



Activity report of the Macolin Community

2024 - 2025



Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	1
Message from the Chairs of the GoC and of the Follow-up Committee.....	2
The Macolin Convention.....	3-4
The Follow-up Committee.....	5
The Group of Copenhagen (GoC).....	6
Sports stakeholders.....	7
Main achievements of 2024 - 2025.....	8
Sport betting addiction among athletes.....	9
The <i>MotivAction</i> project.....	10
Monitoring the Paris Olympic Games.....	11
Promoting “reasonable bets” and fighting against illegal sites.....	12
Overview of alerts.....	13
Timeline 2024-2025.....	14-25
Oncoming works.....	25-29

Corentin Segalen, outgoing Chair of the GoC

The *spirit of Macolin* is defined by innovation and cooperation, and sees cooperation not as a constraint, but as a strength. Within the **Group of Copenhagen (GoC)**, this spirit takes a concrete form: Experience is shared between partners and methods are tested collectively to address common problems. National platforms grow stronger by learning from one another

Over the past two years, this collective effort has only gotten stronger. The number of Platforms has increased significantly, showing a growing commitment to the fight against the manipulation of competitions.

The GoC has focused on making these platforms more effective, operational and connected within their national and international ecosystems.

ACT missions have been a key driver of this progress. Deployed on all continents, from Argentina to Japan, through Canada and beyond, they have supported public authorities and stakeholders in strengthening their strategies against match-fixing and improving coordination. Through these missions, the Group of Copenhagen has reinforced its role as an important actor in international cooperation.

“The fight against manipulation is a team sport”



Georgios Mavrotàs, outgoing Chair of the Follow-up Committee

In the last two years, the **Macolin Community** has expanded considerably, going from nine (9) member countries in 2023 to fifteen (15) in 2025. Several European as well as non-European Nations (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan...) have also voiced their intention to join the Macolin Convention, showing its increasing worldwide influence.

Four important guidelines were approved during the final meeting of the Committee: promoting reasonable bets, fighting illegal bets and money laundering, as well as exchanging data between members.

After December, the Follow-up Committee and the GoC both have new chairs, vice-chairs and bureaus and I am confident that this new administration will keep up the good work of the first one and improve on its foundations.

I would like to thank my colleagues of the T-MC, the GoC and the Secretariat (thank you Nicolas, Elodie, Sophie and Stan). During our adventure, we managed to embark more teammates all over the globe, significantly enriching the Macolin Community.

I am sure that the spirit of Macolin will live on in the following years, and that we will continue our collective, “Macolian” effort to protect sport.

The Macolin Convention

The Macolin Convention, adopted by the Council of Europe in 2014, is the only international treaty specifically addressing the manipulation of sports competitions, defined as :

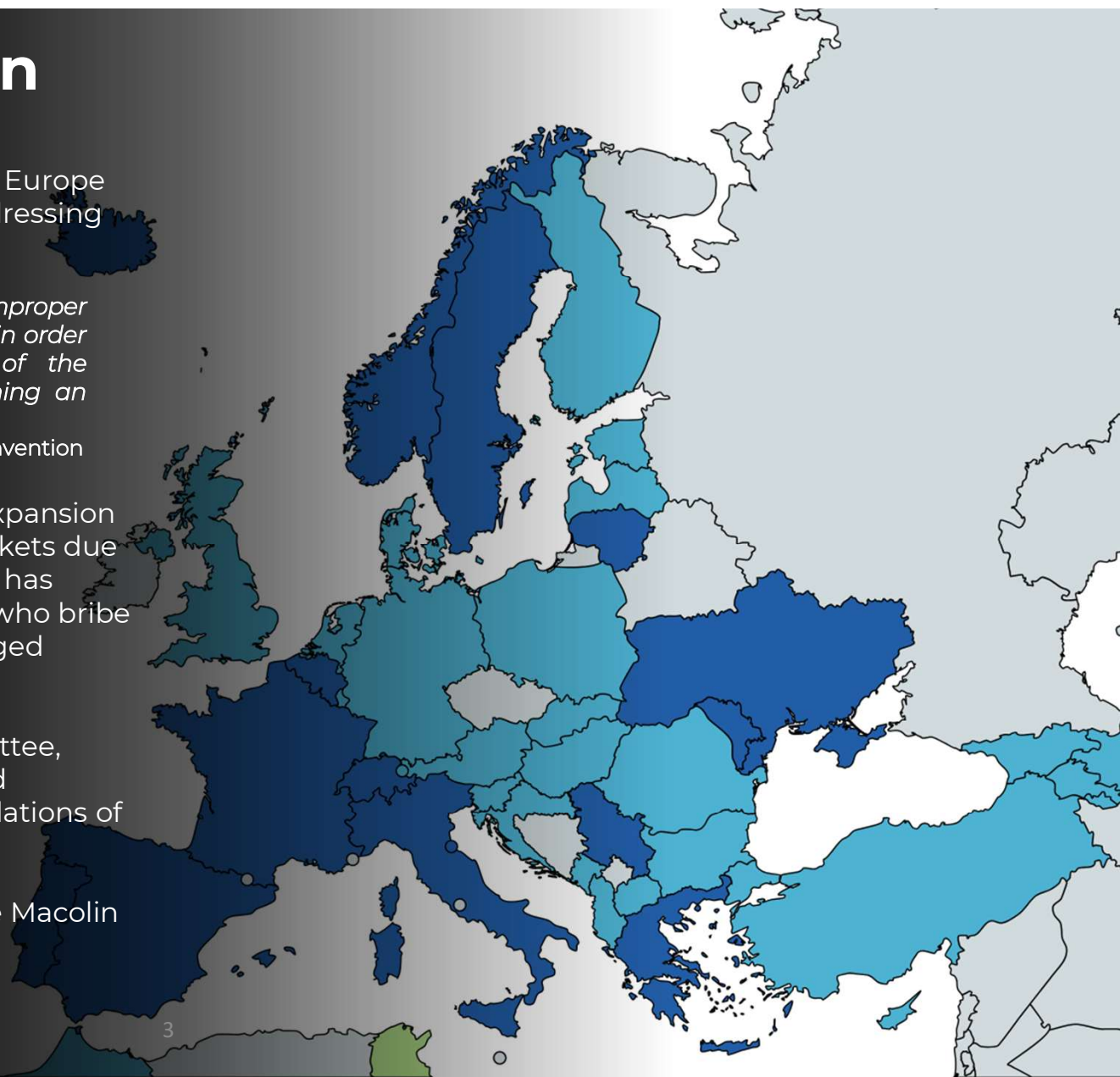
“an intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sports competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the aforementioned sports competition with a view to obtaining an undue advantage for oneself or for others.”

Article 3 §4 of the Convention

The Convention was created in the midst of a rapid expansion of sports betting and the globalisation of betting markets due to the democratisation of the internet. Sports betting has become an attractive tool for criminal organisations, who bribe athletes, referees or support staff to secure pre-arranged events and place bets on them for profit.

The *Macolin community* is led by a Follow-up Committee, which works with a network of national platforms and stakeholders to detect, prevent and sanction manipulations of competitions threatening sport integrity.

This document reports on the work carried out by the Macolin community over the past two years.



The Macolin Convention

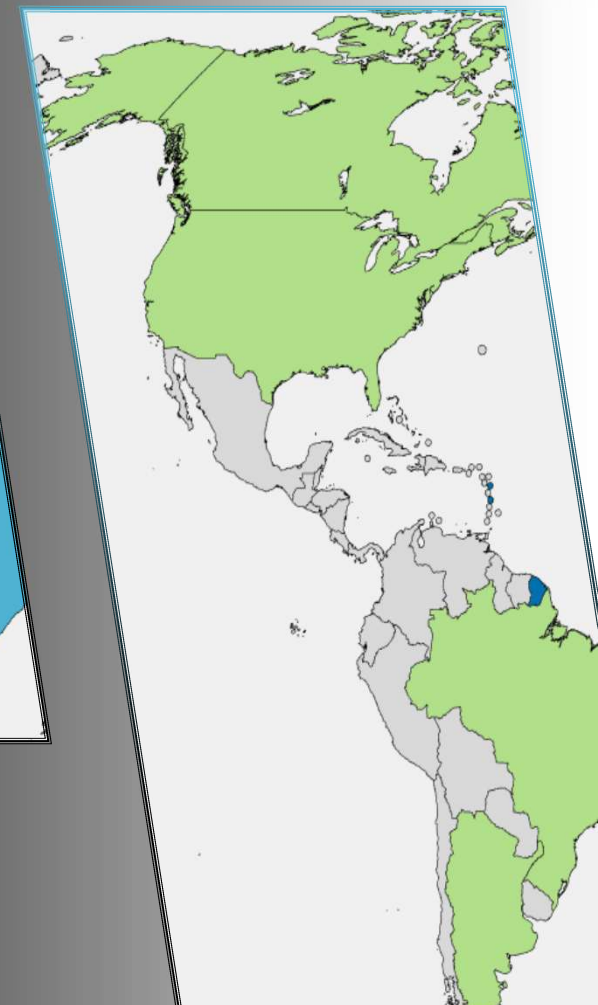
The total amount of members to the Macolin Community has significantly increased since the inception of the Convention. As of January 2026, it was composed of:

- **15 ratifying States** 
- **42 signatory States** 

This number is expected to increase in the coming years following the consequent communication efforts of the Follow-up Committee and the GoC, calling new States to join this international Framework to tackle sports manipulation.

Several non-European States have expressed their interest in joining the Macolin Community : 

- In Africa: Tunisia
- In Asia: Japan, Mongolia, Nepal and the UAE
- In America: Argentina, Brazil, Canada and the United-States



The Follow-up Committee

The Follow-up Committee of the Macolin Convention is the official decision-making body of the Macolin community. It usually meets twice a year and is composed of representatives of the States Parties and their competent authorities against match-fixing, including regulatory authorities, law-enforcement and judicial bodies, sports organisations, betting operators and other relevant stakeholders.

A State may designate several delegates to the Follow-up Committee, but each State holds only one vote when decisions are taken.

The Committee monitors how State Parties implement the Convention and provides recommendations to help them strengthen their capacity to prevent, detect and sanction the manipulation of sports competitions.

Lastly, the Follow-up Committee is responsible for the public communication of the Macolin community in an effort to maintain a high degree of transparency.



Georgios Mavrotàs

Outgoing Chair of the Follow-up Committee



The Group of Copenhagen

The Group of Copenhagen (GoC), also known as the “Network of National Platforms”, is the advisory board to the Follow-up Committee. It is responsible for supporting States party to the convention in the creation of their **National platforms against the manipulation of competitions**.

National platforms are operative groups who bring together competent stakeholders in anti match-fixing policies at a national level, which include the ministries of Sports, Justice, Finance and the Interior, as well as betting operators, judges, law-enforcement, and national and international sports organisations. These platforms allow for a better cooperation between all these stakeholders in the fight against the manipulation of competitions in the country.

After their inception, all National platforms share information with one another within the framework of the GoC to fight sports competitions manipulation on an international level.

The GoC also holds a power of initiative, setting up working groups on specific issues and initiating projects to complement the actions of the Monitoring Committee (ex: Monitoring of great sport events ; *Logbook* ; E-sports ; GROUND projects ; AI and sports manipulations...).



Corentin Segalen

Outgoing Chair of the Group of Copenhagen



Sports stakeholders

The GoC cooperates with numerous sports stakeholders to fight the manipulation of competitions at every level.

- **Sports organisations** are institutions that govern one or more sports disciplines at national, regional or international level. National sports organisations are often included within the GoC National platforms, and the GoC also cooperates with international organisations such as the IOC or FIFA.
- **Competition organisers** are institutions responsible for planning and staging sports competitions.
- **Athletes and referees** are the most approached stakeholders for match-fixing purposes. The GoC raises awareness among them about the risks linked to match-fixing and sports betting to make them active allies in the fight for sports integrity.
- **Competition support personnel** are professionals who work with athletes and contribute to the organisation of competitions. The GoC includes them in its prevention strategy due to their proximity with athletes.
- **Betting operators** are private or public companies that offer betting services on competitions. The GoC cooperates with them to identify suspicious bets that may indicate manipulation and to trace their origin back to the criminals.



Main achievements of 2024-2025

- **End of the *MotivAction* project** on the 13th of December 2024, after several missions worldwide (Argentina, Canada, Finland, Moldova, Norway, Poland and Romania).
- **5 ACT assistance missions** to help States or aspiring States parties to the Convention in the inception or improvement of their national platforms against manipulation of competitions (Argentina, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Romania).
- **7 new ratifying States**, bringing the number of members of the Follow-up Committee to 15 States (Belgium, Spain, Estonia, San Marino, Serbia, Sweden, Lithuania).
- **Successful monitoring of the Paris Olympic Games 2024**, thanks to the cooperation of 24 national platforms.



Sport betting addiction among athletes

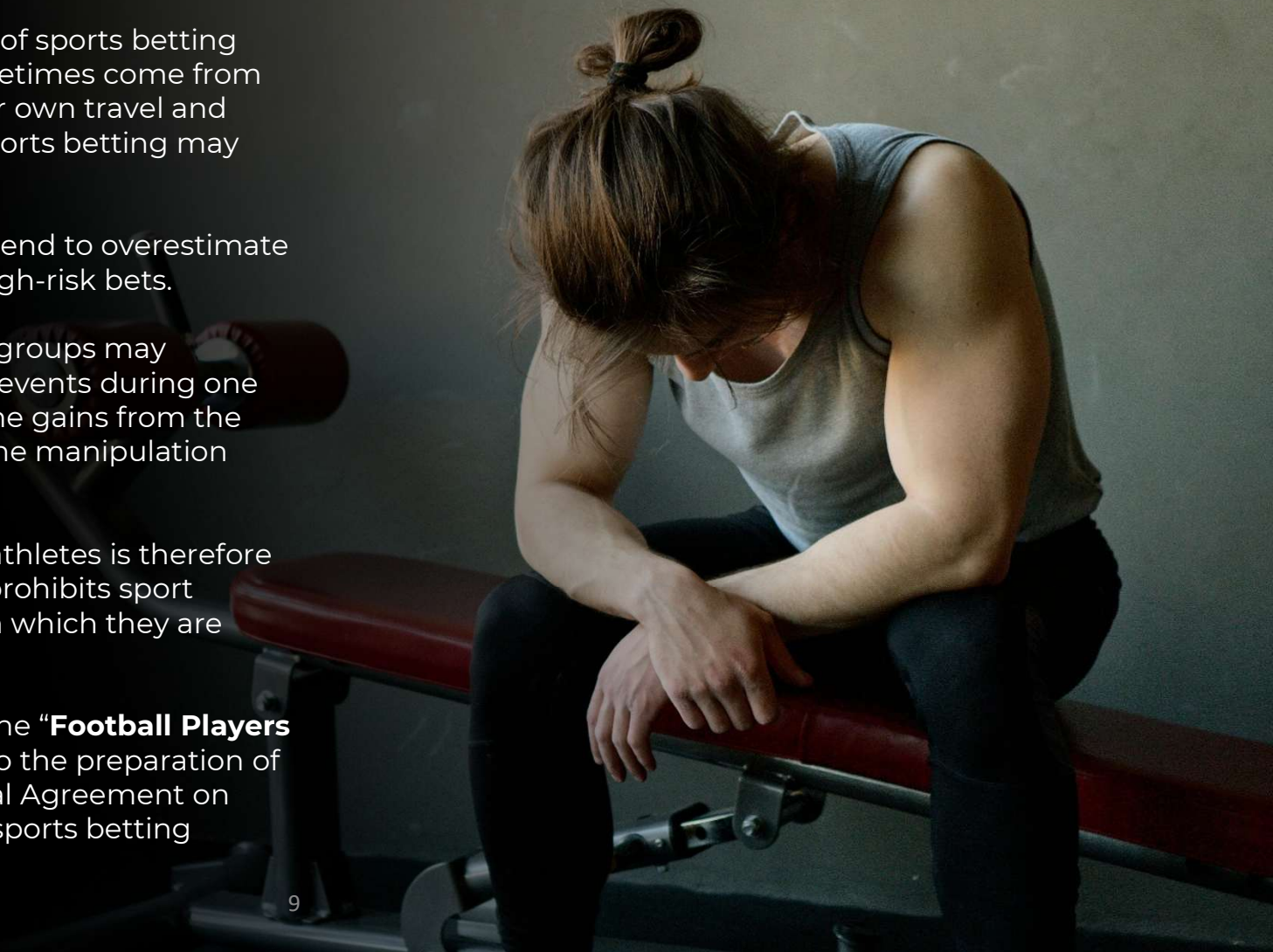
Athletes are particularly exposed to the risk of sports betting addiction. Many of them are poorly paid, sometimes come from low-income countries, and have to cover their own travel and entry fees for tournaments. In this context, sports betting may appear to be a way out of financial hardship.

Because of their expertise in sports, athletes tend to overestimate the accuracy of their predictions and place high-risk bets.

After they have accumulated debts, criminal groups may approach them and ask them to manipulate events during one of their matches, in exchange for a share of the gains from the fixed bets. The athletes are then drawn into the manipulation network.

Combating sports betting addiction among athletes is therefore a priority for the Macolin Convention, which prohibits sport stakeholders from betting on competitions in which they are involved (Article 7).

To address this issue, the GoC has launched the “**Football Players Betting Addiction**” project and contributes to the preparation of the 2026–2027 strategy of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (**EPAS**), which will address the issue of sports betting addiction.



The *MotivAction* project

Launched in June 2022 and closed in December 2025, The *MotivAction* Erasmus+ project combined the efforts of seven National platforms from the Macolin community : Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Moldova, Poland and Portugal.

MotivAction aimed at supporting national platforms in creating and strengthening their whistleblowing canals, enabling athletes, coaches and referees to report cases of manipulation with confidence. It also helped States to reform their legal frameworks in order to ensure effective protection for whistleblowers and their relatives against retaliation.

MotivAction created a **Toolbox**, giving national platforms, athletes and clubs clear policy initiatives to protect whistleblowers in sports :

- **Developing whistleblowing websites**, guaranteeing complete anonymity of whistleblowers.
- **Creating Integrity delegates** within clubs to gather testimonies.
- **Legislation reforms** giving safety guarantees to whistleblowers.
- **Communication within sports institutions**, so that the athletes, referees and coaches know about the possibilities to blow the whistle.



Monitoring the Paris Olympic Games

The background image is a wide-angle shot of a beach volleyball court during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The court is sandy and surrounded by blue and white barriers with the Paris 2024 logo. In the background, the Eiffel Tower is visible, with the Olympic rings logo on its structure. The sky is blue with some clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

One of the most ambitious monitoring operations of the GoC in the last two years was the monitoring of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, from the **26th of July to the 11th of August 2024**.

The GoC has organised several crisis-simulation exercises in November 2023 and May 2024 to prepare for this major event. It also took part in the creation process of awareness-raising courses on the risks of competition manipulation for athletes, competition staff, as well as for the **45.000 volunteers**.

24 GoC National Platforms worked together to monitor about one hundred events, especially low-stake matches (where the gap in level between athletes or teams makes the outcome of the competition predictable), and to identify suspicious bets on those events.

- **6 GoC meetings** over the two weeks of competition
- **3 meetings with the IOC** and other international partners
- **9 shared notices** relating to suspicious betting patterns

Promoting “reasonable bets” and fighting against illegal sites

Article 3 of the Convention specifies that sports manipulation does not only aim to change the results of a match but may also concern minor events during a competition that are open to bets (penalty cards, free kicks, sets, etc...). It is difficult to gather evidence against these types of bets, which makes them particularly interesting for criminal organisations.

The GoC works with States and betting operators to regulate the opening of bets on easily manipulated events. It calls for limiting betting to “**reasonable**” events and for establishing a list that sets out which competitions are open to bets.

The main promoters of unreasonable bets are aggressive, sometimes illegal, betting operators who run marketing campaigns with no regard for public health or ethical considerations. They propose highly competitive pay-out rates, including on minor events within competitions. New platforms are also developing ways to place sports bets using **cryptocurrencies**, promoting fast transactions that are even harder to trace than conventional ones.



Overview of Alerts

The number of suspicious bets and manipulation cases keeps growing year after year. This is a worrying trend, but part of this increase in numbers might be due to the expansion of the Macolin Community and increasingly effective detection policies led by the GoC.

The GoC uses a **red, orange and yellow notices system** to share cases of suspicious activities between National platforms.

Yellow notice (suspicion of manipulation)

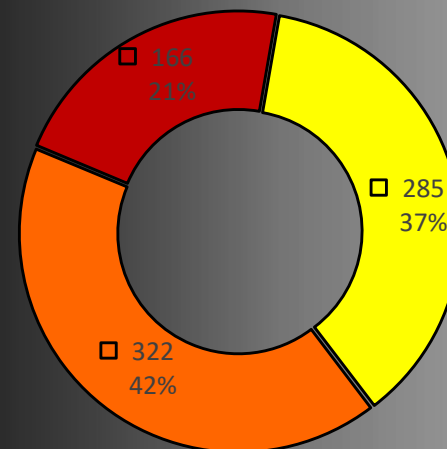
Orange notice (evidence of manipulation)

Red notice (clear case of manipulation)

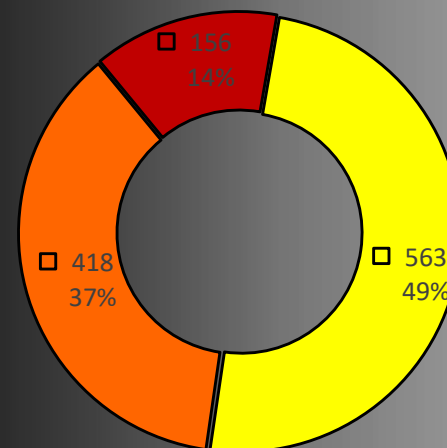
In 2024, the GoC has raised **773** alerts, 37% of which were yellow notices, 42% orange, and 21% red.

This number increased in 2025, with **1137** alerts, 49% of which were yellow notices, 37% orange, and 14% red. The number of alerts has increased by **47%** in one year.

2024



2025



+47%
ALERTS

2024



10 – 28 January

**Euro Men's Handball
championship 2024,
Germany**

*Monitoring of the euro
handball championship
2025 in Germany*



4 – 7 February

***Play the Game*
conference in
Trondheim, Norway**

*Introduction to the
missions of the GoC
and of MotivAction in
Norway*



4 – 6 March

***MotivAction*
conference in
Moldova**

*Introduction to the
MotivAction program
to Moldovan partners*



12 – 13 March

**UEFA Regional
Workshop, Gibraltar**

*Meeting with integrity
officers from the football
federations of Andorra,
Italy, Spain and France*

2024



25 – 28 March

**TCMS meeting,
Strasbourg**

Training courses for prosecutors and for coordinators in the field of sports manipulations



4th of April

**FIFA Integrity
Summit, Singapore**

Meeting with awareness raising officers for football, presentation of the Integrity handbook



16 – 19 April

**ACT mission in Buenos
Aires, Argentina**

Assistance mission in Buenos Aires to help Argentina establish its National Platform



23rd of May

**6th GoC meeting,
Macolin**

Discussions on the development of an app for the exchange of the GoC alerts, and launch of the GROUND project

2024



27th of May

Top-table exercise for the Paris Olympic games

crisis-simulation test at the French National gaming authority (ANJ) for the Olympic Games



31st of May

Support to the COSMOS project, Leuven, Switzerland

Support to the COSMOS project on the modernization of the legal framework on sports manipulation



18 – 19 June

MARS meeting, Lyon, France

Meeting of the MARS network at INTERPOL Headquarters in Lyon



1st of July

Ratification by Belgium

Belgium ratifies the Macolin Convention, becoming the 10th ratifying country

2024



5th of July

**Anti matchfixing
assessment group
UEFA, Hamburg**

*Monitoring of the
UEFA Champions
League 2024*



26 July – 11 August

**Paris Olympic
Games**

*Monitoring of competitions
during the Paris Olympic
Games, 24 National
Platforms mobilised*



30th of July

**Ratification by
Lithuania**

*Lithuania ratifies the
Macolin Convention,
becoming the 11th
State Party*



31st of August

**FIFA/CIES academic
meeting on sports
management, Brazil**

*Meeting in Rio de
Janeiro to present the
Macolin Convention to
Brazilian authorities*

2024



18th of September ACT Mission in Iceland

*Cooperation mission to
strengthen Iceland's
National platform*



8th of October 10th anniversary of the Convention in Porto, Portugal

*"Nothing is impossible
when the Convention is
in action"*



17th of October Ratification by Spain

*Spain ratifies the
Macolin Convention,
becoming the 12th
State Party*



14th of November 7th GoC meeting, ***Follow the Money,*** **Strasbourg, France**

*Focus on tracing
betting-related financial
flows in the world*

2024

26th of November

***Fight the Fix UEFA
meeting, Cardiff,
Wales***

*Presentation of correct
reflexes for athletes and
staff to fight match-fixing*

13th of December

**Signature by
Romania**

*Romania signs the
Macolin Convention,
becoming the 42nd
signatory State*

13th of December

***MotivAction closing
meeting at the Senate
of Paris***

*Final event marking the
end of three years of
assistance and facilitating
reporting for athletes,
coaches and referees*

19th of December

**Ratification by
Sweden**

*Sweden ratifies the
Macolin Convention,
becoming the 13th
State Party*

2025



14 January – 2 February

Handball Worlds Championship 2025

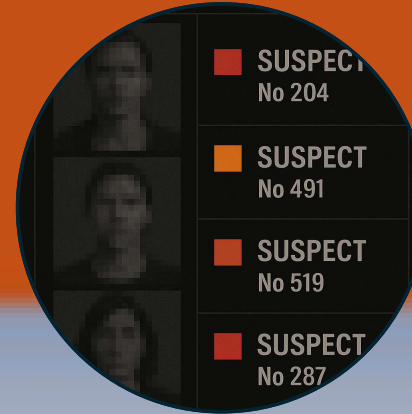
Monitoring of the championship in Croatia, Denmark and Norway



23rd of January

Ratification by Serbia

Serbia ratifies the Macolin Convention, becoming the 14th State Party



31st of January

Webinar on the global trends of sports manipulation in 2024

Overview of the year's alerts and of the Logbook entries.



19th of March

London International Sports Convention

Presentation of the GoC's action by the Chair of the GoC and the coordinator of the UK's National platform

2025



2nd of April

ACT mission in Canada

Assistance to Canada for the creation of the Canadian platform against match-fixing



8th of May

FIFA integrity conference Miami, United States

Participation to the FIFA conference in Miami on sports integrity



14th of May

Considering the Macolin Convention seminar in Tokyo

Discussions with the Japanese C-SEP for a potential entry of Japan in the Macolin convention



22nd of May

10th meeting of the Committee at UEFA's HQ, Switzerland

Focus on "reasonable" bets, illegal betting, data protection and money laundering.

2025



3rd of June

**Seminar on
corruption in Sports,
Tunisia**

*Exploration of future
cooperation ideas with
Tunisia in the field of
sports integrity*



4th of June

**Ratification by San
Marino**

*San Marino ratifies the
Macolin Convention,
becoming the 15th State
Party*



14 June – 13 July

**FIFA Club World
Cup, United States**

*Monitoring of matches
and bets throughout the
FIFA club world cup
championship*



19th of June

**International Conference
“One Step Ahead
2015 – 2025 – 2035”, Paris**

*International conference
hosted at the French
National Assembly in Paris
(125 participants)*

2025



23rd of June

**Human rights in sports
Seminar, Rabat,
Morocco**

Meeting of experts to promote integrity in sports before the upcoming African cup



30st of June

**Conclusion of the
project *Football players
betting addiction* in
Athens, Greece**

Presentation of the results of a survey on gambling addiction among athletes and conclusions on how to tackle the issue



1st of July

**MARS network
meeting in
Strasbourg**

Election of the board of the MARS network, focus on the modus operandi of match-fixers



2 – 27 July

**UEFA Women's euro
2025, Switzerland**

Monitoring of matches and bets during the UEFA Women's tournament

2025



27 August – 14 September
Eurobasket Championship 2025

Monitoring of matches and bets during the Eurobasket championship



5 - 8 October
Play the Game conference in Tampere, Finland

Play the Game is a Danish organisation dedicated to fighting doping, match-fixing and inequalities in sports



23rd of October
Conferences in Sweden, Lithuania and Romania

Presentation of the Macolin Community's actions and achievements. Awareness-raising on the danger of sports betting among athletes



24th of October
International forum for sports integrity, Switzerland

Call to States to sign and ratify the Macolin Convention

2025



28th of October

Launch of the AI & Sports Manipulation working group

Working group on the uses of AI in match-fixing networks



11th of November

15th Interpol Match Fixing Task Force Summit, U.A.E

Cooperation between the GoC and Interpol in the field of match fixing prevention



3 – 16 December

Macolin week, Strasbourg

Debate on policies to adopt against match-fixing while preserving public liberties



21 December – 18 January

Monitoring of the African Cup of Nations, Morocco

For the first time in its history, the African cup of Nations was hosted by a member of the Macolin Community

Oncoming works

1) FIFA World Cup 2026

The next edition of the FIFA World Cup will take place from the 11th of June until the 19th of July 2026.

Its 104 matches will be played in Canada, the United States and Mexico, which will require significant preparatory work from the GoC.

2) SMART project

In 2026, the GoC will launch SMART, the **Sports Manipulation Analysis and Reporting Tools**.

This platform will become the central dashboard for national coordinators and GoC partners, allowing all alerts to be shared securely and in real time, reinforcing coordination and oversight across the sports integrity network.



3) Conclusions of the “AI & Sports Manipulation” working group

Launched on the 28th of October 2025, this GoC working group studies the potential uses of AI by criminal organisations to enhance their competition-manipulation activities.

The group’s conclusions will provide a state-of-the-art overview of the use of AI in criminal operations.



4) GROUND working group

Launched on the 23rd of May 2024 by the Estonian National Platform, the **GROUND** project aims at carrying out awareness-raising activities on the risks of competition manipulation for athletes, their support staff and referees.

The group’s findings will help to standardise the GoC’s awareness-raising messages for athletes and their coaching teams.



5) ACT II Programme

The **Addressing Competition Manipulation Together (ACT)** programme consists of assistance missions by GoC experts to States Parties to the Macolin Convention wishing to establish or strengthen their National Platform.

The GoC is now working on a new version of ACT, with the intent to standardize its methods to increase its effectiveness in a context of rapid expansion of the Macolin community.

6) Working group on sponsoring

Some sports betting operators engage in excessive sponsorship and advertisement campaigns during competitions, putting strong pressure on spectators to place bets. This pressure raises issues of sports ethics and public health.

The GoC will seek to regulate sponsorship activities in order to ensure ethical practices in both sport and sports betting.



7) Expansion of the Macolin Community

The Macolin community currently has 15 ratifying State Parties and 42 signatory States. Morocco and Australia are expected to ratify the Convention in the near future, thereby increasing the number of full memberships of the GoC.

Other countries have expressed their interests in joining the Macolin community, in Africa, America and Asia. **The more countries join this international framework, the more effective it will become.**

8) Renewal of leadership

2026 marks the end of the second terms of Mr Segalen, Chair of the GoC, and Mr Mavrotàs, Chair of the Follow-up Committee. The Macolin Community renews its leadership as it prepares to face new challenges. We thank them warmly for their outstanding service.

Since January 2026, **Kornelija Tiesnesyte** chairs the Follow-up Committee, and **Samuel Wahlberg** leads the Group of Copenhagen. We warmly congratulate them on their election, which places the Macolin Community in excellent hands.



The Macolin
Community thanks
you for your
attention



E-mail

sport.t-mc@coe.int



Location

Council of Europe, Avenue de
l'Europe F-67075 Strasbourg
Cedex, France



Website

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/macolin>