



**MINISTÈRE
CHARGÉ DES SPORTS**

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PRESS KIT

**Sports and Sustainable
Development Goals in Childhood:
Societal issues regarding
appropriate physical activities**

7 and 8 February 2022

UNESCO House, Paris

Speech by the Minister

In 2017, the EU's Eurobarometer survey indicated that 40% of Europeans exercise or play sport at least once a week, including 7% who do so regularly (at least five times per week). Levels of participation have not changed substantially since 2013.

On the other hand, roughly 46% of Europeans said they never exercise or play sport, a rate continuing a gradual upward trend since 2009.

Furthermore, in 2021, 91% of Europeans aged between 15 and 24 agreed that tackling climate change could help improve their own health and well-being.

I firmly believe that sport itself provides the resources to raise awareness of the issues and challenges surrounding sustainable development and to allow each and every one of us to become a true agent of change.

Sustainable development education requires instilling guidelines, awareness and critical thinking from a very young age.

Sports and exercise offer a pathway adapted to individuals of all ages, because sustainable development education is above all a journey:

- Starting at pre-primary level, moving and physical activity allow children to experiment, try new things, put their motor skills to the test and develop confidence in their bodies. In short, it allow them to gain independence.
- At primary school, discovering team sports teaches children how to interact with others, and to respect coaches, their opponents, the referee and their team.
- These initial steps are crucial as they allow children to better understand the intricacies of sports, sporting rules and the principles of sporting competition as they progress in their education.

At each of these steps, exercise and sport take place in an environment about which children and adolescents gradually learn and become more aware, progressively assessing the impact certain practices and behaviours can have on it.

To establish and cultivate a respectful and future-oriented relationship with the world, sports are fundamental as they are a vital ingredient of education on sustainable development goals from a very young age.

I am extremely proud to propose, alongside my Swedish and Czech counterparts, this ministerial conference on the issues surrounding appropriate physical activities. I hope this conference will open up more shared prospects at European level, not only for our public sports policies but also for all stakeholders in education.

Roxana Maracineanu
Minister Delegate for Sport

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

Sports and Sustainable Development Goals in Childhood: Societal issues regarding appropriate physical activities Ministerial conference at UNESCO House on 7 and 8 February 2022.

As the first years of childhood and adolescence are crucial to socialisation, physical activity and sport adapted to the different stages of youth development contribute to young people's full development and balance with regard to the sustainable development objectives.



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A MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN TRIO FORMAT

Which physical activities and sports should be prioritised according to the age of the child or adolescent in order to support their physical, social, cognitive and civic development? How do physical activities and sport practised by children and adolescents contribute in their assimilation of sustainable development goals? How can more awareness be raised in this context about security and environmental protection issues? What are the levers for action at European level?

All these topics will be discussed during the ministerial conference which will be held on 7 and 8 February 2022 at UNESCO House in Paris. Experts, sportspeople and representatives of the European sports movement, both practitioners and decision-makers, will discuss best practices and the role of physical activity and sports in the different stages of child development in terms of health, physical integrity and sustainable development education. The goal? To use this collective discussion as a springboard for developing efficient and pro-active European public policies.



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TAKING STOCK AND ASSESSING BEST PRACTICES

With this aim, the conference will be held in three main parts. First, participants will lay out the issues of physical and motor activity that are adapted to the different stages of childhood (early childhood to adolescence) as regards the acquisition of fundamental concepts for the individual's life: the relationship with oneself (concepts of motor-skills, physical and mental health, bodily integrity and safety) and with others (the major issues of diversity, gender equality and other social skills required for societal life), as well as the relationship with the environment (sustainable development education).



80%

Percentage of the world's adolescent population that is insufficiently physically active, according to the World Health Organization.

In the second part of the conference, after they present a broad overview of the underlying issues, representatives of universities, the European sports movement and international organisations will proceed to analyse the situation and European actions in this field.

PLANS FOR ACTION AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

The third and last part of the conference will be aimed at the plans for action at European level. Alongside several existing initiatives in the Member States, this discussion will enable participants to envisage a common approach at European level and to foster a political and operational dynamic around acquiring fundamental motor-skills at the youngest age possible, thanks to physical activity and sports adapted to all groups.



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Find all the information on our sports events here: sports.gouv.fr/pfue2022

Programme

7

FEB.

INTRODUCTION

2:30 p.m. -
2:55 p.m.

INTRODUCTION

- **Roxana Maracineanu**, Minister Delegate for Sport
- **Anders Ygeman**, Swedish Minister for Integration and Migration, responsible for sport (video)
- **Filip Neusser**, Head of the Czech National Sports Agency
- **Xing Qu**, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO

2:55 p.m. -
3 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND GENERAL GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE

SESSION 1 – SPORT FROM A VERY YOUNG AGE: WAYS OF CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

3 p.m. -
4:15 p.m.

SPORT AND THE RELATIONSHIP WITH ONESELF

What are the challenges surrounding sport and physical activities that are adapted to childhood for the development of fundamental concepts for the individual's life (physical and mental health, integrity, autonomy, cognitive skills)?

- **Joseph Gandrieau**, PhD candidate and specialist in Physical Literacy at the University of Lille
- **Mauro Antonini**, proponent of water competency
- **Gérard Perreau-Bezouille**, Chairman of the Fédération Française des Clubs Omnisports (FFCO)
- **Béatrice Quaglio**, programmes officer at the Stade Montois
- **Antti Blom**, director of the Finnish programme *Schools on the Move*
- **Jon Salminen**, teacher – *Schools on the Move* programme

Key speaker: **Justine Hélin**, former tennis world No. 1 and consultant for Discovery

4:20 p.m. -
5:35 p.m.

SPORT AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

How can practising sport from a young age help children to acquire the essential societal values and skills for building a harmonious society (teaching social diversity, inclusion and gender equality)?

- **Cécile Ottogalli-Mazzacavallo**, University of Lyon 1
- **Omar Zanna**, lecturer of sociology at the Université du Maine
- **Isabel Albar**, acting teaching inspector
- **Marie-Hermine de Montangon**, officer for the programme for France at Play International and **Henri Lelorrain**, educational adviser, Play International.
- **Jitske Visser**, Dutch IPC Athletes' Council Chairperson and Wheelchair Basketball Player

Key speaker: **Sarah Ourahmoune**, silver medalist in boxing at the Rio Olympic Games, Vice-President of the French National Olympic and Sports Committee and of the French Boxing Federation

5:45 p.m. -
7 p.m.

TRANSPORT FROM THE HOTEL TO THE EVENT LOCATION FOR SPEAKERS

7:30 p.m. -
11 p.m.

DINNER FOR THE SPEAKERS ON SITE

8

FEB.

9 a.m. -
10:15 a.m.

SPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Exercise and sport brings young people into contact with natural environments. Given the emergency situation caused by climate degradation, could it be an ideal channel for making children and adolescents more aware of environmental protection?

- **Georgina Grenon**, Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Director for environmental excellence
- **Christophe Schnitzler**, lecturer at the University of Strasbourg
- **Noël Doyle**, representative of Leave no trace
- **Nicolas Vandensken**, founder of the project GreeNicoTour
- **Ywann Dupré**, representative of the Erasmus+ project Rowing, an outdoor sport for education (ROSE)

Key speaker: **Pierre Vaultier**, two-time Olympic Gold Champion snowboarder and co-founder of the organisation Tree2Forest

PART 2 – WHAT IS THE REALITY TODAY IN EUROPE?

10:20 a.m. -
11:35 a.m.

ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION AND PRACTICES WITHIN THE EU

Are physical activity and sport given adequate consideration in childhood? Are some sports or sporting practices more adapted to children of specific ages? What measures and best practices can currently be observed within the European Union?

- **John Humphreys**, representative of the European Network for Studies in Sport Sciences (EN3S)
- **Dr João Breda**, Special Adviser, WHO Regional Office for Europe, and former Programme Manager for Nutrition, Physical activity and Obesity
- **Hrvoje Custonja**, Secretary General of the International Sport School Federation (ISF)
- **Mike McClure**, Chairman of the European Network of Outdoor Sports (ENOS)

PART 3 AND CONCLUSIONS – WHAT IS OUR COMMON AMBITION FOR EUROPE?

11:40 a.m. -
1 p.m.

What are the levers for action at EU level and perspectives for potential cooperation between Member States to promote the introduction of physical activity and sport that is best adapted to the needs and schedules of children in step with their development? What are the children's own expectations?

- **Philipp Müller-Wirth**, Chief of the Sport Section, UNESCO
- **Floor van Houdt**, Head of the Sport Unit at the European Commission
- **Rose-Marie Repond**, member and former president of the European Physical Education Association
- **Iva Gilbo**, ENGSO Youth (European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation)

Key speaker: **Youri Djorkaeff**, Chief Executive Officer of FIFA

Conclusion: **Roxana Maracineanu**, Minister Delegate for Sport

1 p.m. -
1:30 p.m.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Participants

- **Roxana Maracineanu**, Minister Delegate for Sport
- **Xing Qu**, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO
- **Filip Neusser**, Head of the Czech National Sports Agency
- **Anders Ygeman**, Swedish Minister for Integration and Migration, responsible for sport, via videoconference
- **Mauro Antonini**, proponent of water competency
- **G rard Perreau-Bezouille**, President of the F d ration Fran aise des Clubs Omnisports
- **B atrice Quaglio**, Development Officer at Stade Montois, user of the L  platform
- **Joseph Gandrieau**, PhD student specialising in Physical Literacy at the University of Lille
- **Antti Blom**, Director of the Finnish programme Schools on the Move and **Jon Salminen**, Jyv skyl  city
- **Jitske Visser**, Dutch wheelchair basketball player
- **Henri Lelorrain**, educational adviser, Play International and **Marie-Hermine de Montangon**, officer for the programme for France at Play International
- **C cile Ottogalli-Mazzacavallo**, lecturer and researcher at Claude Bernard University Lyon 1, head of the Master’s degree programme EGAL’APS combining the science and technology of physical and sporting activities with gender studies
- **Omar Zanna**, lecturer of sociology at the Universit  du Maine and **Isabel Albar**, acting teaching inspector
- **Christophe Schnitzler**, lecturer and member of the “Sport and Social Sciences” research unit at the University of Strasbourg, specialised in the subject of health education through physical activity
- **No l Doyle**, representative of Leave No Trace
- **Nicolas Vandenelsken**, founder of the project GreeNicoTour
- **Georgina Grenon**, Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Director for environmental excellence
- **Mike McClure**, Chairman of the European Network of Outdoor Sports (ENOS)
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- **Floor van Houdt**, Head of the Sport Unit at the European Commission
- **Ugnė Chmeliauskaitė**, Chair of ENGSO Youth
- **Rose-Marie Repond**, member and former president of the European Physical Education Association
- **Justine Hénin**, former world No. 1 tennis player with 43 titles including 7 Grand Slam titles, and current consultant for Discovery
- **Sarah Ourahmoune**, silver medalist in boxing at the Rio Olympic Games, Vice-President of the French National Olympic and Sports Committee and the French Boxing Federation
- **Pierre Vaultier**, two-time Olympic Gold Champion snowboarder and co-founder of the organisation Tree2Forest
- **Youri Djorkaeff**, World Cup winner and FIFA CEO

The city and venue for the meeting

Paris is a multifaceted city that is at once eternal and innovative. Its exceptional architectural and cultural heritage win over millions of visitors each year, who come eager to sample the unique Parisian way of life.

A global centre for fashion, gastronomy and shopping, the city is brimming with events and new projects including busily preparing to host the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame Cathedral, Sacré-Cœur and the Arc de Triomphe are just a few of the French capital's iconic monuments and tourist favourites. The city also abounds with a wide variety of sites to experience culture, such as the Musée d'Orsay, the Arab World Institute, the Philharmonie de Paris, the Fondation Louis Vuitton and the Louvre Museum, which welcomes over nine million visitors each year. The capital attracts major projects and new experiences which continually bolster its allure, as attested by the recent openings of the Bourse de Commerce - Pinault Collection, the new Samaritaine, the Atelier des Lumières, and soon Chanel's Manufacture de la Mode.

From the Marais and Montmartre to the Latin quarter, the city's neighbourhoods each boast a unique atmosphere waiting to be discovered among its quaint boutiques, its art galleries and its café terraces.

This conference will take place at UNESCO House. Founded in 1945, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization seeks to build peace through international cooperation in the fields of education, sciences and culture. UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals defined in the 2030 Agenda, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.



PRESS CONTACT

Ministry for National Education, Youth and Sport

Tel.: +33 6 70 59 46 02

Email : anne.mendras@jeunesse-sports.gouv.fr

www.sports.gouv.fr/presse