

Strasbourg, 13 March 2024

EPAS(2024)18

Meeting of the EPAS GB Bureau

Tuesday 27 February 2024

1 pm – 2 pm CET

Online (Teams platform)

Working language: English

REPORT

Participants

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

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

Secretariat: Sophie Kwasny, Francine Raveney, Elena Casero, Cassandra Mactavish, Emma Zanichelli

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the GB.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following items for consideration:

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Adoption of the agenda
- 3) 18th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (MSL 18)
- 4) New accession requests to the Consultative Committee
- 5) Any other business
- 6) Date and place for the next meeting

3. 18th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (MSL 18)

The Executive Secretary of EPAS thanked Diana Santos for her invaluable contribution to the preparatory documents.

Sophie Kwasny recalled the schedule of the preparatory work that was presented at the last Bureau meeting which included the timeline and various steps towards MSL18.

She presented the four documents shared with the Bureau and confirmed a two-weeks deadline to comment and provide input on the various drafts to the Secretariat. She also recalled that the schedule of the preparatory work includes several phases of consultation and possible input, including the EPAS Plenary meeting on 29-30 May and the final senior officials meeting in Porto on 8 October.

- Draft programme

It provides an initial overview of the format and timing of the different sessions, with the content and selection of speakers to be further developed.

- Draft concept note

This is a summary of the theme, context and objectives of the conference, expected results, participants, and budgetary implications. This standard document is directly linked to the draft reference document and resolution, so that it is expected that the concept note will evolve in line with the reference document and resolution. The same applies to the precise title/theme of the Conference which will evolve in the next phases based on the development of the resolution and reference document.

- Draft reference document

It is intended to set the scene for the delegations, with the core of the topics for discussion and guidance on the questions that Ministers/delegations might answer.

- Draft Resolution

The draft Resolution's structure includes a preamble and an operative part aimed at the Committee of the Ministers on the one hand and EPAS on the other hand.

In response to Mogens Kirkeby, the Secretariat confirmed that the two distinct focus sessions on "Gender equality" and "Dual Careers" which will be organised on 10 October, while addressing specific themes, are to be seen in relation to the overall theme of Governing and Governance.

Benthe Tanghe welcomed the main theme of the conference, acknowledging its complexity and sensitivity, notably in light of existing frictions between the interests of public authorities and the sport movement, and stressed the need to address it, notably to reinforce mutual involvement and cooperation.

The Chair noted the technical nature of the questions raised at the end of the reference document and suggested that they be revised to be more general and political. He raised concerns as to the use of the notion of "public good" – broadly used in sociology - in this context as the fact of considering sport as a public good would have important implications (for instance to be provided free of charge, including on television). The Secretariat confirmed that another notion, the one of "common good", might be more appropriate to reflect that sport brings an important contribution to society without endangering the functioning of the system.

The Bureau is invited to share comments and input on the draft documents by 12 March at the latest in order to secure the preparation of a revised version on time for the next Bureau meeting.

4. New accession requests to the Consultative Committee (CC)

Cassandra Mactavish explained that the CC was currently composed of 27 organisation members and that it could be expanded up to a maximum of 30. She also explained the accession process according to the CC Terms of Reference (CC ToR):

- After approval by the Governing Board Bureau, the request and documents will be sent for consultation to the members of the CC. Their opinion will then be conveyed to the Governing Board, which may propose the candidate organisations to the Committee of Ministers.

She presented the 4 candidates:

- Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)
- Rugby Europe
- World Snowboard Federation (WSF)
- International Dart Federation (IDF)

She also provided further details of the accession requirements as set out in the CC ToR and the corresponding assessment for each of the organisations. She recalled that according to the ToR Article 2.1.2 b) the Governing Board shall aim to ensure a balance between the different categories of organisations. Currently the balance of organisations in the CC are:

- Category A (international (single) Sports Federations or European branches of International (single) Sports Federations)
 - 4 member organisations
- Category B (other international sports organisations whose main purpose is to organise sport activities or sport events or international umbrella organisations of organisations whose main purpose is to organise sport activities or sport events)
 - 8 member organisations
- Category C: (other organisations involved in sport or sport-related matters)
 - 15 member organisations

The four candidate organisations are in category A.

The Chair asked how the Bureau could make recommendations beyond the structure provided (assessment table and supporting documents). Sophie Kwasny clarified that the decision lies with the Governing Board and that its vote will then determine which candidates are to be presented to the Committee of Ministers for accession.

The Chair and the Secretariat underlined the importance of choosing candidates that can make an active and real contribution to the work of EPAS, as opposed to organisations that seemed -in the past- to only want to join the CC to be legitimatised at international level.

In response to a question from the Bureau, Cassandra Mactavish clarified that there was no obligation to select three candidates, even if there were three vacancies. She also recalled that the candidates' motivation for joining the CC could be found in the letters of intent that had been shared with the Bureau.

Mogens Kirkeby commented that according to his understanding of the CC ToR, all CC members up for renewal could be replaced with new applicants. Sophie Kwasny mentioned that the Secretariat was currently in the process of assessing the current CC members up for

renewal (12) this year and deemed them to be active members as provided in the ToR. Cassandra Mactavish clarified that if member organisations chose not to renew, the vacancies would be effective in 2025.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to transmit the four applications to the CC.

5. Any other business

Benthe Tanghe announced that she would be changing jobs and taking up a new position in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and that this meeting was her last. The Bureau thanked her most sincerely for her outstanding contribution to the EPAS work, dynamism and vision, and expressed its best wishes of success in her new position.

6. Date and place of the next meeting

The Secretariat will propose dates for the next Bureau meeting to be held the week of the 18th of March, with 21st of March being the preferred one. The meeting will be held online.

The meeting was closed at 2pm.