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**Match-fixing at the Council of Europe Sport Ministers' Conference in Belgrade**

Strasbourg, 12.03.2012 - In the framework of activities of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), the [12<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport](#) will take place on March 15<sup>th</sup> in Belgrade, at the invitation of the Serbian Government.

The conference (see [programme](#)) consists of two parts: in the first, following up on the [Recommendation CM/Rec \(2011\)10](#), Ministers will address the promotion of the integrity of sport to fight *match-fixing*, with the possibility to negotiate a specific international convention; in the second one, the event will focus on pan-European sports' co-operation and strengthening monitoring mechanisms of the European Convention on Spectator Violence ([CETS n° 120](#)).

**Press conference** : *Belgrade Belexpo Center*, 15<sup>th</sup> March (15h30-16h30), with Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia, Verica Kalanović, [Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio](#), [UEFA](#) President Michel Platini.

Anne Brasseur (Chairperson of the [PACE](#) Sub-Committee on Youth and Sport), Keith Whitmore (President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities), Snežana Samardžić-Marković (former Minister of Youth and Sport of Serbia) are amongst the participants, together with EPAS experts and organised sports movements' representatives.

**Background**

Match-fixing is a "new challenge" to sport ethics, as stated at the [Council of Europe Ministerial Conference in Athens in 2008](#). Moreover, it is perceived as a threat to the democratic governance of sport, to the rule of law and public order. The Council of Europe has played a pioneer role throughout the years in developing human rights and building a democratic culture through sport. An intergovernmental pan-European partnership has provided a series of conventions and charters with standard-setting, monitoring and technical assistance, as well as co-ordinated positions with other international organisations ([UNESCO](#) or [WADA](#)), and sport movement bodies ([FIFA](#), [IOC](#) or [UEFA](#)).

The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) was established in 2007 to address the current challenges facing sport in Europe. EPAS serves as a platform between the public authorities of 33 member states, fostering dialogue among ministries, sports federations and NGOs, ensuring conformity to ethical and positive values.

The European Convention on Spectator Violence has been prepared in the aftermath of the Heysel tragedy in Brussels (May 1985), aiming at tackling hooliganism in Europe. It commits 41 States parties to take practical measures to prevent and control violence, as well as ensure safety of spectators at sports events. The Convention sets out methods for identifying and prosecuting offenders, relying on police co-operation and information exchange.

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