Council of the European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on 19 and 20 November 2026: Ukraine Recovery conference 2027 and Meeting of the Sports Ministers *- Information from Estonia*

Estonia would like to inform delegations that the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2027 will take place in Tallinn, on 28–29 January 2027. The Conference will focus on Ukraine's reconstruction and economic recovery, the development of strong and democratic institutions, and Ukraine's closer integration with the European Union.

In the framework of the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2027, Estonia intends to convene a meeting of ministers responsible for sport on 29 January 2027, bringing together EU Member States and a broader group of like-minded countries. The meeting would build on the European Council conclusions of 15–16 October 2026 and the exchange among EU Sports Ministers on 20 November 2026. It would provide an opportunity to reiterate and further reinforce our clear and united policy of isolating Russia and Belarus, adopted in 2022, in response to Russia's illegal and unjustified full-scale war of aggression against a sovereign and independent country. More than five years on, Russia has neither abandoned its aggressive objectives nor demonstrated any genuine willingness to pursue peace. Nevertheless, the policy of isolation has begun to erode.

Against this backdrop, it is essential to strengthen political coordination and align our approach both within the EU and beyond, in order to uphold our principled stance, and counter Russia’s attempts to regain international legitimacy by using sport and culture as entry points.

The discussion is expected to focus on the participation of Russia and Belarus in international sport, including finding solutions in areas such as restrictive measures, entry and visa policies, use of national flags, anthems and other state symbols, and the use of EU funding instruments. The aim is to prevent sport from being used to normalise or legitimise Russia's aggression, while taking due account of the situation of individual athletes and also team sports.

Estonia invites Ministers to take note of the initiative and will provide further information on the format and scope of the meeting in due course.