

Strasbourg, 5 May 2023

EPAS(2023)27

Meeting of the EPAS GB Bureau

Friday 28 April 2023

2.30pm – 3.45pm CET

Online (Teams platform)

Working language: English

REPORT

Participants

Governing Board (GB): Alexandre Husting (Luxembourg, Chair), Andrew Decelis (Malta), Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus, Gender Equality Rapporteur), Diana Santos (Portugal, MSL18)

Secretariat: Irena Guidikova, Sophie Kwasny, Cassandra Mactavish, Caroline Larghi

Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Governing Board.

Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was adopted with no modifications, i.e. with the following items for consideration:

- Draft agenda of the plenary meeting (8-9 June, Strasbourg)
- Working Group on the implementation of the European Sports Charter (ESC) and first test/implementation during the visit to Portugal (24-25 May 2023) - Approval of the secretariat recommendation for the Consultative Committee (CC) representative to join the support and follow up team for the ESC pilot visit to Portugal
- 18th Ministerial Conference, Portugal 2024

Draft agenda of the Plenary meeting of 8-9 June

The main focus of the Bureau meeting was to go through the draft agenda of the joint plenary meeting of the GB and the CC, which will take place in the Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg on 8 and 9 June, in order to have the invitations sent as soon as possible once the Bureau will have reviewed the draft agenda.

Sophie Kwasny went through the different items of the draft agenda of the June meeting and the following points were noted:

Item 4: Consequences of the aggression against Ukraine

This item aims at enabling delegations to express their views on possible initiatives that EPAS could take, such as organising a conference or a seminar, putting the question in the broader perspective of the autonomy of sport and deciding to address it on another occasion, drafting a paper, etc.

Item 8, including the in-camera session for its preparation

The objective of the afternoon session is to decide whether EPAS shall adopt a text on the integrity of sport or if such a declaration should be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption. The GB shall also decide, in camera in the morning session, if the MARS network shall come under EPAS' responsibility.

The afternoon session on the integrity of sport will include a thematic debate in conference format on how to keep/bring greater integrity in sport.

This afternoon session will be followed by a cocktail reception offered by the Permanent Representation of the Principality of Monaco to the Council of Europe from 5.15pm to 6.30pm in the Foyer of the Committee of Ministers.

A new item on the promotion of EPAS (item 9) was proposed by the Chair in order to discuss the best way to extend the recognition of EPAS and its membership.

The Bureau approved the draft agenda and instructed the Secretariat to share it with delegations.

WG on the implementation of the European Sports Charter and first test/implementation during the visit to Portugal (24-25 May 2023)

The Bureau was informed of the progress of the work of the ESC Working Group, and the proposed format for the forthcoming visit of the ESC support and follow up team to Portugal.

According to the proposed methodology, the Bureau is invited to consider the secretariat recommendation for the CC representative to join the ESC visit to Portugal.

Cassandra Mactavish informed the Bureau that the recommended CC representatives are Janez Sodrznik from TAFISA, who's been a member of the CC Bureau for 3 years, and as substitute, Charlotte Girard Fabre from IFSO. The Bureau approved the secretariat's recommendation.

18th Ministerial Conference, Portugal 2024

The Bureau initiated preliminary exchanges on the possible format of the Conference and the need to limit the themes addressed.

Diana Santos shared the first ideas developed within the Portuguese ministry, i.e. having different sessions like a youth laboratory, and providing for a moment of real discussion. The delegations could bring their youth delegations, a national athlete etc. There should also be a parallel session for public authorities. In order to organise these different sessions, the Portuguese ministry has chosen several locations (Porto, Vila Nova da Gaia, Matosinhos). Portugal's preferred topic would be gender equality. The conference will take place in September or October, with a high probability for October.

Ioanna Paraskevopoulou welcomed the idea of having informal workshops with the presence of the sports movement.

Alexandre Husting suggested to find facilitators to introduce the different topics.

Andrew Decelis referred to the World Café format, where there are several round tables on different topics; the participants go from one table to the other one, but the facilitators remain at their tables, and there is a summary of all discussions at the end, this format could be kept but not at the level of exchanges between ministers.

The meeting was closed at 3.45pm.