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18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport

Porto, Portugal
8-10 October 2024

CONCEPT NOTE

prepared by

18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport

Date: 8-10 October 2024

Place: Porto, Portugal

Responsible body: Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

Theme: “Governing and governance in sport: supporting a fresh approach to match its societal importance”

Context and objectives of the conference

The role of sport in our modern societies is important, taking into account its social, educational, recreational, cultural, health-promoting and economic functions.

Between sport practitioners and spectators, sport touches a high portion of the world's population. Globally, the role of sports in society has been increasing in economic value, and this rise in its popularity has brought with it increased financial, structural, organisational, and human resources, presenting new challenges, and sometimes threats, to the promotion of values-based and democratically governed sport.

This leads to a need to rethink the way public authorities and the sports movement co-operate, while also guaranteeing a governance model that meets the needs and rights of athletes and other sports stakeholders, spectators and civil society.

The sustainability and societal value of sport relies on governments, other public authorities and sports organisations adopting new inclusive approaches and good governance practices, strengthening their structures, and maximising the use of their resources in a collaborative, multi-level approach (from grassroots to elite).

These questions will be addressed in two sessions of high relevance to Ministers responsible for sport:

- Session I - Collaborative governing: time to adapt the rules of the game?
- Session II - Good governance: moving the goal post forwards?

Following an opening session address by the Portuguese Minister, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, there will be a spotlight on the European Sports Charter, and then two consecutive conference sessions, as referenced above, will further structure the event.

A signing ceremony of Council of Europe Conventions related to sport will be held in the final part of the day, to be attended by all delegations.

The 10th anniversary of the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin Convention) will be marked on the morning of 8 October with a special event.

Two Focus Sessions will be held on the morning of 10 October with youth representatives taking part to address (1) gender equality in sport and (2) dual careers.

Expected results from the conference

The conference will enable Ministers to exchange with other stakeholders on the development of a new understanding of the governing and governance of sport, and a shared vision for sport as a common resource.

It will produce a resolution reiterating essential principles and calling, *inter alia*, for:

- strategic guidance for the Council of Europe's work on sport policies;
- a possible review of the existing recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on good governance in sport (Recommendation (2018)12) and on the principle of autonomy of sport (Recommendation (2011)3);
- strengthening of the implementation and impact of the Council of Europe's conventions, which form a unique framework for action.

The conference outcomes will contribute to moving forward the international debate and co-operation between stakeholders by recommending new standards and tools for revisiting the way sport is governed and its governance, in full alignment with the Council of Europe's mission and priorities.

Conference participants

- 46 Council of Europe member States;
- EPAS non-Council of Europe member States: Israel, Morocco;
- Holy See;
- Kazakhstan;
- Committee of Ministers;
- Parliamentary Assembly;
- European Union.

Observers

- Canada;
- Japan;
- Mexico;
- United States of America;
- World Anti-doping Agency (WADA);
- International Olympic Committee (IOC);
- International Paralympic Committee (IPC);
- Fédération internationale de football association (FIFA);
- United Nations agencies (UNESCO, UN Women, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, etc.);
- The Commonwealth of Nations;
- Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO), Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No.135);
- Ad Hoc European Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA);
- Follow-up Committee of the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (T-MC Committee), Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin Convention, CETS No. 215);
- Committee on Safety and Security at Sports Events (T-S4), Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (Saint-Denis Convention, CETS No. 218);
- Alice Milliat Foundation;
- Centre for Sport and Human Rights;
- European Association for Sport Management (EASM);
- European Fair Play Movement (EFPM);
- European Athlete Student Network (EAS);
- European Athletic Association (European Athletics);
- European Elite Athletes Association (EU Athletes);

- European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF);
- European Network of Sport Education (ENSE);
- European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO);
- The European Olympic Committees (EOC);
- European Paralympic Committee (EPC);
- European Physical Education Association (EUPEA);
- European University Sports Association (EUSA);
- Fare network;
- International Basketball Federation (FIBA);
- International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE);
- International Dance Organization (IDO);
- International Federation of Sport Officials (IFSO);
- International School Sports Federation (ISF);
- International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA);
- Panathlon International (PI);
- Peace and Sport;
- Play the Game (PTG);
- Sports Rights Owners Coalition (SROC);
- The Association for International Sport for All (TAFISA Europe);
- Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

Budgetary Implications

The costs of the conference borne by the Organisation (as distinct to the costs borne by the host country) will be covered by the EPAS budget under its 2024-25 Programme of activities.

The total estimated cost of the event for EPAS will amount to around €75,000.¹

¹ The draft budget requires confirmation of individual items and their completion. It includes approximate costs for:

- Translation of working documents into the official languages of the organisation (€5 000, tbc)
- Interpretation (€15 000, tbc)
- Participation of speakers (€10 000, tbc)
- Travel and subsistence of EPAS delegations during the preparation, and running of the conference (€25 000, tbc)
- Ministers' restricted gathering (€5 000, tbc)
- Secretary General's luncheon (€10 000, tbc)
- Printing documents and promotion (€5 000, tbc)