



Council of Europe Conseil de l'Europe

# Activity Report 2022-2023

## Group of Copenhagen

Advisory Group to the Follow-up Committee on  
the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (T-MC)

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# A word from the President

Dear readers,

Dear readers, I am pleased to present to you the first activity report of the Group of Copenhagen (GoC).

Two years ago, I was elected President of this network of National Platforms against the manipulation of sports competitions.

With the cooperation of a dedicated Secretariat, an excellent Vice-President and a motivated Bureau, the achievements of this group have been very encouraging. Thanks to our common tools, such as the notice and surveillance templates and the Logbook, we have made significant progress in the fight against competition manipulation. We have also set up several working groups to improve national platforms (UP NPs), alert processing (ALERTS), monitoring of big international sports events (Monitoring) and relations with other organisations (LINKS). We have also initiated different projects with external partners, such as the Football Local Alerts Global Strategy (FLAGS) project, the prospective study on the use of Performance analysis, or even the MotivAction project, which is the first project of the GoC funded by the European Union. Finally, in connection with the Secretariat, the late Belgian Federal Prosecutor Eric Bisschopp and the Deputy Prosecutor of Marseille Jean-Yves Lourgouilloux, we were at the initiative of the creation of the network of Magistrates Responsible for Sport (MARS), to allow us to strengthen the fight against match-fixing.

This year will feature major events, such as Euro 2024 and the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I would like us to set up a training programme for platform coordinators. I am confident that by launching a new initiatives, in conjunction with the MARS network, we will further improve our effectiveness to fight against networks of manipulators of sports competitions. Finally, by developing the Logbook 2.0 hosted on a secure website of the Council of Europe and by improving follow the money in match fixing, we will further consolidate our role as the operational arm of the Macolin Convention. Corentin Segalen

Corentin Segalen



Corentin Segalen, President of the Group of Copenhagen

# The Group of Copenhagen

The Group of Copenhagen (GoC), also known as the network of national platforms, is the advisory group of the Follow-up Committee of the Macolin Convention. It is tasked with monitoring suspicious competitions and enhancing the development of National Platforms for combating manipulation of sports competitions, as stipulated in Article 13 of the Macolin Convention.

National Platforms bring together various stakeholders who can combat the manipulation of sports competitions at the national level. Each state is free to organise its Platform as it sees fit, provided that its organisation does not contravene the principles of the Convention.

Most often, the Platforms bring together the Ministries of Sports, Justice, Finance, and the Interior from member countries, as well as betting operators, magistrates, national law enforcement agencies, and national sports organisations such as the National Olympic Committees. The National Platforms also cooperate with international police agencies and international sports federations. They share the information they have among themselves to effectively monitor, detect, and punish manipulations of sports competitions.

The GoC also has the power to initiate actions in implementing the Convention. It can set up working groups on issues it considers necessary to analyse and can launch projects to complement the actions of the Follow-up Committee. The GoC has initiated several projects, such as the FLAGS project, developed with FIFA and UEFA to support investigations on specific teams, and the MARS network, a network of magistrates specialising in sports-related criminal matters."



# The tools of the GoC

## Notices

In March 2016, the National Platforms adopted a shared notice system to estimate the seriousness of suspicions of manipulation in a competition. This shared system enables better cooperation between the National Platforms.

There are 4 levels of notices:

Green notices (normal competition): no special supervision



Yellow notices (suspicions and rumors): order to notify other National Platforms as well as betting operators, register the suspicious team or player in the Logbook)



Orange notices (probable manipulation but no undeniable proof): order to notify the other national platforms as well as the sports federations and the local police



Red notices (serious and corroborating evidence): order to start collecting evidence for the investigation and contact the police)



## Surveillance systems

A competition can be placed under thorough surveillance if the GoC has suspicious information about it (team already involved in a corruption case, unusual odds, unusual bets, rumors, etc.).

There are 3 levels of surveillance:

Normal surveillance: nothing to report.



Enhanced surveillance: The GoC as a whole is notified. The GoC identifies contact points close to the competition and in the local police.



Maximum surveillance: Increased surveillance of betting and odds movements on the competition. Enhanced dialogue between GoC members, enhanced dialogue at national and international level, with notification of INTERPOL and EUROPOL. Systematic collection of evidence. Identification of contact points in the sports federations. The competition organisers must seize evidence.



# The tools of the GoC



## The Logbook

The logbook is a tool developed to record and store information relating to manipulated or suspicious competitions. It is shared with all members of the GoC and constitutes a substantial database listing all suspicious matches.

By compiling this logbook of suspicious and/or manipulated matches, based on a large number of cases, the GoC has created an important tool for studying the phenomenon of manipulation in sport. The logbook makes it possible to observe the major trends in this phenomenon, and to know which regions and clubs are most affected. It also shows at what time of the year suspicious bets are made.

# The Working groups

The Group of Copenhagen is working on a number of issues through various working groups:

**The "upgrading national platforms" group:**

is devoted to improving national platforms to combat the manipulation of sporting competitions.

**The "Alerts" working group:**

helps to define the criteria for determining whether a situation should be reported to the GoC. It also aims to reduce the GoC's alert threshold to ensure that fewer suspicious activities go unnoticed. It also develops technical tools for the National Platforms.

**The "E-sport" working group:**

is working on the specific field of E-sport, a discipline that is not open to betting in many countries, but which is highly prone to manipulation, whether for financial or sporting reasons. There are many ways of manipulating an E-sport competition, and they are difficult to detect.

**The Monitoring of Major Sport Competitions Group:**

seeks to develop common and effective competition surveillance strategies and sets the GoC's surveillance agenda.

**The Links Group (Mission reassigned to the Bureau):**

aims to help expand the community of Macolin by increasing its public visibility and encouraging new countries to join and set up their own national platforms to fight the competition manipulation.

**The Performance Working Group (Mission fulfilled):**

studied the potential benefits of new real-time competition monitoring technologies based on artificial intelligence (AI) to detect cases of competition manipulation through the analysis of the players' performances. Three companies providing such services were studied.

**The "typology of sports manipulation" working group (mission fulfilled):**

attempts to give an overview of the different types of manipulation that exist.



# The achievements of the Group of Copenhagen

*A timeline*

## 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2022

First Meeting of the Group of Copenhagen

Adoption of internal rules

Election of Corentin Segalen as President of the GoC and of Chiel Warners as Vice-President and 5 members of the Bureau

Development of the action plan 2022-2025 based on initial discussions: exchange of information and data protection, Esports, typology, monitoring of major competitions, and a technical cooperation programme







## 5-6 April 2022

2nd GoC plenary meeting

Discussion on the results of the study on legal provisions for data protection, Esports, typology, non-competitive matches, MotivAction, and Cosmos.

Exchange on monitoring major competitions, the FLAGS project, the ACT project, and the implementation of the action plan 2022-2025.



## 6-7 April 2022

4<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Follow-up Committee

1<sup>st</sup> face-to-face meeting. Setting of objectives for 2022-25, in particular *advancing human rights, democracy and the rule of law in and through sport.*



## 16 June 2022

Performance working group meeting

Presentation by the three companies of their player performance analysis tools using Artificial Intelligence (AI)

## 15 June 2022

Launch of the MotivAction project with the support of the Council of Europe

Erasmus+ project funded by the European Union and involving 7 countries of the GoC



## ACT Project

The Council of Europe's ACT project seeks to strengthen cooperation between the member countries of the Macolin Convention. The aim of the project is to assist countries that are encountering difficulties in implementing the Convention so that they can achieve the objectives set out in the Convention.

A member country of the Macolin Convention may request the assistance of other countries to help it develop an effective National Platform against the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, as well as laws to effectively combat the manipulation of sports competitions.

The donors for the ACT project include the World Lottery Association (WLA), the Ministry of Culture and Equality of Norway, European Lotteries (EL), the French Ministry of Sports, the Swiss Federal Institute of Sports, the French National Olympic and Sports Committee, Française des Jeux (FDJ), and the Cyprus Sport Organisation.



**30 June 2022**

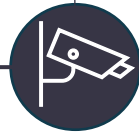
ACT project kick-off meeting

Working together to prevent the manipulation of competitions

**6-31 July 2022**

Monitoring of the Women's Euro Football Championship

The national platforms of the GoC participated in monitoring the competition in cooperation with UEFA.



## FLAGS project

The Group of Copenhagen launched on June 30th, 2021, with the support of FIFA, the Football Local Alerts Global Strategy (FLAGS) project. This new initiative drew upon the expertise of several key partners: GLMS, IBIA, Sportradar, Starlizard, and StatsPerform, as well as UEFA, INTERPOL, and several prosecutors. This project took this surveillance system to the next level by bringing together key stakeholders in the fight against match-fixing to collectively support investigations into specific football teams.

5 football teams were monitored during the project, resulting in the opening of 3 judicial investigations and 2 disciplinary investigations.



**20 September 2022**

FLAGS meeting on Group 3 results

Football Local Alerts Global Strategy

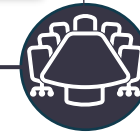
**17-18 October 2022**

3<sup>rd</sup> GoC plenary meeting

Launching of new working groups, completion of work on the typology

Discussion on the performance analysis report

Review of the UEFA Women's Euro and definition of the operating mode for the World Cup in Qatar





## 19 October 2022

Conference on Sports manipulation in the digital age

Co-organised with UEFA and with the assistance of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and INTERPOL, this conference highlighted the importance of better cooperation with social media platforms to protect the integrity of sport.



## 26 October 2022

Signature of Northern Macedonia and Türkiye

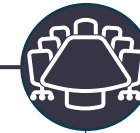
Northern Macedonia and Türkiye join the Macolin Community at the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport in Antalya, Türkiye



## 18 October 2022

End of the FLAGS project

Closing meeting with all the partners

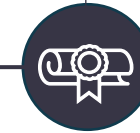


## 20 October 2022

5<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Follow-up Committee

Discussions on model legal provisions regarding data protection and on the first monitoring cycle based on a self-assessment questionnaire.

Presentations on non-competitive matches and illegal betting





## 24-25 November 2022

1<sup>st</sup> MARS network meeting

This event focused on raising awareness on the latest trends threatening sports integrity with a focus on the manipulation of sports competitions

Participants discussed the challenges of criminal investigations and prosecutions, emphasising the need to exchange information, best practices and international cooperation



## 3 February 2023

ACT Webinar with IOC and INTERPOL

The aim of this webinar was to welcome the new signatories of the Convention, Türkiye and Northern Macedonia, and to provide them with guidance on developing their national platform



## 20 November - 18 December 2022

Monitoring of the 2022 Football World Cup Qatar

Participation in the FIFA Integrity Task Force to ensure cooperation among federations, betting operators, and law enforcement agencies



## The MARS Network

The MARS network (Magistrates/Referent Prosecutors for Sport) aims at raising awareness on the issue of crime in Sports among magistrates

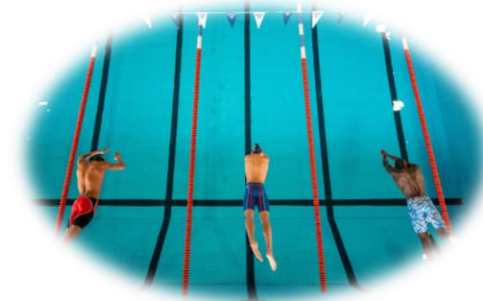
The MARS network brings together magistrates specialising in Sports questions and enables them to exchange information to improve the fight against criminality in Sports



## 6 December 2022

Iceland ratifies the Convention of Macolin

Iceland becomes the 8<sup>ème</sup> State to ratify the Macolin Convention. It will enter into force on 1<sup>er</sup> April 2023





## 4-5 April 2023

### 4<sup>th</sup> GoC plenary meeting

Discussions on the Terms for Reference of working groups on upgrading national platforms, alerts, Esports, and sports competition monitoring.

Presentation of a case study by Play Fair Code and of the DACCS database (on suspected cases of corruption in sports) developed in cooperation with the University of Lausanne (UNIL).



## 9-10 May 2023

### 6<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Follow-up Committee

Exchanges on the priorities of the working group on data protection and on the principles to be put in place for developing a responsible betting offer.

Discussions on the results of the initial self-assessment analysis filled out by 7 countries.

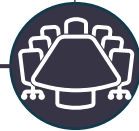


## 3 March 2023

### MARS webinar on sports betting

1st MARS webinar entitled "Beyond the odds: Navigating the changing landscape of sports betting"

The objective was to present the sports betting industry to develop strategies for the prosecution of match-fixing offences



## 2-4 May 2023

### ACT support mission in Morocco

Support for Morocco in setting up its National Platform and adapting its legislation to crimes related to sports betting

Brought together the Minister of Sport, Foreign Affairs, the Moroccan Direction of Games and Sport (MDJS) and the Moroccan football federation





## 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2023

Publication of the performance report

This report explores how new technologies for analysing athletes' performances in real time could help identify the manipulation of sports competitions

The conclusion is that performance analysis can be useful for helping law enforcement agencies in their investigations, but it is insufficient to prove that a competition has been manipulated. This must be corroborated by serious and consistent indications, such as suspicious betting patterns



## 8 September - 28 October 2023

Men's Rugby World Cup France 2023

Monitoring the competition in cooperation with World Rugby and the International Olympic Committee (IOC)



## 21 June 2023

France ratifies the Macolin Convention

France becomes the 9<sup>th</sup> country to ratify the Macolin Convention. It came into effect on the first of October 2023



## 20 July - 20 August 2023

Monitoring the Women's World Cup Australia-New Zealand 2023

The GoC took part in the FIFA Integrity Task Force for the Women's World Cup 2023 to ensure cooperation among federations, betting operators, and law enforcement agencies





### 17 October 2023

Webinar organised with the IOC and INTERPOL

Representatives from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia participated in this webinar.



### 8-9 November 2023

5<sup>th</sup> GoC plenary meeting in Rabat

Participation of 10 countries of the African continent, invited as guests for the open session

Election of Chair (Corentin Segalen, France), Vice-Chair (Darren Mullaly, Australia) and 5 Bureau members



### 18-19 September 2023

As an observer, the GoC took part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the MARS project in the Court of Appeal in Paris

Raising awareness about the latest trends in threats and challenges to sport integrity with a focus on the manipulation of sports competitions, anti-doping, and safety, security and service at major sports events, and the related actions needed in investigations and prosecutions

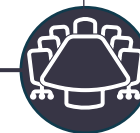
The restricted session of the Network focused on setting the governance of the Network and sharing expertise and best practices



### 7 November 2023

ACT regional conference on illegal betting

Conference in Rabat (Morocco) aiming to raise awareness of illegal betting, one of the biggest challenges to sport integrity and a key target in the fight against the manipulation of sports competitions



## 29-30 November 2023

7<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Follow-up Committee in Athens

Presentation on the progress of the data sharing agreement project aimed at facilitating information exchange between sports organisations and betting operators, on the conceptual note on reasonable betting, and on the study on money laundering

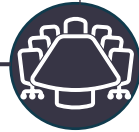


## 27-29 November 2023

Workshop on competitions manipulation

Co-organised by the Council of Europe, the International Olympic Committee, INTERPOL, UEFA, the Greek National Platform for Sport Integrity (EPATHLA), the Hellenic Football Federation (HFF) and hosted by the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC),

Enabling an in-depth dive into recent trends, best practices, and challenges in addressing sport competitions' manipulation.





# Upcoming projects

An aerial view of a large stadium, likely the Stade de France, at sunset. The stadium is filled with spectators, and the Eiffel Tower is visible in the background against a golden sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the entire scene.

## Euro 2024

The next European Football Championship 2024 will take place in Germany from 14 June to 14 July 2024

## Paris 2024

The 2024 Summer Olympic Games will be held in Paris from Friday 26 July 2024 to Sunday 11 August 2024

## FLAGS 2.0

Considering the encouraging results of the first FLAGS project, which was launched on 30 June 2021 and closed on 18 October 2022, the GoC wishes to renew this project to continue the effective monitoring of sports competitions

## The Logbook 2.0

The GoC wishes to improve the logbook with the cooperation of all GoC members. In order to achieve better integration of each part of the GoC, it is important that this new Logbook is the result a collective work

# Appendix : Logbook

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## GoC NOTICES

## GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF NOTICES OVER THE PERIOD 2019 / 2023



## CONTINENTS

## DISTRIBUTION OF NOTICES (2022)

YELLOW	242	49%
ORANGE	156	32%
RED	95	19%

NORTH AMERICA

2 %

EUROPE

41 %

ASIA

40 %

AFRICA

7 %

SOUTH AMERICA

10 %

OCEANIA

-

## CONTINENTS

## DISTRIBUTION OF NOTICES (2023)

YELLOW	312	43%
ORANGE	297	41%
RED	121	16%

NORTH AMERICA

2 %

EUROPE

47 %

ASIA

37 %

AFRICA

5 %

SOUTH AMERICA

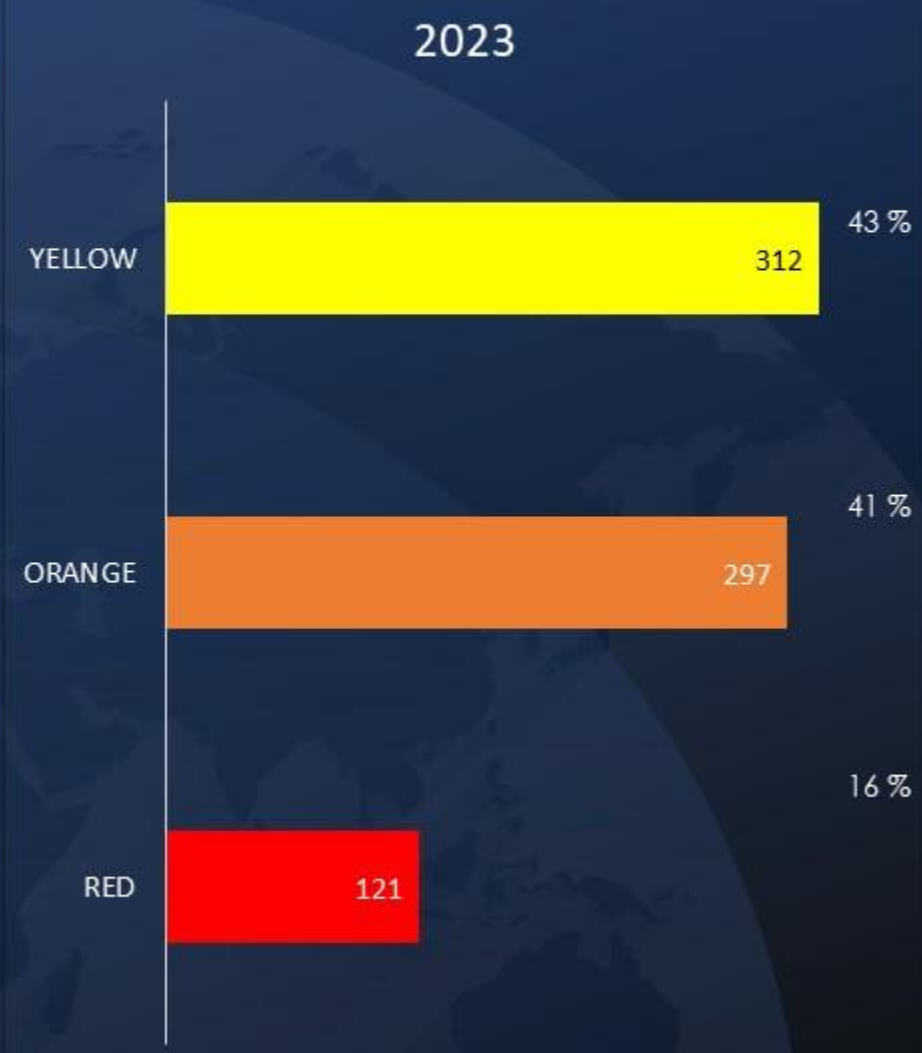
7 %

OCEANIA

2 %

# GoC NOTICES

## PANOMORA BY CRITICALITY LEVEL FOR THE PERIOD 2019 - 2023



2023

PANORAMA OF CRITICAL ALERTS (ORANGE + RED)

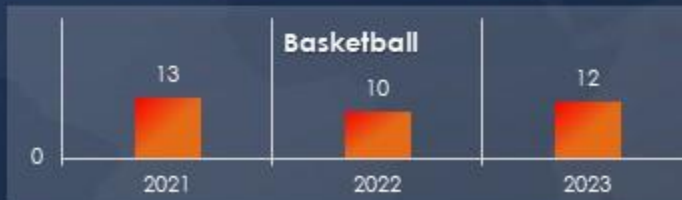
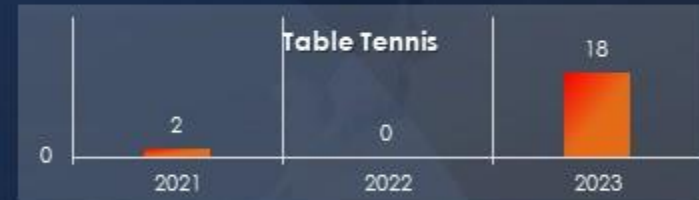
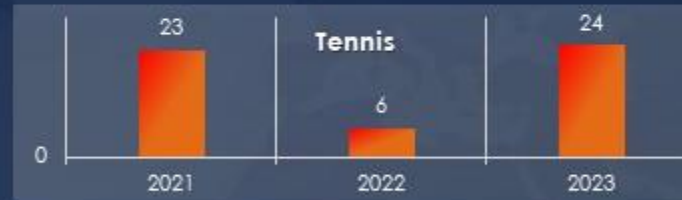
❖ PER YEAR



❖ BY SPORT



❖ BY CRITICAL LEVEL & YEAR



2023

PANORAMA OF CRITICAL ALERTS (ORANGE + RED)






❖ BY CONTINENT

EUROPE	43 %
ASIA	40 %
SOUTH AMERICA	8 %








AFRICA	7 %
NORTH AMERICA	1 %
OCEANIA	1 %

❖ BY COUNTRY

	VIETNAM	25
	KAZAKHSTAN	22
	INDIA	20
	HONG KONG	18
	CZECH REPUBLIC	15

❖ BY COMPETITION

	FOOTBALL - D2 KAZAKHSTAN	17
	INDIA - D4+	12
	CZECH REPUBLIC - TT CUP	10
	FOOTBALL - GREECE D2	10
	FOOTBALL - HONG KONG D2	9