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FOLLOW-UP TO THE 16TH COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORT (ATHENS, GREECE, AND ONLINE, 5 NOVEMBER 2020 – 11 FEBRUARY 2021)

prepared by the EPAS Secretariat



Measures implemented following the adoption of *Resolution No. 1 "A European approach to Sport policies: the revision of the European Sports Charter"*

Introduction

At the 16th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, held from 5 November 2020 to 11 February 2021 in Athens, Greece, and online, the ministers adopted Resolution no. 1 entitled "A European approach to Sport policies: the revision of the European Sports Charter", the text of which appears in Appendix 3 to the Report by the Secretary General.

The present document outlines the measures taken by EPAS and other Council of Europe bodies to fulfil the key actions called for by the resolution.

Implementation of the measures

INVITE EPAS to explore, in co-operation with Council of Europe human rights bodies, avenues to promote and enforce the "right to sport";

The adoption of the revised European Sports Charter by the Committee of Ministers at its 1414th meeting in October 2021 follows on this invitation. The Charter stipulates that "access to sport for all is considered to be a fundamental right. All human beings have an inalienable right of access to sport in a safe environment". It also states that there should be no discrimination in terms of the access to sports facilities or to sports activities. The right of access to sport can be realised notably in the context of education, by means of specific provisions for young people, or by reinforcing access for all members of communities and affordability.

EPAS has worked closely with the Secretariat of the Lanzarote Convention in particular to promote the right to sport for children and young people in a safe environment. Examples of actions in this respect are the webinar held on "Checking criminal records as a tool to protect children" on 3 June 2021 and the first meeting of the Pool of international experts on safe sport on 4 May 2022.

INVITE EPAS to develop indicators, tools and advisory services based on evidence and collected data in order to support and monitor the development of national sports strategies, to facilitate and promote:

- the use of the European Sports Charter as guidance for the development by governments of their national policies for sport and, when appropriate, any relevant legislation;

- adherence by sports organisations to the principles set out in the Charter in the elaboration of their policies and in their operations;

EPAS has supported the implementation of the European Sports Charter in North Macedonia and Albania.

Further to an online meeting and the drafting of provisional findings, an in-person meeting was held in Skopje on 30 September 2022 bringing together national stakeholders and external experts for an exchange drawing on the revised European Sports Charter as guidance and compass in the development by the North Macedonian government of its national priorities. A report containing recommendations will be used to encourage both the government and sports organisations to ensure adherence to the principles set out in the Charter in the elaboration of their policies and in their operations. An online meeting was held with the Albanian government and national stakeholders on 3 October 2022, to be followed-on by an in-person meeting in December 2022.

Furthermore, a working group including representatives from the EPAS Governing Board and Consultative Committee has been set up to prepare a methodology of the evaluation of the implementation of the revised European Sports Charter, to notably enable the development of indicators, tools and advisory services to be used in the design and enhancement of national sports strategies.

INVITE EPAS to hold regular dialogue and conclude institutional partnerships with the sports movement and other relevant stakeholders to foster the implementation of the Charter;

EPAS has held regular meetings with institutional partners including the European Union, to promote and foster the implementation of the Charter. An implementation strategy will also contribute to ensuring that the Charter has a strong role underpinning the work of the sports movement across EPAS member states and beyond. Throughout 2021 and 2022 EPAS has delivered presentations to numerous partners, including during a conference on Sustainable and Accessible Sports Infrastructure organised by the Czech Presidency of the European Council and the National Sports Agency of the Czech Republic on 22 September 2022, to ensure that the Charter and its values are clearly set forth and visible and that there is ongoing dialogue between EPAS and institutional partners in this area.

INVITE EPAS to develop a communication plan and dissemination strategy and tools to promote the Charter, including by making use of digital technologies when promoting the European sports values.

The promotion of the Charter has taken place, since its adoption in October 2021, via presentations delivered by the EPAS Secretariat across EPAS member states during national-level events. Furthermore, the Charter has been presented at events organised by Consultative Committee members and at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (12 October 2022) amongst others.

A brochure showcasing the revised European Sports Charter was produced, published and uploaded online on the EPAS website. It was distributed for the first time at the 15th Anniversary of EPAS plenary (celebrated on 13 June 2022) and has since been distributed at all conferences and meetings organised by EPAS and attended by the EPAS Secretariat.

A video celebrating 15 years of EPAS also referenced the 15 principles embodied in the revised European Sport Charter and this video was revealed also on 13 June 2022 and shared via social media and on the EPAS website to draw attention to the revised European Sports Charter. More tools to showcase the Charter are being planned, including a detailed guidance video for policy makers and those working in the sports sector.

Finally, the values enshrined in the revised European Sports Charter will underpin and inform the thematic areas discussed during the 17th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport on 26 October 2022.

INVITE the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to acknowledge the key role of sport for society for health, inclusion and education and the importance of sport policy at national, European and international levels;

The acknowledgment of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers of the key role of sport for society for health, inclusion and education and the importance of sport policy at national, European and international levels has been visible in particular with the above-mentioned adoption by the

Committee of Ministers of the revised European Sports Charter in October 2021 - a Charter which embodies all of these values.

INVITE the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to welcome the Charter's general guidance for the Council of Europe's member states to perfect their policies and to develop a comprehensive framework for sport reflecting common values and principles;

The adoption of the revised European Sports Charter in October 2021 reflects the fact that the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers welcomes the Charter's general guidance for the Council of Europe's member states to perfect their policies and to develop a comprehensive framework for sport reflecting common values and principles.

INVITE the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to promote human rights and the rule of law in and through sport;

The Committee of Ministers approved, in the context of the Council of Europe's Programme and Budget for 2021-2025 a range of activities in the field of sport including the development of new standards on new standards in particular on whistle-blowers' protection and General principles of fair procedure applicable to anti-doping proceedings. The promotion of human rights is also central to the work of the monitoring bodies to the Council of Europe sport conventions.

EPAS also presented its work in the area of human rights and sport during the HELP programme session of October 2021.

INVITE the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to acknowledge the role of sport in developing society and individuals' resilience to sanitary and other crises, including climate change;

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, EPAS launched a study entitled "The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on people's physical activity/behaviour" in terms of how much they exercised and how and where they did so. This study was conducted in 29 member states of the Council of Europe. The findings were presented at the first in a series of three Mapping of Sports Facilities meetings on 14 December 2021, which brought together EPAS Governing Body national level policy experts and researchers from the Mulier Instituut. The second meeting in the series of three was held on 5 July 2022 also with the same structure: EPAS Governing Body national level policy experts and researchers from the Mulier Instituut, and focused on the impact of climate change and sustainability, and sports infrastructures.

INVITE the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to invite states which have not yet done so to join EPAS and engage in this process;

The Slovak Republic joined EPAS on 11 January 2022 and Canada on 30 March 2022, reaching a total of 41 members. EPAS is actively engaging in discussions with a number of other member states to see if they may consider joining.

INVITE the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to invite states to sign/ratify the Saint-Denis Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events and the Macolin Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions. In states which are already Parties to the Conventions, invite the Sports Ministers to actively engage in the implementation and promotion of these conventions at national level;

The medium-term objective is to have a presence in each continent by encouraging other countries to sign and ratify the Macolin convention. To date, Morocco and Australia have already signed. As

part of the co-operation ACT project (Addressing Competitions' Manipulation Together) on the manipulation of sports competitions, a regional event is expected to be held in South America in the first half of 2023.

At the operational level, international cooperation has also intensified and the number of countries participating in the work of the Group of Copenhagen (Advisory Group to the Follow-up Committee of the Macolin Convention) is increasing with each meeting.

INVITE the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers to resume consultations with member states and the European Union in order to facilitate the removal of any obstacles to the ratification of the Macolin Convention by its member states.

In June 2021, the Secretary General received a letter from the Maltese Minister of Foreign Affairs expressing Malta's commitment to sign the Macolin Convention.

On 23 November 2021, the Committee of Ministers in its reply to the Parliamentary Assembly "encouraged EU member States and the EU to become Parties to the Convention as soon as possible".

On 30 November 2021, the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe was invited by the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, to provide an update to the EU27 Ministers for sport on the Council of Europe strategic priorities 2022-2025 in the area of sport, which includes a specific section on the promotion and implementation of the Macolin Convention.

On 6 and 7 December 2021, the Italian Department for Sport, represented by the Undersecretary of State for Sport, Valentina Vezzali and the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) co-hosted a Conference on Integrity in Sport, in Rome, in order to take stock of the work of the Council of Europe in combating the manipulation of sports competition, promoting the Macolin Convention.

During the summer 2022, a letter co-signed by the chairs of the convention's Follow-up Committee and its Advisory group – the Group of Copenhagen – was sent to 48 countries, raising awareness of the importance of the Macolin Convention.

In 2022, the Maltese Gaming Regulatory Authority and Sport Integrity Agency participated in the meetings of the Group of Copenhagen.

Measures implemented following the adoption of *Resolution No. 2 "Human rights in sport"*

Introduction

At the 16th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, held from 5 November 2020 to 11 February 2021 in Athens, Greece, and online, the ministers adopted Resolution no. 2 entitled "Human rights in sport", the text of which appears in Appendix 3 to the Report by the Secretary General.

The present document describes the measures taken in order to fulfil the key actions it was invited to carry out according to the resolution.

Implementation of the measures

INVITE EPAS, where appropriate in co-operation with the sports movement and with other bodies, to make the protection of human rights a priority, stimulate and regularly review and report on progress in this field;

An annual Forum on Sport and Human Rights was set up and the first forum took place on 1 June 2021, with speakers from Council of Europe relevant sectors and external experts; there was online transmission open to the Governing Board and Consultative Committee members. The subjects discussed included: the right to a fair trial, data protection, media freedom in sport, young migrant athletes and human trafficking, economic and social rights of athletes, with a focus on the right to health, racism, hate speech and other types of discrimination in sport, and gender equality in sport.

After the Forum the EPAS Governing Board during its 2021 Plenary meeting, voted on Combating Hate Speech in Sport one of its priority areas of work. A joint EU-CoE project in this area is being carried out with 6 partner countries: France, Italy, Germany, Greece, Montenegro and Spain.

Another of the outcomes of the Forum was support for ongoing work in gender equality for which EPAS will continue to focus through All In Plus – joint project with the EU (planned for 2023-2024) – and also the organisation and participation in roundtables, conferences and presentations on an ongoing basis.

The EPAS 2021 Diversity Conference on 20 September 2021 focused on "Protecting and Promoting the Human Rights of Transgender and Intersex Athletes in Sporting Competitions".

Furthermore, there have been regular meetings with partner organisations focusing on the protection of human rights, stimulating and regularly reviewing and reporting on progress in this field.

INVITE EPAS, where appropriate in co-operation with the sports movement and with other bodies, to develop co-operation with the European Committee on Social Rights to promote the protection of athletes' social rights in particular by:

- developing guidance on the relevance of the European Social Charter in the context of sport;

- preparing an expert opinion on the systems of athletes' representation and proposals to strengthen social dialogue;

- encouraging athletes to learn skills in parallel with their sporting activity in order to ensure a successful vocational re-training at the end of their sporting career;

- promoting a fundamental right of access to sport;

Presentations were delivered by the Secretariat to FIFPRO (International Federation of Professional Footballers) World Players' Union, notably on the subject of protecting the rights of athletes and the role of the Council of Europe, in September and November 2021. In order to prepare for these presentations contact was made with colleagues from the European Social Charter and proposals for developing guidance on the relevance of the European Social Charter in the context of sport was set forth during these presentations.

In terms of dual career, namely encouraging athletes to learn skills in parallel with their sporting activity in order to ensure a successful vocational re-training at the end of their sporting career, this was stipulated in the revised European Sports Charter under Article 14, paragraph 1: "Methods of providing appropriate direct or indirect support for athletes... shall be devised in order to give them opportunities to fully develop their sporting and human abilities... Such support should include aspects relating to... dual career." In this context the EPAS Secretariat delivered a presentation at the annual EAS (European Student Athlete) Annual Conference in September 2022: A holistic approach to the dual career of the student athletes. The EAS is a member of the EPAS Consultative Committee and this presentation and ensuing discussions encouraged athletes to learn skills in parallel with their sporting activity in order to ensure a successful vocational re-training at the end of their sporting at the end of their sporting activity in consultative inclusion in EPAS upcoming work.

INVITE EPAS, where appropriate in co-operation with the sports movement and with other bodies, to hold regular exchanges with relevant Council of Europe intergovernmental and monitoring bodies to share information on human rights in sport;

As mentioned above, an annual Forum on Sport and Human Rights was set up and the first forum took place on 1 June 2021, with speakers from Council of Europe relevant sectors and external experts; there was online transmission open to the Governing Board and Consultative Committee members. The subjects discussed included: the right to a fair trial, data protection, media freedom in sport, young migrant athletes and human trafficking, economic and social rights of athletes, with a focus on the right to health, racism, hate speech and other types of discrimination in sport, and gender equality in sport. The next Forum on Sport and Human Rights will take place on 30 November 2022 with a focus on freedom of expression of athletes and media in sport, gender equality in media, and hate speech in sport.

Presentations of the work in the field of sport have been planned for the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and the Gender Equality Commission (GEC).

INVITE EPAS, where appropriate in co-operation with the sports movement and with other bodies, to develop co-operation with the Global Observatory on Women and Sport, which is due to be setup within the framework of the Unesco Kazan Action Plan;

EPAS has had numerous meetings with the Global Observatory on Gender Equality and Sport (as the Global Observatory on Women and Sport is now known) including a planning meeting on 17 June 2022, to ensure close collaboration for the roll-out of the indicators devised during the joint EU-CoE All In project and for the planning of the upcoming application for All In Plus (2023-2024). During the 8th International Working Group World Conference on Women and Sport on 14-17 November EPAS, will present the indicators developed during the joint European Union-Council of Europe All In project, will be represented on panels and will also deliver a tailor-made workshop on representation and equality in sport in partnership with the CEO of the Global Observatory.

On the occasion of the International Women's Day on8 March 2022, the Sport Division organised an online breakfast roundtable with a focus on women in sport with presentations from international experts, including the CEO of the Global Observatory on Gender Equality and Sport who have carried out innovative work in the area of gender equality in sport.

INVITE EPAS, where appropriate in co-operation with the sports movement and with other bodies, to clarify its relationship with and involvement in the Centre for Sport and Human Rights;

The Centre for Sport and Human Rights became the 30th member of the EPAS Consultative Committee on 15 June 2022, therefore ensuring close collaboration. The Centre presented its work on human rights and sport at the 2021 Forum on Sport and Human Rights on 1 June 2021.

INVITE EPAS, where appropriate in co-operation with the sports movement and with other bodies, to develop and facilitate access to a toolbox to communicate on the protection of human rights in sport through products such as handbooks, social media content, webinars and audio-visual material;

EPAS prepared an action page on its website on human rights in and through sport. A study on promoting and protecting the human rights of transgender and intersex athletes is currently being prepared (deadline early 2023) and a toolkit will be finalised in 2023, which will allow for a focus on the EPAS Consultative Committee's role in this area. The website for the diversity conference 2021 on human rights contains a range of resources and content which can be used by academics and other professionals to inform their understanding of this human rights angle.

INVITE EPAS, where appropriate in co-operation with the sports movement and with other bodies, to disseminate knowledge and train sports officials on human rights issues, in particular through partnerships with sports organisations and with research and training institutions;

On 21 February 2022, the EPAS Consultative Committee hosted a webinar on physical education and school sport. One of the key questions addressed at this webinar, which brought together experts from a range of backgrounds, including the sports movement, trainers, researchers and other experts on school sports, was: "What is the specificity of sport as a tool to promote Human rights and democracy? And "What good practices can be used to promote positive values and inclusion in sport for young people." In addition, the webinar examined how physical education teachers and coaches can implement a values-based approach to physical education and sports training in line with the revised European Sports Charter.

The Online Breakfast Roundtable organised on International Women's Day, 8 March 2022, by the Council of Europe's Sport Division was organised in co-operation with the sports movement and other bodies and included a component of training sports officials on human rights issues in this area, namely thanks to the participation of Charlotte Girard-Fabre, the Secretary General of IFSO (International Federation for Sports Officials).

On 13 October 2022, a PACE report entitled "The fight for a level playing field – ending discrimination against women in the world of sport" was adopted, which endorsed ongoing work for the All In Plus project for greater gender equality in sport.

The 2021 Diversity Conference on "Protecting and Promoting the Human Rights of Intersex and transgender Athletes in Sporting Competitions" held on 20 September 2021 also allowed for the dissemination of knowledge and the training of sports officials on human rights issues in this specific area, in particular through partnerships with sports organisations including the IOC, as well as research and training institutions, including Human Rights Watch and the University of Manchester to mention but a couple.

INVITE EPAS, where appropriate in co-operation with the sports movement and with other bodies, to engage with Council of Europe member states and the sports movement to:

- promote children's rights and implement child safeguarding policies, in particular by further promoting and monitoring progress towards the implementation of the "Start to Talk" initiative to stop child sexual abuse and to take concrete measures to present and respond to abuse, and by implementing the Council of Europe conventions against child sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking in human beings and violence against women and domestic violence;

- promote and monitor progress towards gender equality, notably by promoting gender mainstreaming in sport and following up to the data collected through the "ALL IN" project which show the need to make progress in a number of key areas;

- fight discrimination and hate speech, building upon the standards and guidance issued by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI);

- use sport as a tool for integration of minorities, especially migrants;

- further explore human rights compliant solutions to facilitate the participation of athletes, irrespective of gender, in sports competitions, while ensuring equal opportunities for athletes in all their diversity, as well as the fairness of the competitions;

- embed human rights in the policies and operations of sports organisations.

EPAS has assisted its member states to put in place more effective policies and mechanisms to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children in sport and protect victims, through the European Union/Council of Europe joint project "Child Safeguarding in Sport" (CSiS) and the Council of Europe project "Start to Talk". Both projects aim at the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the "Lanzarote Convention") and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic violence (the "Istanbul Convention").

The CSiS project (01/03/2020-03/06/2022) has assisted six EPAS member states to develop country-specific roadmaps for effective implementation of child safeguarding in sport policies, with concrete steps for setting up Child Safeguarding Officer roles in sport. The project has also updated the already existing Online Resource Centre for Child Safeguarding in Sport and the Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport. Following the finalisation of the CSiS project on 30 June 2022, Start to Talk has taken over the management of the pool of experts on safe sport. The pool will hold its 2022 annual meeting on 6 December 2022.

The Start to Talk project has also updated existing Council of Europe's resources on safe sport: a new version of the child safeguarding self-assessment tool, and the Bulgarian and Georgian linguistic versions of the Start to Talk tool kit will be available on the Start to Talk webpage by the end of 2022. The Start to Talk action page has been translated into a number of languages including Bulgarian, Greek, Estonian, Georgian, Romanian, Slovenian and Ukrainian. The Start to Talk video-clip has been dubbed into a number of languages including Turkish and Ukrainian.

Start to Talk has continued its awareness raising and training activities. The EPAS Consultative Committee has been assisted by Start to Talk in the organisation of the webinars "Checking criminal records as a tool to protect children in sport" (3 June 2021) and "Physical education and school

Co-operation on the topic of anti-discrimination and hate speech with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) was enhanced at the above-mentioned Forum on Sport and Human Rights of June 2021, by the Conference which launched the Combating Hate Speech in Sport joint EU-CoE project organised in May 2022, and through regular exchanges. Further co-operation building upon the standards and guidance issued by ECRI and the CDADI will follow during the activities of the project aimed at developing strategies to prevent, mitigate, and penalise Hate Speech in Sport in the six countries participating in the project: France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Spain.

In terms of promoting the inclusion of migrants and refugees through sport, the EPAS Secretariat attended the ISCA conference in Rome start September 2021 on this subject area and is also organising a side event, to the 17th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport,

on 27 October, entitled: "Inclusion of migrants and refugees through sport: Assessing current best practice, identifying vulnerabilities and finding ways to move forwards."

INVITE Council of Europe member states to integrate the protection of human rights in the design of sport policies, including the promotion of measures by sports organisations to prevent human rights violations and afford effective remedies thereto;

The working group tasked with the development of proposals regarding the promotion and evaluation of the implementation of the revised European Sports Charter will ensure that sport policies are aligned with the Charter, integrating by-design the protection of human rights and the promotion of measures to prevent human rights violations and afford effective remedies.

On 20 April 2022, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)14 on fair procedure applicable to anti-doping proceedings in sport. The text aims at ensuring that the essential safeguards of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights fully apply to anti-doping proceedings and that Council of Europe core values such as fairness and equality be guaranteed in an increasingly important area for our society: sport and the fight against doping.

INVITE Council of Europe member states to use the Council of Europe standards and tools in particular to:

- further enhance the protection of children's rights in sport;
- promote access to justice and the right to fair trial, including in the field of sport;
- enhance the promotion and protection of athletes' economic and social rights;
- prevent, fight and respond to violence, discrimination, sexual harassment and abuse and hate speech;
- strive towards gender equality;
- adopt or enhance policies aimed at inter alia:
 - using sport as a key contributor to improving physical fitness and mental well-being (right to health);
 - protecting the right to the liberty and safety of athletes;
 - promoting inclusiveness and diversity in sport and in sports events, as key elements for safer, more secure and more welcoming sport and sports events;
 - defending media freedom in the field of sport and hosting of major sports events, within the boundaries of sports competitions organisers' property rights and in accordance with the principles of proportionality;
 - protecting the rights of migrant athletes, if necessary, by defining European standards for minor athletes migrating from third countries to Europe;
 - promoting sports policies that are compliant with the protection of personal data;
 - defending athletes' freedom of expression, reunion and association;

All of the topics set forth above (e.g. data protection, children's rights, promoting inclusiveness and diversity in sports events, defending athletes' freedom of expression, promoting equality and access to a fair trial, etc.) were directly addressed during the Forum on Sport and Human Rights which took

place on 1 June 2021. The Diversity Conference 2021, referred to earlier in this document, also sought to raise awareness and combat discrimination against athletes, in particular transgender and intersex athletes.

In the framework of the CSiS and the Start to Talk projects, Austria, Belgium Federation Wallonia-Brussels, Bulgaria, Croatia, Israel, Norway and Portugal have established or are committed to put in place a strategy to strengthen policy and legal frameworks, advice and support structures, education and training frameworks, and case management systems, with concrete steps for setting up Child Safeguarding Officer roles in sport.

The Greek launching of a Start to Talk national campaign in January 2021 was very successful and drew national and international media coverage, starting a nation-wide discussion on abuse and harassment not only in sport but also in other areas. Following the launching of the campaign, the Greek Ministry of Sport planned further child safeguarding measures, using among other tools, the roadmap for the planning and implementation of child safeguarding policies in Greece that was prepared by the Start to Talk Secretariat.

The six countries involved in Combating Hate Speech in Sport project are progressing in preventing, addressing and responding to hate speech in sport. This innovative work will need to continue – and through the power of policy making and good practices will influence the other Council of Europe member states.

As outlined above, the gender equality work includes reapplying for support for All In Plus (2023-2024) with a focus on media sensitisation. An unconscious bias training programme was commissioned by EPAS and was delivered to the European Broadcasting Union in January 2022 to raise awareness about biases in reporting by the media.

INVITE Council of Europe member states to financially support Council of Europe efforts in this field through voluntary contributions.

In 2022 Greece made a voluntary contribution of EUR 1,000 towards the Start to Talk project.

A number of governments and sport organisation have expressed their interest in the Start to Talk activities. Financial support for this work is essential and voluntary contributions are needed to pursue this crucial work