



Council of Europe and European Union Joint Project
“Promoting the Council of Europe Standards to Safety, Security and Services at Football matches and other sport events”
(ProS4)

MEDIA ADVISORY

Balkan conference to promote safety, security and services' standards at football matches and other sport events

Bucharest, 20.10.2016 – The Council of Europe and the European Union, in co-operation with the Romanian Gendarmerie, will bring together policy makers and practitioners from 12 countriesⁱ to promote the new Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events, and encourage them to translate best practices into their national legislation.

This conference is part of a joint CoE/EU project which also aims at providing a factual and analytical overview of safety and security challenges at football matches and other sports events in Europe.

In their 2015 annual reportⁱⁱ, Council of Europe experts on violence, disorder and other prohibited activity in connection with professional football matches in Europe (and, where appropriate, other sports events) identified the main trends of anti-social behaviour in the field of sports, such as:

- the continued use of pyrotechnics;
- the current migrant and refugee crisis was increasingly reflected in the behaviour of some supporters with extremist views;
- organised violence between rival risk groups has been shifting further away from stadia largely because of preventative measures by the police;
- an increase in the unauthorised use of drones.

This report is a first step in the process of identifying and analysing the wider phenomenon of sports-related violence across Europe.

A pilot questionnaire was prepared and distributed via the National Football Information Point (NFIP) network. The ProS4 project wishes to benefit from this experience and to establish this questionnaire on a yearly basis as from 2017 to be able to collect relevant data and present an annual overview of European current trends and emerging challenges for the use of the practitioners and policy makers in this field of work.

The questionnaire is due to be included into an online tool to reach out to a wider group of stakeholders.

Note to editors:

- The Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events was opened for signature on 3 July 2016 at a ceremony held at the Stade de France in Paris, during EURO 2016.
- This new Convention represents a major step forward in the international cooperation related to tackling sports-related violence, as a phenomenon that can impact heavily the safety and security of the European citizens.
- Fifteen countries have already signed this new instrument.

More information: www.coe.int/sport/proS4

ⁱ Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

ⁱⁱ This report was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union and the Council of Europe. The views expressed therein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinions of the Council of Europe and the European Union.