



## Recommendation 1997 (2012)<sup>1</sup>

# The need to combat match-fixing

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Referring to its [Resolution 1876 \(2012\)](#) on the need to combat match-fixing, the Parliamentary Assembly wishes to draw the attention of the Committee of Ministers to this organised crime issue, which raises a genuine problem for the entire sports movement.
2. The Assembly considers the Council of Europe to be the best placed organisation to deal effectively with the question of the preservation of European sport as an expression of democracy, fundamental rights and social cohesion. Furthermore, a pan-European, or even global, approach is needed in order to combat effectively the bribery of people involved in sport as well as match-fixing.
3. The Council of Europe, together with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), should continue to have a leading role in the search for effective ways of combating this phenomenon and should advocate constructive dialogue between the stakeholders in order to achieve the desired result together.
4. The Council of Europe's Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS No. 173) and the Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (CETS No. 198) should be used as major standard-setting reference points in the definition of the mechanisms and legal means needed to combat the criminal organisations which bribe persons involved in sport in order to manipulate sports results, and thereby use sports betting as a means of laundering money and as a source of financing for their activities.
5. Consequently, the Assembly invites the Committee of Ministers to:
  - 5.1. support the work being done by the members of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) on the drafting of a European convention on match-fixing, based on Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)10 on promotion of the integrity of sport to fight against manipulation of results, notably match-fixing; this convention, which should be prepared as a matter of urgency, should aim at establishing an appropriate general legislative framework, taking into account the findings of the feasibility study presented in February 2012;
  - 5.2. stipulate that the Additional Protocol to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (ETS No. 191) also applies to national and foreign match officials in accordance with the idea set out in [Assembly Opinion 241 \(2002\)](#);
  - 5.3. create an ad hoc committee responsible for:
    - 5.3.1. identifying the good practices and legal tools needed to prevent and combat corruption in sport and match-fixing, on the basis of the methods, experience and expertise of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and of the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL);
    - 5.3.2. studying the possibility of harmonisation of European legislation on sports betting, taking account of the legislation and prerogatives of the European Union, and drawing up guidelines in this respect;

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1. Assembly debate on 25 April 2012 (14th Sitting) (see [Doc. 12891](#), report of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, rapporteur: Ms Brasseur). Text adopted by the Assembly on 25 April 2012 (14th Sitting).

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- 5.3.3. studying the possibility of extending the field of application of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption in order to include, in clear terms, cases of bribery of persons involved in sport;
- 5.3.4. defining a minimum framework in order to establish sports fraud as a criminal offence in different countries;
- 5.4. promote effective co-ordination, at international level, of the fight against match-fixing.