



## REPORT FROM THE 'SPORT AND HUMAN RIGHTS' COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CONFERENCE OF INGO – APRIL 2026

### Creation – Background

The committee was established following a European meeting between the ESAN network and young people from the Association Nationale des Etudiants en STAPS (a French organisation for students in the field of sport). We were also able to capitalise on the momentum and enthusiasm surrounding the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris. As representatives of ESAN, we felt that this unifying theme could serve as a gateway to spark young people's interest in the work of the Conference of INGOs and open their minds to Europe in general. Furthermore, this topic is a first for the Conference of INGOs!

Initially, a roadmap based on proposals put forward by the NGOs of the 'Sport and Human Rights' Committee was drawn up, focusing on two main areas. The initial aim was to cover this subject as broadly as possible (hate speech, inclusion, ethics, doping, etc.). This new working method also incorporated innovative digital tools enabling archiving, sharing and asynchronous collaboration, ultimately boosting efficiency.

The proposed working method proved difficult to implement, and it was decided to focus our efforts on a single priority, with a more realistic roadmap that takes into account the varied commitments of our County's members.

### Committee objectives

The social benefits of sport are, in fact, fully aligned with the objectives of the Council of Europe, and more specifically the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) and the Parliamentary Alliance for Good Governance and Integrity in Sport. As representatives of civil society, we have chosen to focus on the barriers to participation. Following discussions and consultations with other INGOs, we naturally turned our attention to combating discrimination in sport.

The objectives set out in the mandate are as follows:

- To identify and remove barriers to participation for all, particularly for minority groups.
- To use training and education through sport to raise public awareness of ethics and inclusion in sporting activities.
- Finally, to address sport in a cross-cutting manner within public policy, including the conference and its constituent committees.

The INGOs represented on our committee enable us to take a grassroots approach to our work, a major asset in reaching the widest possible audience.

As the topic of sport had not been addressed by the Conference of INGOs, we decided, on the basis of the proposals put forward, to draw up a Recommendation on 'Access to sport for all' so that we could

use a legal text as a basis for our discussions with other bodies of the Council of Europe (EPAS, PACE and CPLRE).

The Recommendation was presented and unanimously adopted on 15 October 2025 by the General Assembly of the Conference of INGO.

### Work in progress

Our work centres on two concrete initiatives that will support our Recommendation on 'Access to sport for all'. These are:

- ✓ firstly, a Code of Good Practice: the aim is to provide European associations with the tools they need to work towards an inclusive, welcoming and ethical approach. This document will bring together definitions, examples and recommendations to help associations and
- ✓ secondly, a Charter for Young European Athletes: the aim here is to work together with young Europeans to draw up a reference document that all participants undertake to respect. This charter, which will comprise several articles, is intended to be disseminated throughout the European sports movement. Ultimately, each sports association will be able to present and enforce this charter amongst their young participants, highlighting the social benefits of sport.

### Our approach

To maximise our impact and open as many avenues as possible, we take a multi-pronged approach:

- Organising two field study visits and meetings (the Netherlands and Bilbao, Spain)
- Researching existing resources and drafting documents
- Engaging with relevant political stakeholders
- Networking and consultation with the committee's international non-governmental organisations (INGOs)
- Cooperation with the Council of Europe's sports bodies:
- ✓ Sports Division and APES, representing the Conference of INGOs on the Advisory Committee of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (APES)
- ✓ Parliamentary Assembly (PACE): participation in the Committee on Culture, Science, Education, Youth, Sport and Media and the Parliamentary Alliance on Good Governance and Integrity in Sport, as well as in the
- ✓ Conferences organised by its governing bodies (Participation in Athens at the conference on "Promoting safety, integrity, equality and inclusion in sport", as well as at the conference held in Trondheim (Norway) on "Restoring trust" in the integrity of sport.

### The Committee's Outlook and Influence

In keeping with the mandate and objectives adopted by the Conference, the Committee places cross-cutting approaches at the heart of its work. As inclusion through sport is a global societal issue, we intend to strengthen our synergies with other commissions and committees. The field visits organised in the Netherlands and Spain have brought real and decisive added value to our work, particularly through exchanges with sports leaders, young people and elected representatives from the relevant local authorities.

We would like to extend our special thanks to the Association OING Service for their support in organising this initiative. We are now requesting an additional year to finalise and implement the two projects: the Framework and the Charter for Young European Athletes. Our priority will be to enhance the visibility of our work through sustained political advocacy and a broader dissemination strategy, in order to firmly establish our Committee's expertise within the Council of Europe