



HELLENIC PARLIAMENT



# PROMOTING SAFETY, INTEGRITY, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION IN SPORT

**Conference**

**organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe  
and the Hellenic Parliament**

**4-5 November 2024**

**Athens, Greece**

**Hellenic Parliament  
Senate Hall**



## Context

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe recognises the transformative potential of sports as a powerful vehicle for societal progress and upholding the core values of our organisation: human rights, democracy and rule of law. The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Conference on Sport will bring into focus some of the critical themes and issues that are faced by the world of sport and sportspersons, the public and our societies such as safety and integrity in sports, equality and inclusion, dignity and well-being of athletes. The event will gather parliamentarians, policymakers, athletes, sporting organisations, and experts from various fields to explore the multifaceted dimensions of these issues within the realm of sports.

## Objectives

The conference will seek to engage participants in meaningful discussions, exchange of ideas and good practice with the aim of:

- i. Promoting a culture of respect, accountability and transparency within the sporting community as a means to fight violence and abuse in sports and address the impact it has on athletes, coaches and the sports community at large.
- ii. Developing strategies that will promote sport integrity, equality and inclusion on a European and at a global level.
- iii. Fostering collaboration among stakeholders in the sports community and build networks and alliances with the goal of creating a sporting environment that upholds the principles of fairness, diversity, and honesty.
- iv. Promoting Council of Europe standards on these issues.
- v. Promoting innovative solutions and best practices.
- vi. Creating a platform for knowledge sharing and networking.
- vii. Strengthening international cooperation - foster collaboration between parliamentarians, policy makers, national delegations, sports organisations, and relevant stakeholders to amplify the impact of collective efforts in achieving our shared objectives.

## Themes

- a. Safe Sports: preventing violence and abuse
- b. "Clean Sport": tackling doping, match fixing and illegal betting
- c. Inclusion and Equality

## Format

The conference will employ a combination of presentations, panel discussions, testimonies, and good practice, allowing for dynamic and comprehensive exploration of the identified themes and topics.

## Expected Outcome

- Promotion of Council of Europe standards and PACE resolutions and recommendations.
- Launching of a Parliamentary Alliance for good governance and integrity in sport to ensure collaboration and sharing of information and experience among stakeholders.
- Sharing of best practices and policy recommendations on sports integrity, inclusion and equality.
- Increased awareness and commitment towards advancing these critical issues within Council of Europe member States, national parliaments, sports organisations, and other relevant stakeholders.

## Target Audience

- Members of national delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Representatives from the Council of Europe intergovernmental sector and convention system;
- Representatives from international sports organisations
- Representatives of other regional and international organisations
- Experts and practitioners in sports governance, integrity, equality, and inclusion.
- Advocacy groups and NGOs focused on sports-related issues.

# DRAFT PROGRAMME

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## Day 1

- 08.15 – 08.45**      **Registration of participants**
- 09.00 – 09.30**      **Opening session<sup>1</sup>**
- **Konstantinos Tassoulas**, Speaker of the Hellenic Parliament
  - **Theodoros Rousopoulos**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
  - **Bjørn Berge**, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
  - **Kyriákos Pierrakákis**, Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, Greece
- 09.30 – 10.00**      **Guest Speakers**
- **TBC**
- 10.00 – 12.30**      **Session I: Safe Sports: preventing violence and abuse**
- 10.00 – 10.30**      ***Defining and understanding violence and abuse in sports***
- **Joanna Maranhão**, Network Coordinator, Sport & Rights Alliance
  - **Representative of a sport organisation**
- 10.30 – 11.00**      ***Safeguarding the well-being and dignity of athletes: possible responses from the sports***
- **Karena Vleck**, Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel Legal, World Athletics
  - **A FIFA representative**
- 11.00 – 11.15**      **Coffee break**

<sup>1</sup>*All speakers and participants are to be confirmed.*

- 11.15 – 11.45**      **Session I continued**
- Safeguarding the well-being and dignity of athletes: possible responses from public authorities*
- **Jeroen Schokkenbroek**, Director, Council of Europe Directorate of Equal Rights and Dignity: Council of Europe standards and tools to fight violence and abuse in sports
  - **Representative of a country with good practice**
- 11.45 – 12.30**      **Exchange with the audience**
- 12.30 – 14.00**      **Lunch**
- 14 .00 – 17 .15**      **Session II: “Clean Sport”: tackling doping, match-fixing and illegal betting**
- 14 .00 – 14 .45**      *Understanding the problem and its extent: old and new challenges*
- Testimony from a **sportsperson**
  - **Jens Sejer Andersen**, International Director, Play the Game
  - **George Mavrotas**, Chair of the Follow-up Committee of the Council of Europe Macolin Convention
- 14.45 - 16.00**      **The responses to the threats: safeguarding the integrity of sport competitions while protecting human rights**
- **Representative of a sport organisation**
  - **Witold Bańka**, President of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA): The fight against doping
  - **Alexandre Husting**, Chair of the Governing Board of the Council of Europe Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)
  - **Anders Solheim**, Chief Executive Officer, Anti-Doping Norway (ADNO)
- 16.00 – 16.15**      **Coffee break**
- 16.15 – 17.15**      **Exchange with the audience**
- End of first day**

## Day 2

09.00 - 10.00

### Session III: Equality and inclusion in sport

- **Nagin Ravand**, Founder and Director of Global, Denmark
- **Spyros Capralos**, President of the European Olympic Committee (tbc)
- **Marie-Amélie Lefur**, paralympic multi-medalist, President of the French Paralympic and Sports Committee
- **Sophie Kwasny**, Head of Division, Sport Values, Council of Europe Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity: Good practice from the "All In Plus" – Promoting Greater Gender Equality in Sport (joint EU-CoE project)

10.00 - 11.00

### Exchange with the audience

11.00 - 11.30

### Conclusions by Elda Moreno, Conference Rapporteur

11.30 - 12.00

### Short ceremony to launch the Parliamentary Alliance for Good Governance and Integrity in Sport

12.00 – 12.15

### Closing remarks by:

- **Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis**, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- **Representative of Greek Authorities**
- **Mogens Jensen**, PACE General Rapporteur on Governance and Ethics in Sport

**End of conference**