



The European House
Ambrosetti



Forum Osservatorio Valore Sport

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**WRITTEN STATEMENT BY EUROPEAN
COMMISSIONER MARIYA GABRIEL**

*Espressamente preparato per il
Forum Osservatorio Valore Sport*

Partner dell'iniziativa



Written Statement by European Commissioner Mariya Gabriel

Value of Sport Observatory Forum Rome, 25 January 2023



Dear Ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

*I can't be there with you today, but I couldn't miss this chance to address you today at this Forum, marking the end of a successful first year for The European House Ambrosetti **Value of Sport Observatory**.*

*This Observatory is precisely the kind of initiative we need: a platform created to disseminate knowledge and raise awareness of the importance of sport for **people**, their **communities** and the **economy in Italy**, and beyond.*

*As you gather in Rome today, I cannot help but think of the **very first Summer Paralympic Games** and **Italy's first Summer Olympic Games**, held within the walls of this stadium, back in 1960. Historic moments like these are of great cultural significance for the people of Italy and for our European community.*

*Their memories evoke key traits of our **European Sport Model**, such as openness, inclusion and solidarity. And they remind us of the importance of sport in promoting and upholding our **European values**. It would not be an exaggeration to say that sport is part of the very fabric of our societies and a hallmark of our **European way of life**.*

*This is why during the 2021-2027 period, the EU will provide **470 million euros** through **Erasmus+** to support projects, learning mobility and events promoting our shared values through sport.*

One example is the project 'Autism and Sport: Train Social Inclusion', which received a grant of 400,000 euros of EU funding to strengthen the inclusion of

people with autism spectrum disorders in sport. Activities such as these are a testament to our community's commitment to our shared values.

*These actions also have a key role to play in empowering our community to overcome **common challenges**, such as the green and digital transitions in our societies. Another key challenge we currently face is a wave of **inactivity** exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, posing a serious risk to people's **physical and mental health**.*

*To address this issue and encourage people of all ages to become more physically active, in 2021 I launched the **HealthyLifestyle4All campaign**. As a result, around 100 organisations have already pledged to deliver activities promoting active healthy lifestyles. This is a strong start. But we need to keep going. And your participation in joining this community will be welcomed!*

*For example, during the pandemic, our young people disproportionately suffered the effects of COVID-19, in particular for their mental health. To help find innovative solutions to these and other challenges, last year I initiated the **HealthyLifeStyle4All Youth Ideas Labs**, as a genuine concrete example of our European Year of Youth. This year, we will empower these Labs, as a clear legacy of the EYY 2022.*

Only by working together, giving all members of our community a voice, will we be able to harness the transformative power of sport in our societies.

I am therefore delighted to see members of our sport community coming together at events like today's Forum to discuss how to deepen our cooperation and exchange ideas.

*I trust that the **Value of Sport of Observatory** will continue to make a strong contribution to this noble pursuit. I wish you all fruitful discussions throughout today's event and every success your future endeavours to raise awareness of the importance of sport for **people and their communities**.*