



Strasbourg, 2 October 2019

EPAS(2019)61

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

Seminar on Human Rights in Sport

Wednesday, 20 November 2019
9:00 – 12:00 // 14:00 – 18:00

Morning

European Court of Human Rights
Human Rights Building
Seminar room (ground floor)
Allée des Droits de l'Homme, Strasbourg, France

Afternoon

Palais de l'Europe, meeting room no.5
Avenue de l'Europe, Strasbourg, France

Factsheet

Background

Owing to sport's long tradition of independence and autonomy, national and international jurisdictions only intervene in sporting affairs in a limited way. This does not mean, however, that questions are not to be asked, particularly when it comes to protecting athletes' fundamental rights. The theme of "Sport and Human Rights" was addressed by case law, has gained prominence on the political agenda and was promoted by projects and initiatives.

It was one of the two main topics of the 15th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, organised in October 2018 in Tbilisi, Georgia, by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport ([EPAS](#)).

Resolution No. 1, adopted by the Ministerial Conference on "Protecting human rights in sport: obligations and shared responsibilities" (set out in appendix 3 to the [report by the Secretary General](#)), includes a number of actions proposed to EPAS. These actions are also outlined in document EPAS(2018)62rev2, inviting EPAS to:

- raise awareness, update and promote tools on human rights in Sport (see 1.2, 1.9a)
- consult with experts in order to produce mapping of relevant human rights issues (see 1.8a)
- identify relevant remedies (see 1.9e)
- identify new tools and activities (see 1.8c)

The EPAS Bureau considered that despite several articles, publications and initiatives being developed by various bodies, the topic has not yet been fully addressed by specialists from sports ministries and sports organisations. The Bureau therefore proposed to organise a seminar to sum up the situation, to take stock of progress and to fine tune the follow-up of the Tbilisi Conference.

The seminar will particularly focus on the defence of the existing human rights of athletes and other participants in regular sports activities.

Organisers

This seminar on human rights in sport is organised by EPAS with the support of various entities such as the European Court of Human Rights, the Secretariat of the Anti-doping Convention and the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP).

Objectives of the seminar and expected results

The general aims of this workshop are to:

- share information on recent institutional developments;
- be trained on the available tools;
- agree on the next steps for EPAS in the field of human rights and sport.

Programme outline

- 09:00-09:20 Opening
- 09:20-10:00 Recent developments on human rights in sport
- from the governmental side
 - from the sports movement's side
- 10:00-10:30 Break
- 10:30-12:00 Recent developments (4x (20 min presentation + 10 min. discussion))
- Mapping of human rights, sport-related cases and possible remedies
 - ECHR case law
 - T-DO initiative on right to a fair trial in anti-doping cases
 - Centre for sport and human rights
- 12:00-14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00-15:00 Existing tools and initiatives
- HELP course
 - EPAS handbooks on sport and human rights
 - Sport and Rights Alliance campaign (Amnesty International)
- 15:00-15:30 Panel: what could be the role of EPAS and the Council of Europe in promoting these existing tools more widely?
- 15:30 -15:45 Break
- 15:45-17:30 Parallel workshops on topical human rights questions
- These four topics will be discussed during the workshops:
 - How to tackle discrimination against LGBTI people in sports competitions?
 - Are athletes denied economic and social rights?
 - Is the freedom of the sports press in danger?
 - Should the right to physical activity and sport be promoted as a legally-enforceable right?
- 17:30-17:50 Reports from the workshops (4 rapporteurs)
- 17:50-18:00 Conclusions and closing

Programme elements and methodology

The programme features direct presentations as well as interactive workshops. The different elements of the workshops are complementary to one other.

The meeting documents will be published on MyCloud. To access them, please follow this link: <https://mycloud.coe.int/s/TXe3tx5tN6XEoRR>.

Dates

Wednesday 20 November 2019 from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Venue

Council of Europe
Strasbourg, France

Morning:
European Court of Human Rights
Human Rights Building, Seminars room

Afternoon:
Palais de l'Europe, meeting room no 5
Avenue de l'Europe

Access to the venue

Tram: line E – stop at Droits de l'Homme
Bus: lines 6, 30 or 72 – stop at Droits de l'Homme

Working languages

English and French, with simultaneous interpretation

Participants

- Officials from authorities responsible for sport from the States parties to the European Cultural Convention;
- Relevant public authorities involved in the promotion and defence of human rights;
- Officials from sports organisations.
- Experts in sports law and Human Rights.

Terms of participation

- Participation is free of charge.
- Registration is obligatory.
- Travel and accommodation costs are at the participants' own expense. Different conditions apply for speakers and one governmental expert per EPAS member State.
- A buffet lunch will be offered to all attendees by the Council of Europe on Wednesday 20 November.

Registration

Interested individuals shall register by filling the electronic registration form <https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/online-registration-seminar> **before 8 November 2019.**

A confirmation of registration will be sent by e-mail as soon as the form is received and processed.

Information

Additional information on the programme and the conference can be found on the EPAS website (<http://www.coe.int/epas>).

EPAS will co-operate with "www.droitdusport.com" and "www.football-legal.com" on the promotion of the event and publication of related content.

Contact

For any further information, please contact the EPAS secretariat at the Council of Europe:

✉ sport.epas@coe.int

Mr Emre CAM

☎ +33 (0)3 90 21 62 77

✉ emre.cam@coe.int

Ms Caroline LARGHI

☎ +33 (0)3 88 41 34 29

✉ caroline.larghi@coe.int