

**Questions:**

- Which measures have been taken, or planned, in your country in the short, mid and long-term order to restart the activity of the sport sector in a sustainable manner? What are the main challenges encountered in this regard?
- What should be the main points of cooperation between Member States, the EU and sport movement in order to successfully restore the sport sector to its full potential and make it more resilient to crises? What kind of support at EU and national level is currently available to the sport sector in this regards?

**Spoken Text:**

- Dear ministers, dear Commissioner,
- We thank the presidency for arranging this meeting to continue the discussion about the effects of COVID-19 for the sport sector and for their hard work on the Council Conclusion.
- It is impressive to see how every member state is helping their sport sector to endure this crisis. At this moment, the sport is facing new challenges, such as: reopening, recovering. But, the crisis also brings opportunities, such as the development of new innovations in sport that can help the sport sector in becoming more resilient.
- As we are reopening our society in the Netherlands, sport is taking a leading role by being the first sector to restart activities for youth. Since the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, everybody is allowed to practice outdoor sports, as long as social distancing is secured.
- As we look ahead, we continue our conversations with the sector to see how further reopening can be possible.
- To help the sport sector recover, we have to make sure they endure this crisis. We provide financial measures to

support sports organizations, to maintain jobs in the sport sector and to compensate the rent of sport organizations. For the recovery-phase, we are conducting a research to find out where support of the government is needed.

- By including sport in the available European support measures, the European Union has a great contribution in the recovery of the sport sector. Therefore, I would like to express my gratitude towards Commissioner Gabriel.
- Special interest goes out to the contribution of Erasmus+, because it aims at sharing best practices within in the sport sector. This can make it a powerful instrument that can contribute to a swift recover of the sport sector.
- Unfortunately, we cannot reverse this crisis. But what we can do is prepare for a possible relapse of the virus by increasing the resiliency of our society by using sports as a part of a healthy lifestyle to reduce health risks.
- Therefore, it is worth looking into innovation, such as digital tools that help people to stay active at a distance, and cooperation with other sectors, such as the healthcare sector.
- A good example comes from the Dutch Volvo Ocean Race Team; they use heartrates and physical tests to measure recovery. At this moment they are exploring if this can be used to measure the recovery of COVID-19 patients.
- Dear colleagues,

- Sports has the virtue of connecting people. So let's use this positivity to reopen our countries, help the sport sector recover and becoming more resilient.
- Thank you.