

Strasbourg, 29 April 2024

EPAS(2024)32

Meeting of the EPAS GB Bureau

Monday 29 April 2024

2.30 pm – 3.10 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), Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus), Andrew Decelis (Malta)

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

Secretariat: Sophie Kwasny, Francine Raveney, Maria-Elena Casero-Canas, Caroline Larghi Despina Tramountani

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:

- 18th meeting of the EPAS Governing Board (joint meeting with the Consultative Committee)
- Consultative Committee renewals and requests for accession
- 18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sports (MSL18)
- Decision on the 2026 ministerial conference (MSL19)
- EPAS Strategy 2024-2025
- Any other business
- Date and place of the next meeting

3. 18th meeting of the EPAS Governing Board (joint meeting with the Consultative Committee)

The Executive Secretary of EPAS announced that the convocations have been sent out together with the draft agenda for the meeting (EPAS(2024)20), as validated by the Bureau. The joint meeting will start on 29 May at 2 pm. In the morning of 29 May, each Committee will have its in camera session.

The preparation of the meeting documents is the Secretariat's next step. Most documents will be ready and made available on MyCloud by end next week. The core documents concern the 18th Ministerial Conference. Another key document is the draft 2024-2025 EPAS strategy.

In the evening of 28 May there will be a short preparatory meeting of the Consultative Committee in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, followed by an informal gathering. In the morning of 29 May elections will be conducted to fulfil the vacant post for Region 2 in the Bureau. Beforehand a circular letter will be sent out to the GB with a call for applications. In the evening of 29 May all participants and speakers will be invited to the launch of an exhibition co-organised with the Permanent Representation of France to the Council of Europe, called "Les Elles des Jeux".

On 30 May in the morning there will be a high-level opening of the session by the Council of Europe's Deputy Secretary General and the Finnish Minister of Youth, Sport and Physical Activity, followed by presentations. It is expected that it will be a dynamic session.

4. Consultative Committee renewals and requests for accession

The term of office of the following organisations is expiring in 2024: Alice Milliat Foundation, European Athletics, European Gay and Lesbian Federation (EGLSF), European Network of Sport Education (ENSE), European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO), European University Sports Association (EUSA), International Basketball Federation (FIBA), International Federation of Sports Officials (IFSO), Panathlon International, Peace and Sport, TAFISA Europe and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

The Deputy Executive Secretary of EPAS presented the results of the GB consultation led in April:

	Alice Milliat Foundation	European Athletics	European Gay and Lesbian Federation (EGLSF)	European Network of Sport Education (ENSE)	European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO)	European University Sports Association (EUSA)	International Basketball Federation (FIBA)	International Federation of Sports Officials (IFSO)	Panathlon International	Peace and Sport	TAFISA Europe	Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)
Favour	12	15	11	15	15	15	15	13	13	14	14	14
Against			1					1				
Abstain	3		3					1	2	1	1	1
No vote												
TOTAL	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15

The circular letter stated that silence kept within the set deadline would be understood as support for the renewal of the membership of the twelve concerned organisations, to be added to the 15 voting sheets received. Individual notifications will be sent to these organisations after the plenary meeting.

In addition, four organisations informed the Secretariat about their wish to participate in the work of EPAS as members of its Consultative Committee: the International Automobile Federation (FIA), the International Dart Federation (IDF), Rugby Europe and the World Snowboard Federation (WSF).

The Deputy Executive Secretary of EPAS presented the results of the GB consultation led in April.

	Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile	International Dart Federation	Rugby Europe	World Snowboard Federation
Favour	21	11	21	17
Against	1	2	0	1
Abstain	1	6	1	4
No vote	0	4	1	1
TOTAL	23	23	23	23

The reply rate and number of votes received (in favour, against or abstain) will now be communicated to the relevant Rapporteur Group of the Committee of Ministers, the GR-C, for its meeting on 23 May. The meeting of the Committee of Ministers is scheduled to take place on 29 May. A recap will also be prepared for the GB. Francine Raveney asked the Bureau if it would agree for some of these organisations to be invited to the annual plenary meeting of the GB and CC as guests, given the fact that the final decision will be taken on 29 May only by the Committee of Ministers. The organisations would be invited after the GR-C has examined their applications on 23 May and given its opinion. The Bureau agreed.

5. 18th Council of Europe Conference of ministers responsible for sport (MSL18)

Sophie Kwasny informed the Bureau that the preparations are progressing as foreseen. The concept note has been finalised and sent to the GR-C for it to be examined at its meeting on 23 May.

The save the date message shall be sent to all delegations and Observers beginning of May. The plenary meeting of the GB will examine the draft programme, the draft resolution and the follow up measures to the latest ministerial conference (Antalya, 2022).

The Executive Secretary of EPAS also informed the Bureau that the Portuguese Institute for Sport and Youth (IPDJ) has been ensuring the transition since the end of the term of office of the previous government. A new Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has been appointed in the meantime, with a Secretary of State for Sports. Contact has been set in motion with the new government. The Secretariat is waiting for an official letter from the new government confirming that they will host the Conference. The letter will be shared with the Bureau upon reception.

The Portuguese Institute for Sport and Youth (IPDJ) has come up with proposals for the website, the visual identity and the logos. Decisions have been made as well regarding accommodation of delegates and Heads of delegation.

Online preparatory meetings are taking place every two weeks.

The Deputy Executive Secretary of EPAS informed the Bureau that the topics of the focus sessions of 10 October have been defined as follows: session 1 on leadership and gender

equality, with a sub-topic on male allies, and session 2 on dual careers. The newly elected President of FC Porto, André Villas-Boas, has been invited to take part in the sessions.

6. Decision on the 2026 ministerial conference (MSL19)

A circular letter was sent out to call for possible candidacies for the 2026 ministerial conference. The Principality of Monaco had already applied and is the sole host candidate. A formal decision is now needed from the GB to confirm Monaco's hosting of the 2026 19th Ministerial Conference.

If the Bureau agrees, a circular letter will be sent out before the plenary meeting. This step is important as the competent Minister of Monaco would become the Vice-Chair of the Conference in Porto. If a confirmation is obtained in advance of the plenary meeting, the representative from Monaco could make a presentation. The Bureau agreed to send a circular letter to the GB to get its approval.

The ministerial conference would take place during Monaco's Presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

7. EPAS Strategy 2024-2025

A draft strategy prepared by the Secretariat will be sent to the Bureau and 2 weeks will be given to the Bureau to make comments/complete it. It will then be presented and examined at the annual meeting in May. The main strategic priorities of EPAS are distributed according to the following objectives:

- Envisioning
- Promoting
- Amplifying
- Strengthening

8. Any other business

11 new factsheets had been sent to the Bureau for comments. The deadline was 29 April at 12.00 noon. Sophie Kwasny thanked the Chair for his comments and invited the other members of the Bureau to react on the submitted documents. The full set of factsheets will be submitted to the GB and the CC for approval prior to the plenary meeting. Two weeks would be given for feedback for comments.

At the Chair's suggestion, the factsheets were split among the Bureau members for final comments by 30 April at 12 noon.

9. Date and place of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place online on 16 May 2024 from 2.30pm to 3.30 pm.

The meeting was closed at 3.10 pm.