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Mid-Term Report
Committee Sport and Human Rights
Ensuring Access to Sport as a Fundamental Right
Presented at the Conference of INGOs - April 2025 Session
Maritchu RALL (Co-Chair), Arthur GARRIDO (Co-Chair),
Christian SAINT-LEZER

1) Committee Objectives

The committee was born from a European meeting between the ESAN network and young members of the National Association of STAPS Students (ANESTAPS, a French organization for students in the sports field). We also leveraged the momentum of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As ESAN representatives, we saw that this unifying theme could engage young people in the work of the Conference of INGOs and foster a broader European perspective. Moreover, this topic is a first for the Conference!

The social impact of sport aligns perfectly with the Council of Europe's goals, the foundation of our societies. As civil society representatives, we chose to focus on the barriers to access in sports. After consultations with other INGOs, we naturally gravitated toward fighting discrimination in sports.

Our original objectives remain unchanged:

- Identify and remove barriers to sports participation, especially for minorities.
- Use education and sports training to raise public awareness of ethics and inclusion.
- Integrate sports transversally into public policies, including those discussed within the Conference and its committees.

The INGOs represented in our committee provide a field-based approach, a crucial asset in reaching a broad audience.

2) Background

Initially, a roadmap was drafted based on proposals from NGOs in the committee, with two main areas of focus. The goal was to cover the topic as broadly as possible (hate speech, inclusion, ethics, doping, etc.). This new approach also incorporated innovative digital tools for archiving, sharing, and asynchronous collaboration, increasing overall efficiency.

However, implementing this method proved challenging. We decided to focus our efforts on a single theme with a more realistic roadmap, considering the diverse commitments of our committee members.

3) Ongoing Work

Following this revised roadmap, our current efforts focus on four key deliverables:

- **Best Practices Guide:** Aimed at providing European associations with key principles for fostering inclusive, welcoming, and ethical operations. This document centralizes definitions, examples, and recommendations.
- **European Youth Sports Charter:** Co-created with young Europeans, this reference text outlines commitments for all sports participants. It will be shared with the European sports movement, encouraging each association to adopt and enforce it, highlighting sport's social impact.
- **Inter-committee Collaboration:** Expanding the role of sports through other perspectives and policy areas.
- **Final Recommendation Draft:** Currently in development to ensure it is as precise and comprehensive as possible.

4) Our Approach

To maximize our impact and create multiple entry points, we use diverse strategies:

- Field study visits and meetings (Christian will report on his latest visit to the Netherlands).
- Researching and drafting key resources.
- Engaging political stakeholders.
- Networking and surveying INGOs within the committee.
- Collaborating with the Council of Europe's sports bodies:
 - ◆ **Sports Division and EPAS**, where I serve as a consultative representative for the Conference of INGOs.
 - ◆ **Parliamentary Assembly:** Participation in the Athens Conference on "Promoting Safety, Integrity, Equality, and Inclusion in Sport," where Christian Saint Lezer contributed to our draft European Youth Sports Charter.

The committee meets once a month, ensuring strong connections and a productive workflow.

5) Future Outlook

Cross-committee collaboration is a key priority, as inclusion through sport affects many aspects of society. Increasing visibility through political advocacy and effective dissemination of our work will be essential. We are also considering organizing public events to share our findings and engage more stakeholders.