19ème Conférence du Conseil de l'Europe des Ministres responsables du Sport
Monaco, 4 novembre 2026

Intervention de Son Altesse Sérénissime la Princesse Charlène

Seul le prononcé fait foi.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Sport is a powerful force in the lives of our children. Beyond physical activity, it brings joy, builds confidence, fosters friendship and creates a deep sense of belonging. Through sport, children challenge themselves, learn to respect others, and grow emotionally and socially.

The Council of Europe is committed to ensuring that every child can enjoy sport in a safe and inclusive environment — free from abuse, discrimination and undue pressure.

Children should be able to learn and compete without feeling they must win at all costs, ignore pain or fear disappointing adults. They should feel able to speak up, knowing that someone will listen and help.

Our responsibility is to protect what makes sport so valuable. Every child deserves to feel safe and supported, and their enjoyment, health and wellbeing must always come before results.

Through "Start to Talk", the Council of Europe supports sports organizations in strengthening safeguarding.

In Cyprus, four sports federations — including swimming — have developed safeguarding procedures. This is an encouraging step, and one whose lessons we can share across Europe.

The responsibility — and the opportunity — lies with you: the policymakers and leaders. You can enact legislation, allocate resources and foster collaboration. You can help establish clear safeguarding standards, ensure coaches and volunteers receive the support and training they need, appoint trusted adults, and strengthen links between clubs, child-protection services and law enforcement.

Thank you for your dedication to this cause.

I wish you an insightful and impactful discussion as we work together towards a future where every child in sport is protected, respected and able to flourish.