

Launch Event of the joint European Union – Council of Europe project “Active and Equal: Women’s Health in Sport across Generations”

5 March 2026, Strasbourg (France) / Online

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



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.

Charlotte Girard-Fabre

Chair of the Consultative Committee of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)



I am 44 years old, I have been a high-level sportswoman since the age of 13, and I wish to represent this new generation of committed women. The quest for excellence and the requirement of performance led me to referee at the Olympic Games in Sochi (Russia) 2014 and Pyeongchang (South Korea) 2018, and I sharpen my skills and expertise every day to honor my 10 Olympic rings.

A fighter at heart and an explorer of new horizons, I push my limits in sport as well as in my professional life today and tomorrow. Decision-making, time management and conflict management are among my areas of expertise. Resolutely focused on excellence and performance,

I accompany your teams collectively to develop a disruptive and pragmatic approach.

An ardent defender of gender diversity and the place of women in our society, I am also passionate about civic engagement: elected Secretary General of the International Federation for Sports Officials, Secretary General of the French Association of Multisport Referees and Ambassador of several think-tanks, I have also chosen to act at the highest institutional level (Ministries, UNSS, FFHB, ...). 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.

Charlotte Gilmartin

Head of the Policy Unit, Secretary to the Gender Equality Commission, Gender Equality Division, Council of Europe



Charlotte Gilmartin is Head of the Gender Equality Policy Unit and Secretary of the Council of Europe's [Gender Equality Commission](#). The Policy Unit and the Commission work to ensure that gender equality is integrated into all Council of Europe policies and to bridge the gap between international commitments and the reality for women in Europe. The Commission, whose members are appointed by the member states, provides advice and support to other Council of Europe bodies and member states. The Gender Equality Commission

supports the implementation of the six objectives of the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Strategy 2024-2029.

Conny Kreuter

Professional dancer and international champion, Austria



Conny is a multifaceted professional whose career spans elite sports, high-stakes communication, and mental coaching. Born in Vienna, she developed a foundation in competitive swimming before transitioning into the world of Professional Latin American Dance in 2005. Her athletic career is marked by multiple Austrian Championship titles in both individual and formation dance, as well as two runner-up finishes on the prominent ORF show, Dancing Stars.

Beyond her own performances, Conny is a highly accomplished coach and choreographer. She holds a degree in Sports Science from the University of Vienna and has guided Latin formation teams to three World Championship Silver medals. In 2021, she made history as the first female Head Choreographer at ORF.

Since 2010, Conny has been a fixture in the Austrian media landscape, serving as a host and moderator across TV, radio, and various digital platforms. She leverages this expertise as a PCM (Process Communication Model) Trainer, specializing in personality development and effective communication. As a Mental and Energy Coach for professional athletes since 2012, she bridges the gap between physical performance and psychological resilience.

A passionate advocate for gender equity, Conny serves as a testimonial for the 'Equal Play' campaign, championing fairness and collaboration. Driven by her background in competitive

sports and her extensive international network, she is dedicated to promoting equality across all professional sectors, from the ballroom to the boardroom.

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.

Denis Naegelen **Director of the WTA 500 International tennis tournament of Strasbourg**



Denis Naegelen, born in Alsace, developed a passion for tennis at an early age. Hard-working and determined, he gradually climbed the ranks of the elite before joining the professional circuit. For more than a decade, until 1982, he competed on the international circuit and faced the best players of his generation. These years of competition, marked by the demands of the highest level and the experience gained on

courts around the world, formed the foundation of a career that would later extend far beyond the tennis court.

Wishing to defend the interests of players and contribute to the development of professional tennis, he founded the National Union of Professional Tennis Players and became actively involved in the structuring of French tennis, notably by serving as president of TennisPro for twelve years. At the same time, he developed an entrepreneurial activity in sport and communication by successively creating Tennis Conseil (1978–1983) and then Dominguez & Naegelen Sport Promotion (1983–1989), thus affirming his commitment to the promotion and organisation of sporting events.

This drive led him to found Quarterback, a sports communications consultancy that has become a recognised player in sports marketing. In 2010, he took a major step forward by acquiring the Internationaux de Strasbourg tournament, contributing to the development and international reputation of this flagship women's tennis tournament, currently ranked WTA 500. Through his initiatives — as a player, founder of professional organisations, entrepreneur and event promoter — Denis Naegelen has established himself as a figure committed to the evolution of tennis and the sports economy in France.

Fiona Bitterlin **France Fusbal Team**



I started playing football at the age of 5, in my hometown club with my school friends. At 14, I joined a boarding school sports programme, before moving on to the Strasbourg Pôle Espoir, a centre of excellence set up by the French Football Federation to support the best players in reaching the highest level. I spent three years there, with seven call-ups to the French youth team (U16-U17), while also playing in the Women's Division 2 for FC Vendenheim.

Today, as a French international futsal player at AS Musau Strasbourg, my career has confronted me with the physical and mental challenges of top-level sport. It has also exposed me to the realities of women's health in sport: injuries, operations, recovery periods, managing training loads and adapting the female body to the demands of high-level sport.

As an osteopath based in Strasbourg, I treat adults and children, whether they are athletes or not, as well as pregnant women and their infants. I also treat high-level athletes.

Charlotte Girard-Fabre **Chair of the Consultative Committee of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)**

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Evert Verhagen **Senior Expert, Health and Performance, UEFA**



Evert Verhagen (1976) is a Human Movement Scientist and Epidemiologist with extensive expertise in sports medicine and injury prevention. He serves as a senior research expert in the Medical and Anti-Doping Department of the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA). In addition to this role, he is a professor at the Department of Public and Occupational Health at Amsterdam UMC, Netherlands, and the editor-in-chief of BMJ Open Sports & Exercise Medicine. His work focuses on the prevention of injuries related to sports and physical activity, with particular emphasis on monitoring, cost-effectiveness, and implementation strategies. He has supervised numerous national and international PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers and has (co-)authored an extensive portfolio of peer-reviewed publications in these areas.

Flaminia Ronca

Associate Professor, University College London, Department of Targeted Intervention



Dr Ronca is an Associate Professor at University College London - UCL, where she leads the Exercise Neuroscience Research group. Her key research focuses on the impact of lifestyle factors (such as physical activity, nutrition, sleep and stress) on the brain, where she investigates the mechanisms through which these support cognitive development in children and brain health in adults. She promotes human health and performance through collaborative work with law enforcement organisations, schools, industry and charities. She has a particular interest in female health across the lifespan and is currently conducting research on menstrual and menopausal transitions on brain health.

Jane Dennehy
Research and Advisory Director, Gender Hub



Dr. Jane Dennehy is a social science researcher and consultant specialising in gender equality and inclusion in sport and media. She holds a PhD in Gender and Management from the London School of Economics and a Master of Laws from the University of Law. Jane has designed evidence-based equality frameworks, contributed to strategic reviews, and developed and delivered training to sports organisations across Europe. Her research spans gender mainstreaming, media representation of women athletes, bias, and widening access. She has recently completed three years lecturing at the University of London on international sport development to Olympians and former professional athletes from over 30 countries.

Baz Moffat
CEO, The Well HQ



Former Team GB rower Baz Moffat retired from the sport to launch a successful international consulting and coaching business. A prominent voice in the women’s health movement, Baz specialises in the pelvic floor - a pivotal yet vastly underappreciated nucleus in the female body.

Gabriela Matei
Senior Project Officer, Council of Europe



Gabriela Matei, graduated Aircraft Engineering and the International Diplomacy and Business programme, worked with the USAID and the World Bank to pursue public policy and fiscal decentralisation reforms in South-East Europe. She continued the decentralisation work with the Council of Europe, developed civil society engagement in Eastern Partnership countries, and boosted the respect of human rights through work with Parliaments, ministries, public prosecutors and the European

Court of Human Rights. She applies Council of Europe’s standards in the member states as basis for the technical assistance and since 2021 she uses her expertise and interest in sport, inclusion, safeguarding diversity to demonstrate that respect can be multiplied in our society in and through sport. Her objective is to make a difference through sustainable societal changes. Gabriela has started this through the EU-CoE joint project “Combating Hate Speech in Sport” and the education campaign #Sport IS Respect, continued with the “Balance S4: Strengthening the Safety and Service pillars of the Saint-Denis Convention” #SportWelcomesAll and since January 2026 with “Active and Equal: Women’s health in sport across Generations”.

Bárbara Butragueño
Assistant Director-General, Women and Sport, Spain



Bárbara Butragueño Madrid is Deputy Director General for Women and Sport at Spain's High Council for Sports (CSD), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports. She provides strategic leadership and oversees the design and delivery of national policies, programmes, funding schemes and institutional cooperation to promote gender equality in sport. Her current

priorities include strengthening women's and girls' participation and visibility in sports, and advancing comprehensive, evidence-based approaches to women's health in sport across generations.

Before joining CSD, she held senior public service roles in equality and non-discrimination. As Deputy Director General for Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination at Spain's Ministry of the Presidency, she represented Spain in European and international equality networks and working groups, including the EU High Level Group on Equality, the Governmental Focal Points Network, the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET), the Equal Rights Coalition (ERC) and the Ibero-American Network against Discrimination (RIOOD). She coordinated and participated in inter-institutional bodies addressing discrimination, racism and inclusion, serving as Secretary of Spain's Council for the Elimination of Racial or Ethnic Discrimination and contributing to monitoring structures for Spain's Hate Crime Action Plan, as well as UNHCR-related working groups on non-discrimination and institutional cooperation against racism. She has also coordinated major institutional campaigns and programmes in the area of gender-based violence prevention.

She is First Vice-President of the Observatory for Equality in Sport and a member of Spain's Observatory against Violence, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Sport and the ONCE Observatory on Sports Practice and Physical Activity.

Cyprien Peronet
Director, Indoor – Santé, France



Cyprien Peronet is the managing director of Indoor Santé. As a sports and health expert, he develops scientifically based programmes aimed at improving the long-term health of the people he works with. His commitment is part of a structured, preventive approach to health through exercise, serving the public interest and reducing inequalities in access to physical activity. At the same time, he teaches at university, assists organisations in designing sports and health programmes,

and contributes to institutional discussions on the role of physical activity in public prevention policies.

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.

Marco Rizzi **Junior Project Officer, Council of Europe**



Marco Rizzi works in project management specialised in European governance, human rights, and social inclusion. He currently works on the EU-CoE joint project Active and Equal: Women's health in sport across generations. In the previous experiences at the Council of Europe, he mainly worked on youth mainstreaming, anti-discrimination, and inclusive sport initiatives, contributing directly to the mandate of the Reykjavik Declaration. His background in multilateral institutions includes managing the Council Platform for the

Safety of Journalists, and prior to this, Marco served the European External Action Service as a Political, Press and Information Assistant at the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe, where he supported high-level diplomatic missions, drafted strategic policy briefs, and processed complex multilateral negotiations.

Marco holds a Master of Science in European Affairs from Lund University, where he researched the integration of CoE standards into EU Enlargement Policy, and a Bachelor's in International Relations and Global Affairs from Università Cattolica Milano.

Stanislas Frossard

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



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.

Sarah Lynch

Deputy Head of the Sport Unit, Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission



Sarah Lynch, an Irish national, has been with the European Commission since 2004. She has worked in a variety of roles in policy, programme management and communications across the Commission. She was appointed Deputy Head of Unit in the Sport Unit of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport in January 2026.