Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation 2120 (2018)[1]

Towards a framework for modern sports governance

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Parliamentary Assembly, referring to its Resolution 2199 (2018) "Towards a framework for modern sports governance", stresses the need to set up a global framework for good governance in sport that respects the principles of democracy, transparency, accountability and integrity, and upholds the sports ethics values of fair play, respect for human rights and human dignity, solidarity, diversity and prohibition of any form of discrimination.

2. The Assembly welcomes the final resolutions of the 14th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Budapest, 29 November 2016), notably the recommendations made in the resolution "Towards better governance in sport through enhanced co-operation between governmental bodies and stakeholders in sport", and the action already taken thereupon.

3. In this context, the Assembly commends the work which has already been carried out by the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS); in particular, it welcomes the drafting of a new Committee of Ministers recommendation to member States on the promotion of good governance in sport, the collection and publication of good practices in sports governance and the creation of a database on alleged cases of corruption. It calls on the Committee of Ministers to urge all member States to join EPAS.

4. It further commends the role of the Council of Europe, notably through the active involvement of EPAS in setting up the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport (IPACS) and in assuming leadership of its task force on optimising the processes of compliance with good governance principles to mitigate the risk of corruption.

5. In light of the above, the Assembly calls on the Committee of Ministers:

5.1. as regards improving the legislative framework, to:

5.1.1. take into consideration the Assembly's recommendations as outlined in paragraph 17 of Resolution 2199 (2018) in the drafting of the Committee of Ministers recommendation to member States on the promotion of good governance in sport, and in particular, urge all member States not to tolerate any impunity and to take measures to be able to prosecute and sanction corrupt behaviour in the context of sport;

5.1.2. as a further step, consider drafting a Council of Europe convention on good governance in sport in order to complement the Organisation's existing conventional basis relating to sports ethics and the fight against corruption and fraud, and enable efficient monitoring of compliance with the convention;

5.2. as regards the harmonisation of sports governance standards, to take the lead within IPACS in:

5.2.1. promoting the establishment of common governance standards in sport, taking into account the recommendations presented in the appendix to Resolution 2199 (2018);

1. *Assembly debate* on 24 January 2018 (5th Sitting) (see Doc. 14464 and addendum, report of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, rapporteur: Mr Mogens Jensen). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 24 January 2018 (5th Sitting).

5.2.2. setting up a multi-stakeholder round table within the task force on optimising the processes of compliance with good governance principles to mitigate the risk of corruption with a view to launching a discussion on creating certification standards with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) on governance of sports organisations;

5.3. as regards compliance with standards, to:

5.3.1. ensure that the recommendation to member States on the promotion of good governance in sport provides for the monitoring of its provisions, including a systematic review system of the national policies of good governance in sport and their implementation, and produce a dashboard of the available monitoring results with a view to their critical analysis;

5.3.2. support, at international level, the setting up of a professional and independent ethics rating system of sports organisations;

5.4. as regards knowledge-sharing and participation in multi-stakeholder platforms, ask EPAS to:

5.4.1. continue collecting information on best practices and create online resources that are regularly updated, thereby allowing the Council of Europe to assume the role of an international clearing house on this matter;

5.4.2. conduct trend analyses, based on alleged cases of corruption in sport, on information collected by the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and on the monitoring dashboard, and submit them to it, together with proposals, once a year;

5.4.3. participate actively in the work of all relevant multi-stakeholder platforms on sports governance and integrity.