

**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



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Committee on Safety and Security at Sports Events (T-S4)

Policy Strategy 2021-2025

Final Assessment

Prepared by the Secretariat

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1. Introduction: turning a vision into reality

At its first meeting held on 14-15 April 2021, the Committee on Safety and Security at Sports events (hereafter the “Committee”) - the monitoring body of the Saint-Denis Convention - adopted its first policy strategy, that should guide its activity during the period 2021-2025. This strategy was composed of the following five strategic goals:

- Goal 1. Establish a solid and effective monitoring mechanism under the Saint-Denis Convention
- Goal 2. Promote the implementation of the Saint-Denis Convention through focused policy advice
- Goal 3. Develop operational capacity of the T-S4 Committee
- Goal 4. Develop partnerships with relevant stakeholders
- Goal 5. Promote international cooperation

Although in an adverse context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the year 2021 was indeed a turning point for the Saint-Denis Convention; after the tenth ratification, as stipulated in the Convention, the Committee was established and met for the first time; and, at the same time, the Parties to the 1985 European Convention on Spectator Violence (ETS No. 120) decided to suspend the meetings of its Standing Committee, which was its monitoring body for more than three decades, to concentrate their efforts in the work of the T-S4 Committee.

The Saint-Denis Convention (hereafter the “Convention”) became then the world’s only legally binding document in the field of safety, security and service at sports events - even if it did not repeal the old convention and both are still in force for several years, until the last State Party denounces the 1985 Convention.¹

Therefore, the cycle of this first policy strategy (2021-2025) is a crucial period for the Committee: there is only one Committee on safety and security at sports events and it is the period when all important decisions were taken: first comprehensive strategy, guidelines on monitoring, first recommendations, structuration of the Committee, etc.

The Convention’s aim is to make sporting events safer, more secure and welcoming, thus contributing to the protection and promotion of sport, the rule of law and human rights in and through sport.

¹ As of 18 September 2025, 9 States Parties have not yet denounced the 1985 Convention.

The Committee's mission is therefore to maximise States' capacity to ensure safe, secure and welcoming sports events across Europe and worldwide, through standard-setting, monitoring and promoting the Convention's principles and standards worldwide at football matches and other sports events.

The Committee shares and promotes the Council of Europe's core values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as sports core values, such as respect, tolerance, honesty, solidarity, health, fair-play, integrity and good governance.

The activities of the Committee are based upon and guided by these values.

Over the past 5 years, the Committee has pursued and achieved the following 5 strategic goals:

2. Progress achieved under the five strategic goals (2021-2025)

Strategic Goal 1 - Establish a solid and effective monitoring mechanism under the Saint-Denis Convention

The Committee is the only competent body responsible for monitoring the application of the Saint-Denis Convention and for the interpretation of its provisions.

Two of the most monitoring tools available are the annual monitoring questionnaires/reports and the monitoring visits to States who volunteer, notably those who are organising future major sports events.

- **Objective 1: Adopt and implement guidelines on monitoring the Saint-Denis Convention and establish a process of their regular review**

In September 2022, the Committee adopted its Monitoring Guidelines, a document that frames the monitoring tools established by the Convention: the annual monitoring questionnaire/report and the monitoring visits.

Based on the experience of the first cycle of monitoring visits (2022-2025), the Committee will revise and update this document at the end of the cycle, so as to improve its effectiveness and take on board best practices and lessons learned during the first five monitoring visits.

- **Objective 2: Develop and launch a programme of monitoring and follow-up visits in States Parties**

The Committee decided to launch its own monitoring questionnaire and report, as a key tool to monitoring the implementation of the Convention at national level. The first edition of the T-S4 monitoring questionnaire/report was launched in 2021 as a pilot version. Two versions followed in 2022 and 2023. Following a decision of the Committee to move from an annual to a biennial periodicity, the new biennial questionnaire was drafted and will be launched by the end of 2025, covering years/seasons 2023 to 2025. The previous questionnaires were successively revised and updated, and the quantitative questions harmonised with the NFIP Network Annual Threat Assessment Questionnaire, as it will continue to be the case in future editions of the questionnaire.

The Committee further adopted a multi-annual programme of monitoring visits for 2022-2025, comprising one visit per semester, upon request of Parties and Observer States. According to the Guidelines on Monitoring, priority is given to countries hosting future international major tournaments or major sporting events. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the first monitoring visit only took place in November 2023, in Germany, in the context of the preparations for UEFA EURO 2024. Four other visits were held successively: Greece (May 2024), Türkiye (November 2024), Bulgaria (February/March 2025) and Hungary (October 2025). During this cycle, only the proposed monitoring visit to France, early 2024, in the context of the preparations for Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics, was refused by the French authorities.

The Committee adopted the second cycle of monitoring visits (2026-2029), for which the following 8 Parties and one Observer State have volunteered, by chronological order: Portugal, the United Kingdom, Serbia, Poland, Italy, Spain, Morocco, Sweden and Finland.

- **Objective 3: Provide the States Parties with necessary support in implementing the recommendations of the monitoring visits**

The reports of the monitoring visits always mention the availability of the Committee to provide, upon request of the host country, the necessary support in implementing the Action Plan during the coming two years.

In the case of the monitoring visit to Greece, held in May 2024, the Greek authorities requested the Committee to support in the drafting of the Greek versions of the Toolkit of Factsheets and of the MOOC on the Convention – this online course should be launched by the end of 2025 -, to support the promotion of the Convention at national level.

In the context of the monitoring visit to Bulgaria, held in February/March 2025, the visiting team was requested to examine the draft law on the security and safety of sports events that was being discussed at the Parliament when the visit occurred. The monitoring team provided comments to

the Bulgarian authorities, aiming at ensuring that the new law is aligned as much as possible with the Convention.

- **Objective 4: Share and promote the outcomes of monitoring activities, namely through reports and comparative studies**

In accordance with the Guidelines on Monitoring, the monitoring visits are followed by a report of the visiting team. This report includes a proposed action plan with a set of recommendations, normally between 50 and 80, aiming at supporting the host country in implementing the policy articles of the Convention and its Recommendations more effectively. This is followed by an action plan, submitted by the country to the Committee within six months, as well as a follow-up report of its implementation, to be submitted within two years.

Moreover, the Committee carried out thematic questionnaires and reports on topics identified as relevant, namely: the collective bans against away football supporters; and the possession and use of pyrotechnics at sports events. The findings, conclusions and recommendations of these reports were the basis of new T-S4 Recommendations, adopted late 2025.

Strategic Goal 2 - Promote the implementation of the Saint-Denis Convention through focused policy advice

- **Objective 1: Establish a system to identify priority areas for the T-S4 normative and standard setting work and aiming at a balancing the three pillars: safety, security and service**

Priority areas were identified namely through the annual monitoring reports and by the Committee's delegations.

The Recommendations are aimed at developing the principles and provisions of the Convention and facilitating their concrete implementation by the countries.

With this purpose in mind, the Committee adopted two Recommendations in 2022: the first on a model national S4 strategy (Rec(2022)1); and the second on a model national S4 legal and regulatory framework (Rec (2022)2), to inspire Parties in drafting or refining a national strategy and a national legal framework.

In 2025, the Committee further drafted/adopted three recommendations on: collective bans against away football supporters (Rec(2025)1), adopted on 6 October 2025; on the possession and use of

pyrotechnics at football and other sports events (Rec(2025)2), adopted on xxx; and on CBRN-E risks at mass sports events (Rec(2026)1), to be adopted early 2026.

In order to ensure that the EU and the CoE's rules and guidelines are aligned, late 2025 the Committee also updated the Recommendation Rec (2021)1, by including the two appendices which were added in 2024 to the European Handbook on Policing International Football Matches, namely: Appendix 4 (Dynamic Risk Assessment and Crowd Management); and Appendix 5 (Spotters Training).

Moreover, and based on the Guidelines and on the Training Toolkit on Safety and Service, both drafted within the EU-COE Joint Project «Balance S4», the Committee will also consider either embedding them in the respective Annexes A - Safety and C – Service of Recommendation Rec(2021)1, or adopt a separate Recommendation.

- **Objective 2: Ensure that the human rights, hate speech, anti-racism and anti-discrimination dimensions are streamlined in any standard-setting work of the T-S4 or other policy advice**

During several meetings of the Committee, several presentations were delivered by FIFPRO and independent and national experts on the topic of hate speech, in particular online, namely on the occasion of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and UEFA EURO 2024 in Germany.

The EU/CoE Joint Project [«Combating Hate Speech in Sport»](#), whose topic falls within the remit of the Convention (Article 5.5), was implemented between 1 January 2022 and 30 June 2024. This project aimed to combat hate speech in sport by providing technical assistance to public authorities in member states and other sport stakeholders to develop comprehensive strategies within a human rights framework.

The Committee, through the Secretariat, co-operated with UEFA in the drafting, implementation and evaluation of the Human Rights Declarations adopted for the UEFA EURO 2024 in Germany and the Women's UEFA EURO 2025 in Switzerland.

The Committee, through the Secretariat and EPAS, cooperated with the Centre for Sport and Human Rights (CSHR) in the promotion of the Convention's principles and standards, in particular regarding its human rights approach.

- **Objective 3: Support States Parties in developing and implementing national strategies based on the Convention**

The Committee adopted a specific Recommendation in 2022 on a model national S4 strategy, to facilitate the drafting and effective implementation of national strategies by States. This issue is followed through the monitoring questionnaires/reports and monitoring visits.

Countries like Lithuania have already adopted a national strategy, based on the T-S4 Recommendation. For instance, Norway and Portugal also intend to develop a national strategy, in the near future.

- **Objective 4: Maintain, in co-operation with the Standing Committee of the European Convention on Spectator Violence (T-RV), the work on promoting and updating the Recommendation Rec(2015)1, as revised in 2019 and adopted in 2021**

On the structural level, the Standing Committee (T-RV) decided by unanimity to suspend its activities as from November 2021, and their Parties agreed to participate in the work of the T-S4 Committee as Observers, while waiting for the ratification of the Saint-Denis Convention.

At the end of 2025, there were still 15 Council of Europe Member States which are not Parties to the Saint-Denis Convention, which calls the Committee to encourage them to ratify: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Georgia, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, San Marino and Ukraine.

Cyprus ratified the Convention in February 2024 but the respective instrument of ratification was not deposited yet. Ukraine is proceeding with the ratification process at domestic level. Georgia is also preparing this procedure. Ireland has been approached, through different channels, to start this procedure, namely because this country will co-host the UEFA EURO 2028 together with the United Kingdom. Likewise, Morocco, who is a non-State Observer *ex-officio*, has been approached to join the Convention, if possible before the FIFA World Cup 2030, that this country will co-host with Portugal and Spain. Similar contacts were also established with Tunisia, who was already Observer to the T-RV Convention.

Against this background, it could be realistic to envisage that, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Convention, the number of 35 Parties would be achieved.

Strategic Goal 3 - Develop operational capacity of the T-S4 Committee

- **Objective 1: Ensure effective functioning of the new Committee on Safety and Security at Sports Events (T-S4), its Bureau and Advisory and Ad Hoc Groups, in close co-ordination with the T-RV**

The Committee, on the occasion of its first meeting, adopted its Rules of Procedure, which established a Bureau and the following three Advisory Groups: Standard Setting and Legal Issues (T-S4 LI); Monitoring (T-S4 MON) and International Co-operation (T-S4 COOP). The Committee further established successively the following three Ad hoc Working Groups with the mandate to follow the preparations of major sports events: FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar; UEFA EURO 2024 in Germany; and FIFA World Cup 2026 in Canada, Mexico and USA.

The Bureau met on a regular basis before the plenary meetings of the Committee, namely, to discuss on strategic issues and draft documents, follow the work of the Advisory Groups and prepare the forthcoming Committee meetings.

The Advisory Groups met several times per year, aiming at monitoring the activities in the respective areas, and drafting and proposing documents to the Committee. The Ad Hoc Working Groups always met back to back with the Committee's meetings, to follow the preparations and to carry out a final assessment of the events, aiming at ensuring the transfer of legacy in the field of safety, security and service.

Following the rules of the Council of Europe, the Committee elected - successively in 2021, 2023 and 2025 -, a Gender Equality Rapporteur (GER) whose aim is to contribute to the effective integration of gender equality perspective in the work of the Committee.

This should be a priority area to be developed for the next T-S4 Policy Strategy, with the engagement of the GER elected in June 2025 and specifically trained for that position in November 2025.

- **Objective 2: Establish an institutionalised process to promote the implementation of the provisions of the Saint-Denis Convention in the context of the major tournaments, such as 2022 FIFA World Cup (Qatar), UEFA EURO 2024 (Germany), 2026 FIFA World Cup (Canada, Mexico, USA), etc.**

The Committee established the following three Ad hoc Working Groups: FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar; UEFA EURO 2024 in Germany; and FIFA World Cup 2026 in Canada, Mexico and USA.

Regarding the preparations for FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar, the Council of Europe co-implemented a two-year co-operation project with the Qatari authorities, aiming at replicating the Convention's principles and standards in the national legal, administrative and institutional frameworks. In the same context, the State of Qatar was also granted the Observer status for a period of 3 years.

The Committee, following the tradition of its predecessor T-RV Standing Committee, carried out final evaluations of the major sporting events, namely, UEFA and FIFA tournaments and the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Committee carried out final evaluations of UEFA EURO 2020 - which was held in 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic -, and of FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar, including the host countries, the organisers and the participating countries and organisations.

Moreover, the Committee conducted a final evaluation of the major sporting events held in Europe during Summer 2024: the UEFA EURO 2024 in Germany; and the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This later enabled to enlarge the scope to other major sports events than football, and paved the way for the granting of Observer status to the International Olympic Committee mid-2025.

- **Objective 3: Develop synergies with relevant Council of Europe bodies (Congress, ECtHR, ECRI, EPAS, PACE, etc.)**

The Committee, through the Secretariat, has regular exchanges with the Congress and PACE relevant committees; regular updates on the ECtHR case law on sport; translation and publication of ECRI's General Policy Recommendations which are relevant for sport; and permanent coordination with EPAS, namely on joint projects relevant for the Saint-Denis Convention.

The Committee, through the Secretariat, had regular contacts with the Council of Europe Network of Police Authorities, which was established in 2022, namely, to promote the Convention through that Network.

The Committee, also through the Secretariat, has co-operated with the Council of Europe Network of Magistrates/Prosecutors Responsible for Sports (MARS). This network was created in November 2022 and formalised under the aegis of EPAS at its Plenary meeting in June 2023.

This Network already held five annual meetings, whose agendas included presentations on safety, security and service at major sports events. For instance, its 5th annual meeting, which was held on 1-2 July 2025 in Strasbourg, revolved around the involvement of organised crime in sport, including *modi operandi* of criminal networks, evidence gathering, co-operation with law enforcement authorities and the related actions needed in investigations and prosecutions.

- **Objective 4: Invest in attracting new signatures and ratifications of the Convention by European countries and beyond, and promote awareness-raising about the Convention and the activities of the Committee**

According to the Convention, the Committee should be established after the tenth ratification – which was by Spain, in November 2019. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the first meeting of the Committee only took place in April 2021. Its Policy Strategy 2021-2025 was adopted at this meeting.

The pace of ratifications of the Convention was relatively important, with an average of one ratification per trimester, despite the COVID-19 constraints. By the end of 2025, there were 32 State Parties to the Convention.

As all the Parties are Member States of the Council of Europe, the aim is to also attract non-European countries, including the neighbouring ones with which the Council of Europe develops close co-operation (ex: Morocco and Tunisia).

Strategic Goal 4 - Develop partnerships with relevant stakeholders

- **Objective 1: Establish, in the context of the implementation of the MoU between the CoE and FIFA, a permanent bilateral co-operation mechanism; and ensure adoption and implementation of annual co-operation plans**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Council of Europe and FIFA in the field of sport, in 2018. The aim of this document is to create a framework for strengthening and further developing synergies, co-operation and, where appropriate, partnerships between both Organisations, namely in promoting an integrated safety, security and service approach at football matches, in co-operation with relevant public and private stakeholders.

The activities and projects were reflected in co-operation plans with the respective road maps. A first co-operation plan was drafted and agreed upon but its effective implementation was hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Bilateral co-operation should be reinforced in the future, through the drafting and implementation of cooperation plans and the respective road maps.

Nevertheless, FIFA has participated in all plenary meetings of the Committee, as well as in Ad hoc working group meetings related with FIFA major tournaments. Moreover, FIFA adopted the and promotes worldwide the multi-agency integrated ethos of the Convention and its MOOC.

- **Objective 2: Establish, in the context of the implementation of the MoU between the CoE and UEFA, a permanent bilateral co-operation mechanism; and ensure adoption and implementation of annual co-operation plans**

A Memorandum of Understanding and the respective co-operation plan were signed between the Council of Europe and UEFA in the field of sport, for 2018-2019. A later action plan was drafted and agreed upon but its effective implementation was hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic. As with FIFA, bilateral co-operation with UEFA should be reinforced in the future, through the drafting and implementation of cooperation plans and the respective road maps.

Nevertheless, the Committee and the Secretariat have co-operated in training and awareness schemes, namely on pyrotechnics; the Committee and the Secretariat take part in UEFA's annual safety and security conferences; and UEFA has an Observer status to the Committee, participates in T-S4 monitoring visits, in monitoring questionnaires and in the drafting of recommendations.

- **Objective 3: Involve, where relevant, European supporter organisations and other NGO's in the design, implementation and evaluation of activities as well as in the promotion of results achieved**

The ethos of the Convention is a balanced integrated multi-agency safety, security and service approach. The Committee aims at respecting this ethos by steadily enlarging its composition to relevant public and private stakeholders, including supporter organisations. This broad and diverse composition of the Committee enables Parties and State and non-State observers a more effective co-operation and exchange of knowledge, experience and remedies for current challenges within the remit of the Convention. The overall aim is that the Committee benefits from and influences the perspectives and the work of the supporter and other civil society organisations, in a common sharing and implementation of the Convention's principles and standards.

Several relevant sports and supporter organisations were granted the Observer status by the Committee. At the end of 2025, the number of non-State observers reached eleven, including leagues, players, referees, press and the Olympic movement. Co-operation was established and developed with several of these Observers, including FSE, FIFPRO, European Leagues and AIPS, namely through the participation in their annual events.

European supporter organisations, like FSE, SD Europe, CAFE (and later AaccessibALL), Colour-blind Awareness, as well as other sports organisations, actively contributed to the launch of themes for discussion, replied to monitoring and thematic questionnaires, participated in monitoring visits, contributed for the drafting of new recommendations and played an expert role in the deliveries of the Joint Project «Balance S4».

○ **Objective 4: Exchange knowledge and expertise with relevant intergovernmental partners on promoting safety, security and service at sports events**

The Committee and the Secretariat regularly co-operate with the EU Commission, notably by co-funding and implementing joint projects on topics that are relevant for the Convention. This was the case of the Joint Projects «Combating Hate Speech in Sport» (2022-2024) and «Balance S4 – Strengthening the Safety and Service pillars of the Saint-Denis Convention» (2024-2025), which fostered the promotion and implementation of the Convention and its standards at national level.

The Committee, through the Secretariat, liaises with coordination bodies of the EU Commission, namely on topics such as hate speech and radicalisation in sport, and takes part in the meetings of the Major Sports Events (MSE) Expert Group, of the EU Council.

The Committee, through the Secretariat, co-operates and takes part in the meetings of the European Group of Policing Football and NFIP Experts (Think Tank).

The Committee, through the Secretariat, has participated in different regional seminars organised by the African Union, the Organisation of American States, UNICRI and/or UNOCT and national organisations – e.g., North and Central America, South America, Asia, Africa and Portuguese Commonwealth -, contributed for their policy documents and guidelines and shared with the showcase tools, aiming at promoting the Convention across other continents.

Strategic Goal 5 - Promote international cooperation

The T-S4 Committee is the international platform to exchange knowledge and experience, share good practices and develop co-operation on safety, security and service at football and other sports events.

○ **Objective 1: Strengthen institutional co-operation with the European Union**

The European Commission and the Council of Europe established several joint projects on topics that fall under the remit of the Convention, namely: «Combating Hate Speech in Sport» (Jul 2022-Jul 2024); and «Balance S4: Strengthening the Safety and Service pillars of the Saint-Denis Convention» (Jan 2024-Dec2025)

The deliveries of the EU-CoE joint project Combating Hate Speech in Sport (Jul 2022-Jul 2024) are the following:

- Presenting the state of play of hate speech in sport, including the online dimension;

- Providing guidance leading to the adoption of national strategies in the partner countries to combat hate speech in sport involving all key stakeholders;
- Setting up an online resource centre providing relevant information on existing tools to combat hate speech in sport, and identifying measures to prevent, counter, report and remedy hate speech, notably through the No Hate Speech Movement campaign, the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy, the programme of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport and other relevant instruments; and
- Designing, implementing and evaluating a “no hate speech in sport” campaign, including training and tools to strengthen the stakeholders’ capacity to play their part in preventing and combating hate speech in sport.

The EU-CoE Joint Project «Balance S4 – Strengthening the Safety and Service pillars of the Saint-Denis Convention» was implemented between January 2024 and December 2025. Several activities were carried out :

- A European-wide questionnaire and report on the state of play of the implementation of the safety and service pillars of the Convention;
- Three awareness-raising workshops addressed to the Committee, on the safety and service pillars of the Convention;
- Two “training of trainers” seminars on the safety and service pillars, one in-presence and one online;
- Three conferences, including the opening and closing ones, with the participation of the Committee and experts in the field of safety and service;
- A set of 14 video interviews with safety and service, published online; and
- An expert group carried out an observation visit to Women’s UEFA EURO 2025 in Switzerland, with a view to collecting good practices on the specificities of women’s major sports events for the drafting of the Guidelines on Safety and Service.

The three most important deliveries of this joint project are the following:

- The Essentials on Safety and Service;
- The Guidelines on Safety and Service, covering topics such as:
 - Changing spectator demographics at sports grounds (including gender-balance, diversity and non-discrimination (girls, women, children, families, elderly people, minority groups, migrants and refugees));
 - Safety and service specificities of women’s sports competitions;
 - Accessibility (persons with visible and not visible disabilities) at sport venues; and
 - Public health issues at sports events; and

- The Training Toolkit on Safety and Service.

These are all important tools to further develop the safety and service elements at national level.

Other EU-CoE Joint Projects falling under the scope of the Convention were implemented by the Sport Division of the Council of Europe and followed by the Committee on a regular basis, namely:

- [«ProS4+ - Promoting and Strengthening the Council of Europe Standards on Safety, Security and Service at Football Matches and Other Sports Events»](#) (July 2018 – March 2021): this project aimed at tackling cross-border threats to the integrity of sport due to the violence and misbehaviour of individuals and groups, as well as other kinds of intolerance and discrimination. At the same time, it aimed to offer tailor-made responses to the emerging challenging and current trends in the field of safety, security and service in sport.
 - [«All In Plus: Promoting greater gender equality in sport»](#) (March 2023 – February 2025): this project highlighted the benefits of greater gender equality in sport. The key objectives were to ensure that the relative invisibility of women in sport and the ongoing lack of awareness about gender imbalance in sport and related issues are brought clearly to the forefront; and
 - [«Sport For All: Promoting Inclusion and Combating Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities»](#) (March 2025 – August 2026): this project builds on ongoing efforts to create a more inclusive sports culture by breaking down barriers and promoting greater inclusion of people with disabilities in sports.
- **Objective 2: Establish partnership with the sport movement, namely the International Olympic Committee, international federations and other sports bodies involved in the organisation of international major sports events in Europe and beyond**

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) was granted the observer status to the Committee, in August 2025. The IOC contributed for the final evaluation of the Paris 2024 Olympics, carried out by the Committee.

The Union of European Clubs (UEC) has recently requested to be granted the Observer status.

This enlarged representation of sports organisations, which is fully in line with the ethos of the Convention, will enable to further develop partnerships between the Committee and the sport movement.

Cooperation with FIFA, UEFA and CAF, which are Observers to the Committee, should also be further developed.

Regular cooperation is carried out with UNOCT. Cooperation with the [Asian Football Confederation](#) (AFC) is also being envisaged in the near future, as well as with civil society organisations working in the field of human rights in sport, such as the [Centre for Sport and Human Rights](#).

○ **Objective 3: Influence and contribute to the implementation of the United Nations global programme on safety and security of major sporting events**

The Committee established and/or developed co-operation with relevant United Nations agencies, namely UNICRI and UNOCT, as well as with Interpol, the Organisation of American States and the African Union, to promote the Convention and its standards across the world.

The Committee, for example, contributed for the implementation of the UN Global Programme on safety and security of major sporting events, namely: by participating in the drafting of several guiding documents on safety and security; and by participating online in conferences and workshops in other continents (ex: Indonesia and Maldives), aiming at showcasing the Convention

○ **Objective 4: Develop a clearing house on national strategies, legal and administrative frameworks, good practices and lessons learned in the field of safety, security and service at sports events**

All relevant documents regarding the Convention and the EU-CoE joint projects have been published on the [webpage of the Saint-Denis Convention](#), namely: Recommendations; annual monitoring reports; thematic reports; reports of monitoring visits; toolkit of 16 factsheets; flyers; country profiles; scientific papers; and the MOOC on the Saint-Denis Convention.

Below are the links to the relevant areas of the Saint-Denis webpage:

- i) Text FR/EN and explanatory report of the Convention:
[Full list - Treaty Office \(coe.int\)](#)
- ii) Chart of signatures and ratifications of the Saint-Denis Convention (Treaty 218):
[Full list - Treaty Office \(coe.int\)](#)
- iii) [Policy Strategy 2022-2025](#)
- iv) Sport website, dedicated page for the Saint-Denis Convention:
[Safety, Security and Service: the Saint-Denis Convention - Sport \(coe.int\)](#)

- v) The 4 recommendations already adopted by the Committee :

[T-S4 Recommendations - Sport \(coe.int\)](#)

- vi) States parties' country profiles:

[Country Profiles - Sport \(coe.int\)](#)

- vii) Toolkit of 15 Factsheets on the Saint-Denis Convention

[Factsheets - Sport \(coe.int\)](#)

- viii) Two online training courses:

MOOC on the Saint-Denis Convention

MOOC on Human Rights and Sport

[E-learning courses - Sport \(coe.int\)](#)

Last but not the least, and pursuing this objective, the Committee will have soon available in the webpage of the Convention, an online library with relevant policy documents and papers in the field of safety, security and service at sports events.

3. Looking ahead

During its first cycle of activity, the Committee substantially contributed for advancing the three strategic priorities of the [Council of Europe's sport strategic priorities for the next four years \(2022-2025\)](#), to enhance sport as a values-based activity with a clear focus on human rights, which were:

- **Firmly place the protection of human rights and respect for the rule of law in sports, in particular in the fight against corruption**, on the agenda of both governments and sports organisations, including fostering changes in legislation, policies and practices in Europe and beyond;
- **Strive for major advances in the promotion of values-driven sport**, in ensuring safety, security and service at sports events; and
- **Reaffirming the Council of Europe as a reliable and key partner** in addressing European and global challenges in sport, influencing developments – through partnership and co-operation with, among others, IOC, FIFA, UEFA, and INTERPOL.

In practice, significant progress has been made and milestones have been achieved during this first cycle 2021-2025. The following tangible achievements are the best evidence of it:

- The Convention was already **ratified by 32 Member States**, and this has occurred on a regular pace of a ratification per trimester;
- The **organisation and structure of the Committee** were effectively implemented from the beginning, namely through the regular work of its Bureau, the three Advisory Groups and Ad hoc Working Groups;
- The **Parties to the Standing Committee** of the Spectator Violence Convention found a reasonable solution to concentrate their attention in the work of the T-S4 Committee;
- The area of **standard setting** was steadily developed, starting with the adoption of the previous T-RV Recommendation Rec(2019)1 on recommended good practices on safety, security and service; and continuing with the adoption of two highly relevant recommendations in 2022 (models of a national strategy and of a legal and regulatory framework) and, late 2025, the adoption of recommendations on specific topics such as collective bans and the possession and use of pyrotechnics;
- An effective **monitoring mechanism** was set up, with annual monitoring questionnaires and reports, thematic reports, final assessments of major sporting events, and with biannual monitoring visits and their follow-up process;
- **International co-operation** was boosted through the enlargement of the State and non-State Observers to the Committee and the diversification of partnerships and cooperation initiatives with global and regional intergovernmental and sports organisations;
- Likewise, **technical assistance** was advanced, notably through several EU-Council of Europe joint projects in areas within the scope of the Convention, in particular joint projects Pro-S4+, Combating Hate Speech in Sport and Balance S4, which contributed substantially to support States and non-State organisations in better implementing and promoting the Convention at national, European and international levels.

Notwithstanding, and besides the need to continue developing the permanent areas of work of the Committee – standard setting, monitoring, international cooperation and technical assistance –, some challenges should be addressed during the new cycle 2026-2029. A **human rights centred approach**, **gender balance and gender equality**, consolidating the **follow-up monitoring process**, strengthening the **safety and service pillars** and further **showcasing of the Convention**, are some of the topics that should be priorities for the second cycle.

The new Policy Strategy for 2026-2029 (document T-S4 (2025)45) will ensure the continuity of the main strategic goals and the permanent set of activities of the Committee, while focusing on consolidating the **monitoring mechanism**, promoting the effective **implementation of the Convention at national level**, reinforcing the **institutional role of the Committee**, and developing **partnerships** at European and international level.