

Strasbourg, 3 April 2025

EPAS(2025)34

## **Meeting of the EPAS Governing Board Bureau**

**Tuesday 18 March 2025**

1pm – 2.15pm CET

Online (Teams platform)

Working language: English

## **REPORT**

## Participants

Governing Board (GB): Alexandre Husting (Luxembourg, Chair), Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus), Solène Charuau (France), Andrew Decelis (Malta), Florian Botto (Monaco, MSL19), Michael Landau (Monaco, MSL19), Catherine Farneti (Monaco, MSL19)

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

Apologies: Bram van Houten (Netherlands)

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

### 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:

- A. Follow-up of the 18th CoE Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Porto, 9-10 October 2024
  - Report by Clémentine Legendre
- B. 19th CoE Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Monaco, 3-4 November 2026
  - Proposed themes
- C. 19th annual plenary meeting of the EPAS Governing Board (joint meeting with the Consultative Committee), 14-15 May 2025
  - Draft agenda
  - Bureau elections
- D. Consultative Committee
  - Draft Terms of Reference
  - 2025 Renewals
- E. European Sports Charter
  - Overviews
- F. Any other business
- G. Date and place of the next meeting

Two items were proposed under item F. Any other Business:

- Feedback on the event organised on the sidelines of the 58th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva and online on 12 March 2025
- Feedback on the Breakfast Roundtable on women's health and sport organised on the occasion of International Women's Day on 7 March 2025 in Strasbourg and online

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

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, Clémentine Legendre, 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 Chair introduced the report she drafted.

It appears in the report that both Recommendations need being reviewed/complemented. The Bureau approved the proposal to start the work of review of both instruments in a Working group. The Secretariat will prepare draft terms of reference for consideration by the Bureau, which once approved will be followed by a call for participation by representatives of the Governing Board and the Consultative Committee.

The consultant will be invited to present her report and findings to the Working Group and hold an exchange of views. The Chair congratulated the consultant for her excellent work.

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

The Monegasque authorities prepared a more elaborated document on the possible theme and sub-themes of the Conference including guiding questions, which was presented by Florian Botto and Michael Landau. The main theme could be “When sport goes too far – protecting children in sport from violence and doping” with a first sub-theme entitled “Violence among children – prevention, detection and response” and a second sub-theme entitled “Doping in young athletes – means of prevention”.

What happens if training is pushed too far? How can we detect/prevent violence against young athletes and children? How can member states identify risk behaviours? Currently, these issues are only approached in the area of competitions, not at grassroots level.

Solène Charuau thanked the Monegasque authorities for this detailed document on a very relevant subject, which must remain high on the agenda.

Charlotte Girard Fabre asked if young referees could be added to the discussion as the border between violence and pressure is very thin here as well.

Mogens Kirkeby proposed to add recreational doping to the discussion, as member states have different ways to tackle this scourge, whereas it concerns a huge proportion of young people.

Ioanna Paraskevopoulou supported both themes and added that the protection of children in sport was currently high on the Parliament’s agenda in Cyprus.

Andrew Decelis found the topics very relevant and suggested to extend sub-theme 1 to anyone being in contact with children (doctors, physiotherapists, etc.).

Sophie Kwasny mentioned that the Monitoring Group of the Anti-doping Convention is currently working on anti-doping in recreational sport as launched work on children's rights in anti-doping, which is also addressed in the ongoing context of revision of the World Anti-Doping Code.

Michael Landau thanked the Bureau for their comments, which give much food for thought. He precised that the proposed theme includes two aspects of violence, namely between children themselves (peer pressure) and between children and their coaches. The Monegasque authorities would like to discuss both aspects at the Conference.

Elena Casero asked for clarification regarding the inclusion of other forms of violence such as sexual violence, but this option was not chosen by Monaco as it was already tackled in the Helsinki Conference. Sophie Kwasny highlighted that item 4 (checking of judicial antecedents) under the first sub-topic fourth mainly regarded sexual crimes.

Francine Hetherington Raveney suggested to add the notion of health in sport, which is linked to overtraining.

The Secretariat and the Monegasque authorities will gather all the comments formulated and follow up.

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

Sophie Kwasny informed the Bureau that the draft agenda is now finalised and ready to be shared. It will be sent out together with the convocation in the coming days.

Bureau elections will take place during the plenary meeting. A separate circular letter will be sent out calling for applications.

#### **6. Consultative Committee**

Cassandra Mactavish presented the state of play in the revision of the Terms of Reference of the Consultative Committee, which is in its final phase now. A final version of the draft document will be shared with the plenum.

Three organisations member of the Consultative Committee have applied for the renewal of their membership. A circular letter will be sent to the Governing Board for them to vote.

#### **7. European Sports Charter**

In October 2024 the Secretariat sent a questionnaire on the implementation of the European Sports Charter to the EPAS member states. One of the objectives of the questionnaire is to create a 3-page summary of its key findings. Currently 20 of these overviews have been

developed and will be sent to those member states for their final approval and permission to publish on the EPAS website. As an example, Cassandra Mactavish presented the draft French Country Overview of the implementation of the European Sports Charter.

## **8. Any other business**

Elena Casero reported on the event organised on the sidelines of the 58th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 12 March 2025. This one-hour session focused on Safe sport as a space for human rights education. It was co-organised with the Permanent Mission of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the United Nations in Geneva, the Permanent Representation of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the Council of Europe and the Permanent Mission of the Principality of Monaco to the United Nations in Geneva, and co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva of Albania, Bulgaria, Colombia, Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Liechtenstein and Portugal, as well as UNICEF. The event gathered around 85 persons on site and online. The Luxembourg Ambassador presented the activities carried out during the Luxemburgish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers and the representative of Monaco announced the activities foreseen during their Presidency. The attendance showed that the topic is crucial and needs to be maintained on the agendas.

Francine Hetherington Raveney reported on the Breakfast Roundtable on women's health and sport organised on 7 March by EPAS on the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March). This edition of the breakfast roundtable was the fourth one and addressed an issue which was not tackled by the ALL IN+ joint project. The speakers featured a good balance between athletes, doctors, trade unions etc. The event enjoyed a high attendance.

This important subject will also be tackled at the Forum on Sport and Human Rights on 16 December in Paris and further action proposed in the new EPAS strategy.

## **9. Date and place of the next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 15 April 2025 from 1 to 2.00pm, online on the Teams platform.