



# **SPORT INTEGRITY: FROM EUROPE TO ADDRESS A GLOBAL ISSUE**

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**European Parliament, Brussels**

ORGANIZED BY  
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
UNIVERSITY PARIS 1 PANTHEON-SORBONNE  
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR SPORT SECURITY

**Event Report & Highlights**

# Table of Contents

**Summary Report .....2**

**Key Note Speeches .....7**

    Androulla Vassiliou – *European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, Youth and Sport*

    Santiago Fisas Ayzela – *Member of the European Parliament* ..... 9

    H.E. Torbjørn Frøysnes – *Head of the Brussels Office of the Council of Europe to the European Union*..12

    Evelyne Lagrange – *Professor of Public International Law, University Paris 1, Pantheon-Sorbonne*..... 16

    Mohammed Hanzab – *President, International Centre for Sport Security*..... 19

    Helmut Spahn – *Executive Director, International Centre for Sport Security*..... 22

**Annex 1 .....24**

    ‘Not just an issue of sport, an issue of society’ – *Report by graduate students of the Professional Master Degree in Sports Law, University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne* ..... 24



*The opinions expressed in this document are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS) and/or any/all of the other organizers involved.*

## Summary Report

On 5th December 2013, the Council of Europe (CoE), the University Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS) organized - at the European Parliament in Brussels - a special presentation titled "SPORT INTEGRITY: FROM EUROPE TO ADDRESS A GLOBAL ISSUE". The event was hosted and chaired by Member of Parliament Santiago Fixas Ayxela and intended to address a specific problem in sport: results manipulation.

The European Parliament arena was identified by the organizers as being the most appropriate platform to inform and solicit support - from the EU as a whole, as well as from each of the sovereign countries of which it is comprised - on the various initiatives undertaken so far in the field of sport integrity. In this regard, this presentation was a follow-up to the conference "Sport Integrity: A Right for Youth" held in Geneva on 6th November 2013, and organized by the Permanent Mission of Italy and the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the International Organizations in Geneva, in partnership with the Group of Friends on Sport for Development and Peace, the ICSS and Lega Pro.

It is indeed a fact that breaches to the integrity of sport are growing exponentially in every sport and every country. Ties with transnational organized crime are increasingly shown by investigative evidence and by their close links with illegal betting across the globe. A clear threat exists to the credibility of sport and to the meaningfulness of the financial investments put in place to develop sport and economic growth, consequent to these types of entertainment. However, it is not only business that is under threat. The innocence of the youngest, those who are looking at sport as something clean and as an opportunity to become a champion in life, can be seriously jeopardized.

The presentation intended to provide an update on the status of sport results manipulation, exploring its impact on the European countries and present an overview of European initiatives aimed at preventing this major threat to sport. It also sought to identify concrete efforts and initiatives to promote sport integrity values to the youth of Europe and the world.

Androulla Vassiliou, European Commission - Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, Sport, Media and Youth - opened the event, and her presence set the tone for the importance of the gathering. She underscored the meaningfulness of this type of effort to fight match fixing and guaranteed constant and renewed support from the EU Commission. She also addressed the fact that European sport is built on values, therefore the safeguarding and preserving of these values is a shared responsibility towards future generations.

MEP Santiago Fisas Ayxela, Member of the Committee on Culture and Education and Rapporteur of the Communication on Sport for the European Parliament hailed the timely nature of the Presentation, given that sport results manipulation is a major problem in the world of sport today that reaches beyond Europe to affect the entire world. MEP Fisas noted that the EU has always been active in the promotion of sporting issues, citing Art. 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU which legally recognizes the importance of sport, calling on the EU to “contribute to the promotion of European sporting issues, while taking account of the specific nature of sport, its structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function”. As a consequence of this article, the programme Erasmus + will soon come into effect and, for the first time, sport will be included in the EU programmes.



Androulla Vassiliou, European Commission – Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, Youth and Sport (centre left); H.E. Ambassador Torbjørn Frøysnes, Head of The Council of Europe Office in Brussels (second from right); MEP Santiago Fisas Ayxela (second from left); Mohammed Hanzab, President, ICSS (centre right); Professor Evelyne Lagrange, President’s Representative, Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne University (far right); Massimiliano Montanari, Director of International Cooperation, ICSS (far left)

H.E. Ambassador Torbjørn Frøysnes, Head of The Council of Europe Office in Brussels, offered to the audience an update on the preparation of an international convention in response to match fixing. In June 2012, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe gave the go-ahead to launch the negotiation of a possible new convention against the manipulation of sports results. The negotiation process on the new Convention has been open to any state to express interest and 50 States are associated so far. The drafting exercise has seen, for more than a year now, the participation of all relevant public authorities, including the sports movement and the betting sector - both state lotteries and private operators - and most importantly Ministers for sport, Ministries of Justice and authorities in charge of betting markets.

Mohammed Hanzab, President, International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), elaborated on the importance of the ICSS' continued partnership with the University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, as well as the work of the Council of Europe towards the establishment of an International Convention against Sport Results Manipulation. He presented the work of Save the Dream, a global educational, awareness and communication campaign implemented by the Qatar Olympic Committee and the ICSS, which conducts educational outreach programmes on sport integrity and promotes positive messages around sport values to children and youth. He also remarked on the importance of role models in sport in today's society and the profound ethical message that is delivered through sport.

An important perspective was offered by Professor Evelyne Lagrange, Representative of the President of the University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, who explained how, since 2012, the University has been engaged in a fruitful partnership with the ICSS named the Sorbonne-ICSS Research Program on Ethics and Sports Integrity which has attracted 70 researchers, experts, practitioners, and top civil servants from around the world. As match fixing is a global plague that requires a global solution, the Research Program has established official links with UNESCO, the Council of Europe, Ministries of Sport, National and European Lotteries and betting regulators, together with a number of universities and clusters.

After these important speeches, the presentation continued through panels which included discussions on future challenges and responses to sport results manipulation and the urgent need to protect belief in sport and sport values. Laurent Thieule, President of Sport and Citizenship hailed sport as one of the main pillars of social capital and a means to develop values of trust and inclusiveness. While introducing Sport and Citizenship, ICSS Director for International Cooperation Massimiliano Montanari recalled the

importance of civil society organizations in boosting major changes at the international level and overcoming individual agendas.

Stanislas Frossard, Executive Secretary of the CoE's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport provided the audience with an update on the CoE convention on match fixing, which will set legally-binding standards to help tackle match fixing whilst encouraging cooperation between public authorities, sports organisations and betting operators.

Chris Eaton, ICSS Director for Sport Integrity spoke about the need for enhanced cooperation and information sharing between national law enforcement bodies in order to effectively address issues of sport betting and match fixing at a global level, and called for the creation of an international mechanism in this regard.

Professor Laurent Vidal, Chairman of the Sorbonne-ICSS Research Program on Ethics and Sport Integrity, touched on the instrumental role that academics play in the field of law-making, elaborating on the need for multi-disciplinary research as a strong underpinning to tackle a problem as global as match-fixing, as well as to ensure both neutrality and credibility to the findings.

Emanuel Macedo de Medeiros, CEO of the Association of European Professional Football Leagues (EPFL) further stressed the need to draft public policies in addition to new legislation.

Ambassador Amedeo Trambajolo, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva presented highlights from the United Nations-hosted conference "Sport Integrity: A Right for Youth" held at the Palais des Nations on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013. A short video from the conference is available for viewing at: [http://youtu.be/LTfb\\_pLI-Ns](http://youtu.be/LTfb_pLI-Ns)

The participation of Yves Le Lostecque, Head of Sport Unit for the European Commission, further stressed the importance of European Union initiatives, such as "Erasmus +" and the European Sport Day, as vehicles to promote ethical values in sport to young people.

Ennio Di Francesco, Governing Board Member, Italian Committee Sport Against Drugs of the Italian Olympic Committee intervened about the importance of promoting sport integrity values in schools, making reference to “Io Tifo Positivo” - an innovative programme designed to educate and encourage good behavior in young sport fans and supporters.

Finally, Gabriella Bossman from ThinkYoung, a youth organization, offered a reflection on the important life skills that young people acquire through the practice of sport.

The presentation ended with a moving speech by Giusy Versace, aspiring Paralympic Athlete and President of the Disability No Limits Foundation. Versace spoke eloquently about the transformative role that sport had played in her own life and reflected on the power of sport as a catalyst for personal growth, inclusiveness, education and social change, highlighting in this way the urgent need to protect it from any possible threat, including corruption.



Giusy Versace, President Disability No Limits and Save the Dream ambassador (centre); Emanuel Macedo de Medeiros, CEO, EPFL (far left); MEP Santiago Fisas Ayxela (second from left); Yves Le Lostecque, Head of Sport Unit, European Commission (second from right); Ennio Di Francesco, Governing Board, Italian Committee for Sport Against Drugs, Italian Olympic Committee (far right)

This report includes the opening speeches of the event as well as an Annex including the papers prepared by graduate students of the Professional Master Degree in Sports Law at the University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, as their contribution to the discussion. If we want to talk about the future of sport, we cannot afford to ignore the opinion of our younger colleagues.

## Key Note Speeches

**Androulla Vassiliou**

**European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth**

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to be with you today, in the company of so many distinguished experts. I would like to thank the organizers of this conference, and the European Parliament - in particular Mr Fisas - for hosting it. We all know and value Mr Fisas' work on sport integrity.

I will focus my intervention on the specific issue of match-fixing, which is a key element of the European Commission's work to ensure the integrity of sport.

My starting point is that match-fixing is one of the main threats to sport's integrity; possibly the greatest threat, as the chairman of UEFA, Michel Platini said not long ago. Fresh revelations emerge every day, the latest only last week [six footballers arrested in England on suspicion of match fixing as part of an international ring].

Sport organizations are taking a firm stance against every instance of match-fixing. And we stand by their side. The EU has a stake in this fight. Let us not forget that we are treaty-bound to promote fairness in sporting competitions and to ensure the physical and moral integrity of our athletes.

In full respect of the competence of Member States and of the autonomy of sport organisations, we are determined to play our role to the full. And we do have a role to play: Match fixing is an international issue by nature. Member States individually can - and do - take measures to combat it. However, this is a problem that no Member State can tackle on its own. That is why we need to join efforts in the fight to preserve the integrity of sport. This is also why we are working actively with the Council of Europe.

We are involved in the negotiations of a **CoE Convention against the manipulation of sport competitions**, to which we attach great importance. It is my firm belief that such a convention will be a powerful signal that public authorities are committed to fight match-fixing. It will also create a useful platform for pan-European cooperation by involving all the parties that need to work together: the public authorities, the sport movement and betting operators.

It is an initiative that I have strongly backed since it was first proposed. And I do believe that the fact that the EU has obtained a mandate to take part in the negotiations alongside Member States sends a strong message that will add impetus to the whole process.

Let me now briefly turn to action at EU level. Prevention is the best cure, they say, and indeed there is a lot that can be done in the prevention of match-fixing.

I am thinking in particular of educational programmes and awareness-raising campaigns. These are essential in reaching those most at risk of being approached to fix matches: players, referees and match officials.

Here, the EU dimension in sport becomes vital, because the EU can play an instrumental role in coordinating and financing such programmes and campaigns. That is why we included the fight against match fixing as a priority theme of the Commission's 2012 Preparatory Actions in the field of sport. As a result, funding was provided to co-finance five anti match-fixing projects.

Looking to the future, our new programme **Erasmus +**, with its dedicated sport chapter, provides us with an effective instrument for pursuing our policy objectives in sport. Needless to say, one of these objectives will be to tackle cross-border threats to the integrity of sport, including match fixing.

Ladies and gentlemen, European sport is built on values. Safeguarding and preserving these values is our common goal, and events like today's, where we have a meeting of minds, are essential to identify a joint way forward.

I now look forward to the stimulating ideas that will be shared at today's event, and I wish you a successful debate. Thank you.

**MEP Santiago Fisas Ayxela**

**Member of the Committee on Culture and Education**

**Rapporteur of the Communication on Sport for the European Parliament**

Dear all,

It is really an honour to welcome all of you to the European Parliament and to host this important event.

First of all I would like to thank Commissioner Vassiliou for being here and for having accepted to address us with a few words.

I would also like to thank Ambassador Torbjørn Frøysnes from the Council of Europe, Mrs. Evelyne Lagrange from the University Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne and Mr. Mohammed Hanzab from the International Centre for Sport Security for their presence today and for having organized this important presentation.

In my opinion, nowadays, the main threat that we are facing in the world of sport is the integrity of sport, specially the illegal betting, the match- fixing and all kinds of sport results manipulation.

Of course, it is a global problem that goes beyond Europe and affects the entire world.

Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) gives the EU a new competence for sport. Article 165 calls on the EU to contribute to the promotion of sporting issues and provides that EU action should be aimed at developing the European dimension in sport.

As a consequence of this article, the programme Erasmus + will take effect and therefore, for the first time, sport will be included in the EU programmes and will have a "proper" budget.

The European Parliament has always been very interested in sport issues and has been working on it much before the Erasmus + programme became a reality.

Although sport belongs to the Culture Committee of which I am a member and that is in charge of the Erasmus + programme, a lot of issues related to sport also affect and are the competence of other committees such as Legal Affairs (JURI), Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO), Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), Foreign Affairs (AFET) etc. and therefore a lot of initiatives happen here in the European Parliament.

Just to give you an example, three weeks ago I co-hosted with my colleague Hannu Takkula, a conference on Sustainable Gambling that addressed the issue of match-fixing in Europe and where we discussed about solutions to efficiently fight this threat.

In my report on "The European Dimension in Sport", that was adopted by the Parliament on February 2012, there are more than 20 articles that refer to the integrity of sport, the problems of match-fixing, illegal betting, money laundering and other fraud in sports.

In particular, I would like to point out two of them:

*Art 84: Urges Member States to take all necessary action to prevent and punish illegal activities affecting the integrity of sport and making such activities a criminal offence; in particular where such they are betting-related, meaning that they involve the intentional and fraudulent manipulation of the results of a sport competition or of a phase of it in order to gain an advantage not based solely on normal sporting practice or the associated uncertainty;*

*Art 55: Considers that betting on sport is a form of commercial exploitation of competitions and calls on the Commission and the Member States to protect betting from unauthorized activities, from unlicensed operators and from suspicions of match fixing, in particular by recognizing organizers' property rights with regard to their competitions, guaranteeing a significant contribution from betting operators towards funding mass-participation and grassroots sports and by protecting the integrity of competitions with an emphasis on education for athletes; considers, however, that such property rights should not prejudice the right of short reporting as stipulated by Directive 2007/65/EC (Audiovisual Media Services Directive);*

All this being said, I strongly believe that the most important thing that we all need to do, in order to address the problem of sport integrity, has to do with education of young people, and developing educational programmes to protect belief in sport's core values and the dreams of children for fair sport.

Finally, it is very important that we don't forget the important role that athlete associations play as they are the ones than can easily persuade athletes about the dramatic consequences for them and for sport in general, that a lack of integrity on sport can have.

I am very much looking for the discussions we are about to start that I am sure that they are going to be very interesting,

Thank you.



Clockwise from top:

MEP Santiago Fisas Aixela and  
Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner  
for Education, Culture,  
Multilingualism, Youth and Sport;

Chris Eaton, Director of Sport  
Integrity, ICSS;

Participants to the conference  
during a session

## **Ambassador Torbjørn Frøysnes**

### **Head of the Brussels Office of the Council of Europe to the European Union**

Commissioner, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let me start by extending our gratitude to Member of the European Parliament, Santiago Fisas Ayxela, for hosting this important event, as well as to our partners, the International Center for Sport Security and Sorbonne University, who co-organised it with us.

The manipulation of sport competitions is an urgent and increasing problem, and we need to respond to it. As the experts tell us, very well-organised worldwide networks and syndicates, operating with the most advanced technologies, have identified sport, especially in Europe, as a very lucrative field of operation. The global sport betting market has been estimated to represent an annual turnover (total of sales) between € 400bn and € 750bn. Illegal betting is estimated to represent about one third of that figure — a colossal sum offering high profits.

The international character of the match-fixing networks makes investigations difficult; at the European sport ministers' conference in Belgrade last year, the representative of the German police who investigated the "Bochum case" informed us that in one German city alone they are currently investigating over 350 suspects residing in more than 25 different European countries, requiring more than 60,000 pages of documentation.

The legal classification of match-fixing differs significantly from one country to the next, and the penalties for the manipulation of sport results are generally much lower than for comparably lucrative illegal activities.

Sports play such a major part in the life of millions of people, who look to key sports figures as role models. Losing faith in the integrity of sport would be disastrous, and destroy its role model functions. Also, the whole industry associated with sport events and competitions is looking towards public authorities for an urgent response. The financial losses of the clubs, event organizers, associations and owners which are victims of manipulation, and the losses suffered by the legal betting industry, are

dramatic. If we cannot prove that we are able to provide an effective response, the credibility not only of sport, but also of the rule of law will be undermined.

The Council of Europe has created a European legal space through a system of international conventions with their monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that are well suited to include a new instrument, because the sporting definition of Europe means all countries throughout the continent. Within the framework of its Partial Agreement on Sport, the organisation has been working for four years on the fight against the manipulation of sport competitions. The Council of Europe has a long-standing experience of productive dialogue with the sport movements, resulting in important instruments as the conventions against doping and spectator violence.

In June 2012, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe gave its green light to launch the negotiation of a possible new convention against the manipulation of sports results.

The negotiation process on the new Convention is open for any state to express interest in participating. 50 States are associated so far, including the non-member states Australia, Canada, Belarus, Israel, Japan, Morocco and New Zealand. As it stands now, the last meeting of the drafting group is scheduled to take place in January 2014, after which the draft convention will be forwarded to the relevant Council of Europe's bodies, including the Parliamentary Assembly and the Committee of Ministers. Following its adoption, the Convention will be open for signature to both European and non-European Countries.

In the drafting exercise, which has been going on for more than a year now, all relevant public authorities, the sports movement and the betting sector - both state lotteries and private operators - are associated. At the national level, the Ministers responsible for sport, the Ministries of Justice and the authorities in charge of the betting market are key stakeholders. At the international level, we involve the governmental experts in charge of the fight against money-laundering; the fight against corruption; data protection; the fight against doping; the fight against cybercrime; and other fields. We also benefit from good co-operation with the European Union and other international organisations, such as UNESCO, INTERPOL and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

Since the manipulation of sports competitions is a trans-national threat, the objective of the Council of Europe convention, therefore, is to facilitate national co-ordination and international co-operation. The

Convention will also address preventive measures and education, the exchange of information, co-operation between betting operators, sports organisations and public authorities, and the prosecution of offenders both by criminal law and disciplinary proceedings.

I wish to mention here two specific issues that are addressed by the Council of Europe project: the necessary co-operation with law-enforcement agencies; and the role of public authorities in charge of the betting markets.

On the co-operation with law-enforcement agencies, the draft Council of Europe convention intends to lay the foundations for an easier exchange of information between public authorities, in particular law-enforcement agencies conducting criminal prosecutions, and the sports movement which has its own disciplinary competences.

In order to make the involvement of law enforcement agencies possible, the criminalisation of some actions connected with match-fixing offences is essential.

Therefore, actions of coercion and bribery to manipulate sports competitions, with a view to gaining huge benefits, must be prosecuted - either under the existing legal instruments, or under new instruments.

On betting regulation, it is important to identify a national authority with the responsibility of regulating and/or overseeing the legal betting framework.

Such a betting authority has a role to play, even in countries which prohibit sports betting, because the prohibition of betting does not prevent criminals from manipulating sport competitions taking place in these countries, and from collecting proceeds via on-line betting operators located elsewhere.

Every country should be able to fight against illegal betting, or to collect data on the betting activities taking place in other countries.

The exchange of information, on a confidential basis, is of utmost importance. Sport organisations need to access timely and comprehensive information that may help detect and analyse cases, while betting

operators need to protect their businesses in preventing the disclosure of sensitive business information and publicity which may unduly impact the market.

The protection of personal data must also be guaranteed. To fulfil these demanding requirements, the Council of Europe Convention considers the setting-up of national platforms involving public authorities, the sports movement and betting operators, inspired by the example of the successful co-operation established during the London Olympic Games in 2012.

To conclude, I would like to stress that Council of Europe member states are aware that match-fixing is a global phenomenon, which cannot be addressed at European regional level alone. So with the initiative to negotiate a new Convention open to countries around the World, Europe may play a wider international and pioneering role, as it did on other issues, such as the fight against doping, against corruption and against cybercrime.

Thank you for your attention.



H.E. Ambassador Torbjørn Frøysnes, Head of the Brussels Office of the Council of Europe to the European Union, delivers the opening remarks

## **Evelyne Lagrange**

### **Professor of Public International Law, University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne**

Excellencies, Commissioner, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to represent here the President of the University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne.

Our University was once a modest college founded by Robert de Sorbonne and housing 20 students. A couple of centuries later, the Cardinal de Richelieu had prestigious premises built for numerous students. The University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne is now a leading University in Europe for human and social sciences with nearly 40,000 students trained by nearly 1,800 teachers.

Some of our students are outstanding sportsmen and women. One of our numerous Master's degrees is dedicated to sports law and some of the students owe it to the generosity of the ICSS to attend this meeting today. This is not just entertainment for them: the ICSS awaits their substantial contribution on sports ethics.

This strong interest for sport should be of no surprise for those who remember that the Sorbonne hosted the first Olympic Congress that took place in the Grand Auditorium in 1894 on the initiative of the visionary Pierre de Coubertin.

The University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne expects to be able to pay another major contribution to the development of sports and sports law 120 years later, in 2014.

Actually, the University is engaged since 2012 in a fruitful partnership with the ICSS named the Sorbonne-ICSS Research Program on Ethics and Sports Integrity. It is a research program funded by the ICSS, led by Professor Laurent Vidal, attracting about 70 researchers, experts, practitioners, top civil servants and assistants.

In addition to that research, a Diploma of University on Sports Integrity is to be created and to become a Master's degree in a couple of years.

The Research program now has official ties to the UNESCO and the Council of Europe, with some French Ministers (among which the Sport Minister), with National and European Lotteries and betting regulators, and with a number of universities and clusters.

It is especially proud of accompanying the negotiations of an EPAS Convention on the fight against match-fixing.

This Research Program is unique in the sense that it makes specialists of human and social sciences work together on different topics related to sports integrity. Together and with people working on the field.

Specialists of ethics, sociology and the history of sport, economics, bettings, sports activities and sports law, tax law, criminal law, public international law mainly have been focusing the last 15 months on the fight against match-fixing, related or not to sports betting, and more widely on sports corruption.

An interdisciplinary and global approach is as crucial for a good understanding of what is at stake and what should be done, as the collaboration of all stakeholders is, particularly in the fight against that plague.

A global plague requires a global answer.

The University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne deems such a program essential. We hold it to be self-evident that integrity is one of the basic social values that has to be transmitted to the youth through family, school, sports – all channels.

We hold it to be self-evident too that academics have the responsibility to help stakeholders to tackle a phenomenon which undermines the priceless contribution that sport has paid for centuries to the building up of a more civilized society.

Unfortunately, it is too often forgotten that ethics is not a flow of empty words but needs action.

A Report will be delivered by the Research Program next spring, gathering the outcomes of the various working groups and outlining some practice-oriented recommendations with a view to securing the integrity of sport.

In the name of the President of the University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne and of the Chair of the Research program, I am pleased to invite you to Paris next spring for the official delivery of the Report.

Thank you for your attention.



Evelyne Lagrange,  
President's  
Representative, Paris 1  
Pantheon Sorbonne  
University speaks during  
the opening panel;



Stanislas Frossard, Executive  
Secretary EPAS, Council of  
Europe



Laurent Vidal, Chair, Sorbonne-  
ICSS Research Programme on  
Sport Integrity;



## **Mohammed Hanzab**

### **President, International Centre for Sport Security**

European Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou; Mr. Chairman, Member of the European Parliament, Santiago Fisas Ayxela; H.E. Ambassador Torbjørn Frøysnes, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Brussels; Professor Evelyne Lagrange, Representative of the President of the Sorbonne University,

Honorable Members of the European Parliament; distinguished representatives from European Union bodies; colleagues from international and national institutions, academia, media and sport organizations; dear friends from youth organizations,

As President of the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), I feel honored to be here today and to have the opportunity, here at the European Parliament, to deliver a message in support of sport.

The ICSS is a global, non-profit organization - established to safeguard sport and to promote and protect the opportunities sport can offer to humanity, particularly to youth.

Through our partnership with the University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, we strongly support the work of the Council of Europe towards the elaboration of an International Convention against Sport-Results Manipulation, an initiative which originated in Europe but which will have an impact at an international level.

Given the global nature of the threat of match-fixing, and the global focus of our work, the ICSS is firmly committed to promoting the Convention beyond the borders of Europe.

Match fixing is a massive threat to sport - the very integrity of true competition is at risk. This is not just a local issue, this is not just a problem which sport alone can deal with - it is a global criminal and well-organized attack on sport, on human values and on the hope of future generations.

As we have seen, with any attack on our society, any attack on the innocent, major global organizations and governments step up - they share knowledge and expertise and they work together to take action.

Responses to match-fixing require new forms of international and multi-sectoral cooperation that challenge any traditional approach.

We need historic resolutions, we need unanimous voting, we need complementary actions, from capacity building to tackling the conditions which are conducive to the spread of corruption in sport.

We need to credibly address match-fixing: we need to develop the necessary legislative frameworks, international mechanisms to facilitate information exchange, and educational programmes to promote sport integrity values.

To address this last point, the ICSS has launched Save the Dream, an initiative captained by the Italian champion Alessandro Del Piero, to promote these values through education, communication, art and technology.

The 120 minutes we have available today, a little more than a football match, will not afford us the opportunity to analyze all these aspects in depth, but we can certainly raise our voices on why different sectors should go beyond their respective agendas and join forces, without delay, to combat match-fixing.

A few weeks ago, on the 6th of November, at the United Nations in Geneva, the ICSS - in cooperation with a group of 40 governments, including Italy and Qatar, and Lega Pro, co-hosted an International Conference on "Sport Integrity: A Right for Youth".

A powerful message was launched in Geneva, supported by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, that 'breaches to sport integrity are putting the future of our youth at risk, as this corruption affects the innocence and the aspirations of those who look to sport, in clean and fair competition, and as an opportunity for personal growth.'

I am very grateful to Giusy Versace for being with us today. On 12 May 2012, she ran the London Paralympics 100 m in 15"50, setting a new European Record. Her presence, by itself, offers us all a beautiful message on the power of sport and on why we all need to work together to preserve it.

I am also very heartened to see that many representatives from youth organizations have accepted the invitation to attend today.

Without your belief in sport for the future, and without your input - no credible action to safeguard sport can be developed.

Thank you.



Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism & Youth, Giusy Versace, Save the Dream Ambassador and Mohammed Hanzab, ICSS President;



Ennio Di Francesco, Governing Board Member, Italian Committee Sport Against Drugs, Italian Olympic Committee

Emanuel Macedo de Medeiros, CEO, EPFL, ICSS Advisory Board Member

## **Helmut Spahn**

### **Executive Director, International Centre for Sport Security**

I am delighted to be here and to speak to you all today.

I am honoured to be in such respected and good company and I would also like to thank the Member of Parliament Santiago Fisas, who has kindly hosted and chaired this forum.

I add my acknowledgment to Ms. Giusy Versace, and my congratulations for her great achievements as an athlete and in her career.

Before joining the ICSS, I spent a great part of my career working to contribute to the safety and security of sport and of sport competitions in Europe, including the FIFA World Cup, hosted in 2006.

I am therefore very aware of the relevance of the European experience and the fact that Europe is a model for many other regions of the world, particularly with regard to integration and coordination in different sectors, such as security, integrity and good governance.

However, Europe alone cannot combat criminal activities which are often planned or executed outside its borders. Match-fixing is a clear example.

We can, though, take the lead and set a global example - I echo the call for strong cooperation and strong support for the development of the Convention on Match Fixing.

I wish to congratulate the Council of Europe for having clearly understood the global dimension of the threat, and for being so active in seeking the involvement of non-European countries in the drafting of the Draft Convention against Sport Results Manipulation.

I also wish to underline the visions shared today regarding the importance of working on prevention, including through education and mobility.

The ICSS will do its best to promote this approach internationally and lend our support in the regions where we are operational including in the Middle East and in Asia, where we have strong connections.

Working with different regions of the world is a priority for the ICSS in order to best reach out to key stakeholders and gather ideas. Today's forum follows, as mentioned, the international conference on Sport and Human Rights held at the United Nations in Geneva last month, and will be followed next year by other regional events, with an initial focus on the Americas and the Commonwealth countries.

I hope that you - as stakeholders from Europe in this vital mission to stamp out corruption in sport - will also be with us on these occasions. Sharing our visions and experiences, we can all preserve the integrity of sport.

Thank you.



Clockwise from top:

Helmut Spahn, Executive Director, ICSS with Chris Eaton, Director of Sport Integrity, ICSS;

Delegates of "Sport Integrity: From Europe to address a Global Issue" arrive at the European Parliament in Brussels



## Annex 1

ICSS report 10/12/2013

University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne – Professional Master Degree in Sports Law

Authors: Marine ARRES and Alvaro RIBEIRO (on behalf of the whole class)<sup>1</sup>

### **Sport Integrity: From Europe to Address a Global Issue**

**European Parliament  
Brussels - 5<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

#### ***Not just an issue of sport, an issue of society***

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During the conference, several problems were discussed such as match-fixing, corruption, illegal betting and doping. These problems are seen as the main threats to sport integrity. The ICSS, the public authorities, the Council of Europe and the sports federations, act altogether to promote fairness and to grant the athlete's integrity and more specially, to preserve the youth.

Corruption in sport is a huge threat also because it allows criminal networks to put billions of Euros in illegal markets for money laundering, for example. In other words, it's a global threat that calls for global solutions.

#### **THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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First of all, corruption does not know borders. Harmonization between all countries is needed because today, even the judges are not ruling and punishing in the same way.

So far, the initiative to address these issues can come from Europe but its impact and effects have to be international. That's why an international convention – opened to non-European Countries - would be more than welcomed to tackle those problems.

The EU member states and the EU Commission are a driving force within the Council of Europe and in the international community. With its experience from Europol, the potential of the Erasmus+ program and its expertise in international co-operation, the European Union has a decisive role to play in this struggle.

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<sup>1</sup> Within the collaboration between ICSS and the Sorbonne Paris 1 University, through the Sorbonne-ICSS Research Program on Ethics and Sports Integrity, a group of students of the Professional Master Degree in Sports Law has been invited by ICSS to attend the conference and to make a report about it.

## THE NEED FOR NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

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Nevertheless, a national authority is still needed. It is so, even in the countries that prohibit betting, because the fact that it is illegal does not mean that criminals will stop their business.

The existence of a national authority in each country is crucial to gather all the information about corruption coming from national federations' authorities. Today, 95% of the countries in the world don't have a regulating authority.

## THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGENCY

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The operational involvement of national authorities will require international co-ordination: Interpol, UNESCO, the Convention follow-up Committee, as well as the Sports movement, the betting operators, may each play a role in their area of competence.

In addition, some speakers called for an Anti-corruption Agency or Agency for Sport Integrity.

In any case, the obstacles encountered by WADA must be avoided. In this perspective, an international platform for sharing information and the promotion of the co-operation between States, sports movement and betting sector could be a good solution.

## SOME STEPS TO TAKE IN ORDER TO ERADICATE CORRUPTION IN SPORT

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### - *Prevention, information and communication*

First of all, prevention, information and communication are very important at the upstream part of the problem. Players and their families, coaches, referees, officials should all be aware of what they are doing and be aware of the consequences. Even though they think they could win lots of money by corrupting, they could also lose a lot. They have to be informed about the risks.

They should be aware of the fact that manipulating sports competitions is illegal and thus it leads to criminal procedures.

An awareness campaign should take place in all clubs and federations, so people can be totally aware of the consequences of their acts.

### - *Harmonization of national legal frameworks and adoption of an international instrument*

The public authorities have to harmonize their legal framework concerning corruption, illegal betting or match-fixing: this is an essential first step.

The Convention will embody this idea in order to start to tackle the threat. A Convention is needed but it is not enough, the more public authorities will sign, the more it will be effective.

The EPAS Draft Convention under discussion today is a good example of the first steps towards a harmonization of national legal frameworks.

- ***Coordination and cooperation in the field***

In the field, the police forces (national polices and Interpol) must coordinate their action with the different actors of the sport's movement and vice versa.

Internet and the new communication tools make easier the online bets and also the financial flow transfers. To fight against this kind of problems, States should coordinate their actions together. They also shall cooperate with the Supreme regulating body. If players could see how effective is the work of both police and sports federations, it could stop them from betting or fixing matches.

Dismantle criminal networks is a key point. However, there is not always a national authority competent to prosecute those crimes. That's why, in many countries, especially in Asia, criminals are taking advantage of that lack. Investigation and cooperation with police and Interpol are both key issues.

- ***Tackle financial causes***

This problem reaches also the players and officials in second league or lower leagues because they are interested by such amounts of money. According to the Canadian journalist Declan Hill, one of the solutions could be to redistribute a part of the legal betting profits directly to the players at the end of their career, if they had not taken part in the illegal betting.

It seems to be a difficult solution to establish, only because it is quite impossible to know if a player is totally clean.

He also says that a player who starts to collaborate with a swindler become his slave and cannot escape. Still in the opinion of D. Hill, players should be aware of this to avoid the trap.

- ***Imposing effective sanctions***

Prevention, legislation, standardization but also sanction can help to prevent corruption.

Sanction could be very dissuasive if they are really implemented. Indeed, sanction can be dissuasive only if people know that it will be effective.

For example, illegal downloading in France is sanctioned, but only a few sentences have been imposed (at the end of 2012, only three definitive cases). So, people are not afraid of this repression and continue to download. This was supposed to be an important law (Hadopi, 12 June 2009) with an important TV campaign, but it does not eradicate the problem.

## CONCLUSION

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*Sports manipulation is not only a sport issue; this is the issue of the whole society to prevent the youth from falling in swindler's clutches.*

People should know what sport integrity and corruption are and specially its legal consequences. Prevention and coordination between governments are also crucial.

During the Doha Goals Forum 2012 and 2013, an interesting discussion took place about the fight against corruption in sport. As explained by Professor Laurent Vidal: "a stricter international approach is needed to combat corruption in sport, with new and better methods for prevention, detection and punishment to combat the problem".

It was also said that "[w]ith much of the online betting going off-shore, a solution has to be found to police these grey-area jurisdictions. The law enforcement agencies should bring more investigations to successful conclusions. Sporting groups and government should work better together to deliver a rapid, coordinated response when instances of irregular betting activity are detected. And finally, education programs must be developed to educate competitors about the risks and protect them from outside pressure".

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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We are all quite conscious of the fact that corruption undermines sport's integrity and we recommend that all investments in the fight against threats to the credibility of sports take in account research and innovation, with new public-private partnerships and international cooperation.

More particularly, during the present conference organized by ICSS in Brussels, the actors discussed about the means to fight against corruption in sport. To this point, the main ideas exposed during the talk were:

- **Unity.** It is crucial to unify the policies, to unify the countries on the topic with an international legal body and why not a court. It could start at the European level and move later to an international level. There is also a need for a unified definition towards corruption.
- **The role of the European Union** to play a leading role in international co-operation and promote a global reaction.
- **The need for national authorities to have a domestic co-ordination and to be able to co-operate with their counterparts in other countries.**
- **The possible role for an international platform** for exchange of information and cooperation.

- **Target the young athletes.** It is very important to encourage them to report suspicious acts and approaches and to focus on those who corrupt athletes.
- To think about a **code of conduct for athletes and, beyond,** to propose to the sports movement **a set of common rules** based on scientific findings to tackle sports manipulation.
- We also recommend that the law sets out the conditions of collective lawsuits (**Class Actions**) in order to allow consumer organizations to bring specific claims on behalf of consumers in the fields mentioned above.