







4-5 November 2024

Athens, Greece
The Hellenic Parliament

Conference Speakers



Constantine An. Tassoulas

He was born in Ioannina in 1959. He is married with two children.

He is a member of the Athens Bar Association. He studied at the Athens School of Law and has worked during the years 1988-89 at a legal practice in London as a British Council Scholarship holder.

He served as Chairperson of the Export Promotion Agency from 1990 to 1993.

In 1994, he was elected Mayor of the Municipality of Kifissia. In the parliamentary elections of 2000, he was elected for the first time as a New Democracy MP for the constituency of Ioannina. He was re-elected in the parliamentary elections of 2004, 2007, 2009, 2012 (twice), 2015 (twice), 2019, and 2023 (twice).

In 2007, he was appointed Deputy Minister of National Defence. In February 2010, he was elected Secretary General of the Parliamentary Group of New Democracy.

In June 2013, he was named President of the Institute for Democracy "Konstantinos Karamanlis".

In 2014, he was appointed Minister of Culture and Sports, until January 2015.

In 2018, he was appointed General Rapporteur of New Democracy for the Revision of the Constitution.

In 2019, he was elected President of the Hellenic Parliament, reelected in May 2023 and for the third time in June 2023.



Theodoros Rousopoulos

Theodoros Rousopoulos has been President of the Parliamentary Assembly since January 2024. He has also held the position of Chairperson of the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, as well as Vice-President of the European People's Party in the Assembly.

Since 2000, he has served as a Member of the Greek Parliament and was Minister of State and Government Spokesperson between 2004 and 2008.

Prior to politics, Mr Rousopoulos followed a 20-year career in journalism, working for prominent Greek newspapers as well as radio and TV stations. Being a pioneer of journalism in the country, he was the founding executive of the first nation-wide private radio station (Athens 9.84) and the first private TV station (Mega) in Greece.

He studied journalism and communication as well as culture and civilization. He holds a PhD in history from the University of Edinburgh.



Bjørn Berge

Mr Bjørn Berge serves as the Council of Europe's Deputy Secretary General since 1 March 2021.

Before taking up his post, Mr Berge was Director General and Secretary to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and also served as Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, helping to prepare, co-ordinate and implement a number of comprehensive reforms of the Organisation.

As a former Norwegian diplomat, he served as International Adviser to the Prime Minister and as Deputy Director of the Foreign Minister's Cabinet responsible for all matters related to Parliament. He also served as speechwriter to three Norwegian Foreign Ministers.

He was a Fulbright Scholar and holds a M.A. in International Relations from the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, Washington D.C., USA.



He was born in Athens on June 1, 1963. He is married and father of two children.

He studied Economics at the School of Law, Economics and Political Sciences of the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens. He holds a Master's degree of the Panteion University of Athens.



He was an elected member of the Assembly of Representatives of the Economic Chamber of Greece since 1997. Afterwards he served at the Ministry of Finance.

He served as President of the Panhellenic DAKE Tax Officers.

He was elected MP (ND) for Cyclades in the national elections of 2007 (first in number of votes), 2009, 2012 2015 2019 and 2023.

He has a rich Parliamentary and Political work.

He was elected President of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs of the Parliament (2023).

From July 28, 2023 he is the Alternate Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports.





Dora Bakoyannis is a Member of the Hellenic Parliament, since 1989.

In 2002, Dora became the first woman in the history of the city of Athens to be elected Mayor of Athens, with a 60.6% vote, the highest percentage ever achieved by a mayor in the city. She took on the task of preparing the city of Athens to host the 2004 Olympic Games.

In 2006, Dora took over as Foreign Affairs Minister in the Karamanlis government, a position she held until 2009.

Currently, Dora is the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign Affairs.

In addition, Dora is the Chairperson of the Greek Delegation to the inter-parliamentary cooperation between Greece, USA, Israel and Cyprus (3+1).

At European level, Dora Bakoyannis is the Chairperson of the Greek Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Since 2013, Dora is the Vice-President of the European People's Party in the Council of Europe.



Andreas Zagklis serves as Secretary General of FIBA since 2018. He obtained his bachelor and master's degree in Greece (Athens) after spending two semesters in Spain (Salamanca) and Canada (Western Ontario) respectively. As an attorney, he represented athletes, clubs and federations and worked at the CAS during three Olympic Games. He served FIBA as external legal advisor and then as Legal Director for nine years. As Secretary General, he has overseen milestones like the FIBA Basketball World Cups in 2019 and 2023, and the 3x3 tournaments in Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympics. Zagklis guided FIBA through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and in expanding women's basketball globally, boosting female representation at all levels. Under his leadership FIBA partnered with the NBA to create the Basketball Africa League, while expanding its club competition footprint with the launch of BCL Americas, BCL Asia and the revamp of the Intercontinental Cup. He is a member of the IOC Coordination Commission for LA 2028. He lives in Switzerland with his wife and two daughters.







Spyros Capralos

He is President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee since 2009. In 2021 he was elected President of the European Olympic Committees and in 2019 member of the International Olympic Committee. He is also Vice President of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) for Europe.

As an athlete he participated with the National Water Polo Team in the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980 and Los Angeles in 1984, while he was Greek and Balkan champion in swimming from 1969 to 1975.

He was Chairman of the Coordination Commission for the European Games in Baku (2015) and Minsk (2019), member of the General Assembly of the Hellenic Olympic Committee (1992-1996) and Head of the Greek Delegation to the Atlanta Olympic Games. In addition, he was Member of the Board and Executive Director of the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games "Athens 2004". In March 2004, he was appointed by the Prime Minister as General Secretary of State and City Manager of the Olympic Games Athens 2004.



Georgios Kapellakis

Born in 1973, he lives in Heraklion, married and father of a child. Following an accident during his military service, he is tetraplegic using a wheelchair.

Mr Kapellakis is an 8-time Paralympian in Swimming recorded 5 paralympic podium finishes including Athens 2004, Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Paralympic Games.

As President of the Hellenic Paralympic Committee since 2021, Member of Hellenic Sports Federation for people with Disabilities and the Association of Paralympians, among other leadership roles, he works to strengthen the sustainability and global influence on the mission to create a more inclusive world through Para sport. He also promotes through educational and interactive presentations, the values of Fairplay inspiring students, volunteers, journalists e.t.c. to reach their full potential, regarding Paralympic Sports and AntiDoping.

For his contribution Mr Kapellakis has been honored from the President of the Democracy, the Prime Minister, the Greek Parliament and has been named "Sportsman of the Year 2009".



Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis

At the time of her election in January 2021, Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis already had twenty-seven years of professional experience at the Council of Europe. She had worked closely with dozens of political figures from all over Europe and from all walks of life within the Parliamentary Assembly. In particular, she had advised four Secretaries General of the Assembly, several Assembly and Committee Chairpersons, and for a dozen years she had headed the secretariat of two parliamentary committees: the Monitoring Committee and the Political Affairs and Democracy Committee.

Thanks to her contribution in setting up the PACE monitoring procedure, she was chosen by the Directorate of Strategic Planning (DSP) to lead a team and carry out the monitoring work of the Committee of Ministers in a new way. Her doctoral thesis in law at the European University Institute (EUI, Florence, Italy) is on the European Convention on Human Rights. She started her career in the Organisation at the European Commission of Human Rights.



Georgios Stamatis

Georgios Stamatis has a degree in physical therapy and a postgraduate diploma in International Medicine and Health Crisis Management from the Medical School of Athens University.

An active advocate for human rights, non-discrimination, and social cohesion, he has focused on supporting disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities, homeless individuals, and migrants. From 2019 to 2023, he served as Secretary General for Social Solidarity and Fight Against Poverty in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

Following his election to the Hellenic Parliament in June 2023, he continues to work on social cohesion and inclusiveness. He is a member of the Social Affairs Committee and several other parliamentary committees on equality, youth, human rights, disability, and human trafficking. Additionally, he is a supplementary member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and serves on committees focused on social affairs, health, disability, and equality.



Jan Lehmann

Dr Jan Lehmann, CEO of the European Olympic Committees Jan Lehmann (54) was appointed as the new CEO of the EOC in May 2024, focusing on implementing the Strategic Agenda 2030 and the commercial development of the EOC. He is also founder and board member of the investment company One Touch Football AG.

Until the end of 2022, he was CFO/CCO at Bundesliga club FSV Mainz 05, being responsible for all commercial and financial activities. Under his leadership, the club generated positive financial results even during the Covid pandemic without any external capital injection. Before joining Mainz 05, Jan Lehmann was Managing Director of Nielsen Sports in Germany and Eastern Europe focusing on strategy consulting for sports business clients. Previously, he served as director at DFL where he was among other things responsible for Bundesliga's media rights sales. He started his career as consultant with McKinsey & Company and with the marketing agency Infront Sports & Media.



Joanna Maranhão

Joanna is a Brazilian Olympian, survivor, advocate and researcher, and the coordinator of the Athletes Network for Safer Sports. As a professional swimmer, Joanna specialised in individual medley and distance events, participating in four Olympic Games and winning eight medals at the Pan American Games.

As Network Coordinator at the Sport & Rights Alliance, Joanna is responsible for fostering global connection, collaboration and mobilisation between athletes and allies impacted by abuse in sport. Previously, Joanna led the campaign to expand Brazil's statutes of limitation to allow survivors of child sexual abuse more time to report and seek justice, succeeding in establishing a new law, which bears her name (the Joanna Maranhão Law).

She holds a Master of Sports Ethics and Integrity from the University of Leuven in Belgium, and a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from Faculdade Maurício de Nassau in Brazil. Joanna speaks Portuguese, English and Spanish.



Chiel Warners

Chiel Warners is a decorated Olympic Decathlete. Besides his achievements on the field, he has a wealth of experience in sports administration: as athlete representative in several (inter)national sports governing bodies, as board member and as coordinator of the National Platform against Match-Fixing. He combines his experience in sport with work in the corporate sector as a tax lawyer and wealth structurer drawing on good practices and synergies where possible.

Having grown up in, and being shaped by sport, he knows what the power of sport can be. This is why he is a strong advocate of making and keeping sport safe, clean and healthy for everyone, everywhere. This led him to the leading organisation in the world on safeguarding, Safe Sport International where he a trustee.

He currently works as an independent consultant on integrity and governance issues in and around sport.



Vaggelis Liolios

Evangelos Liolios was born in 1967, in Patras, Greece. He is married and father of 4 children. He speaks English and German and holds a Bachelor's degree in Medicine from the University of Patras and an MBA in Health Organisations Management from the Hellenic Open University.

He has practised medicine as a paediatrician for 13 years and has presented publications at international and national medical congresses.

He was a basketball player for Promitheas Patras (1986-1991) and has been the club's President since 2004 leading the club to win the Super Cup in 2020, making Promitheas the first provincial club to win a title in the history of Greek Basketball.

He has been the President of the Hellenic Basketball Federation, since September 2021, and FIBA Foundation Board member since September 2023.



Catherine Pitre

Catherine Pitre is Senior Counsel at World Athletics, where she advises on a range of regulatory, governance and commercial matters, leading on safeguarding initiatives. She works with Member Federations to ensure that safeguarding policies and procedures are adopted and acts as Safeguarding Officer for World Athletics Series Events, collaborating with local organising committees to develop and implement safeguarding plans.

From 2016 to 2024, Catherine was Head of Case Management at Sport Resolutions, in London, where she oversaw all proceedings before its tribunals, including those before the National Safeguarding Panel, Sport Integrity, and supported a significant number of international federations (25+) in their dispute resolution procedures. Prior to this, she worked for the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada.

Catherine also serves as Appeals Tribunal Member for the Gymnastics Ethics Foundation, the President of Women in Sports Law, and a lecturer for the Université de Sherbrooke's Graduate Diploma in Sport Governance and Anti-Doping.



Annaliza Tsakona

Annaliza Tsakona has been with FIFA since 2016, working in the International Relations and Public Affairs department. In her current role, she oversees relationships with European political stakeholders and manages partnerships with key political organisations.

Before joining FIFA, Annaliza pursued an academic career, earning a doctorate degree in International Relations from the University of Cambridge in the UK and teaching at universities both in Greece and abroad. She also gained experience in European and national politics, having worked at the Directorate-General for External Relations of the European Commission and served in the Cabinet of Greece's then-Minister for Development and the Environment, now the Minister of National Economy and Finance.

Annaliza is particularly passionate about football's unique power to build bridges and drive positive social change globally!



Jeroen G. C. Schokkenbroek

Jeroen Schokkenbroek studied law at the University of Leiden (Netherlands), where he taught constitutional and administrative law until 1993.

Since 1993, he has held various positions in the Council of Europe Secretariat, mainly in the field of human rights, including Head of the Human Rights Development Department and Head of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

He also served as Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues, and as Special Adviser to the Secretary General for Ukraine until his appointment as Executive Secretary of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT).

Since June 2018, Mr Schokkenbroek has been Director of Equal Rights and Dignity in the Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity of the Council of Europe. He has published various books and articles in the fields of human rights and constitutional law.



George Mavrotas

George Mavrotas was an international water polo player (1984-2000) with 511 caps, participation in 5 Olympic Games. (captain 1995-2000). Concurrently with his athletic career, he received his degree in the School of Chemical Engineering in the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA). He received his PhD diploma in 2000 with expertise in Operational Research and today he is an Associate Professor in NTUA, included in the Stanford list of top 2% influential scientists for 2024. In 2015-2019 he was member of the Hellenic Parliament and in 2016-2019 member of the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe. In July 2019, he was designated as Secretary General of Sport and renewed his term in July 2023, being also Chairman of the Greek National Platform (EPATHLA). In June 2021 he was elected as Chairman of the Follow-up Committee of the Macolin Convention and he was re-elected in the same position for a second term in May 2023.

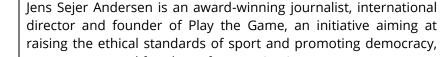


Angelo Rigopoulos

Italian, Greek and Swiss national, Angelo was born in Verona and lived in several countries before settling in Switzerland in 2010.

Angelo graduated in Law from the University of Bologna. He holds a postgraduate degree from the University of Milano-Bicocca, and an International Master in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport from Neuchatel, Switzerland.

Angelo joined UEFA in 2010, in roles such as a lawyer dealing with disputes between clubs at European level, legal counsel within the sports legal services unit (2013) and Head of National Associations Governance (2017). In this capacity, he delivered UEFA's good governance principles for national associations. In his current role as Managing Director of the Integrity and Regulatory division (2018), Angelo oversees the Disciplinary Services, Statutory and Regulatory, Anti-Match-Fixing and until 2024 also the Anti-Doping and medical units.



modern sport.

Jens Sejer Andersen



transparency, and freedom of expression in sport.

Through its 13 international conferences since 1997, its website, news production and research initiatives, Play the Game has become a unique platform for raising awareness on challenges to

Andersen has acted as a coordinator of several international research projects on governance standards in sport, among others the Sports Governance Observer, the "National Sports Governance Observer", "National Anti-Doping Governance Observer", and "Strengthening Athlete Power in Sport".

Within the Council of Europe, Andersen chaired the Consultative Committee for the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) 2016-2020. Jens Sejer Andersen is a frequent international keynote speaker, including at ministerial and other high-level conferences in the realms of UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the European Union.



Valentina Grippo

Valentina Grippo, born in Rome in 1971, is an Italian politician and journalist, elected to the Italian Parliament in 2022. She serves as Vice President of the Culture, Science, and Education Commission, which also covers sport-related issues. In her parliamentary role, she has been a key advocate for sport as a tool for social inclusion, equality, and well-being. Ms Grippo was the driving force behind the Constitutional Law 26 September 2023, No. 1, which amended Article 33 of the Italian Constitution to include the recognition of the educational, social, and psychophysical benefits of sport.

This landmark legislation underscores her commitment to the promotion of sport at all levels as a vital element of social development. She has also worked on numerous legislative proposals aimed at improving access to sport for individuals with disabilities, including infrastructure development and specialised equipment. Through her work, Ms Grippo continues to champion integrity and safety in sport, in line with the core values of the Council of Europe.



Alexandre Husting

Attaché Education, Youth, Culture and Sport to the Luxembourg Permanent Representation to the European Union and adviser International and European affairs for the Luxembourg Ministry of Sports. Chair of EPAS (Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport) and of CAHAMA (Ad hoc European Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency). Member of the CoE Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport.



Anders Solheim

Anders Solheim has been the CEO of Anti-Doping Norway since 2003 and is currently Chair of the Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations (iNADO).

He was Chair of the Monitoring Group of the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention (2014-2018), where he and chaired the drafting of the General Principles of Fair Procedure Applicable to Anti-Doping Proceedings in Sport (CoE). He has been a member of the WADA Education Committee and Chair for WADA Independent Observer program at two major events.

Solheim has also worked at the Norwegian Ministry of Culture and Norwegian National Olympic Committee. Before that, he played semi-professional football for almost a decade and was a founding member of the Norwegian Players Union.

Solheim holds a Master of Sports Sciences from the Norwegian School of Sports Sciences and an Executive Master of Management from the Norwegian Business School. He has studied public law at the University of Oslo and completed a UEFA Certificate in Football Management.



Marie-Amélie Le Fur

Marie-Amélie Le Fur is a French Paralympic athlete in track and field. Born on September 26, 1988, she lost her left leg in a motorcycle accident at the age of 15 but turned this adversity into a source of motivation.

She has won 9 medals at the Paralympic Games, including 3 gold. In addition to her athletic career, she is actively involved in advocating for accessibility and inclusion for people with disabilities. Since 2018, she is also the president of the French Paralympic and Sports Committee, where she continues to promote adaptive sports for all disabled persons.

Dionyssios Kodellas

Graduate of the Law and Political Sciences Faculty of the Athens University,

Ambassador Kodellas joined the Greek Foreign Service in 1974. His almost forty year long diplomatic career, brought him to a large number of countries ranging from the Middle East, Europe, Africa and the Latin America.

Apart from the experience acquired serving in sensitive posts of the above-mentioned continents, often during turbulent times, Ambassador Kodellas was as well actively involved in the multilateral diplomacy. He participated to a considerable number of International Conferences mainly dealing with the European Union's relations with Latin American and African countries, while, during successive Sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, he was the Head of the Greek Delegation to the Human Rights Committee.

During the various times he was serving at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Athens, he held the posts of the Spokesman of the Ministry, of the Director of the European Parliament Affairs and of the Director of the European Security Conferences.

Ambassador Kodellas has equally served as Chief of Cabinet of Ministers at the Ministries of Tourism, Health and Social Solidarity, National Defense and Foreign Affairs.

From December 2013 to March 2014, he has been President of the Hellenic Red Cross Society.





Nagin Ravand

Nagin Ravand is a 25 year-old UEFA licensed football coach based in Denmark with a refugee background from Afghanistan. Nagin is the founder of the non-profit organization Globall, a football-oriented NGO that fights for securing equal access to the playing field. By recruiting and developing the missing representation of female ethnic minorities in football, Globall challenges the systematic discrimination inside the national sports structures.

Nagin holds a Bachelor's degree in Education Science, a Master's degree in Criminology and a diploma in Innovative Sports Management. Her successful initiatives to get more girls from disadvantaged areas to play football in Denmark, have been recognised with multiple awards nationally and internationally. She is an active advocate for girls and women's rights all over the world and was the first female footballer to wear a hijab on the cover of ELLE Magazine.



Ioanna Paraskevopoulou

Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (BSc., MBA) is an EU and International Affairs Officer at the Cyprus Sports Organisation, which she joined in 1997. She studied Physical Education and Sport Science (University of Athens, Greece, 1995) and holds an MBA from the University of Cyprus (2009).

She has been actively involved in EU matters mainly as national representative in the EU's Working Party on Sports since 2011 and has vice-chaired it during Cyprus' Presidency in 2012. Moreover, she has been a member of the EU expert groups with regards to "Sport and Health", HEPA Focal Points Group" and "Strengthening the recovery and the crisis resilience of the sport sector during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic".

Her expertise has been developed over the last 13 years in EU projects development, administration and management in topics such as sport and physical activity, good governance and volunteering in sport. Furthermore, since 2015 she has been the National Coordination of the European Week of Sport initiative in Cyprus.

As of June 2022, she is an elected member of the EPAS Bureau and Gender Equality Rapporteur for the Governing Board.



Reyes Bellver

A practising lawyer, Reyes holds a degree in Law with a major in the European Union and a Master's in International Relations from the CEU San Pablo University, a Master in Business Taxation from ICADE and a Master degree in International Sports Law from the University of Lleida. She was awarded the best RFEF-FIFA-CIES sports management project in 2015.

Reyes has been working in sports law since 2009, with a focus on international football. Experienced in defending players, coaches, clubs, advising agents, confederations, and international federations such as FIFA, she is also the founder of Bellver Sports – Legal boutique, a firm dedicated to football law, and of the Leadership Woman Football platform, which promotes leadership, equality and diversity in football. Reyes is also an external advisor to FIFA's Legal Department (2020) and an arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS, 2023).

As the Legal Director of the Spanish women's footballers' union - FUTPRO (2022), Reyes' work focuses on advocating for the rights of female footballers to better conditions, with an advisory role in processes such FIFA's reforms of maternity protocols for female players and coaches (2021and 2024).



Mogens Jensen

Mogens Jensen (born on 31 October 1963 in Nykøbing Mors) has been member of the Folketing for the Social Democratic Party from 13/11/2007 and is currently Spokesman on cultural affairs, Spokesman on media and Spokesman on sports. Among other prestigious functions, he was Danish Minister for Trade and Development Cooperation (03/02/2014 – 28/06/2015), Minister for Food, Fisheries and Equal Opportunities and Minister for Nordic Cooperation (27/06/2019 – 19/11/2020).

He is the present Chairman of the Danish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), which he joined in 2008. He is also Vice-Chairperson of the Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group, and PACE General Rapporteur on Governance and Ethics in Sport. He was previously, among others, Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (25/01/2016 – 22/01/2018), General Rapporteur on Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists (26/01/2022 – 22/01/2024) and Rapporteur on Working towards a framework for modern sports governance.



Ms Elda Moreno

Elda is a Human Rights lawyer with an expertise in children's rights, gender equality, environmental law and sport policies. She has over twenty-five years of experience in international organisations leading teams and developing legal standards, public policies, programmes and campaigns in the Council of Europe and the United Nations.

Elda Moreno is currently on unpaid leave from the Council of Europe, working as a consultant and writing fiction. As the Head of Children's Rights and Sport Values Department (2016-2022), she was responsible for the European programmes for the protection of children's rights, the promotion of human rights in and through sport as well as for the fight against doping, match-fixing and violence in sport. In 2018, she conceptualised and launched the Start to Talk, campaign to stop child sexual abuse in sport.