



## MACOLIN COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

***PRESERVING THE INTEGRITY OF SPORT BY COMBATING COMPETITIONS  
MANIPULATION AND ILLEGAL BETTING***

**2 April 2025**

**Gatineau, Quebec, CANADA**

### **CONCEPT NOTE**



## BACKGROUND

The Council of Europe is dedicated to safeguarding the integrity of sport, notably in addressing violence, doping, and the manipulation of sports competitions.

In September 2019, its “Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions” (Macolin Convention, CETS No. 215) came into force. Made in Europe, this unique instrument was drafted to respond to global challenges and is thus open for signature by all countries in the world. As of now, 43 countries have signed it, including Morocco and Australia.

All continents face common challenges with the manipulation of sports competitions and issues linked to the expansion of sports betting markets.

In November 2023, the Council of Europe organised a regional conference on illegal betting in Rabat (Morocco), which brought together African countries committed to combating competition manipulation in Africa. In April 2024, in light of developments in South America, a similar event was organised in Buenos Aires (Argentina).

Considering recent developments in Canada and in the USA, time has come to host a Macolin Community event in North America.

In Canada, there are two contrasting approaches to sports betting regulation:

- ❖ Ontario has opened its online sports betting market to various operators;
- ❖ In all other provinces, such as Quebec, the only authorized online betting platform is run by the provincial lottery corporation on behalf of its government

In the USA, 39 states (as of January 2025) have opened their sports betting markets, awarding licences to multiple operators. Initial assessments highlight three significant challenges:

- ❖ Illegal betting remains substantial.
- ❖ Sports manipulation has increased, jeopardising both the image and revenues of sport leagues.
- ❖ Higher rates of betting addiction have been reported.

This unprecedented expansion in North America needs to be supported by the appropriate framework and regulations to reduce the realisation of significant risks such as the manipulation of sports competitions, money laundering, and the growth of illegal betting.

The organisation of the round table is supported by the [ACT project](#)<sup>1</sup> (Addressing Competitions' Manipulation Together).

## OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Raising awareness among participants about key challenges related to sports competitions manipulation and illegal betting.
- ❖ Providing an overview of diverse approaches to address sports competitions' manipulation and illegal betting, including measures to facilitate international and national cooperation between public authorities (law enforcement and justice), sports organisations, gambling regulators and betting operators.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## DATE AND LOCATION

Wednesday, 2 April 2025, at Casino du Lac-Leamy (Room Beethoven)

## MEETING TYPE

An on-site meeting for approximately 60-80 participants, including public authorities, law enforcement agencies, sports organisations, lottery, betting operators, and invited experts, with bilingual interpretation in French and English.

The proposed programme is organised into 2 distinct segments over a day:

- ❖ **Morning session:** exploring the global landscape to gain an in-depth understanding of the international context of sports betting and the associated risks of manipulating sports competitions, and the involvement of organised crime.
- ❖ **Afternoon session:** identifying the main challenges and some best practices in addressing the manipulation of sports competitions and illegal betting.

## SCHEDULE

| Time                | Description  |
|---------------------|--|
| 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM   | Registration   |
| 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM  | Welcome and scene setting  |
| 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | <b>Session 1   Understanding sports competitions manipulation: current trends and threats in North America</b>           |
| 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM | Break  |
| 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM | <b>Session 2   Inside illegal betting operations: structure and mechanisms</b>   |
| 12:30 M – 2:00 PM   | Lunch  |
| 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM   | <b>Session 3   From detection to prosecution: key investigation strategies in sports competitions manipulation cases</b> |
| 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM   | Break  |
| 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM   | <b>Session 4   Shaping the future: innovative approaches to sports betting regulation and governance</b>                 |
| 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM   | Conference closing and final remarks   |