

**Follow-up Committee
on Manipulation of sports competitions (T-MC)**

Council of Europe Convention on the
Manipulation of Sports Competitions
(CETS n°215)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

T-MC(2021)12

MEETING REPORT

2nd meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Convention on the manipulation of sport competitions (T-MC)

23 and 24 June 2021

I. Opening of the meeting

1. Welcome

Ms Elda Moreno, Head of the Children's Rights and Sport Values Department, welcomes the participants on behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and informs them of the objectives of this second meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee adopts the agenda of the meeting (see Appendix I).

3. Information by the Secretariat

The Committee takes note of the presentation of several documents by the secretariat, namely the welcome pack, the rules of procedure and the strategic framework of the Council of Europe for the years 2022-2024 prepared by the Secretary General.

The secretariat also brings to the attention of the Committee the decision of the Hamburg Ministerial Session on the Council of Europe's strategic framework, which contains two points relevant to the Committee's activities, namely paragraph 9, which recalls the importance of working to ensure that as many countries as possible accede to Council of Europe Conventions, including the Macolin Convention, and paragraph 12, which recognises the importance of the Council of Europe's work in the field of sport.

The Committee approves the report of the first meeting of the T-MC.

4. Information by the EPAS Secretariat

The Executive Secretary of EPAS informs the Committee about the revision of the European Sports Charter and the highlights of this revision, which are particularly relevant for the Macolin Committee.

The EPAS secretariat invites the Committee to take note of the Guidelines on Sport Integrity and the 50 recommendations of the IPACS benchmark on the governance of sport organisations, some of which are related to the Macolin Convention.

The EPAS secretariat presents the note entitled "The Macolin Convention: sports betting - what impact on the sports betting market?"

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the EPAS Secretariat and stresses the importance of ensuring the regular participation of a representative of EPAS in the meetings of the Committee, as is already the case for Moneyval, GRECO, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe or the Committee of Convention 108 on data protection. The Committee decides in this respect to add EPAS to the Council of Europe bodies invited to participate in the Committee's meetings.

5. Elections

The heads of delegation of the seven Parties to the Convention vote for the election of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the three members of the Bureau.

The Committee elects for a two-year term of office:

- Mr George Mavrotas (Greece) as Chair.
- Mr. Pedro Carvalho (Portugal) as Vice-Chair.
- Ms. Natalia Chiriac (Moldova) as a member of the Bureau.
- Ms. Nataliia Radchuk (Ukraine) as a member of the Bureau.
- Mr Wilhelm Rauch (Switzerland) as a member of the Bureau.

It was noted that the validity of the election of Mr Wilhelm Rauch was conditional on the confirmation of the composition of the Swiss national delegation by the competent authorities.

6. Pending requests for observer status

The Chair recalls that at its first meeting on 24-25 November 2020, the Committee had agreed to resume consideration of the applications for observer status made by FIFA and UEFA at a later date. In view of the important support given by these organisations to the Convention, and the close co-operation between the Council of Europe and UEFA and FIFA on issues of combating manipulation of sports competitions, the Committee decided to grant observer status to both organisations, welcoming their forthcoming participation in the work of the Committee.

The Secretariat also informs the Committee of the application for observer status from EU Athletes received by the Secretariat in December 2020, as well as of the great interest of several other non-state actors in the Committee's activities. The Committee agrees to consider new applications for observer status when the number of ratifications of the Convention would allow for the extension of participation in the Committee's meetings to new observers.

II. Standard setting and legal issues

7. Advisory Group – draft terms of reference

The Secretariat presents the draft terms of reference for the advisory group of the network of national platforms (the "Group of Copenhagen"). The Committee adopts the terms of reference of the Advisory Group and instructs its Bureau to work in the coming months on the definition of the priorities of the Advisory Group and its setting-up.

8. "Sport organisations" (Articles 3.2 and 31.2 of the Macolin Convention)

The EPAS Executive Secretary presents the document "List of sports organisations for the purposes of Article 3.2 of the Macolin Convention". The Chair opens the floor for discussion, noting that the points

raised by participants relate to whether or not to cover e-sport, animal racing, mixed martial arts and competitions of athletes with disabilities.

The Committee instructs its Bureau to prepare a draft list of sports organisations for discussion at the next Committee meeting, inviting participants to comment on the working document and the issues raised during its examination.

9. Update on the state of signatures and ratifications

The Committee takes note of the status of signatures and ratifications of the Macolin Convention. With regard to the recent position expressed by the Government of Malta in a letter to the Secretary General, the Committee welcomes the commitment of the Maltese Government to sign the Convention and thus unblock the accession of the European Union to the Convention. The Committee considers it important to carefully examine the possible implications of the proposals made by Malta and accordingly instructs its Bureau to carry out an analysis of the substantive and procedural aspects of the proposals made, and on this basis to prepare concrete elements for discussion at the next meeting of the Committee.

III. Monitoring

10. Presentation of possible approaches and checklist

The Secretariat presents two working documents on possible monitoring options and approaches, recalling that there are different compliance assessment methods and different mechanisms that could be put in place to monitor the implementation of the Macolin Convention.

The Chair suggests that the Committee members carefully examine these two documents and comment on the possible options.

One delegation stresses the importance of providing delegations with a roadmap in addition to the self-assessment lists to help them better understand the risks of not implementing the provisions of the Macolin Convention.

The Chair concluded this item by inviting delegations to reflect on the options presented in these documents so that at the next meeting the Committee could decide on the main orientations for the follow-up mechanism it wished to put in place.

IV. International cooperation

11. Exchange of views with a representative of the Group of Copenhagen

In addition to a historical review of the development of the network of national platforms, the Committee is informed of the actions, objectives and priorities of the Group of Copenhagen, whose links with the Committee will now be strengthened with the attribution of the status of advisory group.

The opening of the discussion to the participants allows the representative of the International Olympic Committee to recall the importance, for all sports organisations, to commit themselves jointly and collectively against the manipulation of sports competitions, which concerns all sports and is not limited to sports betting related activities, as expressly provided for by the Macolin Convention.

12. Information on KCOOS+ and FLAGS

The secretariat informs the Committee of the continuity of the KCOOS+ project's activities, made possible in particular by the arrival from mid-July of a colleague at the secretariat in charge of implementing the project.

The Committee also receives a presentation of the FLAGS (Football Local Alerts Global Strategy) project implemented by the Council of Europe with the support of FIFA. Following an introductory presentation of the project by the secretariat, a FIFA representative informs the Committee of the activities to be carried out under this project, one of the main objectives being to facilitate cooperation between all the stakeholders involved in combating the manipulation of sporting competitions.

13. Updates by other participants and observers

The Committee is informed of Moneyval's actions by its Executive Secretary who presents the general framework of activities against money laundering, and the specific activities related to the mandate of the Macolin Convention Committee.

The Committee takes note of the presentation of two important reports by the Head of the Secretariat of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and the Media of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The first report deals with the governance of football: business and values, the second with sport policies in times of crisis. The Chair recalls the essential contribution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on integrity issues in sport.

The Committee is informed of GRECO's actions and more specifically of GRECO's actions in the field of sport, more specifically in relation to the work of IPACS.

The Committee takes note of the presentation by the representative of the secretariat of the Committee of Convention 108 on the work carried out in the field of data protection, and more particularly of the work carried out under the aegis of the Group of Copenhagen on data protection principles in the framework of the Macolin Convention.

The Committee takes note of the statement by the representative of the International Olympic Committee, who recalls the need for all sports federations and organisations to become jointly involved in the fight against sports manipulation.

The Committee takes note of the presentation by the representative of GLMS and the call for the expansion of the number of lotteries within GLMS to help combat sports manipulation.

The Committee is informed of Interpol's actions in the field of combating the manipulation of sports competitions, in particular its activities to promote the Macolin Convention. The representative from Interpol reiterates his willingness to provide support and input to those who so wish, as well as the possibility of making use of his expertise in this field.

V. Closing of the meeting

14. Any other business

No other item is raised.

15. Dates of future meetings

The Committee agrees on the dates of the next meetings, namely

- 9 September 2021 for the first meeting of the Bureau.
- 11 and 12 October 2021 for the third meeting of the Follow-up Committee.

16. Closing of the meeting

The Committee adopts the list of its decisions. The Chair thanks all participants for their participation and involvement during the meeting.

ANNEX I – MEETING AGENDA

Opening of the meeting

1. Welcome words on behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Information by the Secretariat
4. Information by the Secretariat of EPAS
5. Elections
6. Pending requests for observer status

II. Standard setting and legal issues

7. Advisory Group – draft Terms of Reference
8. 'Sports Organisations' (Articles 3.2 and 31.2 of the Macolin Convention)
9. Update on the state of signatures and ratifications

III. Monitoring

10. Presentation of possible approaches and checklist

IV. International cooperation

11. Exchange of views with a representative of the Group of Copenhagen
12. Information on KCOOS+ and FLAGS
13. Updates by other participants and observers

V. Closing of the meeting

14. Any other business
15. Dates of future meetings
16. Closing of the meeting

ANNEX II – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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¹ Subject to the confirmation of the composition of the national delegation.

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