

Oral hearing of the Commissioner-designate for sport

On 4 November, Commissioner-designate *Glen Micallef* was questioned by the CULT committee members, along with invited members from other committees (e.g., EMPL, LIBE, JURI). The hearing was structured in three parts: opening statement, four rounds of questions, and closing statement. In the opening and closing statements, regarding sport policy, *Glen Micallef* **highlighted sport's ability to connect, inspire, and unite**. Additionally, support for the [European Sport Model](#), **including grassroots sport**, was prominently mentioned. The Commissioner-designate intends to make greater use of sport diplomacy and to tackle pressing challenges such as rising inactivity levels and obesity.

A significant number of questions pertained to sport, underscoring the topic's importance to Members of the European Parliament and the Commissioner-designate's willingness to take a more proactive role in this field. For instance, MEP *Magoni* (ECR) inquired about the action plan to address gender-based discrimination in sports. Mr. *Micallef* responded that further strengthening the values-based European Sport Model would contribute to tackling this issue. Similarly, MEP *Minchev* (Renew) posed a question regarding financial solidarity between elite and grassroots sport, to which the Commissioner-designate responded by emphasising the conditionality of sport organisations' autonomy—they are obliged to respect EU law and principles of good governance. MEP *Pappas* (The Left) requested information on how social integration and equality through sport would be secured, to which the response again highlighted the main features of the European Sport Model, with an emphasis on greater expectations from the sports movement to integrate vulnerable groups.

In summary, during the four rounds of sport-related questions, MEPs focused on themes such as gender equality, non-discrimination, the European Sport Model, review of the Council Conclusions on health-enhancing physical activity, social cohesion, financial solidarity, copyright of live sport content, and Erasmus+. Lastly, should all the Commissioners-designate successfully complete the hearings, the MEPs will vote on the **new College of Commissioners during the Plenary Session on 27 November**.

Commissioner-designate *Minzatu*, the Executive Vice-President responsible for People, Skills, and Preparedness, will also address sport-related topics, if confirmed. In her answers posed by the CULT committee, she highlighted the need for recognition of the educational value of sport clubs. The commitment to Erasmus+ programme was also mentioned - building on its achievements and reinforcing existing actions, while

proposing improvements and simplifications, as well as ensuring better accessibility and recognition of a lack of capacity to answer rising demand on learning mobility. Finally, the [Multi Annual Financial Framework](#) should be used as an opportunity to make investments through Erasmus+ simpler and more impactful.

The answers to the written questions were a step before the **final phase of oral confirmation, which took place on 4 November**.