

17th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport

Antalya, Türkiye

26 October 2022

RESOLUTIONS

prepared by

Resolution No. 1**Sport for all: uniting us for stronger societies**

The Ministers responsible for Sport, meeting in Antalya, Türkiye, for their 17th Council of Europe Conference on 26 October 2022:

1. recalling the Council of Europe's mission to promote common standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe and to monitor and support their implementation, including through its unique legal framework and structures in the field of sport as outlined in the "Council of Europe and Sport Strategic Priorities for 2022-2025";
2. noting that the pursuit of European ideals and values is facing unprecedented challenges, such as armed conflicts, pandemics, climate change, social inequality and risks to democracy and diversity in the digital age;
3. being convinced that sport can contribute to upholding the Council of Europe's values and ideals and address these challenges, driving the societal changes needed to achieve inclusion, sustainability and quality of life in our constantly evolving societies;
4. recognising the unique potential of sport to contribute to peaceful societies and facilitate resilience, as well as to foster social inclusion;
5. mindful of the need to protect and promote human rights in and through sport, as underlined in the International Declaration on Human Rights and Sport (Tbilisi Declaration) adopted at the 15th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sports and Resolution No. 2 on Human Rights in Sport adopted at the 16th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport;
6. concerned by the infringements on human rights that continue to take place in the context of sport, in particular against children, women, persons with disabilities, members of minority groups, athletes and other workers and convinced that public authorities and sport organisations must cooperate to effectively prevent abuse, protect victims and ensure that the law is enforced;
7. stressing that physical education and sport must take place in a safe and inclusive environment free from any form of physical, sexual or emotional violence and from racism and other forms of discrimination;
8. condemning the Russian Federation's aggression towards Ukraine, considering that the Russian Federation and Belarus should not be represented in international sport as long as this aggression continues, and committing to enable Ukrainians to participate in sport;
9. concerned by the situation of all refugees and displaced persons and by violations of their human rights, convinced that sport can be an important element in facilitating their inclusion, and therefore welcoming all initiatives alleviating the challenges they face and acknowledging their positive contribution to sport and society;
10. noting more generally inequalities in sports participation, particularly by the members of disadvantaged groups, such as refugees, persons with disabilities, senior citizens and migrants among others, which reflect the multiple barriers that still exist in accessing sport;
11. recalling the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the Revised European Sports Charter (CM/Rec(2021)5), notably that all human beings have an inalienable right of access to sport in a safe environment;

12. reaffirming that no discrimination on the grounds of “race”, colour, language, religion, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status, shall be permitted in the access to sports facilities or to sports activities;
13. recalling the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence (CM/Rec(2009)10), the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on gender mainstreaming in sport (CM/Rec(2015)2), the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on preventing and combating sexism (CM/Rec(2019)1) and the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on combating hate speech (CM/Rec(2022)16) setting out policy guidelines which also apply in the area of sport;
14. recalling their determination to promote as a priority a values-based sport, as a powerful means of building stronger societies.

The Ministers:

Welcome the work of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) to advance human rights in and through sport, notably gender equality and children’s rights, in addition to its efforts in promoting inclusiveness. In particular, the Ministers:

1. welcome the guidance provided to public authorities and sports bodies to advance gender equality in sport, with the development of indicators and corresponding data collection to better inform policies and measure their impact;
2. highlight the value of the assistance provided in the development of child safeguarding policies and national roadmaps involving all key stakeholders, and the importance of the Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport as a source of multi-disciplinary expertise covering all forms of violence and abuse against children in sport;
3. underline the importance of the use by public authorities and sports organisations of the guidance, training and awareness-raising material created to prevent, detect, report and respond to violence and abuse of children in sport;
4. appreciate the joint actions undertaken by the Council of Europe and the European Union through the projects ALL-IN – Towards Gender Balance in Sport, Child Safeguarding in Sport and on Combating Hate Speech in Sport;
5. support EPAS’ initiatives and actions to preserve and promote the values of sport and to make it more inclusive, ethical and safe;

INVITE the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to:

1. focus and strengthen the Council of Europe’s actions to promote and safeguard human rights in and through sport, provide adequate financial and human resources, and to mobilise all key stakeholders to promptly address remaining and emerging challenges;
2. call upon member States to develop policies aimed at gender balance in sport, in co-operation with the sport movement and other relevant stakeholders, to – where possible – promote gender mainstreaming and include gender equality objectives in their statutory aims, internal regulations and codes of conduct, policies, plans, projects and other strategic documents to further strengthen their capacity to address gender inequality;

3. adopt and implement child safeguarding policies at all levels of sport participation and continue promoting the Start to Talk initiative to call attention and act against violence and abuse in sport;
4. support States to develop national sports strategies in co-operation with the sport movement and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate the inclusion of disadvantaged groups in sport, including, inter alia, the provision of appropriate facilities and equipment, the development of diverse physical activity programmes tailored to individuals with different needs, in addition to measures ensuring adequate representation and visibility and enhancing social integration through sport;
5. invite member States which have not yet done so to join EPAS;

INVITE EPAS to:

1. engage with its member States, the sports movement and other relevant stakeholders to:
 - a) promote and monitor progress towards gender equality, notably by using the gender equality indicators and disseminating the gender mainstreaming in sport tools and recommendations developed through the ALL IN project;
 - b) encourage training initiatives (of athletes, athlete support personnel, sports officials and other relevant stakeholders such as media) on gender equality issues, in particular through partnerships with national, European and international sports organisations;
 - c) continue supporting States and sports organisations in the design and implementation of child safeguarding policies, taking into account the Council of Europe conventions against child sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking in human beings, and violence against women and domestic violence, notably in the context of the Start to Talk initiative to stop violence and abuse of children in sport and support exploratory work on human rights-compliant sharing of information on criminal and disciplinary records of staff and volunteers working with children in the context of sport;
 - d) use sport as a tool for social integration of disadvantaged groups, such as migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities and senior citizens; develop a toolbox based on best practices for inclusion of disadvantaged groups in all aspects of sport and devise a communication plan to promote it widely;
2. present a report to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2023, assessing progress on the implementation of the measures enshrined in this Resolution.

Resolution No. 2

Rethinking sport: leading the way for a healthy and sustainable future

The Ministers responsible for Sport, meeting in Antalya, Türkiye, for their 17th Council of Europe Conference on 26 October 2022:

1. acknowledging the important and unanimously recognised contribution of sport to protecting and promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law and achieving the Council of Europe's mission as outlined in the "Council of Europe and Sport Strategic Priorities for 2022-2025";
2. recalling the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ETS No.5) and the importance of the rights and freedoms it lays down for all areas of society including sport;
3. recalling the European Social Charter (ETS Nos. 35 and 163 [revised]) and the right to the protection of health (Article 11);
4. bearing in mind that Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the Revised European Sports Charter states that sport is instrumental to the exercise of the rights to health, education, culture and participation in the life of the community;
5. aware of the role that sport can play in improving individual and community health and in the social, cultural and economic development of all nations;
6. committed to also supporting the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the sports sector;
7. noting that inequalities in sports participation, which mirror those in education, health and wealth distribution, reflect barriers in the provision of inclusive physical education and sport policy, such as inadequate or distant infrastructures and prohibitive costs;
8. acknowledging the World Health Organization "Global action plan on physical activity 2018-2030" and its mission to ensure that all people have access to safe and enabling environments and to diverse opportunities to be physically active in their daily lives;
9. taking into account the negative impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the sport sector at all levels and particularly for grassroots sport and recognising that the observed decline in physical activity levels in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic has major implications for the prevalence of non-communicable diseases and the general physical and mental health of the population;
10. concerned by the growing evidence of the prevalence of performance-enhancing substance use in sport at grassroots level and its potential implications for public health;
11. recognising the important contribution of the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No. 135) to the international fight against doping in Europe and beyond and thus to the protection of athletes' health;
12. committed to protecting individual and community health through clean sport at all levels of participation, from the grassroots to elite sports;
13. recognising the close interrelationship between healthy environmental conditions, sporting activities and the need to integrate the principle of sustainable development into sport;
14. concerned by the increasingly prevalent negative impact of climate change and biodiversity loss;

15. noting the key role and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in the field of sport and stressing that all stakeholders should take responsibility to reduce their negative impacts on nature and their carbon footprint and pursue commitments and partnerships for climate action in recognition of the increasingly negative impact of climate change and biodiversity loss on society and on sport;
16. welcoming the work of the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) to explore the challenges and opportunities the Covid-19 crisis has forced on sport;
17. stressing their commitment to further promote public health in and through sport, in particular by partnering with the sport movement, anti-doping organisations, national federations, and other stakeholders;
18. welcoming the pioneering initiatives already taken by sports organisations by developing sustainability policies and including environmental protection considerations and commitments in the planning and implementation of their activities.

The Ministers:

RESOLVE to:

1. strengthen and promote sport as a value-based activity, governed in compliance with the principles of democracy, transparency, integrity, solidarity, gender equality, openness, accountability, accessibility, social responsibility and respect for fundamental and human rights;
2. enable every individual to participate in sport by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to engage in physical activity and sport in a safe, secure and healthy environment;
3. promote physical activity and sport and its many societal and individual benefits as a tool for strengthening public health, inclusion and education;
4. recognise doping in amateur sport as a public health issue and promote awareness-raising activities and the implementation of policies that ensure clean sport at all levels of participation;
5. facilitate public access to sporting activities to improve community health and encourage social re-integration, in particular in a post-pandemic context;
6. support the implementation of sport policies that are in line with the principles of sustainable development and aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of climate change and biodiversity loss;
7. facilitate access to sports and physical activities for all members of society, in particular by:
 - a) investing in sustainable infrastructures accessible to all for the practice of sport and physical activity, including public facilities and services;
 - b) developing diverse programmes that target all social groups, with adapted cost of participation and types of activities;
 - c) placing emphasis on the inclusion of all members of society when designing physical education and sport for all policies;
8. strive towards clean sport and develop national sports strategies on anti-doping in recreational and grassroots sport, including education programmes and monitoring measures;
9. commit to ensuring the compliance of sports activities with the principles of economic, social and environmental sustainability;

INVITE EPAS to:

1. explore, in cooperation with Council of Europe committees and bodies, avenues to promote and facilitate the exercise of the “right to sport” for all;
2. hold regular dialogue and conclude, where appropriate, international partnerships with the sports movement and other relevant stakeholders to improve the access to physical activity and sport for all individuals and social groups;
3. facilitate the exchange of good practices and successful experiences pertaining to adaptive measures in sports programmes to combat physical inactivity and its harmful consequences on the physical and mental health of populations, especially among the most vulnerable;
4. explore States’ needs and concerns with regard to their anti-doping strategies in amateur sport and provide them with informational and consultative support to protect clean sport and public health;
5. make use of scientific evidence, policy instruments and quality-assurance mechanisms that enhance the sustainability of sports policy;
6. present a report to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2023, assessing progress on the implementation of the measures enshrined in this resolution;

EXPRESS their appreciation to the Turkish Government for the excellent organisation of the 17th Conference in Antalya and for its kind hospitality;

TAKE NOTE with gratitude of the invitation of the Minister of Portugal to hold the 18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport in 2024.