THE MACOLIN CONVENTION:

8TH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY GROUP

TO THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE ON THE MANIPULATION OF SPORTS COMPETITIONS (T-MC)

THE GROUP OF COPENHAGEN

Open session

19 June 2025 | Paris, France

9:30 – 17:30

Draft programme

CONTEXT

On 19-20 June, the network of national platforms is organising its 7th plenary meeting in Paris. The first day, the 19th of June, will be an open session for partners to identify ways to improve the detection, investigation and sanctioning of the manipulation of sports competitions.

The morning will be dedicated to reflecting on the progress made over 10 years of combatting manipulation. The afternoon will focus on exploring possible futures, inspired by innovative approaches from other sectors.

The second day, the 20th of June, will be dedicated to a closed session exclusively for national platforms participating in the Group of Copenhagen.

As a reminder, the conclusions of the session of 14 November 2024 on "Follow the money" can be found here.

2015-2025: Where do we stand today?

Over the past ten years, significant progress has been made in the fight against manipulation. There is better detection, more prevention, more investigations, and more national platforms, but not necessarily more sanctions. What explains this gap? What are the current challenges?

The global landscape of sports betting has changed significantly. What are the impacts, and how does this affect the fight against manipulation?

When it comes to detection, what are we identifying today, and how have detection systems evolved alongside the growth of the sports betting market? Are we able to uncover cases of match fixing, or more subtle forms of manipulation—such as spot fixing, including markets like yellow cards? Do we have any visibility into what's happening in illegal markets?

And what about intelligence and investigations, whether disciplinary or criminal? Where do we currently stand, and what can be done to increase the number of sanctions?

2025–2035: Looking ahead – what comes next?

Looking ahead, how can we anticipate the evolution of transnational criminal organisations involved in sports manipulation? As their methods grow increasingly sophisticated, reinforcing our capacity to respond becomes essential.

Could artificial intelligence play a greater role, not only in intelligence gathering and investigations, but also in detection and even performance analysis? Might we draw inspiration from the tools and strategies used to uncover market manipulation in the financial sector or combat cyberfraud?

Exploring these parallels could open new avenues for more proactive and effective approaches in the fight against manipulation in sport.

Now and in the future, cooperation remains key to tackling these transnational threats. How can we strengthen this cooperation in the coming years, both at national and international levels?

OBJECTIVE

The aim of the open session is to support national platform representatives in defining a roadmap and taking concrete operational steps to improve detection and increase the number of investigations.

What are the expected results?

❖ A clearer understanding of recent developments—what has worked well, and what has worked less well in recent years.

❖ Practical guidance to better address today's challenges while anticipating future trends.

PARTICIPANTS

A one-day, in-person meeting, gathering approximately **50 to 75 participants**, including representatives of the national platforms participating in the Group of Copenhagen.

All key stakeholders involved in this issue will be invited to participate in the discussions: representatives from the sports sector, relevant regulatory bodies, judicial and law enforcement authorities, lottery organisations, private betting operators, data companies and investigative journalists.

LOCATION

French National Assembly, Immeuble Chaban-Delmas

101 Rue de l'Université, 75007 Paris (France)

PROGRAMME

9:00 - 9:30   REGISTRATION

9:30 -9:45   WELCOME

Pierrick Courbon, *Member of Parliament*

9:45 -11:00   TEN YEARS OF CHANGE IN COMPETITION MANIPULATION AND DETECTION

Introduction and perspectives (30 minutes)

Corentin Segalen, *Chair of the Group of Copenhagen* | How match manipulation and its detection have changed over time

Christian Kalb, *Independent expert (CK Consulting)* | Since the adoption of the Macolin Convention: what has worked and what hasn't in the fight against manipulation

Panel discussion (45 minutes)

Alex Wegener (*Sportradar),* **Luca Esposito** *(ULIS)* and **Antonio Abdilla Zerafa** *(IBIA)*

Questions and answers

11:00-11:30   BREAK

11:30-12:45   INTELLIGENCE AND INVESTIGATIONS – DEVELOPMENTS, CHALLENGES AND ONGOING DIFFICULTIES

Perspectives (30 minutes)

Guy Reinenbergh, *National coordinator sports fraud Belgium expert (Federal Police Belgium)* | What has changed in 10 years of match-fixing investigations: why seizing phones is now essential

Philippe Auclair, *Investigative journalist* | The shape-shifters of illegal betting

Panel discussion (30 minutes)

Stéphane Piallat *(Central Police Service for Racing and Gambling - SCCJ)* and **Younès El Mechrafi** *(Moroccan Lottery - MDJS)*

Questions and answers

12:45-14:10   LUNCH

14:10-14:30   THE JAPANESE PERSPECTIVE

Perspective (20 minutes)

Toshikazu Yamaguchi, *Councilor of the Council for Sports Ecosystem Promotion / Representative Director President (The Yomiuri Shimbun Holdings)* | The fight against the intrusions of Anti-Social Forces in professional sports

14:30-15:45   INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO DETECT SPORTS COMPETITIONS MANIPULATION

Perspectives (45 minutes)

Behshad Behzadi, *CTO Sportradar* | Artificial Intelligence and Sports Manipulation

Benjamin Schindler, *Senior Legal Affairs Manager (International Basketball Federation)*, **Martin Dubey**, *Director of Sport Intelligence* (Harod), and **Olivia Roffe**, *Head of Sport Intelligence* (Harod*)* | Using AI powered voice risk analysis to identify persons of interest in sports competition manipulation investigations

Panel discussion (30 minutes)

Pauline Hot *(National Gambling Authority - ANJ)* and **Angela Celestino** *(UEFA).*

Questions and answers

15:45-16:00   BREAK

16:00-16:45   WAYS TO IMPROVE SANCTIONING IN SPORTS COMPETITIONS MANIPULATION

Perspectives (45 minutes)

Florian Allais, *Deputy to the Director of Investigations (Financial Market Authority – AMF))* | Insights from investigations into financial market manipulation and insider trading

Jean-Yves Lourgouilloux, *Chair of the MARS network* | Criminal sanctions

Vincent Ven, *Head of Anti-Match-Fixing (UEFA)* | Disciplinary sanctions

Questions and answers

16:50-17:15   THE UPCOMING THREAT

Keynote (25 minutes)

Jérémy Kespite, Innovation Lab (*Europol)* | The use of Artificial Intelligence by criminals

Questions and answers

17:15-17:30   TAKEAWAYS AND CONCLUSION

Corentin Segalen, *Chair of the Group of Copenhagen*

Sophie Kwasny, *Head of the Sport Division (Council of Europe)*