

Press Release



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Council of Europe Conference passes three resolutions on ethics, autonomy and co-operation in sport

Athens, 12.12.2008 – Sport ministers and representatives from 44 countries participating in the conference passed three resolutions to make sport more ethical, autonomous and fair.

One resolution expresses concerns regarding right to privacy issues related to anti-doping measures, as outlined in the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information by the World anti-Doping Agency (WADA). It also intensifies cooperation in sport initiatives between the Council of Europe and the European Union, and encourages further involvement in the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)(*), from both member states and from NGOs.

Over 100 participants including sports ministers, sports federation and organisation officials agreed the resolutions at the 11th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport – co-organised with the Greek government on 11 and 12 December in Athens.

A second resolution on ethics proposes to update the Council of Europe's 2001 Code of Sports Ethics to better meet new ethics challenges in sport, from match fixing and online betting to corruption and doping via gene manipulation. It urges prosecution by relevant authorities of all human trafficking in sport, while calling for harmonised measures to combat the spread of technical advances in doping.

Finally, a third resolution stresses the importance of preserving the autonomy of the sports movement against multiple factors, including a growing economic dimension in sport which could entail risks from sponsors, investors, even gamblers.

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Notes for Editors

Council of Europe Sport Department

Sport can be seen to show universal human values which, at major sports events, are understood and shared by all. Having realised this, the Council of Europe policy is to "promote sport and the social and health benefits which it brings to individuals and to society, thanks to the policies based on the same principles across Europe". In the Council of Europe, the Sport Department co-operates with governmental and non-governmental organisations and carries out initiatives which both benefit the practice of sport and make it accessible across Europe.

(*) EPAS

After over 30 years of experience in the field of international sports legislation, the Council of Europe adopted [Resolution CM/Res\(2007\)8](#) on 11 May 2007 creating the **Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)** to give new momentum and dynamism to European sports co-operation.

World Anti-Doping Agency

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is an international independent organisation created in 1999 to promote, coordinate, and monitor the fight against doping in sport in all its forms. Composed and funded equally by the sports movement and governments of the world, WADA coordinated the development and implementation of the World Anti-Doping Code, the document harmonising anti-doping policies in all sports and all countries.

A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.