



CONFERENCE PROMOTING SAFETY, INTEGRITY, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION IN SPORT



HELLENIC PARLIAMENT



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

4-5 November 2024

**Athens, Greece
The Hellenic Parliament**

Towards a Parliamentary Alliance for Good Governance and Integrity in Sport

I. Context

In January 2018, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted [Resolution 2199 \(2018\) "Towards a framework for modern sports governance"](#). In this Resolution, the Assembly invited the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media (the Committee) *"to consider setting up a parliamentary alliance for good governance and integrity in sport with the aim of bringing together national parliaments and international parliamentary bodies around a constructive discussion on sports governance and integrity issues"*. Following this resolution, the committee set up a task force entrusted to explore the possibility of establishing such an alliance. Building on its feedback, a proposal was drafted with the help of a consultant. However, the project did not make any progress. In early 2024, the Committee and its General Rapporteur on Governance and Ethics in Sport resumed consideration of this issue.

II. Aims and objectives

At present, there is no coordinated interparliamentary action on governance and integrity in sport.¹ The creation of a Parliamentary Alliance for Good Governance and Integrity in Sport (“the Alliance”) would add a parliamentary dimension to the current multi-stakeholder efforts to improve sports governance. It would reinforce PACE’s capacity to address sport issues and to uphold the role and actions of national parliaments in the design and implementation of policies aimed at enhancing the governance and integrity of sport at both national and multilateral levels. The Alliance would, inter alia, seek to:

- **contribute to improving sports governance** (e.g.: working with partners to strengthen sports governance criteria and standards; supporting the drafting of national codes on sports governance), also building on the proposals contained in PACE Resolution 2199 (2018) “Towards a framework for modern sports governance”;
- **promote human rights and inclusion in sport** (e.g.: gender equality in sport; combating violence – and in particular child abuse – in sport; human rights conditionalities for the hosting of major sports events and their legacy in terms of enhanced human rights protection in host countries; sport as a tool for social inclusion; and others);
- **encourage the ratification of CoE conventions on sport** (on doping, on the manipulation of sports competitions and on the safety, security and service at sports events) and the proper implementation of the standards they enshrine;
- **facilitate the transfer of know-how and expertise** between members and improve coordination and complementarity between different parliamentary initiatives promoting good governance and integrity in sport;
- **support the work of existing CoE intergovernmental structures** in the field of sport, **and in particular of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)**, as well as the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Sport; and
- **enhance co-operation between parliaments, governments and sports organisations** bringing the voice of legislators to other international platforms on sports governance and integrity issues.

In addition, the Alliance would **support the establishment of focal points and/or chapters** in parliaments that so wish, bringing together national parliamentarians willing to engage in advocacy, awareness-raising and the promotion of the values of the Alliance.

As a further development, targeted **interparliamentary capacity-building programmes**, tailored to national needs and expectations, could be designed in co-operation with the interested parliaments and implemented with the support of the Alliance.

III. Membership and key partners

The Alliance would be an **interparliamentary body**, a forum of committed legislators who share the Council of Europe values of integrity, democracy, transparency and public accountability in sport. It could be set-up for an **initial trial period of two years** if this were considered advisable. The **hard core of members of the Alliance** would be constituted by interested PACE members. However, the membership of the Alliance should be wider and potentially include

¹ However, reference could be made here to the [Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption \(GOPAC\)](#).

parliamentarians from national parliaments of Council of Europe member States, Observers and Partners for democracy, the European Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.²

The Alliance will work with **partners**. The main ones, if they may wish to join the Alliance, would be the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) including its Consultative Committee, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the European Olympic Committees (EOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the European Paralympic Committee (EPC) and sports organisations which have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council of Europe (to date: FIFA and UEFA).

Relevant multi-stakeholder sport integrity, anti-corruption or human rights platforms and other stakeholder groups (e.g. academic institutions, law enforcement bodies, the sport industry, media, sport sponsors), that could enhance the reach and impact of the Alliance's work, would be associated on an ad hoc basis as appropriate, depending on the issues at stake. They would undertake to conduct themselves and their affairs in a manner consistent with the Council of Europe values, and to uphold these values.

IV. Resources needed

The PACE budget could, at least during the trial period, support the organisation of the meetings of the Alliance (either during the part-session or in conjunction with the meetings of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media). However, funding from members and external sources would be required for the Parliamentary Alliance to function in a sustainable way, to develop cooperation with partners and to achieve its objectives. In addition, members (and other participants) should cover their own participation costs (travel and accommodation) in the activities of the Alliance.

At this stage, it is difficult to provide a detailed budget forecast. However, as an initial estimate, the basic annual budget – possibly secured by the end of the first year of the trial period – should be not less than €200 000 (including around €65-70 000 for a dedicated project manager).

After the initial set-up and consolidation phase, additional resources needed to implement specific activities of the Alliance (e.g. awareness-raising events at national or regional level) and the interparliamentary capacity-building programme would be raised through targeted calls for voluntary contributions, which could be complemented by direct contributions from interested parliaments or governments.

V. The way forward

The establishment of the Alliance will require the political commitment and financial support of a significant number of PACE delegations. For this reason, a consultation process has been launched to assess the willingness of PACE members to engage in a future Alliance, their interest in specific potential areas of work, and the likelihood of concrete financial support for the start-up phase. To date, more than 30 members have confirmed their support for this initiative.

The Conference on “*Promoting safety, integrity, equality and inclusion in sport*” provides an opportunity to launch the Alliance. The Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media will discuss the terms of reference of the Alliance in December 2024, with a view to submitting a formal proposal to the Bureau of the Assembly, which could take a decision on the establishment of the Alliance in January 2025.

² At a later stage, if deemed appropriate membership could be open to non-European parliaments and other interparliamentary organisations, given the global scope of the Council of Europe conventions on sport.