

Strasbourg, 23 February 2023

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Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

**8 March – International Women’s Day  
Breakfast Roundtable: Women in Sport**

Wednesday, 8 March 2023

9.30am – 11.30am

Hybrid meeting:  
online on the Kudo platform  
and  
Palais de l’Europe, meeting room no.7  
Avenue de l’Europe, 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 a 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 will advance on this crucial work through the joint EU-CoE "All In Plus" project. 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 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.

It is in this context that the Council of Europe's Sport Division is delighted to announce the upcoming "Breakfast Roundtable: Women in Sport" 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 gender-based violence and a number of speakers will share their lived experience in this area. An informal coffee table discussion will follow, bringing together panellists, including academics, who will address the steps that could be taken to combat gender-based violence in sport.

## Programme

- 9.30-9.50am**                    **Welcome speeches**
- Marie FONTANEL*, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe
- Jeroen SCHOKKENBROEK*, Director, Directorate of Anti-discrimination, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe
- 9.50-9.58am**                    **Presentation on the Istanbul Convention**
- Carolina LASEN DIAZ*, Head of the Violence against Women Division, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe
- 9.58-10.06am**                    **Path to Prevention - tackling the root causes of gender-based violence in sport**
- Mhairi Carmen MACLENNAN*, Co-founder and General Manager, Kyniska Advocacy; Athlete
- 10.06-10.14am**                    **Calling out harassment in sport: steps for change**
- Lombe MWAMBWA*, Research Director, Global Observatory on Gender Equality and Sport
- 10.14-10.22am**                    **Combating gender-based violence toward adults in sport: IOC policy**
- Tine VERTOMMEN*, Expert Consultant to the IOC Safe Sport Unit
- 10.22-10.30am**                    **Identifying and combating gender-based violence in sport**
- Benjamin CARR*, Researcher, University of Lausanne
- 10.30-11.10am**                    **Coffee table discussion – what steps can be taken to improve women’s position in sport?**
- Moderated by *Francine HETHERINGTON RAVENEY*, Deputy Executive Secretary, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), Council of Europe
- Panellists:**
- Susana MONSERRAT*, Sport Management and Sociology of Sport Group, School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences (SSEHS)
- Charlotte GIRARD FABRE*, Secretary General, International Federation for Sports Officials (IFSO)
- Paoline EKAMBI*, President & Co-founder, Sportail Community
- Mhairi Carmen MACLENNAN*, Co-founder and General Manager, Kyniska Advocacy; Athlete

**11.10-11.25am**      **Questions from the audience**

**11.25-11.30am**      **Closing words**

*Sophie KWASNY, Executive Secretary, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), Head of the Sport Division, Council of Europe*