

## Council of Europe 18th Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sport

The conference brought together representatives from more than 40 countries, alongside member organisations of [EPAS Consultative Committee](#). This year's event included a group of youth delegates who are part of a dedicated initiative to engage young voices in the CoE Sport Sector.

The event aimed to address critical issues in sport governance, focusing on enhancing cooperation and transparency among various stakeholders. Focus sessions also addressed two highly relevant topics: Gender Equality and Dual Careers, and included a session dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the [Macolin Convention](#) on the manipulation of sports competitions.

The opening day was initiated with remarks from *Bjørn Berge*, [Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe](#), alongside *Pedro Duarte*, the [Portuguese Minister for Parliamentary Affairs](#) with responsibility for Sport, and *Linda Hofstad Helleland*, [Chairperson of the Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Culture, Science, Education, and Media](#).

Prior to the session on the [European Sports Charter](#), attendees were welcomed by *Thomas Bach*, [President of the International Olympic Committee](#). Additional speakers included *Pedro Duarte*, *Raymon Blondel*, [President of the European Paralympic Committee](#), *Benny Bonsu*, Director of [Daily Content at Olympic Channel Services](#), *Morten Schmidt*, Director of Programmes at the [Laureus Sport for Good Foundation](#), and *Gévrise Emene*, Olympic Champion in Judo and Lifestyle Athletes Manager at the French National Institute for Sport, Expertise and Performance ([INSEP](#)).

[ENGSO Youth](#) (EY) Chair *Ugne Chmeliauskaitė*, EY Project and Policy Manager *Tiago Guilherme* and [EY Alumni Club](#) member *Fábio Silva* took part in the youth initiative of the conference. The role of ENGSO Youth was to support and reinforce this initiative that was put forward by the Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth following the [Reykjavik recommendations of Heads of State and Government](#) concerning the need to include a youth perspective within the other areas of the Council of Europe.

ENGSO Youth Chair, *Ugne Chmeliauskaitė*, introduced the work of the organisation with other 20 youth leaders nominated by Member States and EPAS members. Ugne encouraged young people to continue working for a better quality of life for all and highlighted sport as a way to achieve it. Together with participants, *Ugne*, *Tiago* and

*Fábio* participated in discussions about the [Council of Europe Youth Strategy](#), the importance of the Macolin Convention, the European Sports Charter, values-based sport, and the future of Youth in sport governance.

As EPAS Consultative Committee Gender Equality Rapporteur, ENGSO Office Director *Marie Denitton* participated in the EPAS CC meeting and the conference.