

Strasbourg, 27 February 2025

EPAS(2025)27

Meeting of the EPAS Governing Board Bureau

Tuesday 18 February 2025

1pm – 2pm CET

Online (Teams platform)

Working language: English

REPORT

Participants

Governing Board (GB): Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus), Solène Charuau (France), Bram van Houten (Netherlands), Andrew Decelis (Malta), Florian Botto (Monaco, MSL19), Michael Landau (Monaco, MSL19)

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

Apologies: Alexandre Husting (Luxembourg, Chair)

Secretariat: Sophie Kwasny, Francine Hetherington Raveney, Elena Casero, Cassandra Mactavish, Caroline Larghi

1. Welcome

In the absence of the Chair of the Governing Board, the Bureau agreed as an exceptional measure that the EPAS Executive Secretary, Sophie Kwasny, facilitates the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following items for consideration:

- A. Follow-up of the 18th CoE Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Porto, 9-10 October 2024
- B. 19th CoE Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Monaco, 3-4 November 2026
- C. 19th annual plenary meeting of the EPAS Governing Board (joint meeting with the Consultative Committee), 14-15 May 2025
- D. Any other business
- E. Date and place of the next meeting

3. Follow-up of the 18th CoE Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Porto, 9-10 October 2024

The EPAS Executive Secretary presented the report by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, which was presented to the Committee of Ministers and is available on the [EPAS website](#).

The Bureau shall now decide on the next steps.

In accordance with the text of the Resolution adopted in Porto, which mandates the EPAS to examine the relevance of the Council of Europe's normative framework on the issues of good governance on the one hand, and on the principle of the autonomy of sport on the other, an external consultant was called upon to prepare a report containing an analysis of Recommendations [CM/Rec\(2018\)12](#) and [CM/Rec\(2011\)3](#) in order to examine the relevance

of these two texts in the light of current realities and new challenges. The report was drafted by Clémentine Legendre and will be shared with the Bureau and discussed at its next meeting.

As a follow-up to the Resolution, regarding the sharing of best practices, Michael Landau suggested that requests for input be sent in writing to all delegations ahead of the Plenary meeting, in order for best practices to be shared.

Solène Charuau referred to the survey, which EPAS member states were invited to complete at the ministerial conference in Porto. Sophie Kwasny indicated that the responses will serve for the drafting of the next EPAS Strategy 2026-2027.

4. 19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Monaco, 3-4 November 2026 (MSL19)

The EPAS Executive Secretary shared the date of the first recognition visit to Monaco. Two members of the Secretariat (Sophie Kwasny and Caroline Larghi) will meet the Monegasque authorities on Friday 21 March 2025 and visit the selected venue for the Conference and the foreseen hotels for the Heads of Delegations and the other participants.

A document (EPAS(2025)24) was prepared by the Secretariat with the thematic proposals for the Conference. The version shared with the Bureau includes comments from the Monegasque authorities. The Bureau's feedback is requested for a number of topics listed at the end of the document.

Florian Botto thanked the Secretariat for this document, and agreed that the topics are very much in line with Monaco's approach. The Conference should aim to exchange on policies and lessons learned in order to avoid having a declarative event.

Mogens Kirkeby precised that fundamental questions are needed as well as concrete data from member states. If not, the discussion will remain theoretical. This approach was confirmed by Bram van Houten.

Solène Charuau added that the discussion should have a specific focus and a problem-oriented approach. One topic of interest for France would be the border between an exigent training and harassment (how to avoid overtraining?).

Ioanna Paraskevopoulou suggested identifying member states' existing mechanisms and legislation on safeguarding, which is a priority topic for Cyprus.

Michael Landau suggested brainstorming and continuing the discussion after having explored the existing studies on this subject. The discussion could include the legislation and ruling (how justice is served towards victims).

Bram van Houten shared that this topic is a priority in the Netherlands as well. They are in the process of creating a sports integrity centre, as many cases have been reported, which are currently dealt with through disciplinary procedures by sport organisations.

The EPAS Executive Secretary concurred with positions expressed and explained that data collection within the ALL IN + project, which had just organised its closing event, had been a massive exercise. Any data collection exercise would require a more specific topic. Focusing on safeguarding would correspond to EPAS' priorities. She also mentioned that the Pool of international experts on safe sport focuses on abuse, violence, overtraining and prevention (which is key on top of rendering justice once harm is done). In this context, Elena Casero, Manager of the Start to Talk Project, shared a link to the paper on [Prevalence of interpersonal violence against children in sport in six European countries](#), pointing out that there are few studies on child abuse in sport. She also explained how the EPAS Secretariat had collected information on national contexts, notably in the framework of the work carried out by the Pool of international experts on safe sport for the preparation of guidelines on safer recruitment in sport, where a questionnaire was sent to the members of the pool and to the members of the Council of Europe's Network of Magistrates / Prosecutors Responsible for Sport (the MARS Network).

Florian Botto explained that child safeguarding would be in line with the theme that they initially had in mind for the Ministerial and confirmed that a new proposal focused on safeguarding and the sharing of best practices and mechanisms would be prepared. Florian Botto and Michael Landau thanked the members of the Bureau for their constructive and very useful feedback and proposals.

Michael Landau finally confirmed the support and participation of Monaco in the event co-organised by EPAS on the sidelines of the 58th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on 12 March in the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The event, supported by Unicef, will focus on safe sport as a space for human rights education. The invitation will be sent out in the coming days.

5. 19th annual plenary meeting of the EPAS Governing Board (joint meeting with the Consultative Committee), 14-15 May 2025

The Bureau has received a draft annotated agenda for the plenary meeting. This year, the meeting will start at 2pm on 14 May with the two in-camera sessions. A Save the date will be sent out this week. An extended session will be organised on Sport for All on 15 May in the afternoon. It will be linked to the new [joint project \(JP\) on Promoting inclusion and combating discrimination against persons with disabilities](#), which will be launched on 1 March 2025.

Michael Landau raised the point of the amount of content to cover in a short period, Sophie Kwasny indicated that many items on the draft agenda were for information only and that time efficiency would be sought for their management.

Michael Landau suggested that the European Sports Charter support and follow-up visit to Monaco in early 2026 be added under item 4.

Ioanna Paraskevopoulou asked that an item be added on the results and follow-up of the ALL IN+ project.

The Bureau is invited to send their comments on the draft annotated agenda within two weeks.

6. Any other business

No other matter was raised.

7. Date and place of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 18 March 2025 from 1 to 2.00pm, online on the Teams platform.