

Strasbourg, 1 August 2023

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NETWORK OF MAGISTRATES/PROSECUTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORTS (MARS)

ANNUAL MEETING

PARIS

18 & 19 September 2023

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

■ The Network of Magistrates/Prosecutors Responsible for Sports (MARS), set up by the Council of Europe, held its first meeting on 24 and 25 November 2022 in Strasbourg. This event marked the initiation of the establishment of a specialised judicial network dedicated to safeguarding sports integrity.

■ During its annual plenary meeting on 8 and 9 June 2023, the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) adopted the terms of reference of the Network, thereby institutionalising the Network under the aegis of EPAS.

■ The MARS Network will become a leading international body for promoting effective investigations and legal proceedings pertaining to sport integrity.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SECOND EVENT

■ The first day's objective is to raise awareness about the latest trends in threats and challenges to sport integrity (with a focus on competitions' manipulation, doping and violence) and the interrelated actions needed in investigation and prosecution.

■ The objective of the second day is to set the working methods of the Network and its governance structure and to share expertise and best practices.

TITLE

■ *Annual meeting of the network of Magistrates/Prosecutors Responsible for Sports (MARS)*

DATE AND LOCATION

■ The open session, hosted by the French Ministry of Justice, will be held on Monday 18 September from 2pm to 5.45pm at the Court of Appeal (4 boulevard du Palais, 75001 Paris).

■ The session restricted to the delegations of MARS, hosted by the French Ministry of Sports and Olympic and Paralympic Games, will be held on Tuesday 19 September from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the Ministry's premises (95 avenue de France, 75013 Paris).

MEETING TYPE

■ Day 1: in-person event for MARS delegations and invited organisations and partners (estimated participation of 70 persons) – with simultaneous interpretation from/to English and French.

■ Day 2: hybrid meeting for approximately 30-40 persons (prosecutors + invited experts + CoE Secretariat) without interpretation.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Day	Time	Court of Appeal (4 boulevard du Palais, 75001)
18/09	14:00-14:45	Opening
	14:45-15:30	Panel 1: Addressing the missing links in the fight against doping
	15:30-16:00	Break
	16:00-16:45	Panel 2: Implementing a multi-agency integrated approach linking safety, security, and service
	16:45-17:30	Panel 3: Exploring possible links between competitions' manipulation and sports betting
	17:30-17:45	Conclusions and closing

Day	Time	Ministry of Sports and Olympic and Paralympic Games (95 avenue de France, 75013)
19/09	09:30-10:00	Tour de table
	10:00-10:30	Working methods and governance of the Network
	10:30-11:00	Thematic focus and best practices
	11:00-11:30	Break
	11:30-12:00	Thematic focus and best practices continued
	12:00-12:15	Priority areas of work
	12:15-12:30	Conclusions and closing