

**Follow-up Committee  
on the 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

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# **Action Plan / Strategic Priorities 2022-2025**

## Introduction

The Monitoring Committee of the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (CETS No. 215, hereinafter referred to as the "Macolin Convention") wished to define the main directions of its four-year work program for the 2022-2025 period<sup>1</sup>.

This program, which focuses on three strategic priorities, is committed to the promotion and implementation of the Macolin Convention among all the key players in the fight against the manipulation of sports competitions.

It has been developed with the aim of ensuring the highest level of quality and productivity for the work of the Committee, with concrete achievements and results, according to the resources available both in terms of Committee meetings (two plenary meetings and three Bureau meetings per year) and the dedicated Secretariat.

The technological means and working methods used (shared electronic files, remote participation tools in particular) will aim to facilitate the participation of interested parties, responsiveness and rationalisation of time and resources.

The Macolin Convention entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and has so far been ratified by Greece, Italy, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Switzerland and Ukraine, and signed by 30 other European states as well as by Australia and Morocco.

It is the only binding international legal instrument, the only rule of law expressly created in the field of prevention and fight against the manipulation of sports competitions.

Its objective is to prevent and detect illegal activities in the field of sports competitions and to prevent and sanction any manipulation of these competitions. This is in order to avoid infringement of the principles of justice and fairness while keeping intact the values of sport and its unpredictable character. The promotion and safeguarding of ethics and good governance in sport are among the main instruments that arm the said Convention against corruption and any reprehensible practice in this sector.

The Macolin Convention provides a legal framework for international cooperation in the face of the threat of manipulation of sports competitions. It therefore requires close cooperation of public authorities with sports organisations, organisers of sports competitions and organisers of betting.

### Priority Action 1: Increase membership and ratifications

The Committee's priority objective is to enable the widest possible implementation of the Macolin Convention by States.

Indeed, many years after the opening for signature of a treaty whose necessity and relevance everyone agrees on, increasing the number of parties should be an absolute priority<sup>2</sup>.

The Committee must ensure that a strong message is sent to the member states of the Council of Europe, while encouraging countries outside Europe to ratify the convention.

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<sup>1</sup> Programme adopted by the Macolin Convention Committee at its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting (11-12 October 2021).

<sup>2</sup> See the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Resolution "Time to act: Europe's political response to fighting the manipulation of sports competitions": <https://pace.coe.int/en/files/28767/html>

This means promoting the Convention and its benefits through cooperation with international organisations, the development of partnerships and awareness campaigns.

#### *1) In Europe*

Support the implementation of the European Union Action Plan<sup>3</sup> to ensure the ratification of the Macolin Convention by the European Union Member States and the accession of the Union to the Convention.

Promote the actions identified by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe<sup>4</sup>.

#### *2) Global dimension*

Expanding the geographic reach of application of the provisions of the Macolin Convention by increasing the commitments of countries from all regions of the world, and through it the possibilities of cooperation on an international scale, is the only answer to a complex and global phenomenon. This international cooperation is one of the spearheads of the Convention, which must be given a reality. The promotion of the Convention and the benefits it offers in the fight against the threat of sports manipulation are therefore essential to the efforts to increase the membership of the Macolin Convention.

The signing of the Convention by Australia and Morocco should serve as an inspiration to other countries, and the accession of these countries to the Convention should be the next step in the globalisation of the Convention.

#### *Priority Action 2: Support for the implementation of the Convention*

The effective implementation of the Convention by the Parties, and support for the development of national systems to combat the manipulation of sports competitions, are among the Committee's strategic priorities in order to ensure that the unique authority and legitimacy of the Convention remains unmatched.

In this regard, the Macolin Convention Committee will need to establish the modalities and procedures for the monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the Convention as provided for in Article 31 of the Convention, as well as the reporting mechanism as provided for in Article 29 of the Convention.

It shall also facilitate the implementation of the Convention by providing normative guidance and recommendations on measures to be taken for its implementation.

#### *1) Parties to the Convention / Monitoring Mechanism*

The monitoring of the Convention is the responsibility of the Committee, whose title reflects the specific importance of this task under the Convention.

Within the framework of the Council of Europe's sport standards, the monitoring process is primarily intended to provide advice and support to the interested countries in developing or improving their policies and practices, in accordance with international standards. Moreover, it should facilitate international co-operation and the transfer of relevant knowledge and experience between States Parties.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:42020Y1204\(01\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:42020Y1204(01)&from=EN)

<sup>4</sup> <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=28648&lang=en>

The assessment of technical compliance shall address the extent to which a given State Party complies with the specific requirements of the standards in laws, regulations or other required measures, which are in force and in effect, including in respect of the administrative and institutional framework and the existence, powers and procedures of competent authorities.

The assessment of effectiveness shall evaluate the adequacy of the implementation of the standards and identify the extent to which the country achieves a defined set of outcomes that are central to a robust system that effectively prevents, detects and sanctions the manipulation of sports competitions

The Macolin Convention Committee will decide on the practical modalities for the implementation of Article 29 of the Convention, which requires Parties to communicate “all relevant information concerning legislative and other measures taken by it for the purpose of complying with the provisions of the Convention”. The Committee will specify in particular the nature of the information to be produced, the frequency and methods for gathering information<sup>5</sup>.

## *2) Normative guidance*

The legislative framework in each country must be adapted to enable the effective prosecution and punishment of sports manipulation.

Legislation must allow and facilitate risk assessment by the various stakeholders, information exchange and information sharing (work on the definition of the applicable framework of data protection law, concerning the exchange of information in the framework of the Convention).

The Committee will work on the elaboration of normative guidance to further the objectives of the Convention, on topics identified by the Committee as being of major interest for the implementation of the Convention, be it on the subject of information sharing, modalities of cooperation, types of manipulation or any other subject related to the provisions of the Convention.

## *Priority Action 3: Promote national and international cooperation in the fight against the manipulation of sports competitions*

### *1) Education*

One of the key aspects to be considered in achieving the prevention goal is education, raising awareness within communities through specific training programs and campaigns, identifying the target audience and setting goals for the awareness campaign, while engaging the media and social media channels to help raise awareness.

The development of international and national training programs aimed at a narrow group and involving all relevant stakeholders should be supported.

The Committee will work to develop strategies and guidelines for education and training programs for athletes from amateur to professional sport, drawing on the expertise of sport stakeholders. Raising awareness of the values of sport from an early age is essential to ensure that future athletes develop within a framework that respects the principles protected by the Convention, and that they become actors in a virtuous circle of integrity.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/16801cdd7e>

## *2) Strengthening cooperation with stakeholders*

As cooperation between stakeholders (sports organisations, betting operators and public authorities) is essential to the effectiveness of the prevention and fight against the manipulation of sports competitions, the Committee will work to strengthen the modalities of such cooperation, both at the national and international levels.

In particular, the Committee will work to:

- Support the preparation and dissemination of best practices on the establishment of a national platform and on how to organise, structure, consolidate and improve its system;
- Provide assistance to national platforms and support to all stakeholders involved in the prevention, detection and sanctioning of manipulation in sport and to define the tools to achieve this;

Those two specific objectives will imply the contribution of the Advisory Group (Group of Copenhagen).

- Strengthen cooperation with the sports betting and gaming industry, including entities representing regulators and betting operators (IAGR, EGBA, BGC, etc.), to make the fight against sports manipulation a priority for these stakeholders.
- Strengthen cooperation with the sports movement (IOC, UEFA, FIFA, etc.) and law enforcement agencies (Interpol, Europol) as well as relevant Council of Europe bodies (Moneyval, GRECO, Convention 108 Committee, etc.).

The Committee has therefore set itself the following priorities for its first years of activity and with the aim of combating the growing threat of the manipulation of sports competitions:

- an extended application of the Convention (geographical enlargement of its scope of application),
- implementation of its provisions and principles (establishment of a monitoring mechanism as well as support for implementation through the development of guidance to inform the application of the Convention),
- strengthening education and cooperation mechanisms at the national and international levels between stakeholders.