meetings may be held between officials of the Sides on other practical matters.
- 5.4 The Sides aim at holding a senior level meeting at least once a year between the EOC President and the Commissioner responsible for Sport in the European Commission or their designated representatives.
- 5.5 The European Commission and EOC endeavour to further develop their cooperation as appropriate.
- 5.6 The last meeting under this Arrangement will be dedicated to the evaluation of the cooperation. Both sides will adopt a report.

6. FINAL AND GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 This Arrangement is to be operational from the date it is signed by both Sides and will continue until 31 December 2023, unless the Sides together agree to extend it.
- 6.2 The Sides may jointly decide to amend this Arrangement in writing.
- 6.3 Either Side may terminate this Arrangement even before the date set out in 6.1, but should endeavour to give three months' notice of such discontinuation to the other Side.
- 6.4 This Arrangement does not create rights or obligations under international, Union or national law.

Signed in Brussels on XXX in two original copies in the English language.

*For EOC
The President*

*For the European Commission
Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport*