

Strasbourg, 13 February 2024

EPAS(2024)9

Meeting of the EPAS GB Bureau

Thursday 25 January 2024

2.30pm – 3.30pm CET

Online (Teams platform)

Working language: English

REPORT

Participants

Governing Board (GB): Alexandre Husting (Luxembourg, Chair), Andrea Carletti (Italy, Vice-Chair), Solène Charuau (France), Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus), Benthe Tanghe (Netherlands), Andrew Decelis (Malta), and Diana Santos (Portugal, MSL18)

Consultative Committee (CC): Charlotte Girard-Fabre (CC Chair), and Mogens Kirkeby (CC Vice-Chair)

Secretariat: Sophie Kwasny, Francine Raveney, Elena Casero-Canas, Cassandra Mactavish, Caroline Larghi, Emma Zanichelli

1. Welcome

The Chair of the GB opened the meeting and wished all participants a Happy New Year.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following items for consideration:

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Adoption of the agenda
- 3) EPAS activities:
 - a) 2023 draft activity report
 - b) 2024 calendar of activities
 - c) Factsheets
- 4) 18th plenary meeting of the EPAS Governing Board (joint meeting with the Consultative Committee)
- 5) 18th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (MSL 18)
- 6) ESC Working Group (amendment to the methodology)
- 7) Any other business
- 8) Date and place of the next meeting

Charlotte Girard-Fabre requested that an item be put on the agenda under “Any other business”, namely the screening of the movie "La Permission", which would be followed by a debate with a group of experts, on 14 March in Evreux in the framework of the partnership between the Council of Europe, the Maison de l'Europe in Evreux and the Pathé cinema on the occasion of the Council of Europe's 75th Anniversary.

3. EPAS activities

a) 2023 draft activity report

Sophie Kwasny reminded everyone that 2023 was a busy and productive year. As usual, EPAS has prepared a draft activity report – this time in a lighter format, including pictures. So far only the French version is available. The Bureau will be invited to comment the draft which, after validation by the Bureau, will be circulated for information to the GB. A table of contents will be added, as well as a foreword by the Chair of the GB, the Chair of the CC and the Executive Secretary of EPAS. The Bureau agreed on the procedure.

b) 2024 calendar of activities

Francine Raveney explained that the [link](#) to the page dedicated to the calendar of activities on the EPAS website had already been sent to the Bureau. For 2024 the Secretariat had tried to space the events out throughout the year:

- 8 March, Strasbourg, France: Breakfast roundtable on women in sport on the occasion of International Women's Day. This year's edition will focus on officiating and gender equality. Francine Raveney thanked Charlotte Girard-Fabre for having drafted the concept note for the event.
- 19-21 March, Morocco: European Sports Charter (ESC) Support and Follow-up visit
- 3-4 April, Budapest: educational workshop for the Ukrainian national ice hockey team (U-18) and their coaches at the European Youth Centre
- 17-18 April, Finland: ESC Support and Follow-up visit
- 29-30 May, Strasbourg, France: annual plenary meetings of EPAS (GB and CC)
- 18-19 June, Interpol, Lyon, France: third annual meeting of the Network of Magistrates and Prosecutors Responsible for Sports (MARS Network)
- 8-10 October, Porto, Portugal: 18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport
- November, Quebec: launch of a Start to Talk campaign
- 3-4 December, Strasbourg, France: third annual meeting of the Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport

c) Factsheets

As decided by the Bureau, a series of 12 thematic factsheets is being prepared, all under the umbrella of the European Sports Charter:

- The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)
- The European Sports Charter (ESC)
- Human rights in and through sport
- Sport for all
- Safe sport
- Children and sport
- Education through sport
- Access to sport for migrants and refugees
- Sustainability
- Gender equality
- Multistakeholderism
- Sport integrity

The Bureau is invited to examine the list of themes and propose others. The layout has not yet been finalised, but the factsheets are intended to be short and to provide straightforward information. When finalised, they will be published on the EPAS website. Paper versions will be printed for special occasions, in particular the upcoming ministerial conference. The Secretariat will share drafts of the factsheets with the Bureau for comments, and then with the GB and CC for last check. They will then be broadly disseminated, and member States will be able to prepare versions in their national languages.

4. 18th plenary meeting of the EPAS Governing Board (joint meeting with the Consultative Committee)

Sophie Kwasny informed the Bureau that the plenary meetings will take place on 29 and 30 May in Strasbourg (2 full days, on site meeting only). She invited the Bureau members to already make their travel arrangements and hotel bookings. The respective in-camera sessions will take place on 29 May in the morning (GB and CC separately) in order to discuss budgetary issues, carry out elections as required (CC) and review the draft resolutions for the ministerial conference before the discussion in plenum. The two committees would then spend 1.5 days together. The meetings will be closed at 4pm on Day 2. An information meeting on the ministerial conference is scheduled at the end of Day 1, mainly for the Permanent Representations of non-EPAS member States. GB members who perceive this as a useful opportunity are invited to liaise with their Permanent Representations in this respect. The meeting will touch upon all important themes of the work carried out, notably in the context of the ESC and follow-up visits, including the methodology used, a sharing of best practices based on the pillars of the ESC, a discussion on the new EPAS strategy, with the idea of defining EPAS' priorities for 2024 and 2025, and the ministerial conference with the finalisation of its documents.

Benthe Tanghe asked if any new member States had informed the Secretariat about their wish to join EPAS. Sophie Kwasny confirmed that two countries had expressed their interest to join but no further formal confirmation was received so far. Benthe Tanghe mentioned that GB members should put this issue on the agenda of their future bilateral meetings with officials of non-EPAS member States. In addition, the GB Chair stressed that a real strategy should be put in place with a more aggressive approach, and it could be developed in the context of meetings with the EU Sport Working Party in Brussels.

Mogens Kirkeby requested that a set format be planned for the participation of the CC in the joint plenary meeting. This item has been included on the agenda of the March CC Bureau meeting.

Andrew Decelis asked if some time could be found to accommodate workshops in smaller groups.

It was agreed that the programme of the Plenary meeting should be designed in order to facilitate interactions and exchanges and avoid lengthy static presentations.

5. 18th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (MSL 18)

Sophie Kwasny and Caroline Larghi carried out a recognition visit in Porto, Matosinhos and Vila Nova de Gaia on 18 December and validated the proposals made by the host.

Diana Santos informed the Bureau that the venue for the conference and all side meetings had been confirmed after this visit. Porto's [Congress Centre](#) (Alfândega do Porto) had been proposed by the Portuguese authorities and accepted by the EPAS Secretariat. The [Porto Leixões Cruise Terminal](#) will accommodate the welcome dinner on 8 October. The gala dinner on 9 October will be offered by the host authorities in the [Porto Stock Exchange Palace](#).

Four hotels were visited: [The Lodge](#) (190 rooms), [Hilton](#) (194 rooms), [Boeira Garden](#) (102 rooms) and [Neya Porto](#). The Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth (IPDJ) is currently

negotiating the prices before a selection can be made. IPDJ is also taking care of the website.

The Bureau took note of document EPAS(2024)4 which contains the various preparatory stages, and related deadlines.

The next Bureau meeting will be devoted to the Conference, and the Secretariat and hosts will start preparing the draft programme and the related documents. The side event themes will be “dual careers and gender equality”, and the overarching conference theme “Governing and Governance”. The draft concept note for the Conference and other documents will be discussed at the next Bureau meeting.

6. ESC Working Group (amendment to the methodology)

Cassandra Mactavish shared the new methodology prepared by the Working Group (WG). One amendment was proposed in September and this was highlighted in the document submitted to the Bureau (EPAS(2023)74). The Bureau made no further comments and validated the proposed amendment to be included in the methodology.

7. AOB

The Chair presented the item under AoB as Charlotte Girard-Fabre had to leave for another meeting. As part of a partnership between the Council of Europe, the Maison de l'Europe in Evreux and the Pathé cinema, various events are being organised to promote the history, initiatives and the values of the Council of Europe on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

The aim of this partnership is to help raise awareness and promote human rights and encourage citizens to play an active part in democratic life among regional and local audiences, while adding diversity to the communication campaign.

On 14 March the movie “La permission” will be presented in the Pathé cinema in Evreux, France; the screening will be followed by a debate with a group of experts made up of a member of the Council of Europe (to highlight the Council's action on these issues) and a local expert (to link these issues to the region), with the presence of the local press and a wide audience. This Iranian movie, directed by Soheil Beiraghi, is based on a true story: Afrooz is the captain of the women's futsal team in Iran. After 11 years of hard work, her dream comes true: Iran is in the final of the Asian Cup of Nations. But just as she is about to embark for Malaysia, she learns that her husband has forbidden her to leave the country. Charlotte Girard-Fabre will take part in the event and represent the Consultative Committee of EPAS at the debate.

8. Date and place of the next meeting

The meeting ended at 3.30pm.

The next Bureau meeting will take place online on Tuesday 27 February 2024 at 1pm.