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## **Combating Hate Speech in Sport**

### **Conference**

Madrid, Spain

5 June 2024



**Concept and Draft Programme**



# COMBATING HATE SPEECH IN SPORT

Conference - Madrid, Spain - 5 June 2024

## Background information

The project, co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe's Sport Division until June 2024 provides technical assistance to public authorities in France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Spain and the main sport stakeholders to develop comprehensive strategies within a human rights framework to prevent and combat hate speech in sport. The following four phases have been scheduled:

- Presenting the state of play of hate speech in sport in the six partner countries, including its online dimension. After a stakeholders mapping exercise, public authorities, sport organisations and other key players were involved in collecting data, identifying gaps and opportunities, sharing examples of good practice, assessing needs, and proposing ways to collectively and individually prevent and respond to hate speech;
- Providing guidance leading to the adoption of national strategies in the partner countries to combat hate speech in sport by involving all key stakeholders;
- Designing, implementing, and evaluating the next steps for the #Sport IS Respect campaign, including training and tools to strengthen the stakeholders' capacity to play their part in preventing and combating hate speech in sport;
- Setting up an online resource centre providing relevant information on existing tools to combat hate speech in sport, and identifying measures to prevent, counter, report and remedy hate speech, notably through the No Hate Speech Movement campaign, the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy, the programme of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport and other relevant instruments.

## Objectives of the Conference

The Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU made as one of its priorities the combat against hate speech in sport. The conference will provide the opportunity to present the progress in combating hate speech in sport in each of the participating countries through the lens of each stakeholder category: Extent of the problem, Potential impact if ignored, Benefits, Challenges and Impact of the project.

The Conference will set the stage for national governments and international sport organisations to commit to working together to change behaviours within and around sport fields, promote a general renewal of European sport and reframe the discussions of sport narratives in accordance with human rights. The conference will showcase examples related to prejudice and hate (ethnicity, physical abilities, sexual orientation, etc) going beyond verbal violence and violence, looking into the roots of hate motivated speeches and ways to raise awareness for preventing, combating, imposing punitive and rehabilitation measures.

The strategic approaches and the #Sport IS Respect campaign will be presented, the Council of Europe Combating Hate Speech in Sport Resource Centre will be launched. The Centre will include:

- Innovative actions to raise awareness, in the form of Good practices in the six countries of the project
- Tools to improve competences for combating hate speech in and through sport by promoting respect: Strategic framework, Funding mechanism, Campaign design, Trainings, #Sport IS Respect Event toolkit.

The Conference will provide:

1. Lessons learned in this joint EU CoE innovative project
2. Achievements and the outcomes of the project: the conceptual frameworks for constructing strategies for combating hate speech in sport, for implementing the Sport IS Respect campaigns with stakeholders, and the educational toolkits accessible online in the Resource Center
3. Recommendations for successfully combating hate speech in sport
4. The commitment from national governments and sport organisations to work together for countering Hate and promoting Respect in and through Sport: **#Sport IS Respect**

Auri Bokesa Abia, Ioannis Melissanidis are #Sport IS Respect Ambassadors, multiple Olympic and Paralympic champions. They will contribute with their views on the impact of violent comments during their sport careers, how social and educational activism changed their lives and their plans for supporting the Sport IS Respect campaign after the end of the project.

### Speakers and target audience

The conference brings together high-level authorities from a wide range of sectors:

- Council of Europe and European Commission representatives from relevant departments
- representatives of the Committee on Safety and Security at Sports Events (T-S4) and of the EPAS Governing Board and Consultative Committee
- representatives of sports ministries
- international and national sport organisations
- athletes, coaches and supporters exposed to hate speech in their sport environments
- experts and researchers who have carried out case studies about hate speech in sport

Experts and representatives of partner organisations from the Sport Movement will be welcome to attend the conference remotely. The link will be sent by the organisers.

## Draft Programme

### Tuesday, 4 June 2024

Participants arrival

*High Council for Sports, Calle Martín Fierro, 5. Madrid. Main entrance.*

*19.00-19:15* **Registration**

*19.15-20:15* **Visit of the High-Performance Center**

*20.30* **Institutional dinner.** Welcome words by **José Manuel Rodríguez Uribes**, President of the Supreme Council for Sports and **Francisco Martín Aguirre** Spanish Government Representative of the Madrid Region

### Wednesday, 5 June 2024

#### *Morning Session*

*Congress of Deputies (Spanish Parliament), Ernest Lluc Hall, Calle Cedaceros s/n Madrid*

*9:00-9:30* **Registration and accreditation**

*9.30 - 10.00* **Opening of the conference**

Welcome words by **Alfonso Rodríguez Gómez de Celis**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Speaker of the Congress of Deputies.

Opening interventions by:

**Irena Guidikova**, Head of the Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Directorate for Democracy, Council of Europe

**Floor van Houdt**, Head of Unit for Sport, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission - online

**Jose Manuel Rodríguez Uribes**, President of the High Council for Sports

**Alfonso Rodríguez Gómez de Celis**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Speaker of the Congress of Deputies

Family Photo

**10.15 - 10.55 Panel discussion: A global response to hate speech in sport** (within this project and beyond)

*Moderator: Raúl Rodríguez Porras, Director Legal Department, High Council for Sports, Spain*

France - **Mona Pantel**, Anti-discrimination Officer, Ethics, Integrity and Prevention Policies Office, Ministry of Sport and Olympic and Paralympic Games - online

Greece - **George Mavrotas**, Secretary General of Sport, Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sport

Germany - **Christoph Lipp**, Vice-Commissioner of the Land riot forces, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community – online (tbc)

Italy - **Guglielmo Agosta**, Director General Affairs, Presidency of the Council of Ministers - online

Montenegro - **Vladimir Obratovic**, State Secretary, Ministry of Sports and Youth

Brazil - **Orlando Leite Ribeiro**, Ambassador of Brazil to Spain

## Questions and Answers

**10.55 - 11.15 Combating hate speech in sport at La Liga**

**Javier Tebas Medrano**, La Liga President

*11.15 - 11.30 Coffee break*

**11.30 - 12.30 Personal stories by Sport IS Respect Ambassadors and athletes**

*Moderator: Rosario Coco, International expert*

**Auri Bokesa**, Spain, 11x National champion

**Ioannis Melissanidis**, Greece, Olympic gold medallist

**Charlotte Girard-Fabre**, France, Athlete and Olympic referee

**Adiaratou Iglesias**, Spain Paralympic gold medallist

## Questions and Answers

**12.30 - 13.30 European outputs and outcomes of the joint EU CoE project**

*Moderator: Sophie Kwasny, Head of Sport Division, CoE*

Strategies, legislation **Raúl Rodríguez Porras**

Good practices, legislation **George Mavrotas**

Sport IS Respect Campaign **Antonio Parilla**

Educational materials **Laszlo Foldi**  
Resource Center **Gabriela Matei**

## Questions and Answers

13.35 - 14.00 *Bus to High Council for Sports*

14.00 - 15.00 *Buffet lunch at the High Council for Sports*

## Afternoon Session

High Council for Sports, Calle Martín Fierro, 5. Madrid

15:00 - 16:00 **Panel discussion: The role of sport organisations in combating hate speech in sport**

Moderator: *Laszlo Foldi*

**Alfonso Álvarez-Cascos Ruíz**, Royal Spanish Football Federation Legal Department

Peace and Sport (tbc)

**Xavier Malenfer**, FIA Director of Institutional and International Relations

**Edouard Choquet**, France, EU Athletes - online

## Questions and Answers

16.00 - 17.00 **Working groups: Reflections and evaluation**

Participants are divided into mixed groups to discuss:

- a) What are the achievements of this project?
- b) What are your suggestions for improving such a project?
- c) What are the further needs regarding combating hate speech in sport in Europe?
- d) What are your expectations / suggestions towards the European institutions regarding the follow-up of this project?

17.00 - 17.15 *Coffee break*

17.15 - 18.00 **Presentation of the outcomes of the working groups**

## Conclusions

**Sophie Kwasny**, Head of Sport Division, EPAS Executive Secretary,  
Council of Europe

18.00-19.00

**Panel discussion: International perspectives from education and awareness raising to sanctioning. International perspectives of the project and Sport IS Respect campaign**

*Moderator: Esteban Ibarra, President of the Spanish Movement against intolerance*

**Juan Aguilar Cepedello**, Senior Superintendent of the Spanish National Police.

**Rosario Coco**, International expert, Italy

**Jonas Burgheim**, International expert, Germany

**Danica Čelebić**, ISOC Co-founder, Montenegro

## Questions and Answers

19.00 - 19.15

**Closing remarks**

**Raúl Rodríguez Porras**, Director of the Legal Department, High Council for Sports, Spain

**Gabriela Matei**, Combating hate speech in sport Senior Project Officer, Council of Europe

The most important conclusion of the conference is the commitment to work together in the future. Countries and organisations participating will announce at the end of the conference their further commitment as a consequence of the project and propose the Expression of Commitment to Combating hate speech in sport.

19.30

Cocktail Dinner

## Thursday, 6 June 2024

Technical discussions on the Strategic approach, Sport IS Respect campaign and educational materials.