

**COMMITTEE ON SAFETY AND SECURITY AT SPORTS
EVENTS (T-S4)**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONVENTION ON AN
INTEGRATED SAFETY, SECURITY AND SERVICE
APPROACH AT FOOTBALL MATCHES AND OTHER
SPORTS EVENTS (CETS No. 218)



Strasbourg, 17 December 2024

T-S4(2024)40

**Sixth meeting of the
Committee on Safety and Security
at Sports Events (T-S4)**

Saint-Denis Convention (CETS No. 218)

3-4 December 2024

LIST OF DECISIONS

At its sixth meeting, held in Strasbourg on 3-4 December 2024, the Committee on Safety and Security at Sports Events, of the Saint-Denis Convention (hereafter “T-S4” or “Saint-Denis Committee”):

1. Adopted the agenda of the meeting, as appears in document T-S4(2024)27;
2. Took note of the welcome address by Ms. Hanne Juncher, Director of Security, Integrity and Rule of Law (DGI), and of the information provided by the Secretariat;
3. Welcomed Belgium as 30th State Party to the Convention;
4. Welcomed IFSO and the European Leagues as Observers to the Convention;
5. Praised the renewal of the observer status for 2 non-member States of the Council of Europe – Canada and Chile - and 6 organisations – AccessibALL, CAF, FIFA, FSE, INTERPOL and UEFA.
6. Took note of the communication of the Russian Federation of 27 September 2024, regarding the suspension of practical cooperation in the context of the Saint-Denis Convention;
7. Took note of the work carried out by the Secretariat to further implement and promote the Convention;
8. Invited delegations of Observer States to further promote the Convention at national level towards its ratification;
9. Took note of the information regarding the 3rd meeting of the MARS Network (Lyon, 18-19 June 2024, INTERPOL), which addressed the topics of the fight against money laundering and national and international co-operation in this field, as well as judicial banning orders;
10. Took note of the 18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, organised on 8-10 October 2024, in Porto (Portugal), and the Resolution on “Collaborative governing and good governance in sport: supporting a fresh approach to match its societal importance”;
11. Took note of the invitation by the Monegasque authorities to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Saint-Denis Convention, on the occasion of the next 19th

Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, to be organised in the Principality of Monaco, on 3-4 November 2026;

Standard Setting and legal Issues

12. Took note of the first findings, recommendations and conclusions of the draft report on collective bans against away supporters, to be submitted for adoption by written procedure;
13. Entrusted the Advisory Group T-S4 LI to draft a recommendation on this topic, to be submitted to the forthcoming Committee meeting;
14. Decided to postpone *sine die* the launch of a study on CBRNE for safety and security first responders at sports venues;

Monitoring

15. Took note of the finalisation of the report of the monitoring visit to Germany, to be adopted by written procedure;
16. Took note of the draft report of the monitoring visit to Greece and decided that the report of the monitoring visit to Greece will be adopted by written procedure and, once the report is adopted, invited the Greek authorities to follow-up on the action plan;
17. Took note of the recent monitoring visit to Türkiye and thanked the Turkish delegation for the professional and hospitable organisation of the visit;
18. Took note of the monitoring visits to be held in Bulgaria and Hungary in 2025;
19. Took note of the rescheduling of the monitoring visit to Portugal to the first semester of 2026, and thanked Portugal for having accepted this postponement;
20. Took note of the ongoing contacts with Irish and Moroccan authorities, with a view to possibly organising monitoring visits to these countries, in the context of the preparations for major football tournaments;

21. Adopted the 2nd multiannual programme of monitoring visits (2026-2029), with the remaining slots to be confirmed in due time, and entrusted the Secretariat to keep updated document T-S4(2024)34 accordingly;
22. Took note of the findings of the 2023 monitoring report and decided that it will be adopted by written procedure;
23. Decided that the periodicity of the Annual/Season Monitoring Questionnaire and Report shall be biennial instead of annual, while including the statistics of each year;

International Cooperation

24. Took note of the first findings, recommendations and conclusions of the report on the possession and use of pyrotechnics, to be submitted for adoption by written procedure;
25. Welcomed the participation as observers in the Committee of various sectors of expertise, corresponding to the ethos of the Convention, and agreed to make use of “in camera” sessions, when applicable, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure;
26. Took note of the activities led worldwide by UNICRI in the field of security of major sports events, highlighting the Committee’s interest to strengthen co-operation with UNICRI;
27. Took note of the activities and challenges of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS), in particular the threats and risks that sports press professionals face inside and outside of sports venues;
28. Took note of the request by AIPS to be granted the observer status to the Committee, and agreed that the request would be submitted to by written procedure;
29. Took note of the final debrief provided by France on the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games;
30. Invited France, Germany, UEFA, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to draft brief reports on the S4

legacy of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games and UEFA EURO 2024 (Germany);

31. Entrusted the Secretariat to, based on the above reports and in a second stage, circulate a short questionnaire to Parties and Observers to get feedback on their experience regarding those events;
32. Entrusted the Secretariat to prepare three evaluation reports, one per major event, to be submitted for adoption by the Committee at the forthcoming meeting, for the benefit of future organisers of major sporting events;
33. Took note of the state of S4 preparations on FIFA Men's World Cup 2026, made by FIFA;
34. Entrusted the Secretariat to invite Canada, Mexico and USA to update the Committee at the forthcoming meetings of the Ad hoc Working Group on FIFA Men's World Cup 2026;
35. Took note of recent developments in legislative, regulatory, administrative and institutional frameworks at national level and by non-State organisations;

EU – CoE joint projects

36. Took note of the update of the EU - CoE joint project «Balance S4 - Strengthening the safety and service pillars of the Saint-Denis Convention»;
37. Welcomed the holding of the 2nd awareness-raising workshop at the Stade de la Meinau (Strasbourg), with a concrete case study of integration between safety, security and service;
38. Looked forward to participating actively in the implementation of the joint project «Balance S4», including the awareness-raising workshops and the training seminars on safety and service, to be delivered next year;
39. Took note of the closure and praised the legacy of the EU-CoE joint project on «Combating Hate Speech in Sport»;

40. Took note of the state of implementation of the EU-CoE joint project «All in Plus – Promoting Gender Equality in Sport»;
41. Stressed the importance of these EU/CoE joint projects in the field of sport as tools to ensure an effective technical assistance to Member States in implementing the Council of Europe’s sports-related standards;

Showcasing the Saint-Denis Convention

42. Invited the concerned countries - including the Observer States - to send their country profiles and recalled States of the need to regularly send updates to the Secretariat;
43. Acknowledged the relevance of the toolkit of 16 factsheets as a way to further promote the Convention and its standards;
44. Invited the national delegations to translate into their own languages this toolkit of factsheets on the Saint-Denis Convention, and all Parties and Observers to promote it as largely as possible on their webpages, social networks, and events;
45. Encouraged Parties and Observer States to translate into their national language and disseminate all the visibility tools available;
46. Invited national delegations and Observers to contribute to the dissemination of the MOOC on the Saint-Denis Convention;
47. Praised the fact that the MOOC is available through the e-learning platform of UEFA, as well as the signature of a licensing agreement with INTERPOL, with the same purpose;

Next meeting

48. Decided to hold its 7th meeting on 3-4 June 2025 in Strasbourg, in full in-person format, back-to-back with the first meeting of the newly established Ad hoc Working Group on FIFA World Cup 2026 (4 June pm) and the 3rd Awareness-raising Workshop of the EU-CoE Joint Project “Balance S4” (5 June am)¹.

¹ All these dates were confirmed after the 6th T-S4 Committee meeting.