

Strasbourg, 30 August 2010

EPAS-SC (2010) 3rev

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

6th Meeting of the Statutory Committee

10h-12h, 28 June 2010

Room of the Committee of Ministers, Strasbourg

Final Decisions

The Statutory Committee, composed of the representatives of the Committee of Ministers of the member states of the Agreement¹, under the terms of Article 5 of the Statute of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), held its sixth meeting in Strasbourg on 28 June 2010. The list of participants is featured in **Appendix 1** of this document.

The Statutory Committee:

1. Adopted the agenda as it appears in **Appendix 2** to this document;
2. Took note of the verbal report presented by the Chair of the EPAS Governing Board as it appears in **Appendix 5**;
3.
 - a. Took note of the results of the consultations of the EPAS member states carried out by the Governing Board;
 - b. Approved the proposal to establish the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport without any time limit;
 - c. Approved the revision of the EPAS statute;
 - d. Invited the 18th Council of Europe Informal Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (IM18) to express its support for the establishment of the EPAS;
 - e. Invited the Ministers' Deputies, in their composition restricted to the representatives of the member States of the EPAS, to take note of the resolutions of the 18th Council of Europe Informal Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (IM18) and to adopt the Resolution CM/Res(2010)... as it appears in document EPAS-SC (2010) 4rev (**Appendix 3** to this document), at its 1095th meeting (13 October 2010).

¹ Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

4.
 - a. took note of the requests for observer status from organisations selected by the EPAS Governing Board (see document EPAS (2010) 6rev2);
 - b. invited the Ministers' Deputies, in their composition restricted to the representatives of the member States of the EPAS, to adopt the Draft Decision as it appears in document EPAS-SC (2010) 5 (**Appendix 4** to this document), to allow the EPAS Governing Board to grant observer status to these organisations and to incorporate these organisations into its Consultative Committee, without further debate, at its 1090th meeting (7th July 2010).
5. Agreed that the date of the next meeting of the Statutory Committee will take place in October 2010 and will be confirmed later by the Secretariat.

Appendix 1
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Appendix 2 Agenda

- I. Opening of the meeting**
- II. Adoption of the agenda** EPAS-SC (2010) 2
- III. Achievements and work of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)**
- IV. Establishment of the EPAS** EPAS-SC (2010) 7
EPAS (2010) 24rev2
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- V. Request for observer status by several sports federations / organisations** EPAS (2010) 6rev2
EPAS-SC (2010) INF1
EPAS-SC (2010) 5
- VI. Ongoing monitoring study and prospects concerning the granting of visas to athletes** EPAS (2010) 48
- VII. Draft decisions** EPAS-SC (2010) 3
- VIII. Miscellaneous**

Appendix 3
Draft Resolution CM/Res(2010)...
establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)
Approved by the 6th Meeting of the Statutory Committee on 28 June 2010

The representatives of the Committee of Ministers from Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”,

Recognising that the aim of the Council of Europe is the achievement of greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideas and principles which are their common heritage and of facilitating their economic and social progress, in particular by pursuing common objectives designed to protect and promote European culture;

Having regard to [Statutory Resolution \(93\) 28](#) of the Committee of Ministers on Partial and Enlarged Agreements;

Having regard to [Resolution \(96\) 36](#) of the Committee of Ministers establishing the criteria for partial and enlarged agreements of the Council of Europe;

Having regard to Resolution CM/Res(2007)8, which established the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) for an initial period of three years ;

Having regard to the resolutions adopted by the Conferences of European Ministers Responsible for Sport since 1975, and in particular to Resolution No. I on the Future Pan-European Sports Co-operation adopted at the 17th informal meeting of European Sports Ministers (Moscow, 20-21 October 2006)²;

Having regard to the substantial work done since 1977 by the Committee for the Development of Sport (CDDS) in developing policies designed to promote sport in the member states of the Council of Europe;

Having regard to the European Cultural Convention of 19 December 1954 ([ETS No. 018](#));

Having regard to the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehavior at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches ([ETS No. 120](#)), to the Anti-Doping Convention ([ETS No. 135](#)) and its Additional Protocol ([ETS No. 188](#));

Having regard to the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the Revised European Sports Charter (Recommendation R (92) 13 rev) and the Revised Code of Sports Ethics (Recommendation R (92) 14 rev);

Considering the conclusions of the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Warsaw, 16-17 May 2005), which recommended “the continuation of Council of Europe activities which serve as references in the field of sport”;

Considering that the natural values of sport such as respect, mutual understanding and fair play, are excellent tools for the promotion of the values and the goals of the Council of Europe;

Aware of the unique place that sport has in modern society underpinning democracy, participation, involvement, motivation, inclusiveness and social cohesion;

Stressing the importance and significance of sport in modern society, notably from political, social, cultural

² This considering will be completed with « [and to Resolution No. II on Current Political Issues of Pan-European Sports Co-operation adopted at the 18th Council of Europe Informal Conference of European Sports Ministers \(Baku, 22 September 2010\)](#) », subject to its adoption by the conference.

and economic perspectives;

Aware of the role of sport in promoting social integration, particularly among young people, and in safeguarding the health of the population;

Having regard to the decision of 9 May 2007 whereby the Committee of Ministers authorised the member states who so wish to pursue this objective within the Council of Europe by means of an Enlarged Partial Agreement;

HEREBY,

RESOLVE to establish the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), governed by the Statute appended herewith;

EXPRESS the wish that all Council of Europe member states and other States Party to the European Cultural Convention become members of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) in the near future.

Draft Revised Statute of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)
*(as adopted by the Committee of Ministers
on 11 May 2007 at its 117th Session)*
with amendment proposals,
according to the decision of the Governing Board of the EPAS, on 4-5 May 2010,
approved by the 6th Meeting of the Statutory Committee on 28 June 2010

Article 1 – Tasks

1.1 The EPAS will implement intergovernmental sports co-operation activities as decided by the Governing Board, bearing in mind the political expectations expressed by ministerial meetings; it will in particular perform the following tasks:

Policy-making and standard setting

- Develop sports policy strategies and set appropriate standards, reflecting the importance of sport in modern society, in co-operation and dialogue with all parties concerned;
- stimulate and provide the co-ordination of sports policies and standards within and among the States Party, notably with a view to making the safe practice of ethical sport as widely available as possible;
- submit, when appropriate, draft recommendations as well as proposals for conventions for examination and possible adoption by the Committee of Ministers;
- propose policies necessary to deal with topical issues in international sport;
- promote the development of sports, as a means to foster healthy lifestyles.

Monitoring

- Monitor the application of relevant sport recommendations in the States members of the Agreement, notably the European Sports Charter (Recommendation No. R (92) 13 rev) and the Code of Sports Ethics (Recommendation No. R (92) 14 rev).

Capacity building

- Pursue actions for capacity building in the field of “Sports for All”.

Ministerial meetings

- Prepare meetings at ministerial level, open notably to both the members of the EPAS and all the other States Parties to the European Cultural Convention, at regular intervals and ensure the appropriate follow-up thereto.

1.2 To that end, it shall in particular:

- co-operate, as necessary, in these matters with the Standing Committee of the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches (T-RV), the Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO), and with the Ad Hoc Committee European Co-ordination Forum for the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA), and in particular, consider including work linked to the development of either convention in its programme of activities;
- co-ordinate its work with that of the other sectors of the Council of Europe and contribute to multi-sectoral initiatives and other joint programmes defined by the Secretary General;
- develop, as appropriate, co-operation with the European Union;
- develop co-operation with international, regional and national non-governmental sports organisations and anti-doping structures.

Article 2 – Accession and Membership

2.1 Any state which is a member of the Council of Europe or a Contracting Party to the European Cultural Convention may join the Enlarged Partial Agreement by notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2.2 The Committee of Ministers, in its composition restricted to the representatives of the member States of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, may, by the majority stipulated in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe, invite any other non-member state of the Council of Europe to join the Enlarged Partial Agreement, following consultation of the non-member states already participating. A non-member state which receives such an invitation shall notify the Secretary General of its intention to become a member of the EPAS.

2.3 Member States of the Council of Europe, other Parties to the European Cultural Convention as well as other states granted with the authorisation mentioned at article 2.2 may request the status of observer with EPAS. Decisions in such matters will be made by the Governing Board of EPAS.

2.4 The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, may participate in the work of EPAS without the right to vote.

2.5 The European Union shall be entitled to participate in the work of the EPAS without the right to vote. It may become a member of the EPAS according to modalities agreed with the Committee of Ministers.

2.6 The Committee of Ministers, in its composition restricted to the representatives of the States members of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, may, by the majority stipulated in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe, authorise the EPAS to invite international organisations, NGOs or other bodies to participate in its work as observers without the right to vote.

Article 3 – Governing Board

3.1 The Governing Board of the EPAS shall be composed of one representative appointed by the government of each member of the Enlarged Partial Agreement. A representative of the national sports movement duly endorsed by the government may be included as an additional member without the right to vote in the national delegation to the Governing Board. Two representatives of the Consultative Committee described in article 3.7, appointed by the Consultative Committee, shall participate in the Governing Board, without the right to vote.

3.2 The Governing Board shall elect from among its members a bureau comprised of a chair, one vice-chair, four other members, and two representatives of the Consultative Committee without the right to vote, for a term of office of two years, renewable only once.

3.3 The Governing Board shall:

- be responsible for the general implementation of the tasks conferred to the EPAS;
- adopt the draft annual programme of activities of the EPAS and submit, in conformity with the Financial Regulations of the Council of Europe, proposals to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe relating to the elaboration of the draft annual budget, prior to its transmission to the Statutory Committee set up under Article 5 below;
- decide on pilot projects consistent with the Council of Europe's political priorities, and draw up the relevant budgets;
- monitor the implementation of the programme of activities and the management of the EPAS' funds;
- adopt and transmit an annual activity report to the Committee of Ministers.

3.4 The Governing Board shall meet once a year at the Council of Europe. It may invite representatives of the Consultative Committee as well as relevant Council of Europe bodies to attend its meetings or to parts of its meetings, without voting rights, according to the items on its agenda.

3.5 The Governing Board may assign operational tasks to its Bureau. The Bureau shall be convened by the Chair of the Governing Board at least once a year.

3.6 The Governing Board shall adopt its decisions by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, with each member having one vote. Procedural matters shall be settled by a majority of the votes cast. In all other matters, the Governing Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure and any other arrangements for the implementation of its activities.

3.7 A Consultative Committee shall be set-up, comprising members of international organisations, NGOs or bodies, which were invited by EPAS as observers, following the authorisation by the Committee of Ministers mentioned in art. 2.6. The Consultative Committee, as a partnership body, shall give an opinion on the programme of activities and provide advice for the decisions of the Governing Board. The Governing Board shall appoint the Consultative Committee and define its mandate.

Article 4 – Budget

4.1 The EPAS' resources shall comprise:

- annual contributions from each member joining the EPAS;
- any other payment, donation or bequest, subject to the provisions of paragraph 4.3 below.

4.2 Expenditure related to the implementation of the programme of activities and common secretariat expenditure shall be covered by a partial agreement budget funded by the member states and non-member states participating in the Enlarged partial agreement.

4.3 The EPAS may also receive voluntary and other contributions connected with the work of the agreement, subject to the authorisation of the Governing Board prior to their acceptance. In exceptional circumstances, the Secretary General may consult the Statutory Committee prior to the acceptance of a voluntary contribution. These contributions shall be paid into a special account, opened under the terms of Article 4.2 of the Financial Regulations of the Council of Europe, monitored by the Governing Board in consultations with the Consultative Committee and shall be earmarked for the objectives and tasks specified, provided that they are consistent with the aims of the statute.

4.4 The EPAS' financial resources shall benefit from the dispositions of the General Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Council of Europe.

4.5 Travel and subsistence expenses of persons attending meetings of the Governing Board, of the Consultative Committee and, where appropriate, of the Statutory Committee shall be borne by the state or the organisation, which appointed the persons.

4.6 The Financial Regulations of the Council of Europe shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the adoption and management of the EPAS budget.

Article 5 – Statutory Committee

5.1 The Statutory Committee shall be composed of the representatives on the Committee of Ministers of the member states of the Council of Europe which are participating in the EPAS and of representatives specifically designated to that effect by the non-member states participating in the EPAS. The Statutory Committee shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure of the Committee of Ministers.

5.2 The Statutory Committee shall determine every year the total of members' compulsory contributions to the EPAS and the scale of contributions according to which that total shall be apportioned between the participating states; as a general rule, that scale shall conform to the criteria for the determination of the scale of contributions to the general budget of the Council of Europe. However the rate of contribution to the Enlarged Partial Agreement Budget of States, which are not Contracting Party to the European Cultural Convention shall be one half of its contribution as calculated in accordance with the

rules for Council of Europe member states, but it shall neither be higher than one-half of the contribution by the major contributors nor lower than the minimal contribution by other States;

5.3 The Statutory Committee shall adopt every year the budget of the EPAS on expenditure relating to the implementation of the programme of activities and common secretariat expenditure.

5.4 The Statutory Committee shall approve every year the annual accounts of the EPAS, which shall be drawn up by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Council of Europe and submitted to the Statutory Committee accompanied by the report of the External Auditor, as provided for in the Financial Regulations. In order to discharge the Secretary General from responsibility for the management of the financial year in question, the Statutory Committee shall transmit to the Committee of Ministers the annual accounts, together with its approval or any comments, and the report drawn up by the External Auditor, as provided for in the Financial Regulations.

Article 6 – Secretariat

6.1 The Secretariat of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, headed by an Executive Secretary, shall be provided by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

6.2 The Executive Secretary may call on institutions and independent experts in the areas concerned by the programme.

6.3 The EPAS will be located at the headquarters of the Council of Europe.

Article 7 – Amendments

The Committee of Ministers, in its composition restricted to the representatives of the States members of the Enlarged Partial Agreement and after consultation with the other members defined in Article 2, may adopt amendments to this Statute by the majority provided for under Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe.

Article 8 – Withdrawal

8.1 Any member may withdraw from the EPAS by means of a declaration sent to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

8.2 The Secretary General shall acknowledge receipt of the declaration and so inform the members of the EPAS.

8.3 By analogy with Article 7 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, withdrawal shall take effect:

- at the end of the financial year in which it is notified, if such notification is given during the first nine months of that financial year;
- at the end of the following financial year, if notification of withdrawal is given in the last three months of the financial year.

8.4 In accordance with Article 18 of the Council of Europe's Financial Regulations, the Governing Board shall examine the financial consequences of the withdrawal of a member and shall make the appropriate arrangements.

8.5 The Secretary General shall immediately inform the member concerned of the consequences for it of its withdrawal.

Appendix 4
Draft Decision on new members of the EPAS Consultative Committee

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) – Request for observer status by several sports federations/organisations ¹

(Item prepared by the EPAS Statutory Committee on 28 June 2010)

Decision

The Deputies, in their composition restricted to the representatives of the member states of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS),² authorised the EPAS to invite the following organisations to participate in its work as observers without the right to vote:

- European Fair Play Movement (EFPM)
- International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA)
- Homeless World Cup Foundation
- The European Olympic Committees (EOC)
- International Council of Sports Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE)
- International Sports Federations (Sport Accord)
- European Paralympic Committee (EPC)
- International Federation of Basketball – Europe (FIBA-Europe)

Note ¹ Article 2.6 of Resolution Res(2007)8 establishing the EPAS: “The Committee of Ministers, in its composition restricted to the representatives of the States members of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, may, by the majority stipulated in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe, authorise the EPAS to invite international organisations, NGOs or other bodies to participate in its work as observers without the right to vote.”

Note ² Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”

Appendix 5
Presentation by Jean-Luc Janiszewski, Chair of the EPAS Governing Board,
on the activities of the EPAS

Chair, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It was on **11 May 2007** that the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, at its 117th session, adopted the Resolution establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)³, at the request of over a dozen states⁴, with a view to giving new impetus to pan-European co-operation and to responding to the major challenges currently faced by sport in Europe. The Committee of Ministers agreed at that time that the EPAS would be set up for an initial period of three years. When I was asked, last month, to give you a description of some of its past, present and future activities, it gave me great pleasure to accept the invitation, as we had just been celebrating the Agreement's third anniversary, and the question of renewal of its mandate had arisen.

Some of you were present when the EPAS came into being on that fine day in May 2007, and you have made individual contributions to the development of the Agreement so far. For this I should like to thank you, and I shall consequently spare you detailed descriptions of activities which you yourselves authorised when taking decisions within the Statutory Committee on matters such as the granting of appropriate financial resources. Perhaps I may therefore just remind those who were not involved at the outset that the EPAS was set up with three priorities:

1. Our main wish was to restart political dialogue at the highest level between governmental and non-governmental sports authorities in Europe, as there had been a hiatus following the disbanding after 30 years of existence of the Steering Committee for the Development of Sport. The result, as you all now know, was the holding of the 11th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport, in December 2008 in Greece.
2. Another desire was to have wide-ranging and open exchanges on a topical subject. A subject under much discussion at that stage was the autonomy of Europe's sports movement, so we began a study of the subject and subsequently published our findings.
3. Lastly, in order to show that our objectives would go hand in hand with promotion of the values for which the Council of Europe is always a standard bearer, the EPAS also turned its attention to combating racism and discrimination in sport. Experts were consulted and seminars held on these issues.

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As at today's date, the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport has 33 member states⁵. The numbers have more than doubled in three years. 16 of these countries are members of the European Union, and the other 17 lie outside the Union; one of them, Morocco, is geographically not even in Europe. We are at the moment preparing for another ministerial conference to consider issues relating to sport, to be held in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, on 22 September this year. The subjects to which the EPAS is giving its attention are:

1. The elimination of match fixing and the prevention of manipulation of results, abuses which are causing particular concern in one part of the world of sport.
2. Subjects on which new standards could be drawn up by the Council of Europe, including the facilitation of visa applications and issuance for the huge numbers of participants in the dozens of European and world cups and championships held on European territory each year. The European

³ CM/Res(2007)8

⁴ Andorra, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, San Marino, Slovenia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and the United Kingdom.

⁵ Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

Union showed us the way by adopting Regulations which were legally binding instruments for the 2004 and 2006 Olympics. The Council of Europe may extend this arrangement to the major international sports events just mentioned, thereby facilitating participation in sport for huge numbers of Europeans.

3. Thanks to the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in December 2009, the building of bridges between the EPAS and the main entities responsible for sport within the European Union (Presidency of the Council, European Parliament and Commission). It is our belief, in fact, that there is an opportunity here not only to create co-operation between the Community area and the European states which are not members of the EU, but also to avoid duplication in the efforts made on both sides to meet the challenges arising.
4. And, of course, continued assistance to the committees responsible for monitoring the Anti-Doping Convention and the Convention on Spectator Violence at Sports Events when they speak out at ministerial meetings with a view to putting an end to these scourges.

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The future of the EPAS now depends on your decision as members of the Statutory Committee, and on the subsequent decision that the Committee of Ministers will take on your recommendations. In order to help you with your decision, I asked for a satisfaction survey to be conducted among the 33 EPAS member states. As the Executive Secretary to the Agreement, Mr Stanislas Frossard, will show you a little later this morning, the findings are encouraging and are in favour of renewal of the EPAS mandate.

Where the subjects to be dealt with are concerned, I believe that it is vital for the EPAS to respond to the actual concerns of the states which finance it, which is why I also requested a survey of states' priorities for the months ahead. That survey has been carried out and has provided us with some pointers for future activities, if there are to be more activities. The two things asked for are standard setting and monitoring and activities to help states in the political, legal, social and technical spheres, spanning not only sport for all but also top-level sport, and not only the management but also the funding of physical and sports activities.

Where membership is concerned, the EPAS has a Consultative Committee with seven members entities⁶, including the Union of European Football Associations and the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation. Another eight organisations⁷ are minded to join the first members in the near future if you and the Committee of Ministers authorise this, and these are by no means lesser lights, as they include the European Olympic Committees, of which the 48 national committees are members, as well as SportAccord, an association grouping 104 international sports federations.

Where finance is concerned, the funds available to the EPAS have automatically risen over the years, as new members started contributing. By 2010, the 2007 figure of € 267 400 had risen to € 848 400, which, while not inordinately high in the light of the work to be done, nonetheless represents a threefold increase in three years. My aim in this respect is gradually to strike a more even balance between expenditure on staff (currently 52% of the EPAS' total budget, compared to 57% in 2009) and programme expenditure (currently 48%, against 43% in 2009), or even to reverse the ratio, so that as much money as possible is spent on programmes.

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⁶ (1) EGLSF (European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation); (2) ENGSO (European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation); (3) ESFAN-TAFISA (European Sport for All Network - The Association for International Sport for All); (4) FIRA-AER (Association of European Rugby); (5) Peace and Sport; (6) EJU (European Judo Union); (7) UEFA (Union of European Football Associations).

⁷ (8) EFPM (European Fair Play Movement); (9) ISCA (International Sport and Culture Association); (10) Homeless World Cup Foundation; (11) EOCs (European Olympic Committees); (12) ICSSPE (International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education); (13) SportAccord; (14) EPC (European Paralympic Committee); (15) FIBA-Europe.

It is abundantly clear to anyone who has followed the sports news over the past 12 months that dreadful things continue to happen. A French football fan who had travelled to Serbia to support his team was killed before the match began; a Georgian competitor in the luge event died at the Vancouver Winter Olympics; a cyclist cheated by using an electric motor during the Tour of Flanders race; the younger generations' image of sport has suffered as immature top-level athletes have behaved badly in front of the cameras. **Clearly, there are still a lot of areas where there is work for the EPAS to do as it carries on from its past successes.**

So now 33 Council of Europe member states await your decision on the future of the EPAS, which they, and you, have helped to grow over the past three years. 33 member states are waiting for the Committee of Ministers to consent to continuation of the co-operation begun by the EPAS thanks to the tools which we have forged together. May your decisions be guided by a desire for solidarity and for excellence in diversity on this fine continent of ours.

Thank you.