

Strasbourg, 11 December 2025

EPAS(2025)66rev

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

Forum on Sport and Human Rights

Focus on health and well-being

Tuesday 16 December 2025
9.30 am - 5.30 pm CET

Public webinar (9.30am-12.30pm)
Technical workshops (2.00pm-5.30pm)

Hybrid format:
Council of Europe Paris office (55 Avenue Kléber, 1st Floor)
and online on the KUDO platform

Simultaneous interpretation in English and French

Concept note and programme

Background

The Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport ([EPAS](#)) has organised three editions of the Forum on Sport and Human Rights in 2021, 2022 and 2023. This annual event was established as part of the outcomes of the [15th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport](#) (Tbilisi, Georgia, 16 October 2018).

The [2021 edition](#) of the Forum on Sport and Human Rights provided an overview in the areas of: fair trials; data protection; media freedom; young migrant athletes and human trafficking; economic and social rights of athletes, with a focus on the right to health; racism, hate speech and other types of discrimination in sport; gender equality in sport.

The [2022 edition](#) focused on freedom of expression in the sport context.

The [2023 edition](#) focused on issues pertaining to the rights to privacy and data protection in sport.

Objectives

The annual Forum on Sport and Human Rights aims to create the opportunity for exchanges between specialists from different sectors and also to showcase the work of the Council of Europe in specific thematic areas. It addresses emerging challenges to human rights in the sports context and aims to enable closer co-operation and explore avenues for further action to be taken.

The 4th edition of the Forum on Sport and Human Rights will focus on two issues pertaining to health and well-being in sport:

- Mental health and sport;
- Women's health and sport.

These two areas of course overlap and are both strategic priorities for the Council of Europe's sport Division.

Council of Europe legal framework and previous work

The right to the protection of health is set forth in Article 11 of the [European Social Charter](#) (1996).

Article 10 of the [European Sports Charter](#) (2021) highlights the right to health in the framework of access to sport for all: "*[...] All human beings have an inalienable right of access to sport in a safe environment, both inside and outside school settings, which is essential for their personal development and instrumental in the exercise of the rights to health, education, culture and participation in the life of the community.*"

Previous Council of Europe work on the protection of health in sport includes a Recommendation on extreme martial arts and combat activities ([CM/Rec\(2021\)3](#)), adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2021.

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2025, EPAS dedicated its annual [Breakfast Roundtable](#) to the topic of women's health and sport.

Exploring further areas in the field of health and sport is one of EPAS's objectives as laid down in its strategies for [2024-2025](#) and [2026-2027](#).

Methodology

The Forum will consist of a one-day event which will be divided into two sections:

- **Morning webinar** (hybrid format – online and in person in Paris):

This webinar will be open to the public, with panels looking into the positive and negative elements linked to both thematic areas, including best practice examples, and bringing together a strong array of speakers from international organisations, national public authorities, sports bodies, as well as athletes with lived experience, other international experts and representatives from throughout the Council of Europe.

- **Afternoon workshops** (hybrid format – online and in person in Paris):

There will be two simultaneous workshops on each of the above-mentioned topics and in each case the goal will be to brainstorm as to how the Council of Europe's Sport Division, and more widely the Council of Europe, can provide added value in each of these areas in terms of upcoming deliverables.

Participation

Participants in the Forum will include:

- EPAS Governing Board members;
- EPAS Consultative Committee members;
- Representatives of relevant Council of Europe bodies;
- Representatives of sports organisations not members of the Consultative Committee;
- Representatives of institutions and organisations specialised in the protection of health, both local and national/international.

Participants are invited to fill in the [registration form](#) by 12 December close of business at the latest and specify if attendance will be for the morning webinar and/or one of the afternoon technical workshops.

Draft programme

- 9.30am – 9.40am **Opening**
- Hanne Juncher*, Director, Directorate of Security, Integrity and Rule of Law, Council of Europe
- Fabienne Bourdais*, Sports Director, Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs and Associations, France
- 9.40am – 10.00am **Introductory session on health, sport and well-being**
- Stanislas Frossard*, Head of the Sport Division and Executive Secretary of EPAS, Council of Europe
- Laurence Lwoff*, Head of the Health Division, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law
- 10.00am – 10.45am **Panel 1: How can sport be a danger to mental health?**
Followed by Q&A session
- Moderated by *Paulina Tomczyk*, General Secretary, EU Athletes
- Kim Bui*, Olympic Gymnast (Germany)
- Ioannis Simosis*, Footballer (Greece)
- David Hassan*, Professor of Sport Policy and Management, FIA University - "United against online abuse" collective project
- Eric Florand*, Expert Health and Sport, Co-founder of the Alice Milliat Foundation
- Maëva Quessette*, Tennis Umpire (Level 2 - White Badge) and Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D)
- 10.45-11.00am Coffee break
- 11.00am-11.45am **Panel 2: Is sport really beneficial to women's health and what challenges exist?**
Followed by Q&A session
- Moderated by *Francine H. Raveney*, Deputy Executive Secretary of EPAS, Council of Europe
- Gemma Begley*, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager, Gaelic Players Association
- Annamarie Phelps*, member of the Executive Committee, European Olympic Committees (EOC)

Annaliza Tsakona, Senior International Relations and Public Affairs Manager, FIFA – FIFA Female Health and Performance Programme

Katrine Okholm Kryger, medical specialist, UEFA

Martine Duclos, endocrinologist, physiologist, sports doctor, Head of the Sports Medicine Department at Clermont-Ferrand University Hospital and President of the French National Observatory of Physical Activity and Sedentary Lifestyles

Lisa West, Head of Policy Partnerships and Public Affairs, Women in Sport

11.45am – 12.20pm

Panel 3: Best practice: sport as a means of promoting well-being for all

Followed by Q&A session

Moderated by *Eva Jacomet*, Head of EU Affairs, Sport and Citizenship

Ahmet Temurci, Director General for International Organizations and Foreign Relations, Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Türkiye

Erik van Haaren, Sports Psychologist, Headwint, and safeguarding advisor, Center for Safe Sport in the Netherlands, NOC*NSF

Valerio di Tommaso, President and Director, European Culture and Sport Organization, Italy – “Crazy for Football” project and European Alliance for Sport and Mental Health

Babak Amir-Tahmasseeb, Director of International Relations and the Grand INSEP network, French Institute of sport, expertise and performance (INSEP) – [European project on promoting mental health in sport](#)

Edel McMahon, National team captain, Rugby Ireland

Jeroen Carrin, Head of the Olympic Refuge Foundation, International Olympic Committee (IOC)

12.20pm-12.30pm

Closing words for the webinar

Solène Charuau, Chair of the EPAS Governing Board, Council of Europe

Stanislas Frossard, Head of the Sport Division and Executive Secretary of EPAS, Council of Europe

12.30pm–2.00 pm	Lunch at the <i>restaurant Lordy's Paris Club of the hotel Sofitel Paris Baltimore Tour Eiffel</i>
2.00-2.15pm	Presentation of breakout interactive workshops
	Breakout interactive workshops
2.15pm-4.45 pm	Workshop 1: Women's physical health and sport Facilitated by <i>Francine H. Raveney</i> , Deputy Executive Secretary of EPAS, Council of Europe, and <i>Carole Maître</i> , Gynaecologist, INSEP
2.15pm-4.45 pm	Workshop 2: Mental health and well-being in sport Facilitated by <i>Erik van Haaren</i> , Sports Psychologist, Headwint, and safeguarding advisor, Center for Safe Sport in the Netherlands (NOC*NSF), and <i>Paulina Tomczyk</i> , General Secretary, EU Athletes
3.30pm-3.45pm	Coffee break
4.45pm–5.15pm	Workshops presentation and key findings
5.15 pm-5.30pm	Closing words <i>Stanislas Frossard</i> , Head of the Sport Division and Executive Secretary of EPAS, and <i>Francine H. Raveney</i> , Deputy Executive Secretary of EPAS, Council of Europe <i>Solène Charuau</i> , Chair of the EPAS Governing Board, Council of Europe