

Strasbourg, 25 March 2024

EPAS(2024)19

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

Consultative Committee (CC) Bureau Meeting

8 March 2024
2.00pm – 3.30pm

Council of Europe
Room 17

Working language: English

Meeting report

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda (Appendix I) was adopted without any modifications.

3. Plenary meeting of the EPAS Consultative Committee, Strasbourg, 29 May 2024 (in camera morning session)

- Consultative Committee elections
 - The Secretariat clarified that while there were elections at the last CC Plenary meeting (in camera) in 2023, this was due to a vacancy to the position of Chair of the CC Bureau which then triggered an additional vacancy for a Bureau position. This year marks the normal term of the mandate of the CC Bureau and will include a full set of elections.
 - It was also noted that TAFISA will not be in a position to present a candidate for the Bureau as according to the Terms of Reference a member of the Bureau can only be re-elected once and must then wait two years before applying again.
 - There will therefore be an election for the Chair, Vice-Chair, 4 members of the Bureau and the Gender Equality Rapporteur in the morning of 29 May. The Secretariat will be sending out a call for applications in April. Interested organisations can then send their candidates and their CVs in advance to the Secretariat or present their candidacy orally on 29 May.
- Draft agenda for the CC plenary meeting
 - The Chair led the discussions on the various items of the draft plenary agenda. Among those items discussed were the elections, CC membership (renewals and new members) as well as the ESC Support & Follow up (S&F) visits.
 - The Secretariat mentioned that it had been decided at the last ESC Working Group meeting that in addition to participating in all ESC S&F visits as a team member, the CC will also be invited to join the visits as a Rapporteur. This information would be shared with the CC at the plenary and a show of hands of those interested in either of these two roles at the upcoming ESC S&F visits will take place.
 - Finally, under Item 7, the Secretariat will provide an update on the Ministerial Conference in Porto, 8-10 October 2024, which is further referred to under item 4 of this report.
 - The Chair stated that the Tour de Table would take place as had been foreseen in 2023 with only those who have prepared a couple of slides on their organisation's work on the ESC allowed to deliver a presentation at the plenary. There would be no other opportunity for members to share their work at the in camera meeting unless they had sent a presentation in advance. All CC members will therefore be invited to prepare a maximum of two slides as stated above, to present to the CC during the tour de table. There would, however, be a pre-plenary CC working meeting on 28 May during which CC members would have the opportunity to discuss areas of their work pertaining to the ESC. The Vice-Chair also indicated that this year it would be particularly important to stringently enforce the rules in order to maintain credibility vis-à-vis the delivery of presentations in advance.
- CC pre-meeting and networking event 28 May evening
 - The Chair explained that this meeting and the networking event would be split into two parts: firstly a working session where the CC would identify 2 or 3 key pillars of the ESC, organise break-out groups according to the chosen topic and then these groups would choose a Rapporteur and prepare short presentation to be presented during the Joint Plenary session- only one slide would be presented per pillar. This would give the CC the opportunity to draw to the attention of the Governing Board the work being carried out by the CC in furthering the values of the ESC, in an organised, constructive and memorable way. This would replace the tour de table which had taken place during the Joint Plenary

- in 2023. Secondly, as stated above, a networking event would take place allowing CC members to share their experiences and identify synergies in a less formal environment.
- Pauline Johanet expressed her support for this extra session. Diversity Conference 2025 themes (for information)
 - The Secretariat explained that the two themes which would be proposed for the 2025 Diversity Conference would both fall under the theme of Sport for all:
 - 1. the Silver generation and sport OR
 - 2. Young people and sport.

The Governing Board would select the subject area during the plenary meeting.

4. Upcoming EPAS events:

- Educational workshop on the European Sports Charter, 3-4 April, Budapest
 - The Secretariat explained that the Ukrainian U-18 national ice hockey team would be hosted in the Youth Centre in Budapest on 3-4 April for an educational workshop on non-discrimination and the ESC, which would be facilitated by a trainer from Hungary, who is notably an expert on combating hate speech in sport.
- ESC Support and Follow-up visit, 18-19 April, Finland
 - The Secretariat provided an update on this upcoming visit including the team members: Diana Santos (Portugal) and Kaarel Nestor (Estonia) representing the Governing Board and Hugh Torrance (EGLSF), representing the Consultative Committee. In this case, the GB member would be acting as Rapporteur. In addition, this visit would serve as a pilot for a new questionnaire which would serve two key purposes: inform the discussions/report before, during and after the visit as well as provide a national style report for the host country to better understand their implementation of the European Sports Charter within their policies and practices.
- ESC Support and Follow-up visit, 11-12 June, Morocco
 - This visit would take place entirely in French. The team is currently being constituted and so far includes Alexandre Husting (Luxembourg) representing the Governing Board and Annemarie Phelps (EOC) representing the CC. In addition, a CC member will be identified to act as Rapporteur and a second French-speaking Governing Board member if possible.
- 3rd meeting of the MARS Network, 18-19 June, Interpol, Lyon
 - The upcoming Plenary meeting of the Network of Magistrates and Prosecutors responsible for Sport (MARS) will be hosted by Interpol, bringing together international law enforcement and international criminal justice, with the prosecutors.
- Olympic Torch Relay, 26 June, Strasbourg
 - The Secretariat mentioned that the Olympic Torch relay would stop at the forecourt of the Council of Europe on 26 June. EPAS is trying to set in place a number of communication initiatives on this occasion and will confirm these in due course.
 - Pauline Johanet asked if EPAS was planning to organise anything at the Olympic Village itself in Paris. The Secretariat indicated that some exchanges have taken place with the French Ministry of Sport but for now nothing had been confirmed. However

it is likely that EPAS presence would not be as significant it had been for past Olympic Games.

- Pauline Johanet then asked if the ESC could be highlighted through events hosted by other organisations. Further exchanges would take place on this in particular with the relevant French Ministries, UNESCO, the Commonwealth, etc.
- 18th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, 8-10 October, Porto
 - The Secretariat provided an update on the draft programme. On the morning of 8 October there would be an event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Macolin Convention; in the afternoon there would be parallel meetings of the CC and Senior officials and in the evening there would be a dinner organised by the hosts. On 9 October the topics of the main section of the Ministerial would be the governing and governance of sport. On 10 October in the morning, there would be two focus sessions, one on gender equality and one on dual careers. The event will end on 10 October at lunchtime. Draft documents are being prepared and will be presented at the Plenary meeting in May.
- ESC Support and Follow-up visit, country tbc, November 2024
 - The Secretariat indicated that there was nothing new to report on this visit other than the fact that it was likely be hosted by a new EPAS member State (tbc).
- Meeting of the Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport, 3-4 December, location TBC/online
 - The Secretariat gave an update on the annual meeting. More information would be shared at the Plenary session.
- Human Rights Forum
 - The Secretariat explained that in 2024 there would not be a Human Rights Forum but that for the 2025 edition one possible theme may be: the right to health and sport.

5. Updates on past events:

- Breakfast Roundtable on Women in Sport, Hybrid (Strasbourg), 8 March 2024
 - The Secretariat thanked all those who contributed to and attended the third breakfast round table on International Women's Day which had taken place in the morning of 8/3 on the theme of sport officiating and gender equality. A very special thank you was given to the CC Chair for her work on making this day a great success. Over 40 people had attended in person, including 9 Permanent Representations, with a further following 180 online and more following the livestream on Facebook. Bureau members were invited to share the Facebook livestream recording which is available on the Council of Europe's Facebook page.
 - The Gender Equality Rapporteur and the Chair both mentioned that they had been delighted to moderate the event and had really enjoyed their time getting to know the speakers and hear their stories. The Chair added that women in sport are often put under the spotlight, but that female referees are usually forgotten, so she was really happy that this had been rectified on this occasion.
 - The Vice-Chair indicated that he considered the panel to be extremely impactful and that the event could easily go viral on social media.

6. CC membership

- Renewals
 - The Secretariat indicated that 12 current CC member organisations were due for renewal this year. The process had begun and further to the input from the CC Vice

Chair and others, it was decided that members be asked to include a letter of intent with their applications. This letter of intent should include how the organisation plans to contribute to EPAS and furthering the values of the ESC over the next 3 years.

- New members
 - The Secretariat confirmed that there were 3 current vacancies on the CC; currently the CC has 27 member organisations out of a possible 30.
 - There are 4 new applicants: Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA); International Dart Federation (IDF); Rugby Europe; and the World Snowboard Federation (WSF).
 - The first step in the assessment process had been completed: based on the documents received from the above-mentioned organisations, the Bureau of the EPAS Governing Board had drafted a report on whether they were considered to comply with the requirements set out in the Terms of Reference. Currently, the documents as well as the opinion of the Secretariat have been sent for consultation to the members of the Consultative Committee, and the opinion of the Consultative Committee will then be conveyed to the Governing Board. Based on the votes, the Governing Board will then propose candidate organisations (a maximum of 3) to the Committee of Ministers.
 - The Secretariat encouraged all CC members present to respond to the email regarding the assessment of the new candidates.
 - Andrej Pisl asked whether or not any CC members due for renewal had decided not to renew and if so, could that influence the outcome of the new member assessment process. The Secretariat indicated that so far no current members had declined to renew but that even if they were to decline, their membership was still valid for a few months and therefore that vacancy would only be considered next year.

7. Promotion of CC members' activities

- Peace and Sport
 - Pauline Johanet informed the CC Bureau that Peace and Sport were co-organising an event with UNESCO on 4 April in the afternoon. All CC Bureau members were invited to attend and listen to the athletes who would be speaking. Invitations would be sent out shortly.
 - The Secretariat informed the Bureau that they would be following this event as part of the CIGEPS meeting in Paris with UNESCO.
- ISCA
 - Mogens Kirkeby mentioned that since October last year ISCA had hosted the international sport for development organisation platform in partnership with Sport and Dev as a follow up to IRTS. The platform convenes those who work in the field of the inclusion of refugees through sport and was a large consortium with several organisations from outside the field of sport.
 - A second project ISCA is participating in, is the Finnish support programme for vulnerable children, Icehearts Europe. This is a mentorship programme adapted to the sports sector. There are 28 different partners in Europe and it is a 2-year project worth 5 million euros.
- EUSA
 - Andrej Pisl shared an update on EUSA's flagship event: the European Universities Games which will take place in July for two weeks. It brings together European university teams and individuals and will take place in Hungary this year. It's primarily a sports events, but there is always a synergy of educational events, raising awareness and political work. There are several topics in common with the work of the CC that will be covered. Invitations would be sent out shortly.

- IFSO
 - Charlotte Girard Fabre referenced a major IFSO project about the manipulation of athletes, coaches and referees which is closely connected to MARS. They will share the implementation results and outputs later this year.
 - The link for the WINS research presented at the Breakfast roundtable would also be shared by IFSO.
- EAS
 - On behalf of EAS, the Secretariat shared information about the upcoming EAS café. This latest edition on Monday 11 March included two athletes competing in the Paris Olympic Games and two athletes who are very invested in the dual careers of young athletes. Anyone who was interested in joining the café was invited to contact the Secretariat for more information.
- ENGSO
 - Marie Denitton explained ENGSO had applied for an ERASMUS + sport project on safeguarding with many partners.
 - ENGSO's General Assembly would take place in Vienna on the 14-16 June and the ENGSO European Sport Platform would be held in Pristina, Kosovo 21-23 November.
 - ENGSO had conducted research last year on women's participation in sport across Europe in order to give a snapshot of women in sport across Europe. Some key statistics:
 - 487 women aged 18+ from 30 different countries in Europe responded to the questionnaire;
 - nearly 90% of women had experienced verbal harassment associated with other types of harassment and 76% of cases the incidents went unreported;
 - in the group of those with disabilities, none had reported abuse;
 - the Secretariat would share the full study and results with the Bureau.

8. Any Other Business

Mogens Kirkeby asked about the ESC S&F Slovakia report. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the report will be ready by the plenary meeting.

9. Date and place of the next Bureau meeting

The next CC Bureau meeting would be held online in June or July 2024.

10. Closing

The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

APPENDIX I

Consultative Committee (CC)
Bureau Meeting
Agenda

1.	Opening of the meeting
2.	Adoption of the draft agenda
3.	<p>Plenary meeting of the EPAS Consultative Committee, Strasbourg, 29 May 2024 (in camera morning session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultative Committee elections • Draft agenda for the CC plenary meeting • CC pre-meeting and networking event 28 May • Diversity Conference 2025 themes (for information)
4.	<p>Upcoming EPAS events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational workshop on the European Sports Charter, 3-4 April, Budapest • ESC Support and Follow-up visit, 18-19 April, Finland • ESC Support and Follow-up visit, 11-12 June, Morocco • 3rd meeting of the MARS Network, 18-19 June, Lyon • Olympic Torch Relay, 26 June, Strasbourg • 18th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, 8-10 October, Porto • ESC Support and Follow-up visit, country tbc, November 2024 • Meeting of the Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport, 3-4 December, location TBC/online
5.	<p>Updates on past events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast Roundtable on Women in Sport, Hybrid (Strasbourg), 8 March 2024
6.	<p>CC membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewals • New members
7.	<p>Promotion of CC members' activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC activities
8.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC
9.	<p>Date and place of the next Bureau meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June/July TBC
10.	Closing

APPENDIX II

16th Plenary meeting of the EPAS Consultative Committee
29 May 2024

[Draft] Agenda

9.30am – 12.30pm with coffee break included

1.	Opening of the meeting Charlotte Girard Fabre, Chair of the EPAS Consultative Committee
2.	Adoption of the agenda
3.	Update by the Secretariat 3.1. EPAS membership 3.2. Parliamentary Assembly 3.3. Overview of the work of the Sport Division
4.	CC membership 4.1 Overview of the CC membership 4.1.1. Renewals 4.1.2. New members
5.	Elections 5.1 Information on candidatures received in writing 5.2 Oral nominations of candidates 5.3 Introduction round of candidates 5.4 Information on the organisation of the elections 5.5 Election 5.5.1 Election of the Chair 5.5.2 Election of the Vice-Chair 5.5.3 Election of the 4 members of the Bureau 5.5.4 Election of the Gender Equality Rapporteur
6.	European Sports Charter Support & Follow up 6.1 CC representatives
7.	Events (more events to be added at a later date) 7.1 18th Joint meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and the EPAS Consultative Committee 7.2 18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Porto, Portugal 7.3 Diversity Conference 2025
8.	Tour de table
9.	Any other business
10.	Date and place of the next meeting ○ 18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Porto, Portugal, 8 October 2-3pm (TBC)

APPENDIX III

PARTICIPANTS

Charlotte GIRARD FABRE (Consultative Committee Chair)

International Federation for Sports Officials (IFSO)
Secretary General

Mogens KIRKEBY (Consultative Committee Vice-Chair)

International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA)
President

Pauline JOHANET (Bureau member) (online)

Peace and Sport
External Relations Manager

Andrej PISL (Bureau member) (online)

European University Sports Association
Communications and Projects Manager

Baiba VEISA (Bureau member) (online)

European Fair Play Movement
Vice President

Marie DENITTON (Gender Equality Rapporteur)

ENGSO
Office Director

SECRETARIAT

Sophie KWASNY

EPAS Executive Secretary

Francine HETHERINGTON RAVENEY

EPAS Deputy Executive Secretary

Cassandra MACTAVISH

Senior Project Officer/Consultative Committee Coordinator

Despina TRAMOUNTANI

Project Assistant