

Forum on Sport and Human Rights

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Speakers' biographies

Disclaimer: Each speaker has provided their own picture and short biography which are published hereunder.

Hanne Juncher

Director, Directorate of Security, Integrity and Rule of Law, Council of Europe



Statement

Before becoming Director of Security, Integrity and Rule of Law, Hanne was the Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and in charge of the Council of Europe's action against economic crime, including MONEYVAL and large-scale technical assistance programmes on economic crime.

Before that she headed the Council of Europe's work on justice and legal co-operation, including the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), on private and public law, and on judicial reform.

Prior to that, she worked for the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), represented the Council of Europe in North Macedonia, and headed the Council of Europe's human rights support and awareness-raising work.

Hanne joined the Council of Europe as a legal adviser in 1997. She also worked for the Ministries of Defence of Denmark and the United Kingdom. She has postgraduate degrees in law from Copenhagen and Essex Universities.

Fabienne Bourdais

Sports Director, Ministry of Sports, Youth Affairs and Associations, France



Statement (only available in French)

A civil servant, after holding positions at national and local level within the Ministry of Sport, she has been Ministerial Delegate for Combating Violence in Sport since 2020. Appointed Director of Sports in July 2022, she served as Ministerial Delegate for Major Sports Events from December 2023 to October 2024.

Stanislas Frossard

Head of the Sport Division and Executive Secretary of EPAS, Council of Europe



Statement

Stanislas has served as Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport ([EPAS](#)) following its creation in 2007. Since 2025 he is also responsible for the [Sport Conventions](#). During his tenure he has led key initiatives, co-ordinated the negotiation of numerous standards and overseen the drafting of the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (the "Macolin Convention") as well as the organisation of Ministerial Conferences. From 2021 to 2025 he chaired the Council of Europe's Staff Committee. He joined the Council in 2003, working on the Anti-Doping and Spectator Violence Conventions, and liaising with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), UNESCO and international sports federations, among others. Prior to this, he worked as an NGO leader, trainer and consultant in the youth, refugee and environmental sectors.

Laurence Lwoff

Head of the Health Division, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law



Presentation

Mrs Laurence Lwoff holds a MSc. in reproductive physiology from the University of Paris VI – Jussieu (France). She then obtained her degree in agronomy from the Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon (France) in 1986 and received her PhD in molecular biology in 1989.

She joined the Council of Europe in 1991, where she was entrusted with the responsibilities of the Secretariat of the Conventions concerning the use of animals in agriculture and science, in the Directorate of Legal Affairs. In 1999, her responsibilities were extended to biotechnology. She was the Secretary of the International Conference of the Council of Europe on Ethical Issues Arising from the Applications of Biotechnology (Oviedo, Spain, May 1999). In 2002, she joined the Bioethics Department where she has been responsible in particular for the activities on human genetics and on the protection of the human embryo and the foetus. She was the Secretary of the Group in charge of the elaboration of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, concerning Genetic Testing for Health Purposes.

She is currently the Head of Health Division and Secretary of the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO), intergovernmental committee in charge of the activities on the protection of human rights in the biomedical field, at the Council of Europe.

Kim Bui **Olympic Gymnast (Germany)**



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Kim Bui is one of the most influential figures in German gymnastics. For almost 20 years, she represented Germany at international competitions, including three Olympic Games (London 2012, Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020), eight World Championships, and twelve European Championships. At the end of her career, she experienced one of her sporting highlights: a bronze medal with the German team at the 2022 European Championships in Munich, after already winning her first bronze medal on Uneven bars in Berlin in 2011.

In addition to her successes, Kim stands for clear values: with her decision to compete in a unitard, she sent a strong signal against sexualization in sport. She speaks openly about issues such as eating disorders and uses her voice to raise awareness of mental health and empower athletes.

Since retiring, she has continued to be involved in sport internationally, including as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the IOC Athletes' Commission. Her work focuses on representing athletes, promoting mental health, and creating a safer, more inclusive sporting environment worldwide.

With her combination of excellence, attitude, and authenticity, Kim is considered a role model for an entire generation—an athlete whose influence extends far beyond gymnastics.

Ioannis Simosis **Footballer (Greece)**



Ioannis Simosis is an Ambassador of the Hellenic Football Federation, specializing in Betting Addiction Awareness. Through his work, he actively promotes mental health awareness, prevention, and education within football and the wider community.

He currently serves as the Technical Director of Ellas Syrou, competing in the Greek Second National Division, contributing to the club's strategic planning and sporting development.

Ioannis Simosis is a strong advocate for mental health, equality, and social responsibility in sports, with a particular focus on addiction awareness and education.

David Hassan

Professor of Sport Policy and Management, FIA University



David Hassan is a Full Professor of Sport Policy and Management. Professor Hassan has edited/ authored 15 books and 180 peer-reviewed academic papers examining a wide range of issues, including sport management in the Middle East and the history of world motorsport. He is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and an appointed Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and supports the research agenda of the FIA, including its United Against Online Abuse campaign.

Eric Florand

Expert Health and Sport, Co-founder of the Alice Milliat Foundation



Therapist and author, committed to a holistic approach to well-being. As founding president of the Alice Milliat association, dedicated to the promotion and recognition of women's sport, I campaign for greater equality and visibility in sport. My work focuses on promoting gender equality in sport, media coverage of female athletes, supporting innovative initiatives and educating the general public. My work as a therapist, focused on trauma healing and the development of self-awareness, feeds into my work in the world of sport: I advocate for athletic performance to be accompanied by proper psychological support.

Maëva Quessette

Tennis Umpire (Level 2 - White Badge) and Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm D)



A Level 2 White Badge tennis umpire affiliated with the French Tennis Federation and the International Tennis Federation, I have officiated at numerous international competitions. These experiences in high-intensity environments have strengthened my discipline, stress-management skills, and understanding of human dynamics.

Holding a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, I conduct research in global health, with a focus on the health of people living with HIV in Ivory Coast. Deeply interested in mental health, I integrate this perspective into both my scientific work and my public health engagement.

At the intersection of research, health, and sport, I bring a comprehensive and human-centered approach to well-being and mental resilience across my professional activities.

Paulina Tomczyk **General Secretary, EU Athletes**



Paulina Tomczyk is the General Secretary of EU Athletes, the European federation of athlete and player unions and associations. Working within the organisation since 2015, she is responsible for coordinating the common policy of its member organisations and representing their collective voice at the European and international levels. She has also managed a range of European-wide collaborative projects, focusing on athlete rights, integrity in sport, gender equality, good governance and dual careers.

Since 2018, Paulina has been a member of the Executive Committee of the World Players Association and currently holds the position of Vice President.

She has earned Master's degrees in Law from the University of Gdańsk (Poland), in International Public Law from Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3 (France), and in European Studies from Aix-Marseille Université (France).

A former high-level athlete, Paulina holds a black belt (1st Dan) in judo.

Gemma Begley **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager, Gaelic Players Association**



Former Gaelic footballer, played at elite level for 15 years.

Founding member of the Women's Gaelic Players Association (subsequently merged with the GPA).

Worked representing the collective voice of Inter-county players for the last 10 years, advocating for improved welfare standards and fair treatment.

Recent highlights have included an equalising of state funding for elite female players in 2021, the introduction of a collective minimum standards charter (including health and injury care as well as travel expenses) for the first time in 2024, and a collective player movement on changing the skorts playing attire in 2025.

Currently working with a PhD candidate exploring the experiences of female Gaelic players "Sex and Gender Experiences of Elite Female Gaelic Games Athletes".

Annamarie Phelps

Member of the Executive Committee, European Olympic Committees (EOC)



Annamarie Phelps CBE OLY is Co-Chair of the Global Executive of the International Working Group on Women and Sport [IWG], the largest global network for the advancement of gender equality in sport and Vice Chair of the British Olympic Association. In September 2025 she was elected Vice-President of World Rowing for the period 2026-2029. As a member of European Olympic Committees Executive Committee, she chairs the EOC Sustainability & Active Society Commission and represents the

European Olympic Movement on the Bureau of EPAS at the Council of Europe.

Annamarie is committed to improving the accessibility of sport, to integrity and good governance, and to addressing the gender imbalance in sport, and has a particular interest in safeguarding in sport. She has previously served on the Legal and Ethics Committee of the IPC, the Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commissions of IOC and ANOC, IOC Education Commission.

She has previously held roles of President European Rowing; Chair, British Rowing; Vice Chair British Paralympic Association, and independent chair of the national Safeguarding Adults in Sport Strategic Partnership. Annamarie chaired the British Horseracing Authority, the governing and regulatory body for horseracing overseeing development in safeguarding practices, governance, an industry-wide commitment to Diversity and Inclusion and steering the sport successfully through the pandemic as the UK's first major professional sport to return to competition. In 2016-17 she chaired the Independent Review into the culture and climate of British Cycling's high-performance programme.

A former World Champion in Women's Lightweight Coxless Fours and indoor rowing, Annamarie represented Great Britain in the women's eight at the Atlanta Olympic Games, 1996 and was athlete representative throughout her competitive career. She was awarded a CBE for services to rowing in 2016.

Annaliza Tsakona

Senior International Relations and Public Affairs Manager, FIFA



*Annaliza Tsakona has worked at FIFA for nine years in the International Relations and Public Affairs Department, where she leads the organisation's engagement with political stakeholders across Europe.

Before joining FIFA, she pursued an academic career, earning a PhD in International Relations from the University of Cambridge in the UK and teaching at universities both in her home country in Greece and abroad.

She has also worked at the European Commission's Directorate-General for External Relations and served in the Greek government within the Cabinet of the Minister for Development and the Environment.

Although a keen volleyball player, Annaliza is driven by a strong belief in the unique power of football — as the most popular sport in the world — to inspire and deliver positive social change worldwide.

Katrine Okholm Kryger
Medical specialist, UEFA



Dr Kat Okholm Kryger is an academic working as Medical Specialist at UEFA Medical & Anti-Doping where her work focuses on football medicine research, education, and knowledge transfer - with a special passion for the women's side of the game. Kat is also a Visiting Professor in Women's Football at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK.

Martine Duclos
Endocrinologist, physiologist, sports doctor, Head of the Sports Medicine Department at Clermont-Ferrand University Hospital and President of the French National Observatory of Physical Activity and Sedentary Lifestyles



Presentation

Endocrinologist, sports physician, and physiologist, Martine Duclos is a University Professor and Hospital Practitioner (MD, PhD), head of the Sports Medicine and Functional Explorations Department at the University Hospital of Clermont-Ferrand. She conducts research at the Human Nutrition Research Center (INRA-University Clermont Auvergne) focused on the relationships between physical activity and health, particularly in individuals with chronic diseases (type 2 diabetes, obesity, cancer). The objectives are twofold: 1) to increase or maintain muscle mass and quality as well as physical capacities under various physiological (aging) or pathological conditions (chronic diseases), and 2) to develop innovative strategies using new information and communication technologies to implement and sustain long-term physical activity and reduce sedentary behaviors (physical activity/sedentary profile) in healthy subjects (primary prevention) and in individuals subjects with chronic conditions that affect mobility (tertiary prevention) within a personalized and holistic care framework. Author of numerous publications, she is a member of European and national scientific advisory committees and founder and president of the National Observatory of Physical Activity and Sedentary, created in October 2015, and co-chair of the Health in Motion Chair.

Lisa West

Head of Policy Partnerships and Public Affairs, Women in Sport



Lisa West is the Head of Policy, Partnerships and Public Affairs at Women in Sport and a leading advocate for gender equality in sport and physical activity. With more than 18 years of experience across the sector, Lisa brings deep insight into how systems, environments and cultures must evolve to ensure women and girls can thrive—not only as participants, but also as volunteers, professionals, and leaders.

Lisa has held influential roles within Local Government, Swim England, and as an independent consultant, designing and delivering innovative projects that have strengthened opportunities for women and girls at every level of sport and leisure. Her work bridges policy, practice, and collaboration, enabling partners to create meaningful, lasting change.

A firm believer in the transformational power of sport and physical activity, Lisa brings both professional expertise and personal passion to her work. An “enthusiastic amateur” by her own admission, she has completed multiple triathlons.

Francine Hetherington Raveney

Deputy Executive Secretary of EPAS, Council of Europe



Francine Hetherington Raveney is an expert in the fields of: sport policy, gender equality, diversity, project management, script analysis, audiovisual co-productions, and communication, amongst others. She obtained a Masters Degree in English and French Literature at The Queen’s College, Oxford University (1992-1996), a Masters Degree in Women’s Studies at The Queen’s College, Oxford University (1996-1997) and then carried out doctoral studies in France in politics and literature at Strasbourg University (1997-1998).

Since 2000, she has worked in a number of international organisations, including the Council of Europe, where she was a project manager for the Eurimages film fund for 11 years (2009-2020), and WHO Europe (2004-2005) where she was a Managing Editor. She is the founder, former Executive Director and currently an Honorary Member of the European Women’s Audiovisual (EWA) Network. She is also a member of the New Dawn Film Fund jury and regularly teaches pitching and gives presentations at festivals and universities throughout Europe.

Since April 2021 she has worked as the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), where she oversees resources, works with the Governing Board and partner organisations to ensure that topical thematic activities (such as gender equality, diversity, integrity and good governance in sport) and conferences (e.g. on combating gender-based violence in sport) are dealt with smoothly and effectively.

Ahmet Temurci

Director General, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Türkiye



Presentation

[“Sport brings Turkish and refugee children together” – Video](#)

[“Sport for Solidarity Project” – Video](#)

Born in 1975 in Rize, he graduated from Middle East Technical University with a degree in Political Science and Public Administration. He began his professional career at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism as an Assistant Inspector, later serving as an Inspector and Internal Auditor between 2001 and 2008. During this period, he also spent a year at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom, conducting research in tourism marketing.

He then served for three years as the Culture and Promotion Attaché in the Netherlands, where he was responsible for overseeing Türkiye's promotion, advertising, and communication activities.

Following his tenure abroad, he returned to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism as Deputy Director General for Promotion, assuming responsibility for the Southeast European, South American, Ukrainian, and Russian tourism markets for five years.

In 2018, he was appointed Director General for International Organizations and Foreign Relations at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, becoming the founding head of this newly established department. He has held this position for approximately seven years.

His board memberships included serving on the Governing Board of the Council of Europe Cultural Routes and on Türkiye's Advertising Board. He currently serves as a Member of the EPAS Governing Board, Member of the Turkish National Olympic Committee and Chairperson of the Advisory Board, Turkish Ski Federation.

He is married with four children.

Erik van Haaren

Sports Psychologist, Headwint, and safeguarding advisor, Center for Safe Sport in the Netherlands, NOC*NSF



Presentation

Erik van Haaren, MSc, is the founder of Headwint (sports psychology) and also works at NOC*NSF (Dutch Olympic Committee and Dutch Sports Federation). As a sports psychologist, he works with top athletes to help them get the best out of themselves and perform optimally. At NOC*NSF, in the Centre for Safe Sport Netherlands department, he regularly sees the other side of the medal. Here, he works as an advisor on topics such as transgressive behaviour and mental health. In

addition to the individual athletes Erik supports, he works for the Royal Belgian Football Association as a sports psychologist with the national team (under 19 years of age).

Valerio di Tommaso

President and Director, European Culture and Sport Organization, Italy



Presentation

Valerio Di Tommaso is a financial advisor with specialized expertise in European project design, management, and technical-financial reporting. Throughout his career, he has collaborated with numerous business support organizations, public institutions, and non-profit entities, providing strategic and operational guidance in the development and implementation of complex initiatives.

Since 2018, he has served as President of ECOS, and since 2020 he has held the role of Vice President of Crazy for Football.

Since 2014, he has overseen and coordinated more than 25 international cooperation projects, contributing to their successful execution and long-term impact.

Driven by a strong passion for cinema, he is also President of 8Moon, a film production company dedicated to creating audiovisual works addressing topics of broad public and social interest.

Babak Amir-Tahmasseb

Director of International Relations and the Grand INSEP network, French Institute of sport, expertise and performance (INSEP)



Presentation (only available in French)

Babak AMIR-TAHMASSEB, Olympian (Sydney 2000 & Athens 2004) and kayak world champion, is currently Director of International Relations and the Grand INSEP network at the French Institute of sport, expertise and performance (INSEP). He is also VP of the French canoe federation since December 2024.

Over and above his twenty-year sporting career, his commitment to sport has been marked by his activities as an elected official, member of commissions and employee with the French Ministry of Sport, the French Canoe and Kayak Federation (FFCK), the French Olympic Committee (CNOSF), the Association of French Olympian (AOF) and, more recently, international associations such as the Association of sports performance centers (ASPC), representing INSEP.

Of Franco-Iranian origin, Babak AMIR-TAHMASSEB has always had a keen interest in intercultural issues and international relations. In particular, he has worked extensively on human performance issues. Thanks to his personal and professional background, he favors intuitive decision-making and emotional experience.

Edel McMahon **National team captain, Rugby Ireland**



Presentation

My name is Edel McMahon, and sport has shaped my life for as long as I can remember. I grew up on a dairy farm in Kilmihil, Co. Clare, where hard work was part of daily life and competition came naturally. I began in Gaelic football, and one of my earliest and proudest memories is winning an All-Ireland Intermediate Club title with Kilmihil at just 13 years old.

Although Gaelic football was my first love, my sporting path changed unexpectedly in college. While studying biochemistry at NUI Galway, I found myself at a rugby training session by chance and I fell in love with the sport immediately. I played for NUI Galway, joined Galwegians, earned my place with Connacht, and made my international debut for Ireland in 2018.

Rugby has taken me on incredible adventures. I was honoured to play in the first women's Barbarians team in 2017, among 1,001 internationally capped women, when my own tally was still zero. In 2019, I moved to England to challenge myself further, playing with Wasps and later with Exeter Chiefs. I've faced significant injuries, including an Achilles rupture and a knee injury, but each setback strengthened my resilience and deepened my appreciation for both physical and mental well-being. Some of my proudest moments have come in an Ireland jersey, captaining for the first time in October 2023 and qualifying for the 2025 Women's World Cup in England.

I've also embraced other sports I love, including AFL and winning European titles with the Ireland squad. While keeping my Gaelic football roots alive whenever possible.

Outside sport, science has always been a central part of my life. I earned my degree in biochemistry and have worked both as a diagnostic laboratory scientist and later as a medical diagnostic field engineer in the UK. I continue to stay engaged in the medical science world alongside my rugby career. Balancing the lab and the pitch hasn't always been easy, but it keeps me grounded and constantly reminds me of the importance of health, curiosity, learning, and perspective. Both science and sport have been powerful outlets, each shaping my understanding of wellbeing in different ways.

My journey hasn't been straightforward, but it has allowed me to grow, define my values, and understand the importance of support, community, and self-awareness. I believe strongly in using my leadership and experience to help build capacity, support development, and create opportunities for others. Working across diverse teams has taught me the importance of empathy, communication, maintaining high standards, and staying true to my values and principles I bring to every environment I'm part of.

At the heart of my work on and off the field is a commitment to contributing in ways that promote progress, strengthen leadership, and inspire confidence in what we can achieve together, while championing the health and well-being of those involved in sport at every level.

Jeroen Carrin

Head of the Olympic Refuge Foundation, International Olympic Committee (IOC)



Presentation

Jeroen Carrin is the Head of the Olympic Refuge Foundation, which he joined in 2019 shortly after its creation by the International Olympic Committee. He leads the Foundation's global work to support young people affected by crises using sport as a tool for protection, inclusion, and personal development.

Jeroen has spent his career responding to the needs of communities affected by conflict, violence, and climate crises. He previously held leadership roles with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Belgian Red Cross, directing humanitarian operations across the globe, particularly across sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.

Now, he is focused on channelling the values of Olympism and harnessing the power sport to help crisis-affected young people build skills, connections, and resilience. Jeroen holds an Engineering degree from the University of London and a Master's in Economics from HEC Lausanne.

Eva Jacomet

Head of EU Affairs, Sport and Citizenship



Eva Jacomet is the Head of European Affairs of the Think tank Sport and Citizenship, which she joined 5 years ago. In this role, she oversees the European projects led by the Think Tank and drives the advocacy strategy towards the European institutions. Her work focuses on the social impact of sport, applying sport as a tool to advance gender equality and combat gender-based violence or any discrimination, promote the inclusion of refugees, foster sustainability, and encourage active lifestyles.

Solène Charuau

Chair of the EPAS Governing Board, Council of Europe



Statement (in French and English)

Solène Charuau is a senior official at the French Ministry of Sports, Youth and Community Life, where she leads the International Department. With over 20 years of experience in European affairs and public policy in the fields of sport and youth, she plays a central role in France's international co-operation strategy in sport. She coordinated the European and

international roadmap of the Ministry for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games and led key initiatives during the French Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2022.

Solène currently serves as Chair of the Bureau of the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) and also chairs the EPAS Working Group on European Sports Charter (ESC) monitoring visits. She has contributed directly to ESC monitoring missions in Portugal and Morocco and regularly represents France in multilateral negotiations.

In addition to her extensive institutional experience, Solène is a frequent speaker at high-level international conferences on sport policy, youth cooperation, and European governance. She holds a Master's degree in European Project Management and a Political Science degree from Sciences Po Grenoble, and is fluent in French and highly proficient in English.

Stanislas Frossard

Head of the Sport Division and Executive Secretary of EPAS, Council of Europe

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