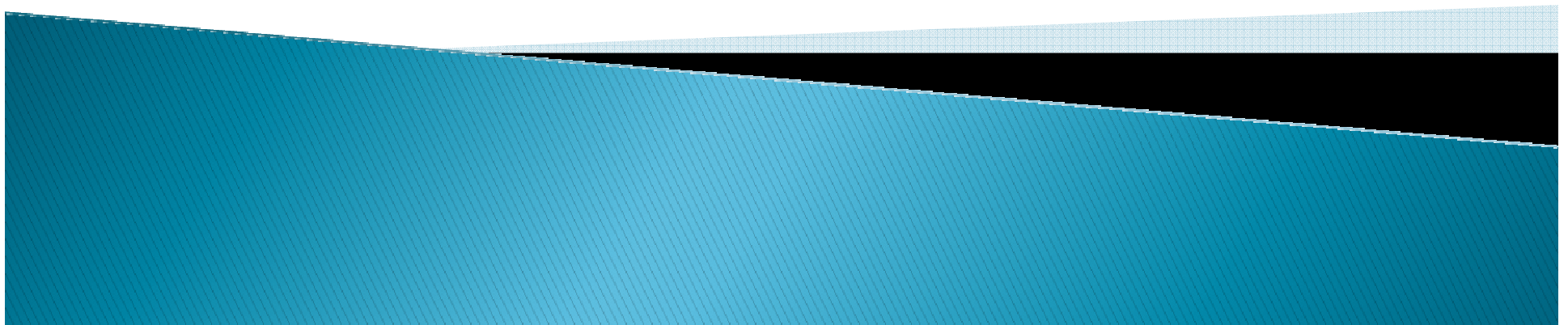# What is the role of the European Commission are its connections to sport?

Bonner and Briglia
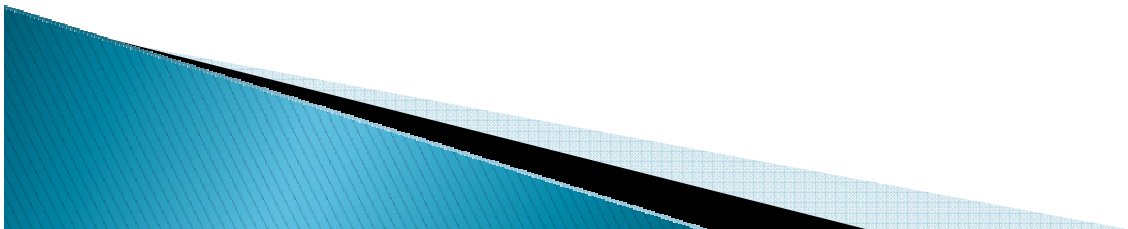May 25th 2009
Sport in the European Union
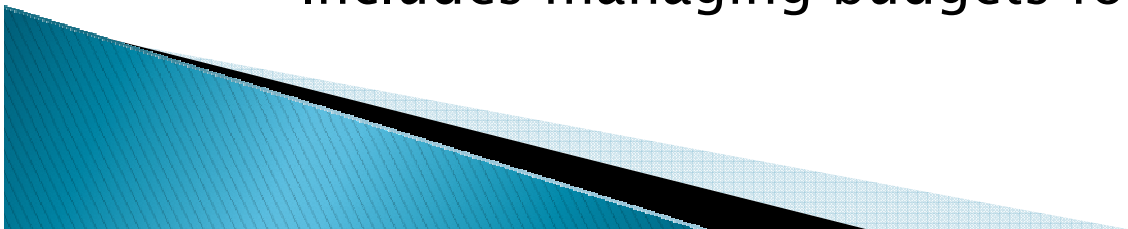
Composition and Selection Process

- Composed of 27 commissioners

- Members are appointed for 5 year terms by agreement of the EU's member states.

- From 2004 – present the EC has been composed of one member from each EU state

- Led by President – referred to as "the most powerful office in the EU"
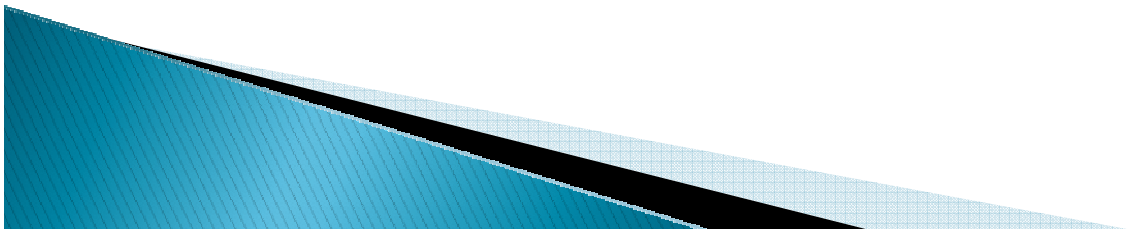 - Appointed by EU Council with approval of EU Parliament

Role of EC

- Oversight of general day-to-day activities within the EU

- Three Functions
  - Treaty Keeping; making sure that regulations passed by European Parliament are being implemented by member states.
  - Suggest legislation to the European Council
  - Implementation and evaluation of policies passed by the European Council
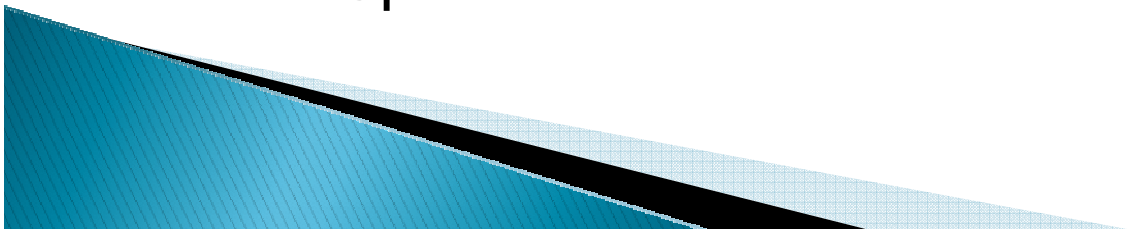   - Includes managing budgets for policies and programs

Balance of Power

- The "third part" of the EU's governing triangle

- Represents the Executive Branch of the EU
  - Balancing against the European Parliament (citizens) & Council of European Union (national govts.)

- Intended as an independent supranational body
  - Participants are instructed to avoid taking direction from any specific national government

- The specific entity tasked with "thinking-European"; meaning that it is responsible for representing the EU's common interests
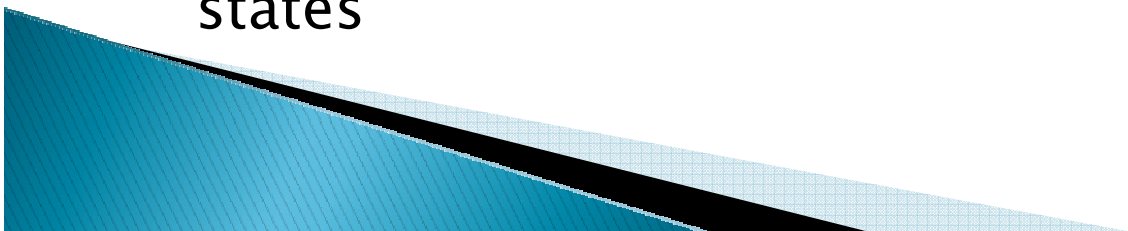
European Commission and Sport

- Deals specifically with:
  - Health, Doping, Anti-racism, Competition Law, Media and Environmental Issues
- Collects data relating to:
  - Economics, Public Sector, Finance, Development
- Funds related research and implementation programs
  - Recent Activity – 4 million Euro budgeted for transnational projects related to achieving objectives and ideal put forward in EU's White Paper on Sport

Promoting health-enhancing physical activity
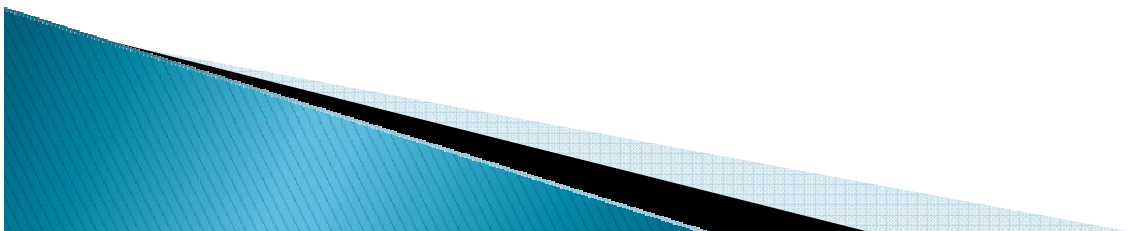
▸ Budget 1.4 million Euros

▸ Goal: to increase role of sport in maintaining healthy lifestyles

▸ Projects should involve the exchange of best-practices between schools, municipalities, and local businesses

▸ Total number of projects: 4

▸ Priority given to projects that include at least 4 member states
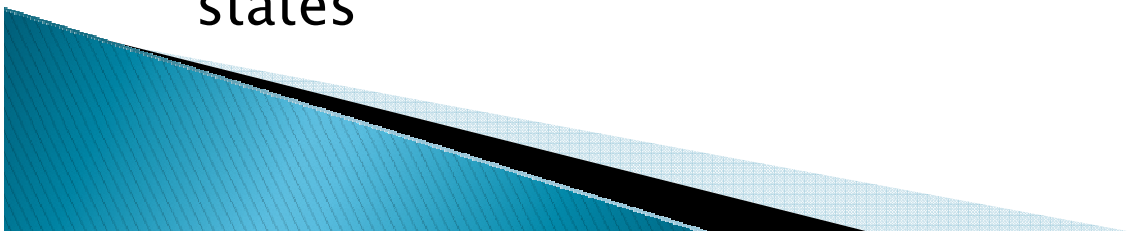
Promoting Education and Training in Sport

▸ Budget: 1 million Euros

▸ Goal: Develop exchange of ideas related to the training of young athletes in various educational settings and account for athlete post-career integration to society.

▸ Total number of projects: 5

▸ Priority given to projects that include at least 9 member states

Support to Sport Networks and Best Practices (2009)

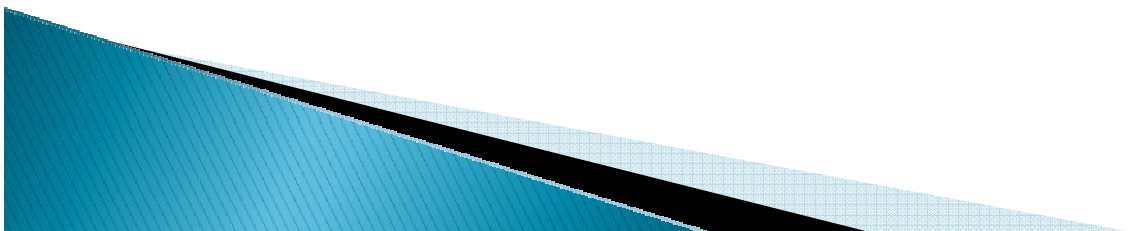**Promoting European Fundamental Values by Encouraging Sport for Disabled Persons**

▸ Budget: 1 million Euros

▸ Goals: Encourage member states to develop sport systems that take into account the needs of people with disabilities

▸ Guarantee access to training, competitions, social activities, and events

▸ Total number of projects: 3

▸ Priority given to projects that include at least 9 member states

Support to Sport Networks and Best Practices (2009)
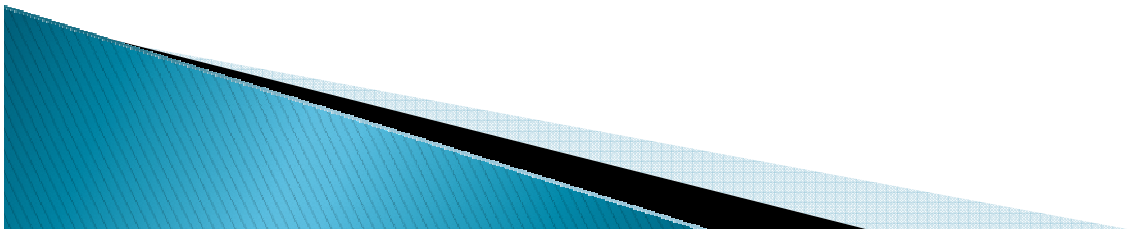
Promoting Gender Equality in Sport

‣ Budget: 0.6 million Euros

‣ Goals: Resolve issues related to the under-representation of women in sport participation and organization

‣ Specific focus on adding women to organizations in professional decision-making capacity

‣ Total number of projects: 3

‣ Priority given to projects that include at least 4 member states

Support to Sport Networks and Best Practices (2009)

▸ **Additional General Selection Criteria [Scoring]**

- Quality of Proposed Activities [0-15]
  - Compliance with objectives of proposal call
  - Thoroughness of methodology
  - Coherence of the activity program
  - Quality and innovative nature of outputs

- European Added Value [0-5]

- Dissemination and Exploitative Strategy [0-5]

- Long-lasting impact (Sustainability) [0-5]

Thank you!

There is one recurring theme throughout my whole portfolio - the citizens and their quality of life. The building of a citizen-friendly environment will be at the centre of all my activities. I believe that sport is a very important educational tool to promote values such as tolerance, fairness and team work.

Ján Figeľ – EU Commision Member Responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Youth