

Strasbourg, 8 March 2024

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Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

8 March – International Women’s Day

Breakfast Roundtable on sport officiating and gender equality

Friday, 8 March 2024

9.30 am – 12.00 noon

Hybrid meeting:
online on the Kudo platform
and
Palais de l’Europe, meeting room no.7
Strasbourg, France

Programme

Background

Gender equality has been one of the central themes of the Council of Europe's work in the field of sport for over a decade. In 2015, the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) was instrumental in the preparation of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2015\)2](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on gender mainstreaming in sport. The Council of Europe has been promoting a number of initiatives, seeking to contribute to improving gender equality in sport, and these efforts are firmly enshrined in the Council of Europe's revised [European Sports Charter](#) (ESC).

From March 2018 to October 2019, the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe (CoE) ran the joint project "[ALL IN: Towards gender balance in sport](#)", aiming to provide support to public authorities and sport organisations in the development and implementation of policies and programmes addressing gender inequalities in sport as well as in adoption of a gender mainstreaming strategy. As part of the project, EPAS assessed the state of play regarding gender equality in 17 countries across 6 indicators in the following areas: leadership, coaching, participation (from grassroots to elite sport), gender-based violence, media/communication and gender mainstreaming, subsequently producing a best practice [toolkit](#) for gender equality in sport and setting up an [online library](#) amongst other outcomes.

From March 2023 to March 2025, the Council of Europe's Sport Division is advancing on this crucial work through the joint EU-CoE "[All In Plus](#)" project: promoting greater gender equality in sport. To further enhance the findings of the first data collection campaign, the project will fine-tune the data indicators and expand the list of participating countries. All In Plus will have a specific focus on issues linked to representation of women in sport but will also raise awareness about gender-based violence in sport and how to tackle it, drawing upon the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ([Istanbul Convention](#)). The new All In Plus project will also add a dimension on sport officiating and the Sport Division will work closely with experts from a range of institutional, academic and grassroots backgrounds to ensure that the next round of the project has a profound impact on gender equality in the sports sector, including in this area.

It is in this context that the Council of Europe's Sport Division is delighted to announce the upcoming "**Breakfast Roundtable on sport officiating and gender equality**" on the occasion of International Women's Day, March 8.

During the first part of the event, international experts and guests will deliver presentations about initiatives in place to combat discrimination against female referees and a number of referees will share their experiences in this area. An informal coffee table discussion will follow, bringing together a range of panellists, who will address the steps that could be taken to combat discrimination against female officiators in the future.

Programme

- 9.30-9.45am** **Welcome speeches**
- Matjaž Gruden*, Director, Directorate for Democracy, Council of Europe
Vesna Batistić Kos, Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe
- 9.45-10.00am** **Officiating and women: heralding a new era**
- Charlotte Girard Fabre*, Secretary General, International Federation for Sport Officials (IFSO), Chair of the EPAS Consultative Committee (CC)
- 10.00-10.10am** **WINS project: shedding light on inequalities and officiating**
- Tom Webb*, Researcher and Rapporteur, Erasmus+ WINS
- 10.10-10.20am** **Equality and football: pitching for change**
- Patricia Campos Domenech*, Spanish TV commentator, Coach and former Football referee in the USA
- 10.20-11.00am** **Roundtable on women and refereeing – discussion followed by Q and A**
- Moderated by Marie Denitton*, European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO), Gender Equality Rapporteur EPAS CC
- Patricia Campos Domenech*, Spanish TV commentator, Coach and former Football referee in the USA
- Marija Cicak*, Tennis referee
Sandra Deveza, Beach volleyball referee
- 11-11.10am** **Coffee break**
- 11.10-11.50am** **Roundtable on future steps – discussion followed by Q and A**
- Moderated by Francine Hetherington Raveney*, Deputy Executive Secretary, EPAS
- Panellists:**
- Charlotte Girard Fabre*, Secretary General, IFSO (International Federation for Sport Officials), Chair of the EPAS Consultative Committee (CC)
- Tess Harmand*, General Director, Alice Milliat Foundation
- Ioanna Paraskevopoulou*, Gender Equality Rapporteur, EPAS Governing Board (GB) and national co-ordinator for Cyprus of the All In Plus EU-CoE joint project
- Tom Webb*, Researcher and Rapporteur, Erasmus+ WINS

11.50-12.00pm

Closing words

Sophie Kwasny, Executive Secretary, EPAS, Head of the Sport Division,
Council of Europe