

**To Ms. Ursula Von Der Leyen, President of the European Commission**

**Subject: Gratitude for including 'Sport' in the title of the new Commissioner**

Dear President Von der Leyen,

In the words of the late Nelson Mandela, sport has the power to change the world. Sport enhances our physical and mental health, contributes to equality and inclusion, it boosts our economies, develops skills and employability, contributes to tourism and urban sustainable development, and brings us together as fans and spectators, volunteers, athletes, and citizens. So far, the potential of sport to contribute to these objectives, and more, has not been fully utilised at the European level.

The work to mainstream sport across different policy areas in the EU has been long underway. However, we still are missing a breakthrough moment.

In the previous mandate, European institutions lost the momentum to put sport and physical activity higher on the European agenda – a symbol of this was also leaving "Sport" out of the title of the Commissioner responsible for the very topic.

The undersigned entities, representing different realities within the European Sport Movement, with over 600 members organisations all across Europe, would like to congratulate and express our gratitude to give sport the intention it deserves by symbolically, but clearly, including "Sport" not only in the portfolio but also in the official title of the responsible Commissioner.

Incorporating sport into the Commissioner's title and portfolio concretely underlines the importance of Sport and Physical Activity in the EU's Agenda and it facilitates the work towards the establishment of an EU Strategy on Sport and a Physically Active Lifestyle. Furthermore, it would recognize the cross-sectoral character of sport, its economic dimension and the unifying element for our societies as illustrated by the Olympic Games in Paris 2024.

Including sport in the title of the Commissioner's portfolio it is an efficient way to implement the intentions, as described in the recently published Political Guidelines for the Next European Commission 2024 - 2029, "step up our work on preventive health" contribute to "protecting the mental health of our children and young people". Additionally, this would reflect the high importance of sport for strengthening values as part of the European way of life.

Our entities and the members organisations we represent would like to wish good luck to the whole team of Commissioners presented this morning and confirm our commitment to give our support in achieving a stronger and more united EU through Sport.

Sincerely,

**ENGSO** - European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation,

**EUSA** - European University Sports Association,

**TAFISA** - The Association For International Sport for All,

**EAS** - European Athlete as Student network,

**ENSE** - European Network of Sport Education,

**EGLSF** - European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation

**ICSSPE** - International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education

