

Strasbourg, 16 May 2022

EPAS(2022)35

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

Meeting of the Bureau of the EPAS Governing Board

Wednesday 27 April 2022

9.00 am – 10.30 am CET

Via videoconference

Report

Participants:

Alexandre Husting (Chair), Andrea Carletti (Vice-Chair), Andrew Decelis, İnanç Özçakmak, Kolë Gjelošhaj and Tone Jagodic.

Apologised:

François Tricarico

EPAS Secretariat:

Sophie Kwasny, Francine Hetherington Raveney, Michael Trinker, Francesca Carnio, Caroline Larghi, Despina Tramountani

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted. The Chair requested that a list of actions is sent to the Bureau members shortly after the meeting before the circulation of the official meeting report, to have a written reminder about the deadlines and input needed.

Sophie Kwasny also informed the Bureau about the accession of Canada to EPAS as of the 30 March.

3. Update on the GB/CC plenary meeting, including update on EPAS 15th anniversary reception on early evening of 13 June

The draft agenda of the GB/CC plenary meeting was circulated to the Bureau members and discussed.

An information meeting for non-member states about the Ministerial Conference will be held at the end of the first day, 13 June, and will be followed by a reception co-organised by Monaco and EPAS for the 15th anniversary of EPAS. Information about the information meeting and reception will be added to the agenda.

The draft agenda will be circulated shortly to the Governing Board with the convocation to the meeting.

Sophie Kwasny presented the draft agenda item by item.

- 1) Opening
- 2) Adoption of the agenda
- 3) Elections for the remaining seats of the GB Bureau

İnanç Özçakmak asked for clarification regarding the procedure for the elections. Sophie Kwasny indicated that a new call for candidates would be circulated ahead of the meeting, and candidates will also have the possibility to come forward during the meeting.

- 4) News from the Council of Europe
- 5) Statutory issues
- 6) Evaluation of the European Sports Charter
- 7) Reports and recent news

- 8) Conferences of Ministers responsible for Sport 2022
- 9) Programme of activities
- 10) Conventions
- 11) Any other business
- 12) Date and place of the next meeting

The Secretariat agreed to revise the draft agenda according to comments and to circulate it with the invitations to the meeting.

4. 17th Conference of Ministers responsible for sport – update

a) Format of the conference and draft detailed overview of the conference

Inanç Özçakmak updated the Bureau on the ongoing work on the preparation of the Ministerial Conference of 2022. The preference is still to hold a fully physical meeting to have a higher participation and to avoid dealing with technical issues, which would complicate discussions on the conference topics.

b) Conference document elements on themes 1 and 2 and c) draft programme of the conference

Several documents were published on the Cloud ahead of the meeting: a draft programme (document MSL17 1), an overview of the themes and possible speakers (document MSL17 INF01) and a list of invitees (MSL17 INF06).

The Save the date has been sent to all stakeholders mentioned in the list of invitees. The Russian Federation and Belarus have not received the Save the date and do not appear in the list of invitees. The formal letters of invitation will be prepared and sent out in the coming weeks.

The programme of the conference is still highly tentative but gives an idea of the sequence of the days.

25 October:

- Senior officials meeting
- CC extraordinary plenary
- Restricted ministerial gathering of EPAS member states
- Welcome dinner

26 October:

- Ministerial conference
- Gala dinner

27 October:

- Side event on the integration of migrants and refugees through sport

The overview of speakers is tentative and open to any suggestions from the Bureau. For theme 1, Italian volleyball coach Giovanni Guidetti was mentioned, as he is involved in a project called “Queens of tomorrow” bringing volleyball to young girls from disadvantaged

communities. UNHCR Goodwill Ambassadors could also be invited for the side event on refugees.

The Chair asked whether it would be possible to react to this document in writing, the updated version of the overview will be shared with the Bureau for written comments.

None of the speakers mentioned in the overview have been contacted yet, as the Secretariat preferred to have the approval of the Bureau before proceeding.

The Chair pointed out the need to find a moment in the Ministerial Conference to allow for a discussion on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which will certainly be addressed by the Ministers. The Ukrainian Minister will certainly want to address this issue, an appropriate time should therefore be reserved in the agenda for his intervention and possible reactions.

Two options were discussed: creating a proper space for this discussion or including it in either of the themes. Sophie Kwasny agreed that the themes allow for the discussion and the background documents can highlight it. Theme 2 “Rethinking Sport for Tomorrow” could have a special focus on Ukraine.

The Chair explained it might be politically difficult to merge a discussion on the invasion of Ukraine with Theme 2. In most of EU conferences of ministers held in the past months, Ukrainian ministers were invited to make a short statement, before leaving the floor to other ministers for their reaction. As an alternative, 37 countries have already signed a declaration on the topic. This could be another viable option.

The Secretariat will circulate the documents on themes 1 and 2 and the overview of the conference schedule to the Bureau for comments.

5. Start to Talk (STT) - request for funding of STT activities/staff from EPAS special account

Sophie Kwasny informed the Bureau that the Start to Talk initiative can only partially be funded from the EPAS budget and requested to transfer up to 30,000 euros from the EPAS special account to cover STT staff and activities in case the Secretariat does not receive any voluntary contributions.

The Bureau supported this proposal and agreed to include this item in the agenda of the Governing Board meeting in June.

6. Update on upcoming events

a) Combating hate speech in sport conference to launch the joint project (31/5 - hybrid)

The launch event of the EU-CoE Joint Project “Combating hate speech in sport” will be held in the afternoon of 31 May 2022, as a hybrid meeting. The draft programme is ready and will be circulated in the coming weeks. The event will be developed in three different sessions. Among the stakeholders invited there will be representatives from ECRI, T-S4 and UEFA.

b) Child Safeguarding in Sport closing event (21/6 - hybrid)

The closing event of the EU-CoE Joint Project “Child Safeguarding in Sport” will be held on 21 June 2022 (date tbc). The project team and the six partner countries will take the opportunity to showcase the work carried out throughout the project, including the country specific roadmaps, online resource centre, pool of experts and project video.

c) Mapping of Sports Facilities - Meeting 2: Sustainability (5/7 - online)

The second meeting on Mapping of Sports Facilities will be held on 5 July 2022, as an online meeting. This meeting will focus on sustainability.

The final meeting would be held in December 2022. The Governing Board will be contacted to decide whether they want to help the same national policy-makers that were designated in December 2021 to attend the July meeting or experts in the area of sustainability.

7. Date of the next meeting

The next Bureau meeting will be towards the end of May and will focus on the preparation of the GB/CC joint plenary meeting and of the Ministerial Conference. The exact date will be communicated shortly.