



MACOLIN COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

***PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF SPORT BY COMBATING COMPETITIONS
MANIPULATION AND ILLEGAL BETTING***

With the support of “CIBELAE”
(Ibero-American Corporation of State Lotteries and Betting)

18 April 2024 - afternoon
Buenos Aires, Argentina

CONCEPT NOTE



BACKGROUND

The Council of Europe has always been at the forefront of efforts to safeguard the integrity of sport, notably in addressing violence, doping, and the manipulation of sports competitions.

In September 2019, the “Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions” (Macolin Convention, CETS No. 215) came into force. This unique instrument is open for signature by all countries in the world. As of now, 41 countries have signed it, including Morocco and Australia.

All continents face challenges with the manipulation of sports competitions and the expanding sports betting market. In November 2023, the Council of Europe organised a regional conference on illegal betting in Rabat which enabled to gather African countries for a first event on competitions’ manipulation in Africa. In light of the current developments in South America, it would seem appropriate to host a Macolin Community event in South America.

Latin America is considered to be the continent with the most significant growth in sports betting over the next five years. The liberalisation of key markets, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Peru, is expected to create a market valued at nearly €5 billion in gross gaming revenue in a short period. This expansion will also lead to the development of more sophisticated products and distribution networks.

This unprecedented expansion in the continent needs to be supported by the appropriate framework and regulations to reduce the realisation of significant risks such as the manipulation of sports competitions, money laundering, the growth of illegal betting. In the past two years, according to various sports betting monitoring systems, South America has experienced the largest increase in alerts related to match-fixing, primarily in football.

The primary goal of this conference is to deepen our understanding of the evolving phenomenon of sports competitions manipulation, thereby facilitating more effective cooperation at both international and national levels.

The organisation of the conference is supported by the [ACT project](#)¹ and CIBELAE. This organisation is an international non-governmental body with a focus on Latin America, comprising lottery and sports betting operators. Its main goals include advising and promoting uniform government policies for regulating and controlling sports betting in the regions where its members operate.

Since 29 November 2023, CIBELAE and ULIS (United Lotteries for Integrity in Sports) have initiated a partnership to promote sports integrity throughout Latin America. This collaboration enhances the relationship between CIBELAE, its members, and the Macolin Community, which is recognised for the unique comprehensive legal framework on which its operations lay, aimed at combating the manipulation of sports competitions.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- ❖ Raising awareness among CIBELAE members and the governments of their respective countries about the primary challenges associated with the manipulation of sports competitions and illegal betting.
- ❖ Providing an overview of the diverse approaches to address sports competitions manipulation. This includes measures for public authorities (including law enforcement and justice), sports organisations, gambling and gaming regulators and betting operators.

DATE AND LOCATION

Thursday, 18 April in the afternoon, at Sofitel, Buenos Aires Recoleta, Argentina.

¹ The donors for the ACT project include the World Lottery Association (WLA), the Ministry of Culture and Equality of Norway, European Lotteries (EL), the French Ministry of Sports, the Swiss Federal Institute of Sports, the French National Olympic and Sports Committee, Française des Jeux (FDJ), and the Cyprus Sport Organisation.

MEETING TYPE

An on-site meeting for approximately 50-60 participants, including public authorities, law enforcement agencies, sports organisations, lottery, and betting operators, and invited experts, with bilingual interpretation in Spanish and English.

The proposed programme is organised into two distinct segments over half a day:

- ❖ **Exploring the global landscape** to gain an in-depth understanding of the international context of sports betting and the associated risks of manipulating sports competitions.
- ❖ **Identifying the main challenges and some best practices** in addressing the manipulation of sports competitions.

SCHEDULE

Time	Description
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Welcome and scene setting
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Session 1 General overview of sports competitions manipulation, organised crime and betting landscape, with a focus on Latin America
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Break
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Session 2 Main challenges in addressing the manipulation of sports competitions and means to respond to them
5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Interactive discussion between speakers and participants Closing
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Dinner