



# Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events

” a multi-agency approach  
to ensure a safe, secure  
and welcoming environment  
at football matches...

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” making football matches and other sports events more welcoming, safe and secure...



## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION?

■ The convention builds upon the work done internationally since the adoption of the European Convention on Spectator Violence in 1985.

■ The aim is to go from a violence-focused approach towards an integrated approach based on three interdependent pillars: safety, security and service.

■ The convention promotes co-operation between all public and private stakeholders involved in making sports events safe, secure and welcoming, including local communities and supporters.

■ The convention provides measures based on the highest safety, security and service standards developed in Europe.

■ The convention establishes a Committee on Safety and Security at Sports Events to monitor the Parties' compliance with the provisions of the Convention and to give them support and advice in implementing these provisions.

## THREE PILLARS: SAFETY, SECURITY AND SERVICE

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■ The concept of **safety** gathers all measures related to the protection of people from being injured or facing a risk to their health and well-being during sports events. This comprises stadium infrastructures and certification, contingency plans, or measures regarding the consumption of alcohol. Safety measures also protect people on their journey to the event and in public viewing areas outside stadiums.

■ The concept of **security** incorporates all measures designed to deter, prevent and sanction any incident of violence or misbehaviour in connection with football or other sports events – inside or outside of a stadium. It includes, in particular, risk assessment, co-operation between police and other relevant agencies and the establishment of sanctions.

■ The concept of **service** comprises all measures designed to make football and other sports events enjoyable and welcoming for all, in stadiums but also in public spaces where spectators and supporters gather before, during and after the matches. This incorporates material elements like good catering and toilet facilities; but above all, focuses on the manner in which people are greeted and treated throughout the event.



## **A MULTI-AGENCY INTEGRATED APPROACH**

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■ The convention emphasises the overlapping character of safety, security and service measures at football matches and other sports events, irrespective of their primary purpose. These measures are interrelated in terms of impact and therefore need to be balanced and not designed or implemented in isolation.

■ Bearing in mind that one pillar can have direct influence on the two others, the convention requires the role and actions of each agency involved in football and other sports events' planning and operational activities to be co-ordinated, complementary, proportionate, and designed and implemented as part of a comprehensive safety, security and service strategy.

■ The convention also highlights the important role of spectators and local communities in helping to make football matches or other sports events safe, secure and welcoming, inside and outside of stadiums. These stakeholders shall be considered as part of the multi-agency integrated approach.



## THE COMMITTEE ON SAFETY AND SECURITY AT SPORTS EVENTS

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■ The committee will gather delegations from State Parties composed of representatives from lead governmental agencies, preferably with responsibility for sport safety and security, and representatives of the National Football Information Point. It will also welcome observers from sports organisations.

■ The committee will monitor the application of the convention through a programme of visits to the State Parties, based on an ethos of co-operation between States and a “peer review mechanism”. These visits will aim to provide advice and support in order to help the States to improve their policymaking, to take over best practices, and to comply with the provisions of the convention.

■ The committee will make recommendations to the Parties concerning measures to be taken for the implementation of the convention, and will offer them technical assistance according to their needs. It will also hold consultations with relevant partners and facilitate the collection and exchange of experience and good practice between States.



The Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events has been adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 4 May 2016 and opened for signature on 3 July 2016 in Saint-Denis (France).

It is the only internationally binding instrument which establishes an institutional co-operation between all stakeholders involved in the organisation of football and other sports events.

**For more information:**

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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