

12th Council of Europe
Conference of Ministers
responsible for Sport

Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

15 March 2012

Final Resolutions

prepared by

Resolution No. 1

International co-operation on promotion of the integrity of sport against the manipulation of results (match-fixing)

The Ministers responsible for Sport, meeting in Belgrade, in Serbia, for the 12th Council of Europe Conference on 15 March 2012:

- Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage, and of facilitating their economic and social progress;
- In accordance with the Final Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe at their Second Summit (Strasbourg, 10 and 11 October 1997), which emphasises the standard-setting role of the Council of Europe, in particular to seek common responses to the challenges posed by the growth in corruption;
- Considering the conclusions of the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Warsaw, 16-17 May 2005), which recommended the continuation of Council of Europe activities which serve as references in the field of sport;
- Reiterating that the Resolutions CM/Res(2007) 8 and CM/Res(2010) 11 establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) assigned the task of developing standards to deal with topical issues in international sport to the EPAS;
- Considering the EPAS Statute, which specifies that EPAS may “submit, when appropriate, draft recommendations as well as proposals for conventions for examination and possible adoption by the Committee of Ministers”;
- Having regard to its Recommendations (92) 13Rev on the European Sports Charter; (92)14Rev on the Code of Sports Ethics and (2005) 8 on the Principles of Good Governance in Sport;
- In the light of the work and conclusions of the 11th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, held in Athens on 11 and 12 December 2008, in particular in the areas of match-fixing, corruption and illegal betting;
- In the light of Resolution No. 1 of the 18th Council of Europe Informal Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Baku, 22 September 2010) on the promotion of the integrity of sport against the manipulation of sports results (match-fixing);
- Considering the Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)10 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on promotion of the integrity of sport against manipulation of results, notably match-fixing ;
- Acknowledging that, as a general rule, the sports movement is responsible for sport but that public authorities are invited, where appropriate, to develop mutual cooperation with the sports movements, in order to promote the values and benefits of sport;
- Convinced that the successful implementation by private companies and sports organisations of effective good governance policies, including codes of ethics, would help to strengthen their self-governance in matters relating to sport and would further consolidate their position with respect to public authorities on the basis of mutual respect and trust;
- Considering that it is necessary to further develop a common European framework for the development of sport in Europe, based on the notions of pluralist democracy, the rule of law, human rights and ethical principles;
- Reaffirming that the nature of sport itself, based on fair-play and equal competition, requires that unethical practices and behaviours in sport be forcefully and effectively countered;
- Aware of the pressures which modern society, marked among other things by the race for success and economic profits, brings to bear on sport;
- Stressing their belief that the consistent application of the principles of good governance and ethics in sport would be a significant factor in helping to eradicate corruption, manipulation of sports results (match-fixing) and other malpractices in sport;
- Acknowledging that attempts to manipulate sports results, including in an organised manner and at the international level, constitute an important threat for the integrity of sport;
- Concerned by the involvement of organised crime in the manipulation of sports results, especially at international level;
- Concerned that the development of online betting increases some risks for the integrity of sports;

- Convinced that match-fixing may erode confidence among the public if it perceives sport as a place where manipulation gives substantial financial benefits to certain individuals, rather than as an activity where the “glorious uncertainty” of sport predominates;
- Convinced that dialogue and cooperation among public authorities, betting operators and sports organisations based on mutual respect and trust is essential in seeking effective common responses to challenges posed by the problem of manipulation of sports results;
- Welcome the work performed in the framework of the Feasibility Study on a possible new international legal instrument relating to manipulation of sports results, and notably match-fixing, based on the Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)10;
- Invite the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), where appropriate, in co-operation with the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), Moneyval, and the Economic Crime Division (Cyber crime), and in coordination with the European Union :
 - to launch the negotiation of a possible new international convention against manipulation of sports results and notably match-fixing, that could establish an appropriate framework of commitment and co-operation to fight this scourge;
 - to involve in this work all interested EPAS members and observer states (which are or are not parties to the European Cultural Convention), with a view to developing an instrument that may be opened for signature to non European states, as well as by states, which have not yet joined EPAS guaranteeing a broad participation in the discussions and a broad support for the possible outcome(s);
 - to report to the Committee of Ministers on a draft instrument that may be eventually finalised as a convention or as another instrument;
 - to take into account in the negotiations the possibility of setting up a platform of co-ordination and follow-up that will rely, as far as possible on existing bodies and structures and that will ensure co-operation with the betting operators and the sports movement;
 - to continue to implement the Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)10;
- Propose to the Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe to invite the CDPC, in co-operation with GRECO and EPAS to consider, as a separate issue, the feasibility of an additional protocol to the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS no. 173), that could expand to the sport sector the scope of application of its provisions;
- Invite EPAS to explore the possibilities of the establishment of an international network of national authorities in charge of the policy regarding the betting market, in order to address sport integrity issues;

Resolution No. 2

Current Issues in Pan-European Sports Co-operation

Introduction

The Ministers responsible for Sport, meeting in Belgrade, Serbia for the 12th Council of Europe Conference on 15 March 2012:

- Wishing to see sport develop in the spirit of the European Sport Charter, the Principles of Good Governance in Sport and the Code of Sport Ethics;
 - Stressing the importance and significance of sport in modern society, notably from political, social, cultural and economic perspectives;
 - Recalling the Action Plan of the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Warsaw 16-17 May 2005), and attaching some importance to promoting the role of sport in the process of building a more humane and inclusive Europe, as well as to the continuation of the Council of Europe activities which serve as references in the field of sport;
 - Recognising that this co-operation, covering the whole continent, has led to the adoption of key texts for national and international Sports policies, including three treaties and the European Sport Charter, as well as numerous texts showing the contribution of sport to modern society;
 - Bearing in mind the adoption of the Council of Europe Resolution CM/Res(2007)8 on 11 May 2007 and the creation of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS);
 - Welcoming the establishment of EPAS for an indefinite duration decided by the Council of Europe Resolution CM/Res(2010) 11;
- Thank the Serbian authorities for hosting and organising the conference;
 - Appreciate the preparation of the conference by EPAS, providing a pan-European framework for debate and coordination;
 - Welcome the follow-up given by EPAS to the resolutions adopted by the 11th Council of Europe Conference and the 18th Informal Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport;
 - Appreciate in particular the work on migrations of athletes and protection of youth and the draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on protection of minors and youngsters from issues related to migrations in sport approved by the EPAS Governing Board;
 - Invite EPAS to submit the draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states of the Council of Europe on protection of minors and youngsters from issues related to migrations in sport to the Committee of Ministers for consideration and possible adoption;
 - Invite all member states of the Council of Europe which have not yet joined the EPAS to consider doing so;
 - Support the ongoing drafting process carried out by EPAS on gender-mainstreaming in sport;
 - Invite EPAS to bear in mind the expectations expressed by its different members, and, while launching new initiatives, to give preference to issues and themes that are supported by the Ministers of its member states;
 - Take note, without prejudice to any future decisions on this subject, of the interest expressed by Switzerland in hosting the next Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport;
 - Invite EPAS, therefore, to inform the Committee of Ministers with a view to the inclusion of a ministerial conference on the schedule of conferences of specialised ministers.

Resolution No. 2.1

Current Issues in Pan-European Sports Co-operation

Co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union

The Ministers responsible for Sport, meeting in Belgrade, Serbia for the 12th Council of Europe Conference on 15 March 2012:

- Recalling Resolution 2.4 adopted by the Ministers responsible for sport during the 18th Informal Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, held in Baku on 22 September 2010;
 - Noting with pleasure the entry into force of the European Union's Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December 2009 and specifically Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which amongst others requests the Union and the member states to foster co-operation with the Council of Europe in the field of sport;
 - Stressing the importance of promoting synergies between the work programmes of the European Union and the Council of Europe in the area of sport;
 - Recognising the unique role of the Council of Europe in promoting intergovernmental co-operation in the field of sport;
 - Reaffirming, in this context, the importance for the future of European sports co-operation of close ties between the European Union and the Council of Europe;
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- Invite the Council of Europe and the European Union to develop accordingly co-operation in the field of sports;
 - Invite EPAS to explore possible new ways of future cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Union on sports.
 - Invite the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to transmit to the Committee of Ministers, with the report of the present Conference, a report on the background and perspectives for future co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union on sports.

Resolution No. 2.2

Current Issues in Pan-European Sports Co-operation

Strengthening the Monitoring Capacities of the Convention on Spectator Violence

The Ministers responsible for Sport, meeting in Belgrade, Serbia for the 12th Council of Europe Conference on 15 March 2012:

- Bearing in mind the important contribution of the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sport Events and in particular at Football Matches (ETS No. 120), in improving over the last 25 years the safety and security standards in connection with football matches (and other sports events) played throughout Europe;
- Bearing in mind the important role of the Standing Committee of the Convention as the only official Pan-European intergovernmental coordination and cooperation body for safety and security at sports events, especially football matches;
- Bearing in mind that football matches are in most European countries part of their cultural heritage and that large scale sports events are of an enormous public interest;
- Considering that monitoring of the commitments undertaken by states in favour of safe and secure sports events has to increase in order to achieve even more harmonisation and efficiency;
- Urge states which are not parties to the Convention to sign and/or ratify it;
- Welcome the conclusions of the Standing Committee of the Convention concerning guidelines and strategies to improve safety and security at sports events, in particular football matches, and to enhance the international co-operation under this Convention;
- Invite the Standing Committee of the Convention to review and update :
 - its institutional setting (functioning of the Standing Committee and its Bureau and Involvement of States Parties)
 - its monitoring mechanisms (“compliance with commitments” project)
 - the publication, dissemination and implementation of its recommendations
 - the co-operation with key partner organisations
 - the co-operation with other sectors of the Council of Europe General secretariat;
- Invite the Standing Committee of the Convention to streamline and consolidate the existing recommendations and, where appropriate, develop new standards, taking into account its strategic vision and developing synergies with other sectors and key partners;
- Invite the Council of Europe, e.g. the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), in co-operation with the Standing Committee of the Convention and independent experts, and in coordination with the European Union, to make a feasibility study on a possible amendment protocol that would reflect such changes in the Convention itself.