

Strasbourg, 22 May 2025

MARS(2025)1

NETWORK OF MAGISTRATES/PROSECUTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORTS (MARS)

ANNUAL MEETING

1 July 2025 (9.00 am - 5.30 pm)

2 July 2025 (9.00 am - 1 pm)

Council of Europe Headquarters

(Palais de l'Europe, Avenue de l'Europe, Strasbourg, France)

Room 8

Working languages: English and French

(EN/FR interpretation will be provided)

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Network of Magistrates/Prosecutors Responsible for Sports (MARS) was set up under the authority of the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) in 2023 with the aim of strengthening international co-operation and exchange of information in the protection of the integrity of sport. Since then, this pursuit of cooperation and exchange of knowledge has materialised in the organisation of annual meetings and in the development of work on legal frameworks to fight crimes against the sport integrity.

This year's annual meeting will be held on 1-2 July 2025. The meeting will revolve around the involvement of organised crime in sport, including modus operandi of criminal networks, evidence gathering, co-operation with law enforcement authorities and the related actions needed in investigations and prosecutions. The agenda also includes presentations on the manipulation of sports competitions, anti-doping, and safety, security and service at major sports events.

The objectives of the annual meeting are to:

- Raise awareness of the latest trends in sport integrity, and to explore co-operation opportunities for the investigation and prosecution of crimes within and outside the MARS network.
- Share expertise and good practices.

On 1 July, the MARS Network members will hold elections for its Bureau, discuss the deliverables of the MARS Network (country profiles) and exchange views on the abovementioned topics, explore co-operation opportunities and share expertise and good practices.

On 2 July an extended session will be organised to explore cooperation between the judiciary and the sport movement in the fight of crimes against the integrity of sport. The MARS Network will exchange expertise and good practices with representatives of sport organisations.

DATE AND LOCATION

The annual meeting will be held on Tuesday 1 July from 9.00am to 5.30pm and on Wednesday 2 July from 9.00am to 1pm at the Council of Europe Headquarters (Palais de l'Europe, Avenue de l'Europe, Strasbourg, France).

MEETING TYPE

The meeting will be in person. The working languages will be English and French (with simultaneous interpretation).

Please note that the participation in the elections to the Bureau of the MARS Network (first part of the session on 1 July) will be restricted to MARS Network members (EPAS member States only).

Further information can be found in the draft agenda and programme of the meeting with sport organisations.