

Strasbourg, 21 November 2011

EPAS (2011) 64

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

13th meeting of the EPAS Governing Board Bureau
Strasbourg, 20 October 2011

List of decisions

The Bureau of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) met in Strasbourg on 20 October 2011. The meeting was chaired by the Chairperson, Mrs Ewa Markowicz. Mr Alexey Morosov and Ms Amila Karajic apologized as they could not attend the meeting.

1. Opening of the meeting

- welcomed the delegates from member states of the EPAS (the list of participants can be found in Appendix 2);
- accepted, on an exceptional basis, the request made by the representative of the Permanent Representation of the Russian Federation to attend the meeting, in the absence of Alexey Morosov;
- stressed that, for future Bureau meeting, only elected members should attend Bureau meetings;

2. Adoption of the agenda

- adopted the agenda for this meeting as it appears in Appendix 1 to this report;

3. Recent news of interest

- noted the address by Mr Ralf-René-Weingärtner, *Director of Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination*, who reported on the recent developments in the Council of Europe Secretariat General (new structure of the Secretariat, interaction and synergies between different sectors of the Council of Europe and the respective ministries within member states; co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Union: participation in the EU sport Directors meeting in Krakow and the forthcoming one in Gdansk; interest for a potential convention on the match-fixing issue and the on-going work on a feasibility study; accession of new states to EPAS);
- noted the withdrawal of Sweden and the recent contacts taken by the Secretariat with the authorities of Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Canada ; stressed the responsibility of EPAS member states to make visible the work done by the Partial Agreement and to support bilateral contacts with potential candidates;
- noted the accession of partner organisations within the Consultative Committee (Sport and Citizenship, EUPEA) and the requests made by new partner organisations (EU athletes, Tennis Europe, SROC, European Hand cycling Federation);

- took note of the update on the Sport Conventions made by Mr Pierre Masson from the Sports Convention Division (a new colleague has been recruited on the anti-doping Convention to support the process of the anti-doping code revision; international conference in France together with WADA and the French authorities on pharmaceutical industry, strong co-operation with UEFA regarding the spectator violence Convention, strengthening and updating the spectator violence Convention as a topic of the ministerial Conference in Belgrade);
- agreed to distribute for information organisational charts of the General Secretariat;

4. Reports on recent meetings of statutory bodies

- took note of the report of the EPAS Governing Board meetings of 7-8 June 2011, as it appears in documents EPAS (2011) 57 and suggested some amendments;
- approved in principle the distribution to the Governing Board of the revised version of this document;
- took note of the oral report of the forthcoming meeting of the Statutory Committee, (Strasbourg 21 October 2011);

5. 18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport: report and follow-up

- Ongoing follow-up:
 - noted that experts were identified and could help to prepare a handbook and try to organise a meeting with some experts from the EU Schengen Working Party;
 - noted that, as soon as the meeting with EU experts will be organised - presumably before the Belgrade Conference – the work will be launched;

6. On-going programme and budget

- Meetings and EPAS representation:
 - agreed with the revised list of meetings and representation of the EPAS;
 - noted that the Secretariat received an invitation for the TAFISA Congress and won't be able to attend; invited interested Bureau members to contact the Executive Secretary;
 - noted that as the Russian Federation invited the EPAS to attend the Seminar in Sochi with a representative and experts, the Secretariat will make a call to all delegates to identify up to 2 experts;
 - welcomed the invitation from Poland to host the forthcoming Bureau of the Governing Board in Gdansk (13-14 December 2011), just before the EU informal meeting of Sports directors;
- Programme 2011 and budget:
 - noted the preparation and update of the programme;
 - approved the elements in the planning of activities 2011;

7.1 Standard-setting

- Draft recommendation on migrations:
 - agreed that, due to a disagreement from a member state delegation, additional elements will be transmitted to this delegation ; if amended the final version will be approved again by all EPAS delegations, circulated to all Council of Europe members states, then mentioning “for support (without debate) by the ministerial meeting” and transmission to the Committee of Ministers for final adoption;

- Consultation on the adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)10 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on promotion of the integrity of sport against manipulation of results, notably match-fixing:
 - expressed satisfaction for the adoption of the recommendation, on 28 September, and support for the production of a printed publication of this recommendation;

7.2 Follow-up of existing standards

Study on the implementation of the Recommendation No. R (99) 10 on the granting of visas to sportsmen and sportswomen:

- noted that the study on Visas is published on the EPAS website on the “Studies and Report” page, and that the next steps of the project depend on the establishment of a working co-operation with the relevant working group of the EU;

7.3 EPAS activities on promoting diversity and combating discrimination in and through sport

Women and sport, people with disabilities and sport, fighting homophobia in sport:

- took note of the presentation made by Ms Sonia Parayre on gender equality in sport, as the activities appear in documents EPAS (2011) 59, EPAS (2011)INF 18 and EPAS (2011) 60 (expert meeting on gender mainstreaming, EPAS political conference in London, follow-up activities on gender equality in 2012, in particular the preparation of a draft recommendation on gender mainstreaming in sport and the preparation of training modules on gender mainstreaming for authorities and sport governing bodies in co-operation with European Women and Sport; developing synergies with the International Working Group on Women, currently chaired by Finland);
- decided to continue the work with experts identified following the consultation of EPAS members states, with a small drafting group on gender mainstreaming in sport and entrusted the Secretariat to contact the representatives of France, Finland and Greece and to appoint a rapporteur who would be in charge of drafting the recommendation (time frame expected 2012-2013);
- took note that EPAS current work on gender equality in sport could be supported by the Ministers in charge of Sport, as part of the EPAS programme of activity, during their meeting in Belgrade;
- as regards people with disabilities, took note of the oral presentation made by the Secretariat and stressed the need to pursue activities towards this target group, using the opportunity of the London Olympics and Paralympics;
- took note of the oral presentation made by the Secretariat concerning the fight against homophobia in sport;
- examined the working schedule related to the specific groups considered under the EPAS diversity activities (see illustration), and confirmed that the three themes will be kept for activities in 2012 (to be possibly completed with the next group to be defined in the course of 2013);
- noted that the main priorities of the EPAS programme of activity for 2012 are the ministerial Conference in Belgrade and the Feasibility study on a possible legal standard on match-fixing;
- noted that the wording “political” won’t be used for the Conference to take place in 2012 but that no distinctive group will be considered as a political priority;



8. Voluntary Contribution Projects

8.1 Good Governance

- noted that an other attempt to involve Sport Organisation had been made with FIFA, without success and that an answer from Sport Accord was still pending;

8.2 Friendship Games

- noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina would liaise with “Peace and Sport” to make a proposal;

9. Preparation of the 12th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport in Belgrade, Serbia (15 March 2012):

- approved the overview on the 12th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, as presented in EPAS (2011) 55 and specified :that the discussion should cover consideration of a supra national body of regulation and that part two would include another sub-topic, to be possibly confirmed in December 2011;
- approved the draft programme presented and noted that the speakers and detailed timing would be discussed in Gdansk in December;
- noted that the extraordinary meeting of the Bureau in Gdansk will include a presentation by Mr Dagan Atanasov, as representative of the Host Committee;
- approved the draft schedule of the Conference as presented in EPAS(2011)16rev1;

10. Draft programme of activity 2012-2013

- agreed with the updated programme of activity;
- noted that the next update will include the sections 1 and 3 as adopted by the Statutory Committee;
- agreed that the list of activity would be updated again at the Bureau meeting in December;

concerning “Other activities”, at the end of the section 4 “List of activities”:

- cancelled the activity “A”, which is not anymore relevant, as the Ministerial Conference will not deal with the Children protection;
- approved activities B, C, D and F (to be confirmed, provided budgetary availability);
- requested additional information on project “E”;

11. Miscellaneous

- took note of the election of Mr Julien Zylberstein from UEFA, as the second member of the Consultative Committee to the Bureau;

- noted that the six EU expert groups¹ were established by the *Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the member states, meeting within the Council, on a European Union Work Plan for Sport for 2011-2014 (2011/C 162/01)* and that these expert groups may involve representative from third organisations as observers;
- proposed to suggest to the EU Commission to appoint the Executive Secretary of EPAS as an observer to the expert group on “good governance”;
- suggested to enhance communication on the publication published by EPAS;

12. Date and place of the next ad hoc Bureau meeting

- decided that the next ad hoc Bureau meeting will be held in Gdansk, 13 December (afternoon) and 14 December (morning) 2011, the day before the EU Directors meeting. The Bureau thanks the Polish authorities for their kind offer to host the meeting.

¹ anti-doping, good governance in sport, education and training in sport, sport, health and participation, sport statistics, sustainable financing of sport