



MACOLIN COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF SPORT BY COMBATting ILLEGAL BETTING

With the support of “La Marocaine des Jeux et des Sports” (Moroccan lottery operator)

7 November 2023 | 9:30-18:00 (GMT)

Rabat, Morocco

CONCEPT NOTE



BACKGROUND

The Council of Europe has always been at the forefront of efforts to safeguard the integrity of sport, be it in notably addressing violence, doping or the manipulation of sports competitions.

In September 2019, the “Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions” (Macolin Convention, CETS No. 215) came into force. According to its Article 3 “illegal sports betting” is defined as any sports betting activity where the type or operator is not allowed under the applicable law of the jurisdiction where the consumer is located. This definition aligns with legislative developments in most countries worldwide, particularly in Europe whether based on a licensing system, exclusive right, or prohibition.

Unfortunately, the phenomenon of illegal betting evolved significantly in recent years. Once marginal, these activities have attracted organised crime for over 15 years, moving beyond traditional crimes, such as drug or human trafficking, and laundering money across all continents. Having a reliable estimation of the size of this illicit market is naturally a challenge, but some have estimated that it represents close to 1 000 billion Euros in stakes. Furthermore, the modus operandi of this criminality is diverse, making it hard to grasp the threat's nature.

The primary goal of this conference will be to deepen the understanding of illegal betting to enable more effective international cooperation and action.

The organisation of the conference is supported by the ACT project¹ and the Marocaine des Jeux et des Sports.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- ❖ Raising awareness and achieving active engagement of stakeholders on one of the most topical and crucial issues in combatting the manipulation of sports competitions.
- ❖ Delivering an initial operational action plan for joint efforts against illegal betting.

TITLE

Preserving the integrity of sport by combatting illegal betting.

DATE AND LOCATION

Tuesday 7 November 2023 at Sofitel Jardin des Roses, Rabat, Morocco.

MEETING TYPE

One-day on-site meeting for approximately 50-60 persons (including members of national platforms, partners and invited experts) with interpretation (French/English/Arabic):

- ❖ Morning format (hybrid): informative session with presentations and discussions.
- ❖ Afternoon format (in person): practical and operational session with questions in breakout groups (rapporteurs, synthesis in plenary).

¹ The donors for the ACT project include the World Lottery Association (WLA), the Ministry of Culture and Equality of Norway, European Lotteries (EL), the French Ministry of Sports, the Swiss Federal Institute of Sports, the French National Olympic and Sports Committee, Française des Jeux (FDJ), and the Cyprus Sport Organisation.