



**MINISTÈRE
CHARGÉ DES SPORTS**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



PRESS KIT

A Green and Sustainable Deal for Sport

3 March 2022

European Parliament, Strasbourg

MINISTERIAL EDITORIAL



© Ministères sociaux / BCOMJS / Emma PROSDOCIMI / SIPA

**Roxana
Maracineanu,**
ministre déléguée
chargée des Sports

In May 2018, the ministers for sport from the EU Member States signed a joint declaration for a vision for sports in the EU ahead of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, and were already embracing the goal of accelerating the ecological transition in sports in Europe with a view towards the Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in Paris in 2024.

In December 2020, the Council of EU sports ministers made the environmental dimension of sport one of the three priority areas¹ of the European Union Work Plan for Sport for the 2021-2024 period.

As we know, the climate emergency requires a profound transformation of our economy and our actions in all sectors, and notably in the sports sector.

The latest report of the NGO WWF France, published in the summer of 2021, warns of the consequences of the rise in temperatures caused by climate disruption, which could lead to loss of up to two months of sports activity each year in France.

The urgent challenge this presents calls for all stakeholders in sports to mobilise: to inform, raise awareness, and most of all adapt behaviours in order to reduce the carbon footprint of our sports activities, facilities and events.

Of course, a large part of the sports ecosystem is already made up of stakeholders united by a common social and environmental consciousness, and I am proud to invite various innovative initiatives from across Europe to present their inspiring practices at this 2nd ministerial conference.

It is symbolic that this conference brings us together in the European capital of Strasbourg, at the European Parliament, and I would like to express my hope that together we will be able to outline ambitious next steps to make sport a key focus of the changes in behaviour necessary to create a more sustainable and environmentally responsible society.

1. Protect integrity and values in sport – Socio-economic and environmental dimensions of sport – Promotion of participation in sport and health-enhancing physical activity

Introduction - What is the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union?

What does the presidency of the Council of the European Union involve?

Each Member State holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union for six months on a rotating basis. The presidency of the Council organises and presides over meetings, brokers compromises, adopts conclusions and ensures the coherency and continuity of the decision-making process.

It ensures the proper cooperation between all Member States and acts as a liaison between the Council and the Commission and European Parliament.

What is the Council of the European Union?

Also called the Council of Ministers, or simply the Council, the Council of the European Union brings together the ministers of the EU Member States who meet in configurations by sector of activity. Together with the European Parliament, it serves as the co-legislator of the European Union.

More specifically, the ministers will preside over nine configurations of the Council of the EU:

- General Affairs
- Economic and Financial Affairs
- Justice and Home Affairs
- Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs
- Competitiveness (internal market, industry, research and space)
- Transport, Telecommunications and Energy
- Agriculture and Fisheries
- Environment
- Education, Youth, Culture and Sport.

The Foreign Affairs Council is chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, currently Mr Josep Borrell.

Topics to be discussed

“A Green and Sustainable Deal for Sport”: Ministerial conference at the European Parliament in Strasbourg

The conference, organised by the ministry responsible for sport under the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, will be streamed live from the European Parliament on Thursday, 3 March 2022.

The French Minister Delegate for Sport, Roxana Maracineanu; the Swedish Minister for Integration and Migration, Anders Ygeman; the Chairman of the Czech Sports Agency Filipp Neusser (to be confirmed) and the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, joined by MEP Laurence Farreng, will take part alongside members of the European sports movement, socially active athletes, representatives of associations and private stakeholders.

The focus of the event will be to raise awareness and mobilise stakeholders in the European sports ecosystem around the issue of making sports and physical activity more environmentally friendly, as well as the shared challenge of changing behaviours to preserve our spaces and practices.



© AscentXmedia/ iStock

An essential consideration in light of climate disruption

Climate disruption currently represents one of the most urgent challenges of our century, with the threat of rising temperatures, increasing periods of drought and deterioration of air quality and aquatic environments, among others. Environmental concerns are numerous, and the effects of this escalating phenomenon are already visible.

The world of sport, like any other sector, is already affected by climate change. How can we consider the future, let alone the development, of physical activities and sport in a heavily deteriorated environment? Against this troubling backdrop, **the world of sport has a major role to play in promoting climate action and environmental protection.**

Sport, as an agent of empowerment, education and solidarity also has strong potential for increasing engagement and changing behaviours. Reducing emissions from individual or collective transport or from waste, preserving biodiversity, respecting seasonality, shifting towards practices that reduce consumption, and education on sustainable development goals are just a few of the possibilities for changing behaviours and practices through sports. Beyond the shift in individual practices, the need for sports activities – whether individual or collective, local or international – to evolve to better take into account the requirements of the environment in which they take place, must find resonance on every field.

Structured European dialogue on redesigning sport

These are some of the issues that will be central to this French Presidency event, whose aim will be to involve sport and its stakeholders in the EU environment and climate strategy, particularly in view of the European Green Deal. More specifically, these discussions will seek to give political impetus, on the European stage, to structured dialogue between the various stakeholders in the sports world, which will then be pursued at various levels: the Czech Presidency will address the matter of sporting facilities, while the high-level expert group on sustainable sport steered by the European Commission will focus on work on drafting common standards for green and sustainable sporting activities.



© mihtiander/ iStock

The conference will be divided into three phases. Having acknowledged the ways that sport and climate disruption impact each other, participants will engage in a second round of discussions to review a set of inspiring ideas geared towards a green and sustainable vision for sport, both at the level of major international sporting events and the production and sale of sporting goods and equipment as well as in relation to sporting activities themselves. A third series will lastly provide the opportunity to discuss the European outlook: how can EU action and policies contribute to sustainable and eco-friendly sport?

250

Number of winter sports resorts that are under threat due to the rise in temperatures caused by climate change, according to a WWF France report published in 2021, on "The World of Sport at +2°C and +4°C".



© sb-borg / iStock

Programme

The world of sport, like any other sector, has been seriously affected by climate change. How can we consider the future, let alone the development, of physical activities and sport in an environment where it may no longer be possible to practice them? Sport is a vector for citizen empowerment, education and solidarity. It has high potential to engage people and change behaviour.

This ministerial conference will look at the various challenges related to the practice of sports: reducing emissions from individual and public transport, reducing waste, preserving natural environments, adapting to the seasons, promoting the shift to more responsible practices and education on sustainable development goals.

This event seeks to involve sport and its stakeholders in the EU environment and climate strategy, particularly the European Green Deal. To this end, below is the detail program of the conference.

3

MARCH

10:00-10:30

OPENING SESSION – INTRODUCTION BY MINISTERS, MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND EUROPEAN COMMISSIONERS

- **Roxana Maracineanu**, French Minister Delegate for Sport
- **Anders Ygeman**, Minister for Integration and Migration, Sweden
- **Filip Neusser**, Director of the Sports Agency, Czech Republic
- **Mariya Gabriel**, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth
- **Laurence Farreng**, Member of the European Parliament

FIRST SESSION : THE TRANSVERSAL REGARDS ON SPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

10:35-11:15 1ST ROUND TABLE: THE IMPACT OF SPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

- **Tim Badman**, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Head of Legacy, Sport and Youth
- **Yann Leymarie**, Head of Sports for Surfrider Foundation Europe
- **Dr Karim Abu Omar**, University of Erlanger-Nuremberg, Department of Sport and Sports Science

11:20-12:10 2ND ROUND TABLE: THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- **Sören Ronge**, Protect Our Winters
- **Maël Besson**, Ecological Transition Expert - Sport and CSR
- **Guillaume Chevance**, Research Assistant Professor, Barcelona Institute of Global Health
- **Bertrand Tison**, Public Affairs Director, Decathlon Europe

12:15-12:30 CONCLUSION MADE BY THE GREAT WITNESS (ATHLETE)

12:30-14:00 LUNCH

SECOND SESSION: INSPIRING IDEAS AND INITIATIVES FOR A GREENER AND SUSTAINABLE SPORT

14:05-14:40 3RD ROUND TABLE: MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS

- **Juan Martorell**, Deputy Director, Superior Council of Sports, Spanish Ministry of Culture and Sports
- **Denis Naegalen**, Director of the Strasbourg Internationals and President of HOPIS, a sports marketing company
- **Isabella Burczak**, Advocacy & Development Manager, International Cycling Union
- **François Ribeiro**, Head of Discovery Sport Events

14:45-15:20 4TH ROUND TABLE: SPORTS EQUIPMENT AND ARTICLES

- **Julien Durant**, Picture Organic Clothing
- **Arne Strate**, General Secretary, European Outdoor Group
- **Elisabetta Baronio**, Timberland

15:25-16:00 **5TH ROUND TABLE: THE EVOLUTION OF SPORTS ACTIVITIES AND PRACTICES (TOURISM AND SPORT MOVEMENT)**

- **Olivier Linardon**, President, Underwater Cleaners
- **Paul André Tramier**, French National Olympic and Sports Committee
- **Julia Palle**, Director of sustainability, Formula E

16:05-16:20 **CONCLUSION MADE BY THE GREAT WITNESS (ATHLETE)**

THIRD SESSION: WHAT PERSPECTIVES AT EUROPEAN LEVEL?

16:25-17:40 **6TH ROUND TABLE: CONTINENTAL ACTIONS AND POLICIES FOR SUSTAINABLE AND ECO-RESPONSIBLE SPORT**

- Member of the European Parliament
- **Peter Fischer**, Sport Unit, European Commission
- **Jérôme Péro**, General secretary, European Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (FESI)
- **Matthew Campelli**, Sustainability Report
- Paris 2024 and **Gloria Zavatta**, Director Sustainability & Legacy for Milan Cortina 2026
- **Benjamin Billet**, Secretary General of ENOS, Pôle Ressource National des Sports de Nature, Centre européen des sports de nature

17:45-18:00 **CONCLUSION MADE BY THE GREAT WITNESS (ATHLETE) : ANDREW GEORGIU, PRESIDENT FOR SPORTS, DISCOVERY**

18:00-18:10 **CONCLUSION MADE BY THE FRENCH MINISTER OF SPORTS**

Participants

- **Roxana Maracineanu**, Minister Delegate for Sport
- **Anders Ygeman**, Swedish Minister for Integration and Migration
- **Filip Neusser**, Chairman of the Czech National Sports Agency
- **Mariya Gabriel**, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth
- **Laurence Farreng**, Member of the European Parliament
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- **Yann Leymarie**, Head of Sports, Surfrider Europe
- Decathlon SE
- **Dr Karim Abu-Omar**, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Department of Sports Science
- **Sören Ronge**, Protect Our Winters
- WWF France
- **Guillaume Chevance**, Assistant Research Professor, Barcelona Institute for Global Health
- An international federation
- **Juan Martorell**, Deputy Director, High Council for Sports, Spanish Ministry of Culture and Sport
- **Denis Naegelen**, Director, Internationaux de Strasbourg
- **Andrew Georgiou**, Eurosports
- **Olivier Linardon**, President, Nettoyeurs Subaquatiques
- French National Olympic and Sports Committee
- **Julia Pallé**, Sustainability Director, Formula E
- Member of the European Parliament
- Representative of the European Commission
- **Jérôme Pero**, Secretary General, Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI)
- **Matthew Campelli**, The Sustainability Report
- Representatives of the Organising Committees for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Games

CITY

Grande Île, Strasbourg, has been on the World Heritage list since 1988, and is the first urban centre to have been selected by UNESCO. The capital of Alsace has indeed managed to preserve its exceptionally diverse heritage, tracing the city's evolution from the Roman era to the present day. The Gothic Notre-Dame de Strasbourg Cathedral, with its 142 m spire, was the tallest in Christendom up until the 19th century. Its unusual alleys and timber-framed houses give this pleasant city its present-day uniqueness, especially during the legendary Christmas markets.

At a crossroads between the Latin and Germanic worlds, Strasbourg is a European city and has been home to the seat of the European Parliament since 1999, as well as other institutions (the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights) and international organisations.

Strasbourg has an events complex with a surface area of 100,000 m².

Strasbourg is one of the French cities with the highest level of sustainable living: the modal share of cycling is 16% for commutes, and the population enjoys 116m² of green space per inhabitant.



CONTACT PRESSE

Ministère chargé des Sports

Tél. : +33 6 70 59 46 02

Email : mediaseurope2022fr@sports.gouv.fr

www.sports.gouv.fr/presse