

Strasbourg 2 February 2008

EPAS(2009)2rev

## **ENLARGED PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON SPORT (EPAS)**

### **Fourth Meeting of the Bureau of the Governing Board**

Budapest (European Youth Centre)

19 September 2008

### **Report of the meeting**

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair (Krisztina Gönter, Hungary) welcomed the participants, who are listed in Appendix 2, and informed them that the building in which this meeting was taking place, the Budapest European Youth Centre, right in the city centre, was Council of Europe territory.

#### **2. Adoption of the agenda: EPAS(2008)26**

The agenda was adopted (see Appendix 1).

#### **3. Reports on EPAS(2008)24 and EPAS(2008)25:**

- **the 2nd meeting of the EPAS Governing Board, Strasbourg, 21 and 22 April 2008;**
- **the enlarged meeting of the EPAS Governing Board with representatives of sports ministries (former CDDS), Strasbourg, 2 June 2008**

The reports were adopted.

#### **4. Draft rules of procedure of the EPAS: EPAS(2008)27 (for information and proposal only)**

The Executive Secretary reported on the progress of the work on the rules of procedure. He wished to put a number of questions to the EPAS Bureau with a view to obtaining guidelines in order to continue his work in the direction indicated by the member states.

The following guidelines were approved for the preparation of the rules of procedure to be submitted to the Governing Board.

- Given the existence of a Consultative Committee, it would be inappropriate to invite the organisations participating in the work of the EPAS as observers without voting rights under Article 2.6 of the statutes to attend the EPAS Governing Board's meetings. The Governing Board should retain its intergovernmental character.

- On the other hand, an annual joint meeting of the Governing Board and the Consultative Committee should facilitate dialogue and the launching of projects co-managed by the EPAS member states and the member organisations of its Consultative Committee.
- The principle of a Consultative Committee which could be enlarged but which would be invited to elect a restricted Bureau on which international sports federations and umbrella organisations (categories a and b) would be strongly represented.

#### **5. Information on the EPAS: EPAS(2008)INFO2rev accessions, requests for observer status**

Poland and Albania had recently joined the EPAS. Italy had expressed its intention to join in the near future.

Participants were surprised to hear of the United Kingdom's intention to withdraw from the EPAS. The Executive Secretary informed the meeting that Croatia would be acceding in the very near future, that Portugal's accession was well under way and that the talks with Germany were developing positively.

Greece requested that after the entry into force of the new provisions, the clause on the duration of observer status, which was limited to one year, should be incorporated into the rules of procedure.

#### **6. Comments by the Bureau of the Governing Board on Recommendation 233 (2008) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on integration through sport: EPAS(2008)23**

The members of the Bureau of the Governing Board had no comments to make on the document prepared by the EPAS secretariat, which could be forwarded with the Bureau's approval.

#### **7. Preparation of the 11th Council of Europe Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport, Athens, 11 and 12 December 2009**

##### **- Draft programme MSL11(2008)1rev3, EPAS(2008)16rev1**

This draft programme was subject to regular updating on the basis of information collected from persons invited to speak on various themes at the conference, depending on the availability of the main speakers.

It was recalled that the Bureau would have to approve all documents before the conference. ENGSO stressed that the Bureau was responsible for the documents presented at the conference, but not for organising logistics, and asked the secretariat to follow these matters up with the Greek Committee.

##### **7.1 Ethics in sport: EPAS(2008)INFO8, MSL11(2008)2**

France, Norway and other members regretted that they could not give their opinions on the working documents for this meeting (supplied by the secretariat and the experts) because they had been sent out late. They asked for extra time and for authorisation to reply in writing, with a view to proposing useful additions to the draft resolutions which would be presented at the conference.

A debate was held on the status of a possible revised draft Code of Ethics. France did not prioritise this point, but the revision could be considered as follow-up to the conference. The Chair suggested that the draft revision of the Code of Ethics should be included among the preparatory documents that would be published

just after the conference. On the other hand, the guiding principles for this revision were mentioned in the draft resolution on ethics. It was very unlikely that the EPAS would manage to prepare a revised draft Code of Ethics fit for submission to the ministers.

### **7.2 Autonomy in sport: MSL11(2008)3**

Since autonomy in sport was a recurrent, sensitive subject in this sector, the Board required more time to think in order to draw up opinions on the basis of a more detailed study of the issues. As in the case of the resolution on ethics, the Bureau requested a written consultation procedure in order to propose amendments to the draft.

### **7.3 Pan-European co-operation: MSL11(2008)4**

In addition to co-operation with the WADA and the EU, the Bureau members voiced the need to highlight the specific features of the EPAS and to raise the political profile of its work, particularly by presenting the ministers with resolutions of a markedly political nature.

Bringing the discussions back to the preparation of working and conference papers, the Chair pointed out that the conference papers and the three draft resolutions would have to be available two or three weeks before the conference began. She hoped that the preparatory works and any working papers which only reflected the experts' opinions would, if possible, be published on the EPAS website after the conference, in order to give the various states access to the results of the work.

### **7.4 Involving EPAS non-member states – meeting of the Enlarged Governing Board on 2 June 2008**

The EPAS Bureau took note of the report on the special meeting (EPAS(2008)25), at which the draft themes and subjects of the ministerial conference had been presented to those states which had not yet joined the EPAS.

## **8. Update on the Campaign against racism and discrimination in sport**

### **8.1 The European Encounters on Education through Sport (20 and 21 November 2008, Strasbourg)**

Jointly organised by EPAS, the French Agence pour l'Education par le Sport and the social science research team from Strasbourg's Marc Bloch University, these European conferences on education through sport will provide an opportunity for a wide range of participants to discuss two important subjects: "Sport and discrimination in Europe" and "Sport facing the test of cultural diversity. Integration and intercultural dialogue".

The Secretariat presented the mode of organisation and the spirit of this event, and replied to questions (on selection, funding, input for the EPAS, etc) from the Board. The Chair asked about the financial contribution from the EPAS. Following discussions, the participants agreed with Norway that this event would not weigh heavily on the EPAS budget. In connection with the defrayal of travel expenses for young researchers from EPAS member countries whose projects had been selected by the Scientific Committee, the Bureau decided only to pay for 10

nationals of EPAS member states. However, for future activities of this type, the Bureau members requested that calls for contributions should be issued sufficiently in advance and that Bureau members should be allowed, if they so wished, to take part in the Scientific Committee's selection procedures.

Furthermore, the Bureau welcomed the development of networks which could contribute to the EPAS' work, and supported the international pluridisciplinary colloquy organised by the Council of Europe/EPAS and the University of Rennes 2 from 15 to 17 April 2009 on the subject of "Ethics and Sports in Europe".

## **8.2 Request from ECRI (European Commission against Racism and Intolerance<sup>1</sup>) concerning its draft 12th general policy recommendation on action against racial discrimination in the field of sport**

The secretariat presented the draft recommendation prepared by the Commission against Racism and Discrimination, and invited Bureau members to communicate their comments, which would be transmitted to ECRI as appropriate.

## **9. Report on the 9 April meeting of the Working Group on the Consultative Committee: EPAS(2008)11rev3**

It was unanimously agreed that the Consultative Committee should be given a lead role, an objective which required careful consideration. Initially, the leaflet presenting the EPAS would be enclosed with a circular which the secretariat would shortly be sending around a wide range of sports organisations, preselected on the basis of highly specific criteria. This initiative would help involve them in implementing targeted activities, enhancing the specific features of EPAS as compared with the other institutions.

## **10. Update on co-operation with other organisations and projects: European Union and WADA**

Co-operation with other organisations was proceeding satisfactorily via recognised networks, in line with the spirit of the parties' particular activities. The EPAS would be represented at the Expert Seminar on networked information exchange in the field of European sport at the initiative of the French Presidency of the EU (Paris, 25 and 26 September 2008), the presentation of the EU White Paper in Bonn (16 and 17 October 2008) and the meeting of EU sports ministers in Biarritz (end of November 2008).

The EPAS was stepping up its co-operation with university sports circles, and was preparing an international colloquy with the University of Rennes from 15 to 17 April in Rennes on the theme of "Ethics and Sports in Europe".

## **11. Other business**

## **12. Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Steering Committee was scheduled for February 2009 (the place had not been decided).

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<sup>1</sup> ECRI is the Council of Europe's independent human rights monitoring body specialised in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance

## Appendix I

### Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda EPAS (2008) 26
3. Report of : -
  - EPAS Governing Board meeting of 21-22 April EPAS (2008) 24
  - Enlarged Meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and ex-CDDS officials on 2 June EPAS (2008) 25
4. Draft Rules of Procedure of the EPAS (for information purposes only) EPAS (2008) 27
5. EPAS news:
  - Memberships, including requests for observer status EPAS (2008) INF02rev
6. A reply from Bureau of the Governing Board for the CLRAE recommendation EPAS (2008) 23
7. Preparations for the 11<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport in Athens on 11-12 December: discussions on themes, working documents, working methods, draft agenda and other organisational questions:
  - Draft Agenda MSL11 (2008) 1rev3  
EPAS (2008) 16rev1
  - Ethics in sport EPAS (2008) INF08  
MSL11 (2008) 2
  - Autonomy in Sport MSL11 (2008) 3
  - Current Political Issues re: Pan-European Co-operation MSL11 (2008) 4
  - Involvement of non-EPAS European Cultural Convention member countries – Enlarged Meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and ex-CDDS officials on 2 June
8. Update on the Campaign on Combating Racism and Discrimination in Sport
  - European Encounters (20-21 November 2008)

Request from ECRI for feedback on General Policy

Recommendation No.12 on combating racism and racial discrimination in the field of sport.

9. Update on the Working Group of the Consultative Committee meeting of 9 April 2008
10. Update on co-operation with other organisations and projects:
  - European Union
  - WADA
11. Miscellaneous
12. Date of the next meeting

EPAS (2008) 11rev3

## Appendix II

### List of Participants

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