



*Dipartimento per lo sport*



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Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport  
**epas**  
Accord partiel élargi sur le sport



Strasbourg, 4 December 2021

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## **Conference on Integrity in Sport**

Hybrid format:

Rome (Villa Ruffo, Via di Villa Ruffo 6) and online

6-7 December 2021

(Working languages: English, French and Italian)

Organised by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)  
of the Council of Europe and the Italian Department for Sport

within the framework of the Italian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe

**Factsheet and draft Agenda**

## **Background**

In the context of the Italian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)<sup>1</sup> and the Italian Department for Sport are co-hosting a conference on the topic of integrity in sport. This follows the important work carried out by EPAS and the Sport Conventions Division of the Council of Europe, in particular in the areas of:

- the preparation of integrity guidelines,
- combating the manipulation of sports competitions (the Macolin Convention), and also
- ensuring good governance in sport.

## **Conference objectives**

The aim of the conference on integrity in sport is to outline and plan the next steps to be pursued by EPAS, the Macolin Committee and their partners in the three above-mentioned areas covered by the conference.

### ***Session 1 - Integrity guidelines***

The Kazan Action Plan was adopted on 15 July 2017 by Unesco's Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, MINEPS VI. EPAS was honoured to prepare detailed integrity guidelines to improve sport integrity further to Action 3 of the Kazan Action Plan and has identified 5 policy areas in this respect:

1. Preserving the rights, safety and security of athletes, spectators, workers and other groups involved
2. Preventing and addressing harassment and abuse in sport
3. Fostering good governance of sport organisations
4. Strengthening measures against the manipulation of sports competitions
5. Ensuring an adequate anti-doping policy framework, its implementation and effective compliance measures

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<sup>1</sup> **The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)** is an intergovernmental forum enriched with a consultative body made up of representatives from the sport movement/civil society. With the recent accession of Italy, Turkey and Ukraine, EPAS now has 40 member states (including a number of non-Council of Europe member states such as Morocco, Israel and Belarus) as well as 29 sports organisations.

The integrity conference will provide the opportunity to see how best to promote and implement the guidelines. It will also raise questions as to what kinds of services are needed to support sports ministries. The issue of transversal co-operation will be dealt with and case studies provided from those countries already implementing such transversal initiatives will be presented. There will also be feedback on a risk assessment module, and discussion of whether specialised activities should focus on any particular methodological or cross-cutting aspects.

Areas which will be discussed further during the conference will include:

- How to best promote and implement the Kazan Action Plan integrity guidelines?
- What kind of services are needed to support sports ministries?
- In addition to the risk assessment module, is there any methodological or cross-cutting aspect that specialised activities should focus on?

### ***Session 2 - Manipulation of sports competitions***

The Macolin Convention is the only international legally binding framework on combating the manipulation of sports competitions. It provides a common legal framework for efficient international co-operation to respond to this global threat, requesting public authorities to co-operate with sports organisations, betting operators and competition organisers to prevent, detect and punish the manipulation of sports competitions.

The Convention currently has seven states parties (Greece, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) and the increase in the number of parties should be given high priority.

The Macolin Committee has started working on a number of priority areas: the promotion of the Convention, the evaluation of its implementation, the definition of the list of sports organisations and the integration of the Network of National Platforms (“the Group of Copenhagen”) as its advisory group.

The integrity conference will provide an opportunity to address the key topic of information sharing and data protection under the Macolin Convention. A case study illustrating a successful fight against a crime syndicate in the area of manipulation will also be presented.

Areas which will be discussed further during the conference will include:

- How can cooperation with prosecutors be enhanced?
- What kinds of tools are needed to train stakeholders on data protection in the fight against manipulation?
- How can international data transfers be facilitated?

### ***Session 3 - Good governance in sport***

In terms of good governance in sport, IPACS, an informal network bringing together intergovernmental organisations, international sports organisations and governments, plays a vital role. It combines the efforts of various stakeholders in the fight against corruption in the governance of sport, including EPAS and GRECO, the Council of Europe's anti-corruption governing body, as well as a number of member states and other sports bodies.

Among the four task forces created by IPACS to improve coordination and action against corruption in sport governance, Task Force 3 set out to develop a benchmark for sport governance, recognised by both the international sport movement and governments, and applicable at national and international levels, as well as to present options for advising, supporting and monitoring compliance with the benchmark at international and national levels. The benchmark was approved in 2020 and includes five dimensions:

- Transparency;
- Integrity;
- Democracy;
- Development and solidarity; and
- Checks and balances/control mechanisms.

For more information see: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/ipacs-benchmark>

One of the discussion points of the conference will be how best to communicate information on the IPACS benchmark.

The recently adopted [revised European Sports Charter](#) also stresses the importance of good governance in sport, in particular with reference to public authorities and the sports movement, and refers to existing Council of Europe instruments in this area, including Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)12 on the [Promotion of good governance in sport](#).

The integrity conference will provide an opportunity to have feedback from the G20 Italian Presidency high-level principles meeting and also for participants to learn more about examples of support and monitoring of good governance in sport. Other topics covered will include the types of cooperation which should be established between organisations and governments when reviewing the good governance of sports organisations, and how to involve more organisations and governments in the implementation of the integrity guidelines.

Areas which will be discussed further during the conference will include:

- How to best communicate on the IPACS benchmark?
- What kind of cooperation should be established between these organisations and governments reviewing the good governance of sports organisations?
- How can more organisations and governments be involved in the implementation of the integrity guidelines?

## **Target audience**

The integrity conference is aimed at public authorities from a range of sectors including:

- sports ministries;
- anti-corruption authorities;
- foreign affairs departments;
- law enforcement;
- national data protection officers/offices;
- sport integrity agencies;
- betting regulation authorities; and
- the justice sector.

Partner organisations from the sports movement, the betting regulation authorities and NGOs involved in sport will also be welcome to attend the conference remotely.

## DRAFT AGENDA

### Day One - Monday 6 December

- 1:30pm**                    **Arrival of speakers**
- 2.30pm**                    **Opening of the conference**  
**Introductions from:**  
**Valentina Vezzali**, Italian Sub-Secretary for Sport  
**Bjørn Berge**, Council of Europe, Deputy Secretary General
- 3pm-4.30pm**                **Session 1 – Towards a holistic approach to sports integrity**
- 3-3.30pm**                    **Philipp Müller-Wirth**, Unesco, Chief of the Sport Section  
**Satu Heikkinen**, Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, Division for Sport, Senior Adviser  
**Maria Vittoria De Simone**, Deputy National Prosecutor, DNA Italian Antimafia Agency, G20 Italian Task Force
- 3.30-4pm**                    **Panel discussion moderated by Paolo Bertaccini Bonoli** (IISSS Institute)  
**Silvija Mitevaska**, Government of North Macedonia, Advisor for Sports  
**László Földi**, Independent Expert  
**Jason Whybrow**, Sport Integrity Australia, Director Sports Wagering and Competition Manipulation  
**Claudio Marinelli**, INTERPOL, Organized and Emerging Crime Directorate, Criminal Networks / Anti-Corruption, Criminal Intelligence Officer
- 4pm-4.30pm**                **Questions and answers**
- 4.30-5pm**                    **Break**

**5-7pm                      Session 2 – Manipulation of sports competitions**

**5-5.30pm                Introductory presentations from:**

**Sophie Kwasny**, Council of Europe, Head of the Sport Conventions Division

**Roberto Ribaudo**, Italian Ministry of Interior, SCIP Police International Cooperation, Director of Economic and Financial Crime Division at INTERPOL's National Central Bureau in Rome

**Eric Bisschop**, Vice-Federal Prosecutor, Belgium

**5.30-6pm                Panel discussion moderated by Valérie Peano (EGLA)**

**Corentin Segalen**, Coordinator of the French National Platform on the Manipulation of Sport Competitions and Chair of the Group of Copenhagen

**Salomeja Zaksaitė**, Law Institute of the Lithuanian Centre for Social Sciences, Chairperson at FIDE (World Chess Federation) Fair Play Commission

**Daniel Cooper**, Covington, Consultant

**Sergio D'Orsi**, Europol, European Financial and Economic Crime Centre (EFECC), Analysis Project Sports Corruption, Head of Office

**6-7pm                    Questions and answers**

**7-8.30pm                Networking reception**

**8pm onwards           Dinner (optional)**

## **Day Two – Tuesday 7 December**

**9.30-12.30pm           Session 3 – Implementation of good governance to mitigate the risk of corruption**

**9.30-9.40am            Tatiana Mesquita Nunes**, Anti-Corruption Division/Extrajudicial Issues Department/General Consultant Office, Brazil

- 9.40-10.30am**      **Topic a): Good governance in sport to mitigate the risk of corruption**
- 9.40-9.50am**      **Stefano Caneppele**, University of Lausanne, School of Criminal Justice
- 9.50-10.30am**      **Panel discussion moderated by: Izadora Zubek** (French Anti-corruption Agency (AFA), International Affairs Officer)
- Alexandre Husting**, Chair of the EPAS Governing Board
- Viktoría Slavkova**, European Contact Group on IPACS Coordinator
- Pâquerette Girard Zappelli**, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, International Olympic Committee
- Ugo Taucer**, General Prosecutor, Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI)
- Keri McDonald**, TAFISA, Business Development and Fundraising Manager
- 10.30-12.10am**      **Topic b): Partnerships for implementation of Good governance**
- 10.30-10.40am**      **Rowland Jack**, I Trust Sport, Founder
- 10.40-11.10am**      **Second panel discussion with panellists as above**
- 11.10am-12.10pm**      **Debate with contributions from the audience**
- Sport bodies, federations and governments are invited to discuss possible ways of implementing good governance models at national level.
- 12.10-12.30pm**      **Closing words**
- Michele Sciscioli**, Head of Italian Department for Sports
- Stanislas Frossard**, Council of Europe, Executive Secretary of EPAS, and **Francine Hetherington Raveney**, Deputy Executive Secretary of EPAS
- Gianluca Alberini**, Plenipotentiary Minister, Deputy Director General, Director for the United Nations and Human Rights, Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs