

RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON *ETHICS AND SPORT SECURITY* TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Abstract

The University Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS) have launched, in March 2012, the applied research programme "*Ethics and Sport Security*" with a main focus on the links between international gambling and sports results' manipulation for the purposes of betting fraud. The initiative – implemented with the support of the ICSS, an international and independent non-for profit organization – is associated to the Master in Law "*Sports Law*" of the Sorbonne. Additionally, the ICSS' European Office in Paris will support this programme.

The main aim of the programme is to contribute to the efforts of the international community in the development of an international legal framework to regulate gambling and curb sports results' manipulation, starting from an analysis of existing instruments at the international, regional and national levels. Outcomes of the research are expected to be presented to international and national policy makers in March 2013.

With the aim of preventing duplication of efforts, the University Paris I – Panthéon-Sorbonne and the ICSS will pro-actively seek the cooperation or participation in the programme's activities of established working groups at the international and regional levels and build on existing research, conclusions and recommendations adopted within these frameworks.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The research programme "*Ethics and Sport Security*" was established to create a forum for interdisciplinary thinking at the international level, dedicated to bringing new solutions to the multifaceted problems concerning ethics and sport security, unregulated gambling and match-fixing, while enhancing understanding of these phenomena and demonstrating their transnational relevance.

The programme has been conceived on the observation that existing tools, at the international, regional and national levels, are often inadequate to support the efforts of relevant stakeholders engaged in the fight against the manipulation of sports results or specific aspects of a game (states, international sporting entities, federations, leagues and clubs, professional or amateur athletes, sports agents, public sporting events, authorities in charge of regulating sport, etc.).

It is expected that the outcomes of the research will support the efforts of the international community in the development of an international legal framework designed to address any proven nexus between legal, unregulated and illegal gambling, the manipulation or attempted manipulation of sports results or aspects of a competition, sport administrators' corruption, as well as its transnational implications.

Moreover the programme will take into account the role of very different stakeholders such as sport legislators, law enforcement agencies, sports associations, athletes, referees, bookmakers and betting agencies, as well as key aspects around sporting events management such as division of responsibilities, insurance arrangements and sports funding (public and private).

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme has two main purposes:

1. To identify the mechanisms currently available to fight against sports results manipulation and unregulated and illegal gambling and match-fixing, to assess their effectiveness under the various statutes of sport bodies and criminal and regulatory laws, whether national or supranational, identify existing gaps and propose possible solutions without obscuring potential drawbacks and challenges related to competition standards.

To this end, the programme will gather information and develop knowledge on the legal, economic, financial and technical aspects of the fight against sports results manipulation, unregulated and illegal gambling and match-fixing, through exchanges between professionals, academics, sports bodies and other sport stakeholders. This interdisciplinary approach will have a comparative law and an international law dimension. Field surveys will be conducted to assess the nature and dimension of the threat to sport from this nexus between criminal intention of manipulate sports results and defraud bookmakers and gambling brokers.

2. To propose the preparation of an international legal instrument, identify related benefits and propose its possible form and nature (Charter, International or Regional Regulations or Directives, International Code of Sport, Code of Ethics, Treaty establishing a supranational authority or mechanism, etc.). This component will aim to fight sports results manipulation, unregulated and illegal gambling and match-fixing through a combination of articulated strategies including prevention, detection and investigation mechanisms, criminalization and punishment and functional regulation of presently illegal or unregulated international gambling practices.

Other research and training institutes, laboratories and relevant centers with expertise on the subject will be invited to contribute to the research, whether national authorities or international public or private bodies. Various events such as expert meetings and workshops will be organized to facilitate the exchange of information and development of ideas in support of the programme and expected research outcomes.