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THE EUROPEAN SPORTS CHARTER (ESC)

WHAT IS THE ESC?

The [European Sports Charter](#) (ESC) is the Council of Europe standard that lays down the **basic principles for national sports policies**, empowering governments to provide everyone with **opportunities to practise sport** under well-defined conditions. Adopted in 1992 and revised in 2001 and 2021 by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, it provides **inspiration for policy makers** and **guidelines for member states** as to how they can make their existing sport legislation or other policies more efficient, and develop a **comprehensive framework for sport**.

"Sport" means all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, are aimed at maintaining or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels.

Article 2 of the European Sports Charter

WHAT DOES THE ESC PROMOTE?



Sport for all: inclusive sport through advocacy for policies built around the right to sport, building the foundations for the practice of sport, developing participation, improving performance, and supporting grassroots, top-level and professional sport.

(See Articles 10-14)

"Access to sport for all is considered to be a fundamental right"



Values-based sport centred on four main topics: human rights; education in values through sports ethics; integrity; and sustainability.

(See Articles 6-9)

"Ensure that the human rights of athletes and everyone involved in sport are respected, protected and promoted"



Multi-stakeholderism: co-operation and collaboration with public authorities, the sports movement (including NGOs and non-profit sports organisations), as well as corporate and professional sectors.

(See Articles 3-5)

"The role of public authorities is primarily complementary to the action of the sports movement and the corporate sector"

A TIMELINE OF KEY DATES

24 September 1976

- The *European Sport for All Charter* serves as the basis for the European Sports Charter adopted in 1992.

24 September 1992

- The European Sports Charter is adopted as a Recommendation by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

16 May 2001

- The European Sports Charter is revised for the first time and complemented by a *Code of Sports Ethics*.

13 October 2021

- The Charter is revised to adapt to the many new challenges in a rapidly changing world.

WHAT ESC MILESTONES HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED?



Established **stable parameters** within which **sports policies** can develop.



Defined a **common framework** and basic **principles** for national sports policies.



Provided the necessary **balance between governmental and non-governmental action** and ensured the **complementarity of responsibilities** between them.

SUPPORT, FOLLOW-UP AND REFERENCES

Upon their request, EPAS provides support to its member states in implementing the ESC through ESC Support and Follow-up visits. A [report](#) is prepared following each visit. The ESC is supported by legally binding standards such as the Council of Europe [Sport Conventions](#), among others.



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