



CONFERENCE

PROMOTING SAFETY, INTEGRITY, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION IN SPORT

Organised by the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe
and the Hellenic Parliament

Athens, Greece,
4-5 November 2024
Hellenic Parliament
Senate Hall



HELLENIC PARLIAMENT



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CONTEXT

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe recognises the transformative potential of sports as a powerful vehicle for societal progress and upholding the core values of our organisation: human rights, democracy and rule of law. The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Conference on Sport will bring into focus some of the critical themes and issues that are faced by the world of sport and sportspersons, the public and our societies such as safety and integrity in sports, equality and inclusion, dignity and well-being of athletes. The event will gather parliamentarians, policymakers, athletes, sporting organisations, and experts from various fields to explore the multifaceted dimensions of these issues within the realm of sports.

OBJECTIVES

The conference will seek to engage participants in meaningful discussions, exchange of ideas and good practice with the aim of:

- i. Promoting a culture of respect, accountability and transparency within the sporting community as a means to fight violence and abuse in sports and address the impact it has on athletes, coaches and the sports community at large.
- ii. Developing strategies that will promote sport integrity, equality and inclusion on a European and at a global level.
- iii. Fostering collaboration among stakeholders in the sports community and build networks and alliances with the goal of creating a sporting environment that upholds the principles of fairness, diversity, and honesty.
- iv. Promoting Council of Europe standards on these issues.
- v. Promoting innovative solutions and best practices.
- vi. Creating a platform for knowledge sharing and networking.
- vii. Strengthening international cooperation - foster collaboration between parliamentarians, policy makers, national delegations, sports organisations, and relevant stakeholders to amplify the impact of collective efforts in achieving our shared objectives.

THEMES

- a. Safe Sports: preventing violence and abuse
- b. "Clean Sport": tackling doping, match fixing and illegal betting
- c. Inclusion and Equality

FORMAT

The conference will employ a combination of presentations, panel discussions, testimonies, and good practice, allowing for dynamic and comprehensive exploration of the identified themes and topics.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

- ▶ Promotion of Council of Europe standards and PACE resolutions and recommendations.
- ▶ Launching of a Parliamentary Alliance for good governance and integrity in sport to ensure collaboration and sharing of information and experience among stakeholders.
- ▶ Sharing of best practices and policy recommendations on sports integrity, inclusion and equality.
- ▶ Increased awareness and commitment towards advancing these critical issues within Council of Europe member States, national parliaments, sports organisations, and other relevant stakeholders.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- ▶ Members of national delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- ▶ Representatives from the Council of Europe intergovernmental sector and convention system
- ▶ Representatives from international sports organisations
- ▶ Representatives of other regional and international organisations
- ▶ Experts and practitioners in sports governance, integrity, equality, and inclusion.
- ▶ Advocacy groups and NGOs focused on sports-related issues.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

DAY 1

08.30 – 08.50 **Registration of participants**

09.00 – 09.30 **Opening session (Plenary Hall)**

- ▶ **Constantine An. Tassoulas**, President of the Hellenic Parliament
- ▶ **Theodoros Rousopoulos**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- ▶ **Bjørn Berge**, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

09.30 – 11.30 **Special Award Ceremony for Greek Olympic and Paralympic Champions**

Address by: ▶ **Ioannis Vroutsis**, Alternate Minister of Education, Religious affairs and Sports, representing the Prime Minister of Greece

Followed by remarks from:

- ▶ **Dora Bakoyannis**, Chairperson of the National Delegation of Greece to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- ▶ **Leaders of all the political parties represented in the Hellenic Parliament**
- ▶ **Spyros Capralos**, President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee

- ▶ **Georgios Kapellakis**, President of the Hellenic Paralympic Committee
- ▶ **Andreas Zagklis**, FIBA Secretary General
- ▶ **Athlete representing Olympic Champions**
- ▶ **Gregorios Polychronidis**, Paralympic Gold Medalist & President of the Hellenic Paralympic Winners Association

11.30 – 11.45 **Coffee break - near the Senate Hall**

11.45 – 13.00 **Session I: Safe Sports: preventing violence and abuse (Senate Hall)**

Moderator: Mogens Jensen, PACE General Rapporteur on Governance and Ethics in Sport

11.45 – 12.10 *Defining and understanding violence and abuse in sports*

- ▶ **Joanna Maranhão**, Network Coordinator, Sport & Rights Alliance
- ▶ **Reyes Bellver**, Legal Director, FUTPRO, Women's football players union, Spain
- ▶ **Chiel Warners**, Vice-Chairperson, Safe Sport International

12.10 – 12.40 *Safeguarding the well-being and dignity of athletes: possible responses from the world of sport*

Moderator: Mogens Jensen, PACE General Rapporteur on Governance and Ethics in Sport

- ▶ **Vaggelis Liolios**, President of the Greek Basketball Federation
- ▶ **Catherine Pitre**, Senior Council, World Athletics
- ▶ **Annaliza Tsakona**, FIFA International Relations & Public Affairs
- ▶ **Jeroen Schokkenbroek**, Director, Council of Europe Directorate of Equal Rights and Dignity: Council of Europe standards and tools to fight violence and abuse

12.40 – 13.15 **Exchange with the audience**

13.15 – 14.30 **Lunch**

14.45 – 17.00 **Session II: "Clean Sport": tackling doping, match-fixing and illegal betting**

Moderator: Valentina Grippo, PACE Member

14.45 – 15.15 *Understanding the problem and its extent: old and new challenges*

- ▶ **George Mavrotas**, Chair of the Follow-up Committee of the Council of Europe Macolin Convention
- ▶ **Angelo Rigopoulos**, Managing Director of Integrity and Regulatory, UEFA
- ▶ **Jens Sejer Andersen**, International Director, Play the Game

15.15 - 15.50 *The responses to the threats: safeguarding the integrity of sport competitions while protecting human rights*

Moderator: Valentina Grippo, PACE Member

- ▶ **Alexandre Husting**, Chair of the Governing Board of the Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)
- ▶ **Anders Solheim**, Chief Executive Officer, Anti-Doping Norway (ADNO)
- ▶ **Roland Büchel**, PACE Member

15.50 – 17.00 **Exchange with the audience**

End of first day

DAY 2

09.15 - 09.50 **Session III: Equality and inclusion in sport**

Moderator: Georgios Stamatis, PACE Member

- ▶ **Jan Lehmann**, Chief Executive Officer, European Olympic Committee
- ▶ **Marie-Amélie Le Fur**, Paralympic multi-medalist, President of the French Paralympic and Sports Committee
- ▶ **Dionysios Kodellas**, Ambassador, President, Special Olympics Hellas
- ▶ **Nagin Ravand**, Founder and Director of Global, Denmark
- ▶ **Ioanna Paraskevopoulou**, EPAS Governing Board's Gender Equality Rapporteur and National co-ordinator for Cyprus of "All In Plus" (EU-CoE joint project)

09.50 - 10.30 **Exchange with the audience**

10.30 - 10.50 **Conclusions by the Conference Rapporteur**

Elda Moreno, Conference Rapporteur

10.50 - 11.45 **Launch of the Parliamentary Alliance for Good Governance and Integrity in Sport**

Opening by:

- ▶ **Theodoros Rousopoulos**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- ▶ **Mogens Jensen**, PACE General Rapporteur on Governance and Ethics in Sport

11.45 - 12.00 **Closing remarks by:**

- ▶ **Dora Bakoyannis**, Chairperson of the National Delegation of Greece to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- ▶ **Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis**, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

End of conference

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.