

17th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport

Antalya, Türkiye

26 October 2022

17ème Conférence du Conseil de l'Europe des Ministres responsables du sport

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DECLARATIONS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS AT PLENARY SESSIONS

**DÉCLARATIONS DES CHEF.FES DE DÉLÉGATION EN SÉANCES
PLÉNIÈRES**

prepared by / Préparé par

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport



Accord partiel élargi sur le sport

Theme 1

Sport for all: uniting us for stronger societies

Thème 1

Le sport pour tous : nous unir pour des sociétés plus fortes

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Dear Ministers, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am really honoured to be here, together with the ministers of EPAS member states, and participate in the 17th Conference of the Council of Europe, which is very important in terms of increasing the existing good cooperation to a higher level. Albania strongly supports respect for human rights and sport's legislation, encouraging equality in terms of origin, nationality, language, religion, gender and age, as well as preventing corruption, discrimination and violence in sport. Based on EPAS recommendations and European Charter of Sports, we have undertaken several steps, aiming at the improvement of government policies, such as inclusion, gender equality, and safe and high-standards infrastructure.

I will start by gender equality and ensuring stronger female participation.

The new project "1Goal4IMPACT" is focused on raising awareness that sport is one of the best ways for activating young people to fight gender stereotypes and social exclusion in both school and community. The main aim of this project is to improve the lives of teenagers in rural areas, promoting gender equality and social inclusion through encouraging boys and girls in mixed teams of volleyball and basketball.

In addition, Albania has been involved in the European Week of Sport since the 2018 edition, where Ministry of Education and Sports serves as a coordinator. Under the "BeActive" initiative, the European Commission supports Albania in the implementation of the project EU4Youth – European Week of Sport beyond Borders in the Western Balkans", with good impact in all the society, including students, teachers, professors, people with disabilities, volunteers, sports specialists, parents, etc.

Secondly, regarding inclusion and its role for disadvantaged groups, many projects have been carried out in schools and universities, in cooperation with various sports federations, and in particular with the Special Olympics Albania. Through the new project "Sport for All", more attention is paid on students with intellectual disabilities in all schools across the country.

Based on the objectives of National Strategy for Education 2021 - 2026, this year we approved a specific curricula for students with disabilities in the pre-university system. For the first time, all teachers of physical education in the country use inclusive unified methodology, through games and mobility activities, in to improve their physical capacity, communication and social skills.

Thirdly, regarding curricular reform in our education system, we have increased from 2 to 3 the number of hours per week of physical education subject at school. This subject includes not only sport activities and physical preparation for students, but also providing information on health issues, anti-doping program and building a healthy lifestyle and fair play.

Besides football, volleyball and basketball, which are very popular in Albania, we have introduced 3 new disciplines in the pre-university education, gymnastics, athletics and tennis. An important program financed by the Government of Albania, is focused on strengthening the Olympic movement and inclusion through creating Sport Teams in all schools and universities, that not only participate in national championship of volleyball and basketball, but also help us to identify and support talented boys and girls.

Dear colleagues,

Let me conclude by emphasizing that a few months ago, Albania opened accession negotiations with EU, which is an important moment for us to increase participation in meetings and activities organized by EPAS, as well as strengthen cooperation concerning policies in the field of sport, in coordination with the policies defined at the European level.

Let me thank you very much for this opportunity, thank you for your support, thank you to the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey, which is the host of this event.

I wish you all the best and good luck to all of us.

ANDORRA / ANDORRE

Thank you, Mr Chairman,
Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first to thank Mr Mehmet Kasapoğlu, and the EPAS Secretariat for the organisation of the 17th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport.

My country, Andorra, declared in April 2021 the sport sector as an issue of national interest. In this sense, I would like to take the opportunity to list some of the initiatives in this field:

- In view of the forthcoming European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, I would like to highlight the initiative of training sport entities on prevention of child abuse, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth and Equality. Furthermore, we collaborate with the EPAS project "Start to Talk" which aims to develop tools of protection of child against abuse in the field of sport.
- My Department works closely with the Andorran Agency on Anti-doping, fighting against drug use on sports, applying the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention and the International Convention against Doping in Sport of the UNESCO.
- We have a project to give the label of "sustainable federation" to the sport entities which satisfy the sustainability criteria regarding their functioning, their facilities and their sporting events.
- Every year it's organised the event "Sport connects us" which includes talks for sportive entities, enterprises related to sports, local administrations, athletes, citizens... There is also a cohesion and collaboration activity between federations, an awards ceremony and acknowledgement of sport actors.
- We organize the popular race of the Day of Sport for Everyone in the framework of the national strategy for nutrition, sport and health approved by my government in 2007 and aims to make known the benefits of practicing physical activity as a key factor for health protection and the promotion of a healthy and active lifestyle. There had been 11 editions of the race with an average of 3.000 participants which range from kids to senior people, which is a success considering that Andorra has a population of 77.000 people.
- National campaign for promotion of physical activity and healthy lifestyles: activity initiated in 2021 because of not being able to organize the popular race because of the COVID19 restrictions.

To conclude, I would like to appreciate the organisation of this event and the opportunity to participate and share best practices and initiatives that will all help us to improve the living conditions of our citizens.

Thank you for your attention.

BULGARIA / BULGARIE

Dear Chair,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I'd like to express my appreciation to the Turkish Government for the excellent organisation of the conference and for its kind hospitality. Special thanks should go to EPAS for the preparation of the two resolutions adopted and acknowledged by Bulgaria. I would also like to thank our distinguished guest-speakers for their inspiring insights.

Integrating the gender equality approach in sport can be imposed through education and youth policies, as well as labour and social policies. It is absolutely necessary to provide equal opportunities for men and women, to enforce fair and equal treatment of both sexes at all levels, and to value the work and achievements of everyone in sports. The Ministry of Youth and Sports attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of human rights. It remains dedicated to its human rights commitments reflecting equality between women and men in its policies and programmes. I would like to highlight a good example coming from the National Sports Academy of Bulgaria. It has adopted a gender-based quotas in the student admission procedure in order to achieve gender balance and stimulate the active participation of women in sports at all levels.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports welcomes the call upon Member States to continue promoting the Start to Talk initiative, which we joined in 2020. Currently, we've been developing a Roadmap for safeguarding children in sports. We successfully completed a desk research followed by mapping of stakeholders and finalized the methodology for development of Roadmap. We identified our key players and designated a steering committee that will transfer into a strategical coordination forum in support of the implementation of the Bulgarian long-term policy on protection of children and youth in sports.

Last but not least, I would like to point out two of our regular sport programmes - „Sport for Children at Risk“, and „Student Sports Development Programme“. They create opportunities for children at risk by ensuring free access to sport facilities and participation in sports activities free of charge aiming at their social integration, adaptation and complete realization in life. Another objective is to encourage children and young people coming from vulnerable social groups to practice physical activity and sports, as components of healthy lifestyle.

Undoubtedly, the inclusion of disadvantaged groups through sport can be facilitated by strategic collaborative partnerships between sports organizations and institutions that deal with issues and needs of these groups. We are pleased to see that enshrined in the resolution that we endorse.

Thank You for Your attention!

Declaration by the Republic of Bulgaria on Draft Resolution no. 1: Sport for all: uniting us for stronger societies
„The Republic of Bulgaria reserves the right to implement the Resolution with the understanding that the term “gender” refers to the two sexes – female and male – that are biologically defined, as per Decisions № 13/2018 and 15/2021 of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria.”

CROATIA / CROATIE

Dear chair(s), dear colleagues,

I would like to start by expressing my thankfulness to the Turkish youth and sport ministry and minister (Mehmet M.) KASAPOĞLU personally for wonderful hosting of this event. I would like to express my appreciation for the Council of Europe and EPAS for its continuous efforts – the European Sports Charter that was revised last year and the progress that followed – so that we can adopt these important Resolutions today.

We are well aware that changes are processes that take steps, joint efforts and commitment. This Resolution is an important milestone towards more gender equality, better inclusion of all, and particularly, preventing any harm that children might experience in sport.

Equality, inclusion and health are the basic principles of Croatian legislation in sport, both National Sport Programme, and the new Sport Act that is currently in the procedure of parliamentary adoption.

New Croatian Sport Act places special emphasis on the issue of equality. The law clearly stipulates that sport must be equally accessible to everyone, regardless of age, gender, or disability. One of the basic provisions of the Law, states that this law applies equally to sports, para-sports and deaf person's sports.

Likewise, special attention was paid to gender equality. Gender equality is the underlying principle in developing and rolling out any measure in sport. Our focus is twofold: one is to promote and campaign for more equal representation of women in sport and the other is combating gender-based stereotypes and violence.

Croatia gained valuable experience by taking part in the "ALL IN" project promoting gender balance in sport.

In our Sport Act and National Sport Programme, particular attention is placed on the emotional and physical safety of children in sport. For us in the Croatian Ministry of Tourism and Sport, joining the Start to talk initiative and Child safeguarding in sport project have provided great support and inspired our policies.

Now, we are developing the Protocol for dealing with youth violence in clubs and the Action Plan for implementing education measures to prevent violence in sport.

Sport has an immense potential to promote fundamental values of human rights and boost social cohesion and inclusion.

We have started - and we are dedicated to continuing with - ensuring the legal and financial framework for inclusive sport. Concrete possibilities for ensuring the inclusion and accessibility in sport and their systematic financing are foreseen through the projects focused on sport infrastructure or the implementation of sport activities.

The Sport Act also establishes a data collection and processing system that enables monitoring of data on the involvement of all vulnerable groups in sport activities.

Significant sources of funding are planned within the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework, to enhance outreach to children and young people at risk of social exclusion.

Last but not least, being aware that sport can play a key role in improving the quality of lives of people with disabilities, we want to continue improving their options. With EU co-financing, we will support projects contributing to awareness raising, educating coaches and assistants for disabled people in synergy with the Croatian Paralympic Committee.

I will conclude by giving a full regard to the Resolution and stating our commitment to continuing of the safeguarding of human rights in and through sport – in line with the European Sport Charter.

Thank you

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Undoubtedly, women's participation rates in accessing and practicing amateur and professional sports as well as in their involvement in leadership positions remain at a lower level than men. This gender gap and discrimination derives by multiple obstacles, which can be categorized as structural barriers, institutional mindsets, socio-culture and economic barriers, individual mindsets and lifestyle choices.

At government level, change should start by reforming relevant legislations, policies and regulations towards the creation of a gender-neutral environment enabling gender mainstreaming in the sport sector. The challenge of attaining gender equality and women's empowerment is highly complex and cannot be solved by governments alone. However, governments can be a powerful coordinator of partnerships in facilitating change. To achieve this, a cross-sectoral cooperation between key stakeholders and policymakers is needed to develop relevant National Strategy comprising with clear indicators for monitoring and evaluating its implementation. Towards this direction, EPAS has carried out activities and produced useful tools to help member states and sports organisations to integrate elements of these measures into national and sport organisations policies.

In Cyprus, the following important measures have been taken in this direction:

- The 2018 Good Governance Code for National Sports Federations, drawn up by the Cyprus Sports Organization, includes a specific provision encouraging sports federations to promote gender balance in the composition of their governing boards.
- Series of seminars and workshops to raise awareness and empower women through and in sports.
- The Cyprus Sports Organization provides equal funding and financial support to athletes through its respective schemes with no discrimination based on gender.

Moreover, special attention is given to provide opportunities for disadvantaged groups to practice sport and to participate in sport leadership through various national policies and schemes such as:

- the National Sport For All Programme, which provides free-of-charge sport programmes for elderly, marginalized and less privilege people, such as immigrants, people in drug and rehabilitation centres, imprisoned persons, people with mental health problems.

In Cyprus, we recognize the right of citizens' and especially children to practice sport in a safe and healthy environment. Thus, in 2021 the Cyprus Sport Organisation Law of 1996 was amended and a legislative framework was established to prevent and tackle bullying in sport, intimidating and blackmailing behaviours as well as acts of harassment against people engaged in amateur and professional sports.

Moreover, the Cyprus Sport Organisation drafted the "Guide for Participants Welfare and Safeguarding in Sport". The guide is address to the sport federations and clubs and includes measures for the protection and promotion of well-being of participants in sports. These measures are coherent with international human rights statutes and follow relevant international and European recommendations, and good practices, including EPAS initiatives and tools such as "Start to Talk" and "All In" project.

CZECH REPUBLIC / REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

Dear ministers, dear Madame Secretary-General, dear colleagues,

Let me thank the Council of Europe and local authorities for organising the Ministerial Conference in a such fantastic location and for the opportunity to speak on these relevant topics.

The Czech Republic has this year the honour of being in the Presidency chair of the Council of the EU. In the area of sport, we chose as the priority topic sustainable and accessible sports infrastructure which is closely linked to the discussion we are having here today.

We worked with the fact, that people face obstacles when accessing sports infrastructure and the goal of our work is to outline ways how to promote equal and inclusive access to sports infrastructure which would provide people with access to sport and its benefits. And I am glad that we could use parts of the Revised Sports Charter's text as the reference for identifying the obstacles persons can have when accessing sport and sports infrastructure.

The necessity to ensure equal access for everyone is also highlighted by the fact that sports infrastructure serves often to much more than sport and has an important role in communities.

Our goal as policymakers must be to allow everyone's participation irrespective of their status, age, race, disability, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and our tool for achieving it is through policymaking, establishing policy frameworks, guidelines, roadmaps and incentives to ensure that private and public sports infrastructures become more sustainable and accessible to everybody.

The majority of people have the decision of joining the sport and physical activity in their hands. But we need to focus our initiatives and projects on the disadvantaged groups which regardless of their willingness to join sport and physical activity might not have equal opportunities to do it.

And the decision-making at our level can be eased by gathering relevant data. Specifically speaking, sports registers can gather various data on sports infrastructures, available sport and physical activities, their accessibility, location or even sustainability characteristics. I am glad that this fact is recognized by the EPAS and their work on sports registers and the work on collecting data must be also developed on national level.

Thank you for your attention.

ESTONIA / ESTONIE

During the different recent international meetings, we have discussed a lot how sport could contribute to other fields and could help solving several issues, such as social integration and promote European values and social equality. These discussions are highly relevant and necessary.

Integration is something what we have been focusing in Estonia since regaining our independence in 1991. Latest survey shows that in Estonia 69% of habitants are Estonians, majority of the rest are Russians or Russian speaking nationalities.

But today we are facing new challenges. We have received more than 40 000 refugees from Ukraine in last eight months. This is more than 3% of our population. The reason is Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine and after the latest massive attacks to energy and civil infrastructure in different regions in Ukraine the possibility of new wave of people's displacement is higher and higher. The question in Ukraine is how to survive the winter period, not how to organize grassroots sports or participate in international competitions.

Estonia condemns the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine. Today there is no other option for us than to state that Russia and Belarus have no place in international sports as long as the war against Ukraine continues.

Also fully condemn the instrumentalization of sportsmen by the Russian and Belarus regimes for the propaganda purposes to justify the act of aggression. Everybody doing so should be excluded from sports community.

All the members of the world sports community should commit to follow the principle of our moral duty and obligation to strengthen our support and to help Ukrainian sportsmen, so that they can participate in international sports events.

Estonia is deeply concerned by the situation of all refugees and displaced persons, including sportsmen, in Europe, in particular following the Russian Federation's aggression of Ukraine. The reports of the human rights violations against the members of these groups are worrisome. We are convinced that sport can be an important element in facilitating the inclusion of refugees and displaced persons.

In the end we would like to thank EPAS for initiating valuable projects like "Start to Talk" and "All in" and we look forward for continuation of the work you have started.

FINLAND / FINLANDE

Chair, Secretary General, Ministers, Colleagues,

First, Finland would like to thank our Turkish hosts and the EPAS Secretariat of the Council of Europe for organising this conference. I would also like to thank the keynote speakers for their excellent presentations.

Finland sees that there is a shared commitment to build more equal, non-discriminatory and safe sport in Europe. Implementing our common commitments, such as the European Sport Charter, sports conventions and recommendations, support the development of national sports policies to overcome the obstacles still existing.

Finland values the projects promoting gender equality and the protection of children that EPAS /the Council of Europe has implemented with the support of the European Union. Finland hopes that the Pan-European cooperation in sport will continue and to be intensified.

We have learned that the projects have contributed to the development at the national level. In order to create sustainability, persistent work is needed to promote equality, non-discrimination and a safe environment. When those principles are incorporated into national sport policies and structures as key elements, the sport is on the winning track. It is important that legislation supports this.

For mainstreaming gender equality, equal access to sport and safe sports in Finland, the Ministry of Education and Culture renewed its criteria for government grants for a couple of years ago. The sport organisations are required to have their gender equality and non-discrimination plans as well as to point measures to promote a healthy and safe sporting environment. The quality of the plan and measures will have a direct impact on the amount of the grant. The Ministry monitors the plans.

To follow the development of the gender equality in sport, the Ministry commissions every 5th year a comprehensive report. There are still challenges to tackle, such as equal pay. For child protection, Ministry supports the You are not alone –helpline for those facing bullying, inappropriate behaviour, harassment and violence in sport.

We find that engaging in continuous dialogue with the national sport movement, which, together with everyone's commitment to common principles are of paramount importance.

Finally, Finland endorses the draft resolution on theme 1.

We appreciate EPAS's initiative on sexual and gender minorities in sports. We hope to see this topic to be included in gender equality work also in future.

Thank you

FRANCE

La France tient fermement à ce que les JOP accueillis en 2024 jouent un rôle durable et profond de catalyseur au service de la population française. C'est en particulier le cas au niveau du développement de la pratique sportive pour les publics les plus éloignés de la pratique sportive, avec un objectif ambitieux d'accroître le nombre de pratiquants de 3 millions d'ici les Jeux olympiques et paralympiques de Paris en 2024.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, les autorités publiques françaises réalisent des efforts significatifs pour que les publics les plus vulnérables et les moins actifs bénéficient en priorité de cet effort national en faveur du développement de la pratique sportive, que ce soit les femmes, les groupes défavorisés, au premier rang desquels les personnes en situation de handicap ou les réfugiés, et les enfants, qui font l'objet d'une attention toute particulière.

Certaines de ces mesures sont **d'ordre législatif** : la France a adopté une nouvelle loi sur le sport en mars 2022, qui vise à démocratiser le sport.

Parmi les dispositions de cette nouvelle loi, je souhaite mettre l'accent sur **l'obligation progressive de parité femmes/hommes dans les instances dirigeantes** des fédérations sportives nationales, lors des renouvellements de leurs mandats à compter du 1er janvier 2024. La féminisation des instances dirigeantes est une mesure phare pour une approche intégrée de la problématique de l'égalité femmes/hommes dans le sport, car mieux représentées aux fonctions décisionnaires, les femmes auront les moyens de peser davantage dans les décisions prises en matière d'organisation des pratiques sportives, de féminisation des fonctions d'encadrements, de prise en compte des facteurs sociaux ou culturels qui sont encore des freins importants à la pratique sportive des filles et des femmes.

Sur le sujet du sport pour les enfants, deux mesures issues de cette même loi me semblent méritées d'être citées car en lien direct avec notre sujet : d'une part, l'inscription dans les programmes scolaires des écoles primaires **d'une demi-heure d'activité physique quotidienne** en plus des deux heures d'EPS par semaine ; d'autre part l'obligation pour tous les nouveaux équipements sportifs scolaires d'être aménagés d'un accès extérieur afin d'être accessibles pour les associations et ainsi favoriser une meilleure coordination entre établissements scolaires, clubs et associations.

Au-delà des dispositions prévues par la loi, je souhaite vous présenter aujourd'hui **deux dispositifs** assez ambitieux dans leurs objectifs et les moyens mis à contribution pour développer le sport pour tous en France :

Le premier concerne la prévention des **violences sexuelles dans le sport**. Après la médiatisation de nombreux cas en 2019, la France a décidé de se saisir du sujet à bras le corps et a mis en place un dispositif national spécifique de prévention, de signalement et de traitement des cas de violences sexuelles dans le sport. Ce dispositif comprend la mise en place d'une cellule dédiée au ministère des sports et des JOP, qui a pour mission de traiter les cas qui lui sont signalés. Il comprend aussi tout un volet de formation, d'outillage, de communication, auprès des fédérations, des clubs, des sportifs, des entraîneurs, notamment l'obligation, au sein des formations aux métiers du sport, d'un enseignement contre les violences sexuelles. Et oui la France a soutenu la campagne Start to Talk, en réalisant dès 2019 une vidéo sur le sujet avec des athlètes, des journalistes sportifs, des représentations politiques français ! Tous ces efforts collectifs ont permis de libérer la parole des victimes, et la cellule a été saisie de plusieurs centaines de signalements en l'espace de 3 ans.

La seconde initiative qui me semble particulièrement pertinente est le fonds de soutien à la production audiovisuelle, financé par l'Agence nationale du sport en France, qui a vocation à **favoriser l'exposition médiatique** des disciplines peu médiatisées et/ou permettant un soutien à la **promotion de la pratique sportive féminine et au développement de la pratique des personnes en situation de handicap**.

Enfin, pour conclure, une mesure qui peut sembler plus symbolique, mais qui est un signal fort de l'engagement de la France à être moteur dans le développement du sport pour tous : les Jeux de Paris 2024 compteront strictement le même nombre d'athlètes hommes et femmes.

GEORGIA / GEORGIE

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished participants of the Conference,

It gives me a great pleasure and honour to participate in the 17th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport.

In 2018, my country hosted the 15th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, where the International Declaration on Human Rights and Sport – “Tbilisi Declaration” was endorsed by the Heads of Delegation around the table.

“Tbilisi Declaration” highlights the vast potential of sport for promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, more specifically, achievement of gender equality, integration of disadvantaged groups and protection of children’s rights.

Ensuring gender equality remains, regrettably, one of the biggest challenges facing the sports community. It is our responsibility to deal with that challenge in most efficient and speedy way.

Let me list several Georgian women, who have made a name for themselves as outstanding athletes across the globe. Among them are Nino Salukvadze, the winner of Olympic, World and European shooting championships. She set the record by becoming the first woman athlete to qualify for nine Summer Olympics; Ketevan Losaberidze, the first and only European woman to win Olympic gold medal in archery. Wheelchair fencers - Irma Khetsuriani and Nina Tibilashvili. The latter won silver at the Tokyo Paralympic Games in 2021. One of the members of our delegation is Nana Ioseliani, the legendary chess player and five-time Olympic champion, who, in team with Nona Gaprindashvili (the first woman ever to be awarded the FIDE title Grandmaster in 1978) and Maia Chiburdanidze (the second woman to be awarded the title of Grandmaster by FIDE, in 1984) changed the history of chess forever.

The Georgian sports history records many household names. There are more of them in the world sports history.

These and many other iconic athletes impose on us the responsibility for widening access to, and ensuring a greater level of equality in all sports.

In 2019 Georgia participated in a European Union and Council of Europe joint project "ALL IN: Towards gender balance in sport". Based on the research findings across 32 Olympic sports in Georgia, recommendations were sent to sports organizations to help them achieve a better gender balance. Our Ministry is focused on ensuring that women are offered equal opportunities not only to forge careers as professional athletes but also to participate in sports governance structures.

Georgia remains committed to share the international experience and make further efforts to empower sportswomen. The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) and the engagement with other Council of Europe institutions provide a key instrument to ensure that human rights are protected in and through sport.

Thank you for your kind attention.

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

I would like to thank you, Minister Kasapoğlu, and the Turkish Government warmly for your hospitality here in Antalya and for hosting this conference.

I would also like to thank Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić and the EPAS Secretariat for preparing the conference topics and the resolutions.

Many thanks also to the speakers for their interesting keynote speeches.

Germany supports the draft resolution on "Sport for all: uniting us for stronger societies". In particular, gender equality, integration and inclusion, access to sport and the protection of children and young people in sport are important topics that we in Germany are also concerned with intensively.

The reference document asks for measures that can be taken by governments or EPAS in this regard. Of course, we as a government can first promote suitable measures and projects. And this is what we do: For more than 30 years, our ministry has been promoting the programme "Integration through Sport". This programme aims to encourage people with a migration background to become actively involved in sports clubs - as sportsmen and sportswomen as well as coaches or other officials. To cope with the negative consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic on organised sport in Germany, we are currently working on a RESTART programme. We are also in the process of founding a centre for "safe sport" together with various stakeholders. This is intended to improve the protection of athletes from sexualised, physical and psychological violence.

Regardless of special programmes and projects, it is also crucial to raise the awareness of sport officials at grassroots level with regard to issues such as gender equality, integration, protection against violence and discrimination. These issues must be implemented where sport and physical activity take place every day, i.e. on site in sports clubs.

There, it is important to specifically address female athletes in order to inspire them to become coaches or to take on other functions in sports clubs. In the sports clubs, there must be an atmosphere that gives people the feeling of belonging, regardless of gender, origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, etc. There, serious measures must be taken by the officials to protect the physical and mental integrity of the children and young people.

In addition, sport and physical activity must be strategically developed, especially at the local level. Important for this is a long-term and politically supported cross-sectoral cooperation between the municipal authorities (responsible for the areas of sport, education, youth and public space), organised sport and other local actors. In particular, increased cooperation between the sport sector and schools can lay the foundation for a long-lasting enthusiasm of sport and physical activity and for societal engagement.

In Germany, we as a government would like to further advance such processes, which are quite complex and demanding in their implementation, and will therefore develop a "Sport Development Plan" together with all relevant stakeholders starting next year. This is a sport policy priority of the Federal Government.

Thank you very much for your attention!

GREECE / GRECE**a) Gender equality – ensuring women’s equal participation and involvement**

Gender balance in sport is a multilevel issue. The first level is the athletes where I see that concrete steps have been done the last decades.

In Paris 2024 we will have a 50-50 representation for the first time in history. Besides, women team sports like football become all the more popular attracting spectators and sponsors.

On the other hand, the big gap is in coaches and officials where the female gender is underrepresented. In Greece we apply a 30% quota in the composition of sport federation boards.

In addition, in our evaluation system of the sport federations (a hierarchical multicriteria system called CHILON) we use 4 major criteria: size, activity, international performance and governance.

In governance, the sub-criterion of gender balance in the administration of the federations is attributed with high importance.

Given that this evaluation is linked to funding, the sport federations have strong incentive to have a gender balanced board.

b) Sport as a means of inclusion: its role for disadvantaged groups

As Nelson Mandela was saying in his historic speech “sport has the power to change the world” 20 years ago, “Sport laughs at the face of any type of discrimination”.

What we must do is to exploit the power of sport as one of the best social tools for inclusion, tolerance, respect, lifting the barriers for disadvantaged group. This has been done to a large extent for people with disabilities where the disabled athletes are the best ambassadors and role models.

Participation in European programs targeting the disadvantaged groups like disabled people or refugees. Now we examine a plan of funding lower income families to send their children in sporting clubs for doing various sports.

c) Sport for children: education, safeguarding and development

The “Start to Talk” campaign in Greece in January 2021 was the trigger for revealing a case of sexual abuse of a female sailing athlete (gold medallist) that initiates a “me too” movement also outside sport that shook Greece society.

“Start to talk” campaign and toolkit is already translated in Greek and available in the site of the General Secretariat of sport.

Regarding safeguarding and overtraining we are in the process of finalizing a template for code of conduct to be distributed in federations and clubs that includes the basic principles.

HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIEGE

Our people and our world are facing challenges and threats on a scale never seen before – climate change, civil unrest, new diseases, isolation, oppression, inequality, poverty, terrorism and above all the threat of nuclear war. These problems regard everyone without distinction of demography, geography, belief system or political status. They affect our friends, our neighbours, our families, our children. Without immediate and effective change, generations to come will live in a world worse than ours. This is not fair, but it is avoidable.

The Holy See is fully aware of these challenges and threats. In fact, during the International Summit “Sport for All: Cohesive, Accessible and Tailored to each Person” held last September in the Vatican, the Catholic Church responded through its reflection on the practice of sport with the ultimate aim to make the world a better place through Sport for All. The Declaration accompanying the Summit and signed in the presence of Pope Francis by stakeholders from the whole world, including the IOC, IPC, etc. highlights the potential for inclusion and cohesion provided by Sport.

In line with the Declaration, the Holy See supports the following three principles and goals:

1. Together we are stronger
Nobody can solve all the world’s problems alone. To fully realize the international community’s potential and make effective change, it is critical that changemakers from all sectors of society recognise and actively support peaceful human development. This also implies a new alliance, namely, encouraging a model based on solidarity between Sport for All and elite sport. This relationship is essential to strengthening the educational and social dimension of sport.
2. Working together
The future motto of our collective work should be sharing and exchanging best practices. There is an urgent need to create a new climate of cooperation. What is successful in one school, community or Country should be made available to others. The duplication of work needs to be avoided and best practices should be accessible for all by encouraging networking and sharing experiences through platforms at the local, national and international level.
3. Supporting one another
The solidarity model does not ask the question “what is in it for us” but “what can we do for others”. Efforts to share competence and exchange experiences should be promoted between developed and developing Countries. Moreover, to maximize the positive impact of Sport for All we call on:
 - the elite sport movement to support grassroots and life-long sports participation through funding and advocacy;
 - national governments to promote the policies and legislation identified by Sport for All;
 - parents to recognize the significance of physical activity alongside formal education;
 - media outlets to promote Sport for All initiatives and positive leadership;
 - formal acknowledgement of voluntary and community contributions;

We understand that every Country has its own specific goals, perspectives and resources. At the same time, we also know that we will not succeed alone. Instead, we must work together with all actors, partners and stakeholders who are using Sport for All to benefit their community. In the words of Pope Francis, *“As the limbs form the body, so players form a team and people form a community. Sport can be a symbol of unity for a society, an experience of integration, an example of cohesion and a message of concord and peace. Today we are in great need of a pedagogy of peace, of developing a culture of peace, starting from everyday interpersonal relationships and culminating in those between peoples and nations. If the world of sport conveys unity and cohesion, it can become a formidable ally in building peace.”*¹

As regards the resolution entitled “Sport for all: uniting us for stronger societies”, my Delegation would like to note that the Holy See is not a party to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) and that, in conformity with its own nature, mission, and the particular character of Vatican City State, it is unlikely that the Holy See will be able to adhere to it. Moreover, we recall our well-known position on the use of the term „gender“. Therefore, my Delegation will not be able to join the consensus for the adoption of the said resolution.

Thank you

¹ POPE FRANCIS, *“Address to the Participants in the International Summit: Sport for All - Cohesive, Accessible and Tailored to each person”*, 30 September 2022

ICELAND / ISLANDE

Minister Kasapoğlu, ministers and other conference guests,

The meaning of sports in modern society has evolved and changed in recent decades. Strong community infrastructures such as schools, health institutions and transport are constant topics in politics. Although sports are not defined as a self-evident human right by law, we nevertheless consider it so. In my mind sports are among the important infrastructures in the society. Sports that are organized in the spirit of democracy, human rights, equality and the safety of all practitioners, where vigorous and varied sports activities for all can take place in good conditions, are characteristics of a society in which it is preferable to live.

We live in uncertain times where peace cannot be taken for granted. In times of war, all aspects of human rights, democracy, equality and, security are at risk. I strongly emphasize that the work of the Council of Europe and the countries that are members of EPAS safeguard the basic values that underline all work in the Council of Europe.

I would like to mention few projects and measures that we are working on in Iceland to promote stronger framework for sports:

1. Act on the Integration of Services in the Interest of Children's Prosperity, entered into force on 1 January 2022. The Act is based on five pillars: Health and well-being, Education, Participation and Social Connection, Security and Protection, and Quality of Life. It provides a holistic approach to the life of children and all other legal frameworks on children's services will take note of this new Act. The implementation phase is three to five years.
2. Like many European countries, the movement of people between countries has increased, not only refugees seeking international protection, but also people moving between countries for work or just other family ties. These challenges will not leave the countries of Europe, so it is important that the government's work in all areas of society takes this reality into account. This is already a focus of my Ministry in close cooperation with the sports movement.
3. Following the 1st wave of Metoo 2018, the office of communication Counselor for sports and youth work was launched by law. The goal is that children, teenagers, and adults, regardless of gender or status, can play sports and seek help for incidents and wrongdoings that occur without having to fear the consequences. This is the government's most important equality project in sports in recent years. This office is now three years old and has proven to be very successful and many issues have been resolved.
4. A great development has taken place in participation in health - related sports for all. The government now places special emphasis on public health strategies. I have established a working group to define better participation of the sports movement in the planning of health- related activities.
5. Finally, it can be mentioned that work is under way to ensure better framework for high-achieving athletes in sports. It examines how financial and professional support is best guaranteed. Iceland wholeheartedly supports the work carried out by the Council of Europe in sports and the priorities set out in the statement on Sports for all that has been presented here.

Thank you

IRELAND / IRLANDE

We all aspire to having a sports sector that fully celebrates diversity, promotes inclusion and provides opportunities for lifelong participation in sport and physical activity for everyone. We all want and are working towards ensuring that sport is welcoming and inclusive to everyone with a focus on addressing and reducing the participation gradients.

In Ireland, our National Sports Policy and Sports Action Plan places an important emphasis on inclusion. The potential of sport to foster inclusion and social cohesion is well recognised. It is important that a concerted effort is made now to harness the power of sport to deliver on that potential. This is all the more evident with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. 54,771 Ukrainians have arrived into Ireland fleeing the war under the latest information published by our central statistics office.

Inclusion means to value people's differences, make them feel welcome, respected and that they belong. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we increase our understanding of the benefits of a diverse and inclusive sport sector. The greater the diversity of those involved in all aspects of sport, the better all of those areas will be, as they will be more representative of the broader population. We have sought to embed a sport for all ethos across the entire sport sector, to ensure that we focus our efforts on addressing the participation levels amongst people from diverse backgrounds.

Our core goal in Sports is enhancing participation, and to that end we have endeavoured to expand and open our sports offering, to ensure that every person, no matter their age, gender, class, ethnicity or religion can partake in sport. In order to meet ambitious national targets for physical activity, ensuring that people, even those from marginalised communities, can freely enjoy the benefits of health enhancing physical activity, is of vital importance.

Ireland welcomes the draft resolution on Sport for all: uniting us for stronger societies.

The resolution makes welcome reference to the cause of child safeguarding. We welcome the role and the work of the Council of Europe in promoting this cause. Children should be safe in sport, that is the very least they are entitled to.

We also welcome the work in relation to Gender Equality. In Ireland we are all too familiar with participation gradients on the basis of gender. Sport is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle, and all should be able to participate in it at all levels. An important element of this will also be ensuring that women are represented in the boardroom. We have set a target of 40% of the boards of our sporting organisations being women by 2023. This is an ambitious target, but we need ambition as we seek to tackle these challenges.

I look forward to hearing from other speakers here today, and learning from each other as we seek to implement this resolution.

LUXEMBOURG

Monsieur le Président, Chers Collègues, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Je voudrais d'abord remercier nos hôtes turcs et le ministre Kasapoğlu pour leur accueil dans ce superbe cadre à Antalya.

Après avoir entendu l'intervention du ministre ukrainien, je ne peux évidemment que témoigner de la profonde solidarité du Luxembourg envers l'Ukraine et le peuple ukrainien face à l'agression russe et à l'escalade de violence actuelle qui vise les populations civiles. Pour le Luxembourg c'est une obligation morale de vous soutenir car si nous, Luxembourgeois, vivons aujourd'hui en liberté c'est parce que dans le passé d'autres pays ne nous ont pas abandonnés. Aujourd'hui, nous débattons du sport dans cette enceinte de coopération intergouvernementale qu'offre le Conseil de l'Europe, mais avant de parler du sport je voudrais rappeler combien nous tenons à ces enceintes de dialogues, car elles doivent, peut-être devrais-je hélas dire devaient, permettre que plus jamais ce ne soient des rapports de force qui dominent les relations entre les pays du continent européen mais bien « la consolidation de la paix fondée sur la justice et la coopération internationale » comme l'indique le préambule du statut du Conseil de l'Europe. Comme l'un des points de nos discussions du jour porte sur l'intégration par le sport, au Luxembourg certaines de nos fédérations sportives, notamment celle qui encadre les enfants scolarisés (LASEP) a directement accueilli les enfants ayant fui la guerre en Ukraine bénéficiant du statut de protection temporaire et a pris en charge les frais de la cotisation annuelle. Le sport ne peut pas tout mais il peut beaucoup et dans ce cadre, en cohérence avec la politique de sanctions menée par l'Union européenne nous avons également soutenu les initiatives visant à refuser la participation des athlètes russes et biélorusses aux compétitions sportives internationales, ceci afin de clairement indiquer notre désapprobation face à l'agression russe.

Pour répondre brièvement aux questions posées sous le premier thème, je ne peux qu'être enthousiaste lorsque je lis que la Charte révisée reconnaît que le sport est un droit fondamental et qu'il doit pouvoir être pratiqué dans un environnement sûr. Ce droit au sport pour chacun afin de favoriser « l'épanouissement de la personnalité, l'intégration sociale et le développement des relations en société » correspond au texte de l'article premier de la loi sur le sport au Grand-Duché de Luxembourg. Pour ce qui est du volet égalité de genre que ce soit dans la pratique sportive ou au sein de la direction du sport je pense que le combat doit se situer sur le terrain de la lutte contre les stéréotypes de genre et le sexisme dans le sport en mettant en avant les réalisations et succès des femmes dans le sport mais aussi être effectué dès l'école afin de sensibiliser dès le plus jeune âge à cette question de l'égalité de genre et de la non-discrimination en général.

Si le Luxembourg peut se flatter d'être dans le top 10 du classement du Gender Equality Index, nous travaillons pour assurer la mise à disposition des infrastructures pour les équipes féminines, le recrutement de bénévoles et arbitres dans le sport féminin, sa visibilité médiatique, les écarts de rémunération mais aussi le fait que les femmes, avec les jeunes et les personnes précaires ont été les catégories qui ont le plus décroché du sport après l'épidémie de Covid. Les travaux du Conseil de l'Europe et de l'APES seront une référence pour nos travaux dans le cadre de la mise en place d'un plan d'égalité des sexes dans le sport.

De manière générale, les politiques en matière de non-discrimination, que ce soit en raison du statut, de l'âge, de la morphologie, de la race, des déficiences physiques, visuelles et mentales, du genre, de la religion, de l'origine ethnique ou de l'orientation sexuelle sont une tradition que le Luxembourg mène depuis longue date. Concernant le dernier volet, celui du sport pour les enfants c'est également une priorité de notre politique sportive. Je voudrais mentionner une initiative nationale appelée GIMB, qui remonte à 2006, et qui se traduit par « Manger sain, bouger plus ». Il s'agit d'une stratégie interministérielle qui vise, par le biais de partenariats intersectoriels et pluridisciplinaires à promouvoir, à travers des actions concrètes, une alimentation équilibrée et une activité physique régulière et adaptée, de lutter contre l'obésité et la sédentarité pour enraciner des modes de vie sains et actifs à travers les différents âges et phases de vie de toute la population. En 2018 les ministères des Sports et de l'Education engagés dans l'initiative GIMB ont réuni leurs efforts pour définir les pistes prioritaires à suivre au profit d'une éducation motrice, physique et sportive bénéfique aux enfants de 0 à 12 ans. Les communes étant propriétaires des infrastructures scolaires et sportives celles-ci sont mises à disposition des clubs, des associations et des particuliers. L'Etat encourage financièrement les communes pour engager des coordinateurs sportifs qui jouent une sorte de relais entre tous les acteurs sur le terrain.

Je n'ai pas traité toutes questions et tous les sujets mais j'espère avoir pu dresser un tour d'horizon rapide sur ce premier thème.

NORWAY / NORVEGE

On gender equality

The Norwegian sports model prides itself on being inclusive. There is a strong and unison opinion in society that sport is and should be for everybody. And figures show that almost all children – boys and girls equally – join sports clubs at one time or another during their childhood.

However, figures also show that girls - generally speaking - quit sooner, fewer girls and women pursue professional sports careers and women are under-represented as coaches and in sports governing bodies.

These are complex issues that, surely, reflect discriminatory attitudes, but they are also the result of individuals' choices, preferences and ambitions, lack of role models and other matters.

Having said that, the Norwegian Sports Organisation works intently on these issues and has launched a number of initiatives to increase the number of women in sport. One example is to push to promote female leaders and coaches and to increase the number of women in decision-making positions. And it seems to work. The number has increased from 13 to 27 % since 2020.

Among the many measures introduced by the Sports Organisation is an annual gender-baroscope; a measuring tool to gain insight and knowledge of both female participation and female leadership.

The government continues to work closely with sport to address the issue of female participation and gender equality at all levels of the sporting community.

On the inclusion of disadvantaged people

For the Norwegian government the recognition of organised sport as an arena of inclusion and community is central. An important prerequisite for the government grant to the Sports Organisation is that the Sports Organisation aims to include all who wish to be included.

Although sports participation in Norway is high – also among children from a disadvantaged background, there is a significant disparity between different socio-economic groups and their engagement in organised sport.

Recognising that an increasing number of children and youth grow up in low-income families, the government and the Sports Organisation seek to meet this challenge through a number of initiatives and programmes. For example, the tool “All IN” was developed to make it easier to include children and youth in recreational activities, regardless of the financial situation of their families. The tool facilitates discussions and ideas on how to include everybody and is widely used by sports clubs.

In addition, several grant schemes, both at the national and local levels, are designed to promote inclusive environment and to aid clubs that are struggling.

On sport for children

The Norwegian Sports Organisation has been an active participant and a strong supporter of the “Start to talk initiative”. The #starttotalk campaign was launched in Norway in 2018 and has continued attention within the sporting community.

In collaboration with “Save the Children” the sports organisation has developed and is in the process of implementing a system and a framework for safeguarding, with focus on capacity building, awareness raising and training.

Parts of the national initiative is targeted directly at coaches and trainers and includes creating sport-specific examples of good practices, education materials and rules and regulations. The intention is to include this in the qualifying training for coaches.

POLAND / POLOGNE

Interpretative Declaration on Resolution 1: Sport for all: uniting us for stronger societies

Poland shall ensure equality between women and men within the Polish national legal system in accordance with international human rights treaties and within the framework of the fundamental values and principles of the Council of Europe and the European Union. For these reasons, where resolutions refer to gender equality, Poland will interpret it as equality between women and men according to its national law.

PORTUGAL

I take this opportunity to embrace a specific topic, gender equality, starting by acknowledging EPAS' work, and particularly the ALL IN towards gender balance in sports.

Since the beginning Portugal embraced this project.

The work of the Council of Europe with member-states and the cooperation with the European Union has been fruitful, regarding evidence-based data collecting associated with action plans and national policies. These work methods and collaboration should continue to be used and further explored.

We must act now to ensure that the sport movement makes gender equality a reality, by starting to recognize that there are structural inequalities that put women in sport in a secondary position.

These disparities are mostly revealed in salary inequalities, reduced presence in leadership roles and lack of media coverage.

The Portuguese Government has set gender equality as a priority area and created a working group on gender in this topic that will present, in January, the National Strategy for Gender Equality in Sports for the period of 2023-2026.

For developing this strategy, the data collected within the framework of "all in towards gender balance in sport" has been essential to develop policies and measures that recognize the specific reality of our country.

We aim that this strategy has strong and effective policies that lead Portugal to European levels regarding gender equality in sports.

In the next months, the Portuguese Government will also approve a new legislation regarding sports societies. This new legal framework will contribute to our strategy regarding gender equality in sports.

For example, the board of directors of a sport society will have to must ensure a representation of at least 33 % of a gender.

Also, until know, a sports club was only allowed to have one society by sport discipline. The new legislation will ensure that each sport club can create two societies by sport, ensuring that one is fore female teams. This will ensure more and effective investment in women sport.

We are aware that we have taken large steps regarding female participation as athletes, but there is a longer journey to take when we look at other roles in sports, such as leadership roles in the sports movements, coaches or media.

It may take long to make gender equality a reality in sports, but we look forward to seeing and updated you with the results of this National Strategy.

Gender equality has been a fundamental principle of the Council of Europe since the beginning.

In this context, member states, public authorities and the sports movement are all called to do more and better and we are confident that sport will win with an equal participation of man and women.

SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN

Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Turkish Authorities for the excellent organisation of this Conference. I am very sorry not to be able to be with you due to unforeseen institutional commitments. Nevertheless, I would like to make a brief contribution, since the issues addressed by this Conference are particularly dear to San Marino. Indeed, despite the small size of its territory and population, thanks to sport San Marino experienced a wonderful sense of national unity for the excellent results achieved by its athletes at the last Olympics, where they won two bronze medals and a silver medal.

Such achievements are the result of huge personal sacrifice by individual athletes, in terms not only of training, but also of renunciations and choices, to the detriment of their dear ones and families, to overcome all those obstacles that are the subject of debate in this Conference today. This is particularly true when we speak of women.

These achievements are also the result of a collective effort by all San Marino Institutions, which, in synergy and in agreement with our National Olympic Committee, provided our athletes with the best possible conditions to facilitate their training and eliminate as many obstacles as possible in their sports career. And it should be remembered that they are not professional athletes.

However, this collective effort by Institutions and sports bodies must be increased, thus systematically allowing top athletes to perform their discipline full-time as a real job.

With regard to access to sports, the legislation in force in San Marino is naturally open to total gender equality in terms of both sports practiced and managerial positions in sports bodies. With respect to this last point, despite the fact that the majority of San Marino Sports Federations are still managed by men, we have noticed an encouraging increase in women's interest in holding such positions.

Anyhow, until we achieve the necessary cultural evolution where sport is no longer a discipline and sector predominantly participated by men, we will have to seriously reflect on the possibility of introducing “anti-discrimination gender quotas”.

In San Marino, sport is also considered as a privileged means of social inclusion of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, *inter alia* the physically and mentally disabled. This noble achievement is made possible and enhanced thanks to the tireless commitment of San Marino Special Sports Federation, to which I would like to express my well-deserved praise and sincere gratitude. We are particularly proud to count among our Sports Federations this Federation founded in 1983. Its activities are not limited to the care and promotion of disabled athletes, but to their full inclusion in society through amateur and competitive sport.

To build stronger societies through sport, where the adjective “strong” encompasses altruism, cohesion, solidarity, equality and unity, individuals must be educated from an early age in healthy sport. For sport to be defined as healthy, it is essential to have educators who are adequately prepared and trained to train not only the body, but also the mind, to educate in the values of fair play, the beauty of participation and co-participation in the spirit of Pierre de Coubertin, respect for opponents and also acceptance of defeat. Indeed, we witness too often in our societies an excessive exacerbation of competition and the quest for victory at all costs due to educators and parents who are not up to their task. In this respect, we need to do much more in terms of education.

In San Marino, all primary school pupils, starting from grade one, i.e. from the age of six, are introduced to and made to try out at school all sports disciplines available in the territory, thanks to the competent Federations. This helps and accompanies them in choosing their favourite sport to be practised in their free time. Indeed, the building of a stronger and healthier society depends on the full realisation of each individual from childhood onwards. And full realisation depends predominantly on the possibility of expressing one's characteristics, individuality and talents in all areas of life, including sport.

Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, in conclusion, allow me to express that San Marino fully shares the objectives of today's Conference and strongly supports the adoption of both final draft resolutions.

SPAIN / ESPAGNE**a) Gender Equality: ensuring equal participation and involvement**

Gender equality is one of the most transversal policies in which public administrations work in Spain, being a basic premise of justice and coexistence of societies. For gender equality to be a consolidated achievement in all social aspects, the participation and commitment of the various social partners is necessary. In the specific case of sport, these necessary actors are of a very different nature. From the national and territorial Sports Federations, to clubs, schools, families, without forgetting the fundamental role of the media.

Equality in sport is outlined with a double aspect:

- Equality in access to and practice of sport.
- And the use of sport as an ideal instrument for the promotion and visibility of equality.

The most prominent challenges and difficulties in terms of gender equality are:

- The massive abandonment of federated women's sport in adolescence.
- Sports career opportunities for women.
- Visibility and recognition of women in sport.

Public Administrations have an important capacity to implement equality policies (through regulatory, subsidized and promotion activity). In the HC4S we have some recent milestones in this regard, such as the approval of the Equality in Sport Plan, the sports bill, or the implementation of the Equality Observatory.

In the HC4S, aware of this reality, the first division of women's football was declared professional, as an engine to sensitize society, as a means to generate references and as a tractor to promote the professionalization of women in other sports.

In the HC4S, aware of the absence of opportunities in managerial positions for women in sport, we finance leadership programs, seminars, and give visibility to professionals within the sports field that is not only that of the competitive athlete but those who can participate as part of the staff. At the federal level, we impose the obligation to have minimum quotas for the participation of women in the boards of directors in order to be eligible for public subsidies from the federation. They must also have a body responsible for women and sport that manages and promotes women's sport. This action has been very successful and very well received by the federations, being able to generate the opportunity for women's sport that is pursued with this initiative.

A success story of public-private collaboration to promote equality is found in the creation of the Event of Special Public Interest, Universo Mujer, which is currently being developed in its third edition, active until December 2024. It is a mechanism through which a private promoter develops a project to promote equality in sport, and is financed through the donation of another private entity, usually in the context of the corporate social responsibility of one or more companies. The project must be approved by the HC4S, and when entering the Universo Mujer program, the donor company can deduct up to 90% of its donation.

c. Sport for children: education, prevention and development.

Immersion in sport is something that must begin at a very early age, not only because of the importance of acquiring healthy habits, but also because of the characteristic of sport as an optimal instrument that contributes to psychosocial and emotional development in childhood and can provide values of equality, health, integration, and personal balance, while generating the healthy sports habit and favouring the early detection of talents.

For this reason, the work of educators is so important, being essential to invest in their training in sports psychology, psychopedagogy, equality, disability and adapted sport, physiology and protection against abuse and bullying.

Additionally, in the field of sport, given the existing history of cases of abuse and harassment, we must promote the creation of safe spaces and environments as a basic prevention measure.

In Spanish legislation, the Organic Law on the protection of children and adolescents against violence, approved in 2021, devotes an entire chapter to sport. Public administrations, federations and clubs must have a protocol of action against cases of abuse and harassment and appoint a protection delegate.

The HC4S approved in 2020 its second Protocol of action against harassment and abuse, which already established the obligation of a protection delegate and a code of conduct and good practices for the correct prevention and treatment, which includes recommendations from the use of the facilities to the performance in stands and awards ceremony.

At the same time, an Action Protocol was drawn up for the Spanish Sports Federations, with the request to adapt to the federative reality. The approval and publication of the federative protocols is a necessary condition for the Sport Federations to receive grants from the HC4S.

We will continue to promote sport as a tool for education and development, as we have done so far, as a fundamental axis of our action.

SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

Thank you for the floor, Mister President. I will continue in French.

Madame la Secrétaire Générale du Conseil de l'Europe,
Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres,
Chères et chers collègues,

La Suisse souhaite tout d'abord remercier chaleureusement l'APES et les autorités turques pour l'organisation parfaite de cette Conférence. L'endroit est magnifique et il fait bon se retrouver toutes et tous sur cette très belle côte de la Mer Méditerranée !

Je vais articuler ma brève intervention autour de trois axes.

Le premier axe, c'est **l'accès au sport pour tous**, qui est essentiel pour le développement personnel de chacun et la société en général, en matière de santé, d'éducation et d'inclusion sociale notamment.

En Suisse, il existe un programme ouvert aux jeunes dès l'âge de cinq ans jusqu'à vingt ans, qui s'appelle Jeunesse et Sport. Il est organisé entre plusieurs partenaires que sont la Confédération, les cantons, les communes, les fédérations sportives, les clubs et les écoles. Grâce notamment aux subventions d'environ cent millions de francs payées chaque année par la Confédération, ce programme permet à environ un million de participants et de cadres de participer à près de quatre-vingt mille camps et cours de formation dans quatre-vingt-cinq sports. Cette année, le programme Jeunesse et Sport fête ses cinquante ans et son succès va en augmentant.

Le deuxième axe, c'est assurer **une participation et une implication égales des femmes dans le sport**. Malgré les progrès réalisés, des écarts importants existent encore, notamment en matière de participation à la prise de décision et d'encouragement des femmes à la pratique du sport. Des progrès doivent être faits !

J'aimerais vous mentionner une mesure concrète que la Suisse a introduite.

Notre Ministre des sports souhaite que les associations sportives augmentent leurs efforts pour promouvoir l'égalité des sexes dans leurs organes dirigeants. Elle attend de ces dernières qu'elles atteignent un quota de quarante pour cent de femmes jusqu'à fin deux mille vingt-trois. Les associations qui n'y parviendront pas pourraient, à terme, voir leurs subventions être réduites. Pour notamment les dix plus grandes associations sportives suisses, comme celle du football, ce quota de quarante pour cent est loin d'être atteint. Le défi à relever et le chemin à parcourir sont donc très grands.

Enfin, le troisième axe est **la protection des enfants et des jeunes** dans le sport. Si le sport et les activités sportives sont indispensables au bon développement des enfants et des jeunes, ils peuvent aussi représenter certains dangers selon l'environnement dans lequel ils sont exercés.

C'est pourquoi la Suisse a lancé un vaste projet « éthique dans le sport » qui vise à renforcer les bases éthiques du système sportif suisse, et dont l'application est contrôlée par une task-force qui réunit les principaux partenaires.

La principale mesure a été la création, le premier janvier deux mille vingt-deux, du service Swiss Sport Integrity. Les missions de cet organe sont la lutte contre le dopage et la lutte contre les comportements éthiques inadéquats. Swiss Sport Integrity doit protéger les droits des sportifs, de tous âges et tous les niveaux. Il doit veiller à ce que chacun ait les mêmes chances, que le sport se pratique de manière loyale. Swiss Sport Integrity contribue ainsi à promouvoir la crédibilité du sport souhaitée par la population.

En créant Swiss Sport Integrity, la Suisse a suivi les recommandations de la Charte européenne du sport. Nous nous tenons à disposition des Etats qui souhaiteraient créer une telle unité.

Merci de votre attention.

TÜRKİYE

The understanding which limits sports only a matter of performance and competition should be overcome. This theme grants us the ability to envision sports as a part of the life. It enables us to see sports as the place of emotions, sharing, dialogue and civil life. We attach a special importance to sports' these aspects in the policies we implement in our country. Within the scope of this resolution, I consider very positively the emphasis on the topic of policies strengthening the participation of children, youth and especially women in sports. Despite the progress made on achieving gender equality in sports, women athletes still face with many challenges. I think that we have a long way to go on this issue.

UKRAINE

Dear Ministers, dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Ukrainian sports movement let me thank you for the support provided for Ukraine in these hard times.

We assembled here to react to modern challenges and opportunities in sports: gender equality, inclusivity, and other important topics.

But today all Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian sports community are focused on other issues, vitally important for our survival.

At the very same moment, when I speak, Russian missiles continue shelling my Homeland. Russian soldiers continue killing my compatriots.

Under such circumstances, I cannot be silent and must draw your attention to the current situation in Ukraine.

Every day of the war, the sphere of physical culture and sports in Ukraine suffers new losses.

After the start of full-scale Russia military aggression against Ukraine in violation of the Olympic Truce, our sports community has already lost 154 athletes and trainers.

The Russian army with the help of its Belarusian ally has destroyed 22 and damaged 113 sports facilities in all regions of Ukraine.

Despite this, Ukrainian athletes continue to represent our country in international sports arenas and win the highest awards in fair competitions.

Dear friends,

In these dark times, you gave a hand to Ukrainian sports.

You helped our athletes to train, and Ukrainian NADO – to retain the national anti-doping program. Ukrainian people will never forget this support!

Still, I truly believe that more can and should be done to resist Russian military aggression, save Ukrainian lives and restore justice. Thus, further sanctions should be imposed:

- to suspend Russian and Belarusian sport national governing bodies from international sport federations;
- to remove all individuals aligned to the Russian and Belarusian states from positions of influence on international sports federations, such as boards and organizing committees;
- to prevent the broadcast of sports competitions in Russia and Belarus;
- to prohibit the participation of representatives of the aggressor countries in any status.

Ukrainians strongly believe that it is inappropriate to have representatives of Russia and Belarus along with the representatives of the civilized world at all levels in sports - both in competitive arenas and in the decision-making process within the sports organizations.

We understand that next year will be a qualifying year for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Therefore, the Russian and Belarusian athletes and their leaders are doing everything possible to return to international sport at least under neutral flag.

At the same time, the president of the Russian Olympic Committee, violating the Olympic Charter, praises the unprovoked war against my country and states that Russian athletes, including members of the national teams, should be honoured to fight in this war.

It is unacceptable to us! We should not tolerate hypocritical Russian “neutrality” while their bombs and missiles explode at the peaceful streets of Ukrainian cities!

I count on your support and solidarity with Ukraine.

By joining our forces, we become stronger in defending the Olympic values and sustainable peace for Ukraine and Europe.

I thank you.

UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI

The UK Government welcomes today's focus on gender equality and safeguarding in sport. We are committed to supporting women's sport at every opportunity - pushing for greater participation, employment, commercial opportunities and visibility in the media.

Our latest data for England published in April this year shows that men are still more likely to be active than women. That is why we are determined to do more. For example, our sport agency Sport England has delivered a hugely successful campaign called 'This Girl Can', to encourage women and girls to get active, regardless of shape, size and ability. It has inspired almost 4 million women to get active.

Our hosting of the UEFA Women's EURO football competition in the summer, and the success of the England 'Lionesses' team, has been a great boost to the game and women's sport in our country. Over 23 million UK viewers tuned in to watch the final on BBC platforms and a record crowd of more than 87,000 attended the match. We have recently announced a Review of Women's Football, which will look at how to deliver bold and sustainable growth of the women's game at elite and grassroots level.

The UK is also delighted to be the new host of the Secretariat of the International Working Group on Women and Sport, for 2022 - 2026. I am pleased that Annamarie Phelps, our co-chair, was able to be here to talk a little about the IWG's work.

We are proud of the sport sector in the UK. However, we know that it is not perfect. We also recognise the challenges of ensuring the protection of young athletes. In the UK we have recently strengthened the law to provide additional protections for young people against predatory sports coaches. Our elite sport funding body UK Sport has also launched a new pilot project to provide independent complaint handling for those working in Olympic and Paralympic sports.

Our commitment to diversity isn't limited to women and girls. We believe that sport should be for everyone in society. Everyone should have the opportunity to take part in sport and feel welcomed and safe while doing so. And our "Code for Sports Governance" sets out the standards that all sporting organisations must meet to ensure discrimination is avoided, in return for public funding.

We are pleased that during the FIFA World Cup in Qatar European team captains, including those from England and Wales, have indicated they will wear 'One Love' armbands to champion LGBT+ rights. We stand by them in this action.

Finally, the UK underlines our continuing support for the people of Ukraine following the Russian Federation's unprovoked invasion. Respect for human rights and peaceful relations between nations form the foundation of international sport, and the UK Government has been clear that Russia should not be able to use sport to legitimise its acts in Ukraine.

As we seek to maintain collective pressure on Russia and Belarus, the UK looks forward to further engagement with you all, following on from the two collective [statements](#) on Ukraine and international sport signed earlier in the year by many of the countries present at this event.

Theme 2

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

Thème 2

**Repenser le sport :
ouvrir la voie à un avenir plus sain et durable**

BULGARIA / BULGARIE

Dear Chair,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to start by thanking our distinguished guest-speakers for their valuable contribution.

The aggregation of crises of various nature over the last two years has only added to the range of challenges facing the sport. Unfortunately, sport's internal mechanisms to deal with some challenges, such as doping, are not efficient enough. We believe that the implementation of the conventions of the Council of Europe in the field of sports, as well as the European Sports Charter, have the potential to mobilize a wide legal toolkit to protect the clean sport.

At a time when Europe faces challenges regarding its energy security, it is clear that green-related policies are not just avant-garde and innovative options, but rather a current solution applicable for the sport sector. All stakeholders, including sport organisations and athletes have a role to play in promoting and practicing more sustainable sport.

At national level, we do considerable efforts to facilitate public access to sporting activities. We hold regular meetings with municipality' mayors and discuss possibilities for refurbishment of existing sport facilities, as well as building new sport infrastructure. We are currently working on several ongoing public procurements for sustainable refurbishment of existing sports facilities, and other projects are in the pipeline. We invest in energy-efficiency in order to reduce energy consumption and operating costs, thus mitigating the risk of closing sport arenas. Free access to sporting activities is one of the priorities we follow in order to achieve our mission - to strengthen public health.

Last but not least, Bulgaria would like to emphasize on our new National Programme called "Together in Arts and Sports", which connects educational, social, cultural and health functions of sport to be able to overcome the accumulated deficits, as a result of the Covid-19. Developed in close cooperation between the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Science, it strives to engage students' spare time with sporting activities, thus developing values such as tolerance, integrity, fair-play, and non-discrimination. Main role is given to teachers and coaches, some of them former athletes, who shall transmit the sporting values to the youngsters and boosting their return to sporting activities. We look forward to providing you with the outcomes of the Programme's first implementation period.

Thank You for Your attention!

Declaration by the Republic of Bulgaria on Draft Resolution no. 2: Rethinking sport: leading the way for a healthy and sustainable future

„The Republic of Bulgaria reserves the right to implement the Resolution with the understanding that the term “gender” refers to the two sexes – female and male – that are biologically defined, as per Decisions № 13/2018 and 15/2021 of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria.”

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Today, sport, and particularly sport organizations, balance between intense commercialization and the need to create and adopt a culture based on a system of values (value-based sport organizations). The threat to the integrity of sport as well as the continuous and sometimes unpredictable challenges it faces, such as the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, threaten the future of sport, but also highlight its ability to recover and adapt to new conditions.

Mainstreaming human rights in national and institutional sport policy and strategies is quite challenging. Strengthening human rights policies on national level could be obtained through the reform of national legislation and enhanced partnerships between sport and human rights organisations. Hence, the set-up appropriate mechanisms will enhance capacity to raise awareness, educate, prevent, investigate and apply sanctions on human rights violations in and through sport. The revised European Sport Charter of EPAS provides a good framework on how sport can promote the European values and human rights.

The promotion of physical activity on leisure and professional level is not the sole job of the sport, health, leisure or education sectors. To ensure that is included as key component of public health objectives, a cross-sectoral cooperation between diverse actors is required to collectively work together in the sphere of their competence to develop a “National health-enhancing physical activity Strategy”. In the framework of the national strategy measures to combat the consumption of illegal substances with a view to increase performance in amateur and elite sport should be included. Such prevention measures should be integrated into school curricula at an early stage.

Undoubtedly, the covid-19 pandemic has affected society in many aspects such as public health, economic activities, employment and social life. Solidarity schemes, cross-sectoral collaboration and exchange of knowledge at all levels (the sport movement, the private sector, Member States, European and international institutions) are necessary to mitigate the necessary consequences of the pandemic and to preserve the resilience and sustainability of the sport sector.

Finally, we should admit that the sport business is changing and we have to adapt and be innovating focusing on new strategies and alliances to generate revenue such as digitalization strategies, online delivery of exercise and training and media involvement. Sharing of good practices among member states will be beneficial in assessing opportunities to identify resources (public and private) in order to attract financing within the sport sector and enhance accessible and sustainable infrastructure and sport programmes.

FINLAND / FINLANDE

Chair, Commissioner, Colleagues,

Our headline in this discussion is rethinking sport from the perspective of sustainability. First, I would like you to consider, whether it is sustainable to aim for the pre-pandemic situation, such as the same level of sports tourism? Although the pandemic hit sports considerably, it also provided opportunity to rethink our way to do things more sustainably.

In order to make sustainable choices we need knowledge and will to be responsible. EPAS and the Council of Europe has already made lots of good work for enhancing integrity, social and economic sustainability in sport. In addition to continuing this work, Finland would like to see, that EPAS focuses more on how to better enhance environmental sustainability in and through sport in the future. Finland supports the draft resolution no. 2.

During this government term in Finland, we have focused on increasing overall physical activity in all age groups. Exceptionally large appropriations have been allocated to the “On the move” programmes, which includes six national programmes covering the entire life cycle of older people aged early childhood education and care. Rise in the overall level of physical activity is a tough goal, and the contribution of all sectors of society, i.e. the public, private and third sectors, is needed to achieve it. The programmes work in close cooperation with organisations, municipalities, companies, research organisations and education providers.

In practice, the decisions and actions of all administrative branches influence the population’s physical activity. For this reason, it is important that all ministries also participate in promoting a physically active lifestyle. To intensify this cooperation, a specific coordination body for sports policy has been appointed to coordinate sport policy measures in different administrative branches.

The Russian invasion war to Ukraine also requires us to rethink and the entire sports community to work together to strengthen our common values. Finland considers it necessary that both governments and the sports movement stand united in showing solidarity with Ukraine, condemning the actions taken by Russia and supported by Belarus and stand on restrictions made. We all know how important role sports play in the politics of these countries.

Now, if ever, we need commitment to protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

FRANCE

Les crises sanitaire, écologique, diplomatique, énergétique qui se succèdent ont un double effet contradictoire sur le sport et ses acteurs : elles le fragilisent, questionnent son modèle actuel, mais dans le même temps placent le sport comme une partie de la réponse à apporter à ces crises.

La crise sanitaire a par exemple prouvé que les personnes faisant du sport régulièrement étaient plus résistantes et résilientes, physiquement et mentalement. Par ailleurs, le sport, par sa forte médiatisation, les valeurs positives qu'il véhicule et les solutions qu'il promeut en termes de mobilités durables, de préservation des espaces naturels, contribue au développement de sociétés plus pacifiques et durables.

Ainsi, il est pour nous, décideurs politiques, impératif de prendre des mesures fortes pour que le sport sorte renforcé et non diminué de ces crises, qu'il sache s'adapter aux futurs enjeux et prendre tout sa place dans l'émergence de sociétés plus saines et durables.

En France, des mesures en réaction directe à ces crises multiples ont été prises. Elles constituent des réponses conjoncturelles, mais préparent également l'avenir du sport de manière structurelle et pérenne.

En matière de **santé et de retour au sport**, je souhaite mettre en avant un dispositif qui remporte beaucoup de succès. Il s'agit du Pass'sport, qui a été mis en place à la rentrée 2021 pour favoriser le retour au sport, et en particulier les réinscriptions des jeunes au sein des clubs. Il consiste en une aide financière de 50€ pour financer tout ou partie d'une inscription dans une structure sportive. Cette aide est attribuée sur critères sociaux aux enfants, jeunes, étudiants ainsi qu'aux adultes en situation de handicap. Forte de son succès, elle a été reconduite en 2022.

Je souhaite aussi mentionner le développement en France **d'une stratégie robuste de sport santé**, qui devient une mission d'intérêt général dans les établissements et services médico-sociaux, avec des activités adaptées et un référent désigné. La prescription du sport par les professionnels de santé a par ailleurs été récemment élargie aux maladies chroniques (diabète, cardiopathie, cancer, etc.) et aux personnes présentant des facteurs de risque (hypertension, obésité, etc.) alors qu'elle était réservée jusqu'ici aux patients atteints d'affections de longue durée (ALD). Enfin, ont été créées et développées depuis 2019 un réseau de 436 maisons de sport-santé, spécifiquement dédiées à une pratique plus thérapeutique du sport en direction des personnes âgées par exemple ou des personnes en affection de longue durée.

En matière **de durabilité**, les acteurs du sport se trouvent actuellement dans l'obligation, comme la plupart des secteurs d'activité, de repenser leurs activités et leur modèle, d'une part en raison de la crise énergétique, qui contraint à des économies d'énergie et à davantage de sobriété, d'autre part **en raison du déficit d'acceptabilité** par l'opinion public de compétitions ou activités qui ne respecteraient plus des standards minimaux de durabilité.

En France, nous faisons le constat que la très grande majorité des acteurs du sport sont prêts à s'engager dans une vraie culture de la sobriété. Le 14 octobre a d'ailleurs été adopté par la Ministre des sports et des JOP un plan de sobriété énergétique dans le sport, qui contient 40 mesures, et qui poursuit comme objectif global une réduction de 10% de la consommation d'énergie d'ici 2024, et de 40% d'ici 2050. Ces mesures sont pour certaines des réactions à la crise énergétique (réduction chauffage, durée éclairage...) mais elles vont au-delà et jettent les bases d'une évolution en profondeur des pratiques sportives, notamment en promouvant les mobilités douces ou favorisant les transports publics pour se rendre à des compétitions.

Permettez-moi de faire référence également sur ce sujet de la durabilité aux **conclusions adoptées par le Conseil des Ministres des sports de l'UE** au premier semestre 2022 sur le sujet justement de la contribution du sport et de l'activité physique au changement des comportements en faveur du développement durable, et qui invitent les Etats membres, la Commission européenne et le mouvement sportif à engager des mesures très concrètes, comme le fait par exemple de conditionner tout soutien financier de la part des autorités publiques à des engagements écoresponsables clairement définis, comme en France la signature d'une Charte des 15

engagements écoresponsables qui a déjà été signée par plusieurs centaines de fédérations, gestionnaires d'infrastructures sportives, organisateurs d'événements....

Enfin, quelques mots sur les JOP pour conclure cette intervention, car tout le modèle de ces Jeux en France en 2024 est pensé pour qu'ils contribuent concrètement à un avenir plus sain et durable par le sport. L'ambition en matière de développement durable est d'arriver aux premiers JOP climatiquement neutres, avec une réduction des émissions à effets de gaz très significative d'un côté, en limitant la construction de nouvelles infrastructures par exemple ainsi que la distance entre les sites de compétitions, et une compensation des émissions « irréductibles ». L'alimentation par ailleurs sera locale et bio, de quoi combiner ces deux incontournables : santé et durabilité.

GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

Many thanks also for the preparation of this topic and for the presentations of the speakers. Germany supports the draft resolution on "Rethinking sport: leading the way for a healthy and sustainable future".

At this point, I would like to comment briefly on the question raised in the reference document as to what can be done to protect human rights in sport.

In this context, we very much welcome the fact that the protection of human rights is addressed in detail in the revised European Sports Charter from 2021.

However, it must now be a matter of anchoring the respect of human rights in the work of sports organizations or implementing it there. This applies not only at the international level in the context of major sporting events, but also at the national level. However, not every official in sport federations might be aware of what human rights are and to what extent human rights can affect sport in everyday business. This knowledge is, how-ever, necessary in order to carry out the required risk analysis, which in turn serves as the basis for the measures to be taken. In this respect, it is advisable for sports organizations to cooperate with competent NGOs.

Our task as governments is to make sports organizations more aware of the issue of human rights and also to motivate them to take action. If necessary, we must also make the granting of funding dependent on this,

Thank you very much for your attention!

GREECE / GRECE

I will not talk about the environmental dimension; it was extremely well described by previous colleagues.

However, talking about sustainability and sport, one of the most important issues is integrity of sport. This is also expressed in United Nations and UNESCO Kazan Action Plan where integrity is a major pillar of sustainability linked to the 17 SDGs.

Council of Europe is according to my opinion the most influential intergovernmental organization regarding sport exactly because it relies on value-based sport.

In Greece, given our cultural heritage from the Olympic values, we strongly believe that if sport is not based on values, it is not sport at all.

It is true that we have an emerging threat regarding integrity in sport (apart from doping and violence). This emerging threat is manipulation of sport competitions and it is closely related to the extensive sport betting opportunities (legal and illegal).

This threat is global, surpassing national borders and requires a global answer. Not only from the sport movement that does not have enough power, but also from the states (law enforcement, regulatory authorities).

Exactly this is the idea and the content of the Macolin Convention of the Council of Europe against manipulation of sport competitions.

In our last resolution from the 16th Conference the countries were encouraged to sign or ratify the Convention but a slow progress has been observed.

Fighting manipulation of sport competitions needs a global alliance and Europe is in the frontline.

The international framework is now created, as it was for antidoping 20 years ago.

We must all as member states take a stand and be present in this battle exploiting the instruments that Council of Europe provides.

Otherwise, the credibility of sport and its values is at stake.

b) facilitating access to sport and encouraging practice as part of a healthy lifestyle

It is true that exercise is medicine.

I will shortly describe our initiatives in Greece outside competition sport.

Sport for all programmes are submitted by the Municipalities to be evaluated and partially funded by the General Secretariat of Sport (including special programmes for disabled, elderly, women etc).

Master competitions (for over 35) organised by the federations are also encouraged.

Big sport tourism events with extended participation (mainly running, swimming, cycling...) are organised all over Greece with hundreds of thousands participants

c) boosting the return to sport activities and events

After the pandemic, where the value of physical exercise was much appreciated by the societies, the participation on sport events is almost spontaneous as people are thirsty for this kind of activities.

Encouraging sponsorship is difficult due to the increased uncertainty that puts business and their sponsoring budgets in a stand-by mode.

An idea of what the states can do is to help events by having them under their auspices (with specific criteria), something that provides the required validity needed by the sponsors.

HOLY SEE / SAINT-SIEGE*a) Addressing the emerging challenges to sport policies*

Protecting human rights in and around sport, and implementing an economically sustainable model of sports that is respectful of the environment, are among the main challenges in sport policies today.

Sport should help us to live healthier lives, and to better connect with nature. Unfortunately, however, sport activities are often expensive, both economically and in terms of their environmental impact. Sport facilities consume large amounts of energy and major sporting events often leave an unsustainable trail of plastic, trash and CO₂. It is time to think of a *greener* model for Sport.

Care for the environment must become a more important part of sports. It should be considered at every stage, from planning to execution. Taking care of the common home is a responsibility that all of us share, just as Pope Francis says in *Laudato Si'*. Global warming and climate emergencies are teaching us that we must listen to the language of nature and respond accordingly.

When speaking about the environment and ecology, we cannot forget that the central elements must always be the human person and the ecology of the human being. For example, human nature and dignity must be respected and not manipulated. As humans, we must also respect our own, listening to and accepting ourselves for who we are, as beings who did not create ourselves.

This applies particularly to sport, where we must create a truly human environment, a human ecology, where every person's dignity is protected and where every person can flourish and realize his or her own potential to the fullest. Sport is one of the most powerful ways in which people can reach their fulfilment.

Placing the human being and human dignity at the centre of our efforts is the foundation for the protection of human rights in and around sport. The world of organised sports cannot be an exception to the rule. Human rights cannot be temporarily suspended in their pursuit. The right to fair wages for athletes and workers in sporting organisations and facilities, the right to speak up and to express their dissent, the right to fair process, and above all the right to the dignity of every person as a sacred value, are more important and more valuable than any performance, medal or reward, and especially more than any economic profit.

While we recognize the good faith shown in these discussions, in conformity with its own nature, mission, and the particular character of Vatican City State, the Delegation of Holy See will not be able to join the consensus in the adoption of the resolution entitled "Rethinking sport: leading the way for a healthy and sustainable future".

b) Facilitating access to sport and encouraging practice as part of a healthy lifestyle

Human ecology is also the basis of a more inclusive sport policy. Sport *does* good, because sport *is* good. Since it is something good, it should be made *accessible* to all, and *tailored* to each person. These are just two of the key elements of the Declaration on Sport signed in Vatican City last September².

Sport must remain accessible to all, with special attention given to people living in marginalized contexts and those on the periphery. "The peripheries", as Pope Francis reminds us, include:

- Refugees and migrants: Sport can be a catalyst for empowering migrant communities, strengthening social cohesion within their communities, and forging better relations with host countries and communities;
- The socio-economically disadvantaged: Sport remains an expensive and even unaffordable activity for many. This social gap should be reduced, making facilities and resources available for all;
- The elderly and youth: Sport promotes a culture of encounter between older and younger generations;
- The Incarcerated: Sport can become a resource inside and outside prison walls, helping offenders to reintegrate into society.

At the same time, sport should also work to include people in vulnerable situations, such as:

- People with physical and/or intellectual needs: as a pathway to full inclusion in competitive sports and sport for all at community level;

² International Summit "Sport for All: Cohesive, Accessible and Tailored to each person" (Vatican City, 29-30 September 2022).

- Women, in general, and particularly girls: “the organization of societies worldwide is still far from reflecting that women possess the same dignity and identical rights as men.” The central role of women and girls in sports, is essential to the promotion of social cohesion and integral development;
- New social challenges: address polarization induced by social media and especially mainstream media. Sport provides opportunities for face-to-face encounters with people from other communities, where players can learn to navigate challenges and even conflict.

c) Promoting the return to sport activities and events

Finally, as we all wish that major sport events can regain the levels of attendance they had before the pandemic, perhaps we should stop and rethink what model of sport we would like to see. Again, a model in which the human being, both as an individual and as a member of a community, is not the centre, will only perpetuate inequality and exclusion, as well as exploit resources without regard for the future.

Thank you.

ICELAND / ISLANDE

Minister Kasapoğlu, other ministers and conference guests,

It is and will continue to be important to emphasize human rights in sports at all levels. The school system and the sports movement can have an important role to play related to those societal and environmental challenges we face. It is important to seek means so goals related to sustainability and good governance in sports can be fulfilled. Sports should be accessible to all citizens and reflect the diversity found in every community regardless of age, gender, language, religious beliefs, or other values. Sports like all other aspects of society should be capable of adjusting to changing societies and challenges related to migration and inclusion of new citizens.

Another major challenge we are facing is the negative effects of a sedentary lifestyle. The world's governments have adopted the United Nation's Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals are ambitious. One of the objectives related to good health and well-being is to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all age groups. One of the targets is to reduce, by 2030, one third of premature mortality from lifestyle diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being. To increase our chances to succeed it is necessary to gain extensive cooperation with different stakeholders that can facilitate better health and increased physical activity in the years to come. The sports movement with its important and varied activities, its vast human resources can and should be an important actor. The sports movement has all the means to be even more involved in public health. The government's goals for improved public health and the strengthening of the sports movement can have synergistic effect.

During COVID-19 pandemic it was clearly demonstrated how important sports are for our community. Throughout the pandemic it was prioritized to maintain children and youth as active as possible. It was also prioritized to support the sports movement so it would be capable of regaining its strength as soon as possible after the pandemic with activities and events that attract broad spectrum of people. If we will face similar challenges in the future, it is no question in my mind that the investment made in the sports movement is important.

Thank you

IRELAND / IRLANDE

Ireland welcomes this resolution. Throughout the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic and even now as we face into new challenges, the need to enable people to live healthy and sustainable lives is clear. The Climate Emergency and our response to it will be the defining challenge of the human race in the decades to come. It is a challenge we must rise to, but also respond to in an intelligent, and sustainable manner. This is not a problem for sports alone, but it is a problem where sports has an important and recognised role to play. But we need a game plan for this, and the sustainable development goals are a step towards this. Goals alone won't get us over the line! To implement these goals we will need concrete actions, to be taken not just by Government's like mine, but all persons and organisations in society.

In my own country we are already acting to achieve the SDGs. In our national Sports Campus on the outskirts of Dublin we are working on a Campus Sustainability Plan, which will guide the development and operation of our high-performance facilities in a more sustainable fashion. We recognise that the future of sport necessitates the incorporation of sustainability into all aspects of its organisation.

Our Sports Action Plan outlines over 40 specific initiatives intended to ensure the sports sector's continued recovery from the impact of COVID-19, its development over the next three years and the actions required to achieve the target of 60pc of the population participating in sport and physical activity. The plan focuses on inclusion, diversity and equality and includes targets for active participation, social participation, governance and high-performance sport. These actions will help Ireland to achieve Goals 3 and 10 in particular. We are also engaged in a project to map the SDGs to our National Sports Policy.

This resolution also recognises the need to ensure that sport at all levels is clean. Doping remains a stain on the honour of the sports movement, and tackling it at all levels, including amateur, is a necessary part of ensuring fair sport.

People can be inspired, their lives enriched, their enjoyment enhanced, and their quality of life improved as a result of their own active or social participation in sport, and as a result of success by our top sports people in competition. We know from research that sport brings social benefits such as healthcare savings.

I hope that through this resolution we will achieve these benefits for all.

Thank you.

LITHUANIA / LITUANIE

Dear Chairman, colleagues,

I would like to thank the Council of Europe and the Turkish authorities for a very warm welcome in beautiful Antalya and for organising this conference. I would also like to thank the keynote speakers for their very interesting interventions.

I am convinced that a healthy and sustainable future in sport could be achieved, if sport was developed on a basis of values and managed according to the principles of good governance.

If sport was value-based [if the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights were embedded in sport] and credible (trustworthy, transparent) in the eyes of population, especially young people [if it was free of doping, violence at sports events, manipulation of competitions and corruption] we could attract many more people to sport and keep them interested in sport.

If sport was reputable and respectable, if it was not used by authoritarian or totalitarian (criminal) regimes as a tool of propaganda or as a means to cover their crimes and mislead the world [the Winter Olympics were organised in Russia in Sochi in 2014. One week later, Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine] **we could make many more people interested in it.**

Regretfully, Olympic Games and other major sport events also take place in countries where human rights are violated, and migrant workers are abused.

This is often done with the embarrassingly silent and frightening approval of non-governmental sports organizations. Their position is that sport is out of politics and has no direct link with it.

A total of 141 UN countries voted in favour of the resolution to condemn Russia's military aggression in Ukraine [The UN General Assembly on 2 March 2022]. And vice versa, as if other states were represented, 106 delegates of the International Boxing Association (IBA) voted against a new election of the president [in September 2022]. Russian Umar Kremlev still remains the president of the IBA.

In my view, in the face of the war you must choose the side, decide who you are with: are you a part of the democratic society or do you live somewhere else, on an autonomous planet [of the sport movement]?

Currently, when we hear about some attempts by some sport federations to allow Russian and Belorussian athletes to re-enter sport competitions, Ukrainian athletes defend their country in the battlefield and die for their country; Ukrainian sport infrastructure is being damaged and demolished.

I strongly believe that **we must not only promote but also defend the values** in sport. We are committed to do it as members of the Council of Europe.

Today's sport is the achievement of a civilized and democratic world.

All countries have to know well in advance that there will be no place for them in sport if they choose authoritarian, totalitarian or criminal path.

With all respect to the autonomy of the sport movement, I would like to suggest making **a written agreement at the highest level with umbrella sport organisations on the future of sport**, so that sport could become a real part of democratic and civilised world.

Thank you for your attention!

LUXEMBOURG

Pour répondre aux questions sur le second thème. Comme le document le souligne nous n'avons jamais autant saisi l'importance du sport dans la société que pendant l'épidémie de Covid, c'est pourquoi au Luxembourg le sport a fait l'objet de deux plans de relance ambitieux et qu'aujourd'hui malgré la crise énergétique nous n'envisageons pas de fermer d'infrastructures sportives, elles sont amenées à adopter des mesures de sobriété énergétique mais leur fermeture n'est pas à l'agenda. Un volet que vous souhaitez aborder est également celui des droits de l'Homme et des droits de l'Enfant, je suis évidemment très attaché à la protection de ces droits. Concernant les droits des enfants dans le sport ils font l'objet d'un volet de notre plan d'action national 2022-2026 intitulé « Ensemble pour les droits de l'enfant » qui prévoit l'adoption d'une charte des droits de l'enfant dans le sport et l'intégration de ces droits et des notions de bien-être de l'enfant dans la formation initiale et continue des cadres techniques et administratifs du sport auprès de notre école nationale de l'éducation physique et des sports.

En 2021 nous avons lancé le concept-cadre « Le Luxembourg vit le sport », développé avec nos partenaires notamment le comité olympique sur base du concept canadien LTAD. En deux mots, le but poursuivi est de donner naissance à une nouvelle culture sportive axée sur un modèle au centre duquel se trouve l'être humain – la personne active et l'athlète – selon la devise « A chacun son activité, à chacun son sport, son parcours unique vers une vie active sur le plan physique ». Pour ce faire nous mettons l'accent sur le triptyque « Good people », « Good programs », « Good places » dans un processus d'optimisation qualitative et à effet durable du sport et de l'activité physique sous toutes leurs facettes au profit de la santé physique et psychosociale de toute la société. Parmi les « Good people », on retrouve non seulement les entraîneurs qualifiés mais aussi les cadres administratifs compétents qui garantissent la bonne gouvernance des clubs de sport. La nouvelle offre de formation de notre école nationale prend en compte le savoir-faire des personnes en charge de la gestion ou de la direction administrative.

C'était un aperçu rapide, mais pour les deux thèmes vous aurez certainement remarqué que notre approche du sport est intersectorielle et implique de nombreux acteurs qu'il s'agisse des ministères de l'éducation, de la jeunesse, de la santé, de la famille, de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes et d'autres et du comité olympique mais aussi des acteurs nationaux comme les fédérations sportives et des acteurs locaux comme les communes et les clubs de sport. Pour reprendre le jargon européen nous tentons de « mainstreamer » le sport dans tous les secteurs de la vie, afin d'en faire un élément à part entière d'une vie saine et d'utiliser tout son potentiel intégrateur.

Je vous remercie.

NORTH MACEDONIA / MACEDOINE DU NORD

Esteemed guests,

Very often, as a politician, but mostly as a person, in moments of victories and celebrations, defeats and grief, I have been thinking about the power of sports. Power that has many faces, power that stands as a pillar between sports as synonym for life and joy, and sports as an instrument for manipulations and crime. Sport is always a challenge!

Reinforcement of integrity in sports is of vital importance for upholding the core values inherent in sport and the Olympic movement: friendship, respect, commitment, support, trust. I am happy that the world recognizes the importance of sport in everyone's lives, no matter whether we are speaking of those who are actively and professionally involved in sport or about those to whom sport is a recreation, or maybe about sport lovers who live for the teams they support.

On the other hand, we must admit that sport became one of the main world businesses. It became the area where a lot of power, money, businesses interests are concentrated. And where there is power, money, business interests, imminently there is corruption, breakdown of the principles of integrity.

Therefore, it is particularly important for each country to have a systemic approach to regulation of sport whose main task is to emphasize competitiveness, sport spirit, healthy life, socialization...

Practice has shown that the commitment to integrity in sports requires mechanisms for reporting, identifying, and resolving issues related to irregularities in sports. And the very frequent cases of corruption, doping, harassment, and conflicts of interest are diametrically opposed to the principles of integrity in sport. Without integrity, sport cannot be a pillar to local and global community. In sports corruption and other irregularities and lack of compliance with regulations send destructive message, especially for the young people and destroy the possibility for the sport to be a driving force, stimulation for doing something better.

Corruption in sport is similar to corruption in any other area.

It can be both passive and active, in the form of bribery, extortion, blackmail and money laundering, it can manifest itself on a small scale up to multinational organized crime.

However, there is corruption referring only to sport. And it is manipulation with competitions and matches.

As a country we recognized the threat, we undertook concrete steps and so, being officially authorized by the Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia, within the frames of this Conference, I will sign the Convention of the Council of Europe for manipulation with sport competitions.

We comply with the directions of the European Union and with our international partners, we implement strategic documents, directives, and regulations, we make comparative analysis of the European legal frameworks.

Using concrete initiatives, my Cabinet is focused on detecting all weaknesses and disadvantages in sport, it provides dedicated support, and it is at disposal to all stakeholders in sport in order to create better policies for effective prevention and fight against corruption in sport.

The principles that guide us in creating our policies are, in fact, the three main strategic priorities on which the Council of Europe's Strategy for Strategic Priorities in Sport 2022-2025 is based.

Beside thematically organized conferences in cooperation with our international partners, where we discuss revision of the voucher model, and detection of corruption in sport, planning events for promotion of sport for people with disability, etc., at the moment we are in the phase of drafting a new Law on Sports.

I must note that, as a Deputy Prime Minister, I am especially proud with the established cooperation with the Council of Europe, more particularly with EPAS.

I am looking forward to the conclusions and proposals that are to be issued by the team of EPAS experts for the evaluation and scan of sports in the Republic of North Macedonia. This report shall serve as a base for the concept for the upcoming activities of my Cabinet.

Thank you for the invitation, it is an honour to be in the company of one of the biggest authorities in the area of sports. It is only with exchange of good practices between the countries that we shall reinforce the legal framework and to restore the glory of sports.

NORWAY / NORVEGE

Our intervention under theme two will focus on the post-pandemic situation.

The Norwegian Sports Organisation reported a decline in membership of around 9 % in late 2020. But the lasting effects of the pandemic for sports participation and memberships in organised sport clubs is yet unknown.

Funded by the government the Norwegian Sports Organisation launched the campaign “Back to Sport” in late 2021. The campaign was aimed at aiding local clubs and associations struggling to bring back members.

The effects of the campaign, as well as membership data will be monitored closely in the coming years.

Throughout the pandemic, Norwegian sport worked closely with health authorities to monitor and observe guidelines and regulations related to events.

Within the limits of the infection control regulations, the government provided generous funding to sports organisations for their up-keeping of sports activities and events during the pandemic.

After the pandemic, public funding is in general back on a pre-pandemic level, or sometimes higher.

For instance, in order to avoid closing of facilities and reduction of activities, the government has introduced a support scheme to help sports clubs with their electricity costs during the current energy crisis.

Although there are no pandemic-related restrictions anymore, there are some indications that larger sporting events like the major football league has seen a decline in spectators through the first post-pandemic season.

We also get reports from clubs that say that, in general, activity levels among children and youth has picked-up again, but that there are issues with regard to the re-recruitment of volunteers, usually parents, to run activities and clubs.

This might suggest that people have changed their habits from engagement in sport to other kinds of activities during the pandemic, but it is still early days and it remains to be seen if the effects are long lasting.

There is however no indication that the decline is related to health or sanitary concerns.

PORTUGAL

Excellence, friendship and respect, the three Olympic values that sum up what sports represent and what it brings to a better and cohesive society.

But every day these values are challenged putting at risk the future of sport.

Recognizing these challenges is the first step to correctly face them and ensure a safe, inclusive and true sport.

This recognition of these barriers in Portugal has been the base of our political priorities for the first year of government.

Accordingly, as the Portugal has set five priorities for sport:

The first one was the centre of the debate during this morning, gender equality.

The second regards the fight against doping sport. We have increased the budget of our national antidoping agency by more than 50% in the last six months.

Also, we have, again, a laboratory that is accredited by WADA.

The third is to ensure policies that are directed to prevent, detect, and punish match fixing in sport, in line with the Macolin convention.

In the next months we will approve new legislation that, with other important measures, include the national platform.

Fourthly, and to ensure that the increasing commercialisation of sport does not affect the truth of sport, we will approve a new legislation regarding sports societies.

This initiative will introduce transparency mechanisms establishing obligations and duties for sports societies and creating a regulatory and supervising unit, that will ensure that, in any case, should the values of sports be undermined.

Lastly, let me share with you that Portugal has just approved a new legislation to prevent and combat violence and discrimination in sport events and other sports contexts, ensuring safety, security and service to all of those that wish to enjoy the sport.

This new legislation has new strong policies to ensure that violence and any time of discrimination don't have a place in sport.

The discussion of the future of sport and its promotion must prioritize the values of sport, recognizing that sport speaks an international language having the potential as a diplomatic and educational tool.

Thank you very much!

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Answering the first two points proposed, in Spain we understand that sport is facing new challenges that we are going to combat with a National Strategy that aims to boost, restructure and modernize the sports sector by adapting it to a new socio-economic reality through its digital transformation and adaptation to the ecological transition based on criteria of sustainable development, social cohesion, job creation, attention to vulnerable groups and territorial rebalancing.

In addition, it seeks to provide a renewed regulatory framework to the sector through a new Sports Law, to promote sport as an essential element in the maintenance of public health and promote gender equality.

The development of the sports sector is specified in the promotion of safe and sustainable infrastructures, the impulse of the digital transformation of sports organizations, the promotion of research on physical activity as an element of health improvement, the support of candidacies for the organization of major sporting events, the development of sports tourism and the improvement of the network of high performance and technification Sports centres.

We will pay special attention to infrastructure in areas at risk of depopulation; the promotion of healthy habits through sport and physical activity, improving the health of our citizens and the development of specific sectors that promote equality and inclusion in sport.

From the High Council for Sports, we will make an estimated total investment of 300 million euros

Through 3 Reforms:

R1 The New Sports Law to adapt the regulatory reality to the current moment. Highlighting the professionalization of women and gender equality in sport.

R2 The Sports Professions Law, which directly affects the recognition, legal certainty and access to the labour market of many sports professionals.

R3 The National Strategy for the Promotion of Sport against Sedentary Lifestyle and Physical Inactivity, with the aim of reducing the rate of obesity and risk factors for non-communicable diseases and mental disorders and improving the quality of life and independence of the elderly.

And 3 Investments

I1 The Digitalization Plan of the Sports Sector through the development of computer applications. Among other initiatives, the digitalization of public Sports Medicine Centres will be promoted to simplify and personalize the relationship of athletes and health professionals.

I2 The sustainability and Ecological Transition Plan for sports facilities. Aimed at promoting the sustainability of sports infrastructures in High Performance Centres and the network of Technification Centres of the Autonomous Communities as well as those sports facilities that will host international competitions implementing measures to save natural resources and improve accessibility to these facilities.

I3 The Social Plan of the Sports Sector. Aimed at promoting equality in sport and increasing levels of physical activity in the rural population through the creation of a coordinated network of promoters of physical activity in rural areas.

In relation with the return to sport activities and events:

In Spain we are proud to be one of the first countries to resume some sports competitions (cycling, football Liga, Moto GP...), after confinement, in June 2020, under strict security measures, to safeguard the economy of the main sports organizations while protecting athletes from contagion.

Nowadays we are ready to face new virus attacks after this experience and thanks to the massive vaccination of the population.

Thank you for your attention.

TÜRKİYE

We have all witnessed in the last two years that exercise and healthy habits are of critical importance in terms of sustaining a healthy life. We have developed creative strategies with regards to contributing to the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of the people. Also, sustainability has become a topical issue for sport. I just would like to mention in passing, as a token of this increasing sustainability concern in sports, we will share with you a good example of the sustainability and sport relationship. A recycled ball handcrafted by women living in the countryside. When considered that all these challenges invite us to rethink the sport together with its societal implications, the return to the sports provides us with the opportunity of making a fresh start. At this point, I believe that we have the required energy, motivation and infrastructure for boosting the return to the sports events and activities. I believe that this second resolution, which we will adopt today, will be a good response to the challenges and threats against sports.

UNITED KINGDOM / ROYAUME-UNI

For England (as sport in the UK is devolved), we are strongly focused on ensuring a sustainable sector recovery approach after COVID.

Over the past two years we have worked closely with our sports to sustain them through the challenges of the pandemic. Our COVID Sport Survival funding package provided £264 million to over 1,600 sports clubs. Through our agency Sport England we also provided support to ensure the continued viability of the grassroots sport sector during the pandemic, with £210 million of support.

As we come out of the pandemic we can't escape some of the challenges it has brought. Levels of physical activity have reduced significantly and childhood obesity levels are at record highs. We have seen inequalities in activity levels increase, and know that women and minority groups are falling further behind in terms of participation. Sport has to be a key part of the solution, with its power to bring people together and offer inclusion for all communities.

In some ways the pandemic also exposed inherent weaknesses in the financial resilience and underpinning of our sector, that we now have the opportunity to tackle. So, our focus now in England is on how to ensure the sport sector can stabilise and flourish going forwards. We are committed to working towards creating a more sustainable sector that:

- is better able to deal with financial challenges;
- that recognises the vital role it has to play in driving towards environmental sustainability;
- and that is able to genuinely provide an inclusive offer for everyone no matter their background.

In England we are working on a new strategy that will set out how we will achieve this and set the framework for the future of sport in this country. This will include how, alongside our elite sport funding body UK Sport, we will work with our National Governing Bodies to grow the sport system in a sustainable way.

We also recognise the need for the reform of football governance to ensure our national game's sustainability and success in the long term for the benefit of fans and the local communities our clubs serve.

In developing our new sport strategic approach we are also very focused on ensuring we have the right evidence and measurement tools to justify our investment, and to make the case for sport's contribution to wider policy outcomes. In a continuing tight fiscal environment, I know this is a challenge for us all, so we welcome the work of the Council of Europe and EPAS in developing and sharing good practice.

OBSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPORT SCIENCE AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (ICSSPE) /CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR L'EDUCATION PHYSIQUE ET LA SCIENCE DU SPORT ³

Dear Mr KASAPOĞLU, Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Türkiye,

Dear Ms PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ, Honourable Secretary General of the Council of Europe,
Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, and friends,

Thank you for the possibility to talk on this occasion as a member of the EPAS Consultative Committee. Much has been said by the previous speakers and we, ICSSPE, support the suggested resolutions. Still, kindly allow us to make some further comments:

Sport is a phenomenon that is full of contradiction: Sport means enjoyment, at the same time it is serious business and politics. During game time it gets attention from government leaders but many sport ministers and also sport federations demand in vain a budget growth to implement their *sport for all* programmes.

We claim that *sport for all* has a positive impact on health but during the COVID-19 related lockdowns sport **and** physical education were the first policy areas that were shut down.

Many of us and our children were confronted with closed facilities during the various lockdowns; gyms and pools were closed, many cases gyms were turned into classrooms. Additionally there was a ban of outdoor physical activities in many regions or physical activity was very restricted. Those responsible for the closings and restrictions were never tired of explaining why this had to be the case, despite

- (1) existing evidence of the importance of physical activity for mental, physical and social well-being,
- (2) sport being a fundamental human right, and
- (3) the right of the child stating that recreation and play are universal rights.

Using *sport for all* to create stronger societies requires accessible facilities and public space for everyone, no matter of gender, ability, age, faith, ethnicity, or socio-economic background at any time!

This also means that we have to look after all those who did not – due to the COVID-19 pandemic – return to sport after the re-opening of our sport clubs and facilities, especially children and youth. Studies show that in many countries there is a huge decline in organised sports within this age range. And additionally, we must also look at those who cannot participate in sports due to war and other crisis.

Theme 2 invites us to rethink sport for the benefit of a healthy and sustainable future. Again, I want to make two short proposals:

³ Intervention not delivered

To be visible and effective, member states need strong partners in research, sport practice, education and policy development who jointly ensure an accessible sport system. Often, sport federations and their clubs have an important role in this system, which we appreciate. However, personal life concepts and a changing environment require ongoing structural responses. Not everybody wants or can join a club but wishes or is forced to organise physical activities on her or his own. If we are serious about thinking sport being a fundamental human right for all, we need to respond to these trends as well.

The members of the *International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education* who base their policy proposals on collected evidence, welcome every possibility to discuss this with you further and thus contribute to the overall topic of this conference: *"Rethinking sport!"*

Thank you!

INTERNATIONAL SPORT AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION (ISCA) / ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DU SPORT ET DE LA CULTURE ⁴

Dear Ministers, dear colleagues,

Sport is a Fundamental Right. With such right comes as well Fundamental Duties.

Last week the World Health Organisation published the first 'Global Report on Physical Activity'. The global – as well as the European situation is not good. It is not promising concerning levels of participation in sport and physical activities and the direct costs of inactivity are very high.

We all know – and it is heavily scientifically documented – that sport and recreational physical activity contribute strongly to personal and public health. But we have not managed to get the health sector to collaborate sufficiently or efficient on the agenda of promotion of sport and recreational physical activity.

In short, we can say that the sport sector contributes more to health – than the health Sector contribute to sport.

If we want to have success in reaching all health benefits of sport and physical activities – then we need other sectors to support the promotion and facilitation of sport and physical activities. I know it is not an easy task for sport ministries or sport organisations to activate other ministries and sectors, but it is needed to have success. And we heard some good examples of cross sector collaboration today.

We have given our children a huge task to restore the planet Well-being – at least we should give our children a start in life with good personal well-being. That is their right – and our duty.

To the Minister of Sport of Ukraine: We are committed to mobilise our members, partners and network to make life a little bit better for the many Ukrainian refugees in other countries. We are also ready to mobilise our organisation and network to rebuild the sport organizational structure and infrastructure in Ukraine when possible – hopefully very soon.

Thank you.

⁴ Intervention not delivered