

Strasbourg, 30 April 2026

EPAS(2026)37

Meeting of the EPAS Governing Board Bureau

Tuesday 7 April 2026

3 pm – 4 pm CET

Online (Teams platform)

Working language: English

REPORT

Participants

Governing Board (GB): Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus, Vice-Chair), Elnur Mammadov (Azerbaijan, Member), Antonio Parrilla (Italy, Member), Marija Jurčević (Croatia, Member), Florian Botto (Monaco, MSL19), Michael Landau (Monaco, MSL19)

Consultative Committee (CC): Mogens Kirkeby (ISCA, Vice-Chair)

Apologies: Solène Charuau (France, Chair), Charlotte Girard Fabre (IFSO, Chair) Simon De Coster (Belgium, Member)

Secretariat: Stanislas Frossard, Francine Hetherington Raveney, Cassandra Mactavish, Caroline Dollet

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by the Secretariat. It was noted that the Chair, Ms Solène Charuau, was unable to attend due to illness.

Following prior consultation, Ms Joanna Paraskevopoulou, Vice-Chair of the Bureau, chaired the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was adopted without amendment (see Appendix).

Francine Hetherington Raveney requested an item to be added under AoB, namely a reference to the gender equality rapporteur questionnaire to be sent to the GB and the CC.

3. Adoption of the draft report of the previous meeting

The Secretariat clarified the procedure for the preparation and validation of Bureau meeting reports.

It was proposed that:

- the report is prepared by the Secretariat;
- it is validated by the Chair of the Governing Board, as per current practice;
- it is circulated to Bureau members for information;
- the final validation (adoption) takes place at the subsequent Bureau meeting.

This approach aims to ensure clarity regarding the official status of the report, while allowing members the opportunity to raise any comments, particularly on sensitive issues, before it is considered formally adopted and published on the EPAS website.

The Bureau agreed to this procedure.

The order of the items to be considered was changed due to the delayed arrival of a member of the Secretariat.

4. Annual plenary meeting of the Governing Board and Consultative Committee

The Secretariat introduced the updated draft agenda and highlighted the fact that adjustments to the order of items may still be made depending on time constraints.

The Bureau raised the question of adding a possible new item, i.e. the IOC policy on the female category. The Secretariat informed the Bureau of recent developments regarding a new IOC policy introducing genetic testing as an eligibility criterion for the female category in elite sport.

The Secretariat noted that:

- this represents a significant evolution compared to previous IOC approaches;
- internal consultations within relevant Council of Europe sectors had raised concerns;
- no institutional position had yet been adopted.

Bureau members highlighted:

- the novel and sensitive nature of the issue;
- the need for further analysis, including scientific and policy considerations;
- the need to clarify whether this matter should be primarily addressed within EPAS, with the support from other entities or by other Council of Europe entities with a contribution from EPAS.

The Bureau agreed:

- to include the item as an information point on the plenary agenda;
- that the Secretariat would circulate background documentation in advance;
- that the discussion would remain exploratory, without aiming at adopting a position;
- that potential follow-up could include the establishment of a working group, if deemed appropriate at a later stage.

Mogens Kirkeby (ISCA) added that the new IOC policy has implications for CC members as it states: “This policy should be adopted by IFs and other sports governing bodies, such as NOCs, National Federations and Continental Associations, when exercising their responsibility in implementing eligibility rules in relation to IOC events only.”

5. Feedback on the European Sports Charter (ESC) Support and Follow up visit to Monaco

The Secretariat presented feedback on the ESC Support and Follow-up visit to Monaco (18–19 March 2026).

Key elements highlighted included:

- excellent organisation and strong engagement of stakeholders;
- a high level of preparedness among interlocutors;
- valuable insight into the national sport system;
- positive media coverage enhancing visibility of EPAS and the Charter.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that a draft report, including findings and recommendations, would be prepared and submitted for validation in the coming months.

The Bureau took note of the information and thanked the host authorities.

6. Themes for the 2027 Diversity conference

Based on the discussions in the previous Bureau meeting, two proposals for topics were raised:

- Sport in time of war
- Fair and inclusive female category

The first one, Sports in time of war, could provide an opportunity to follow up the solidarity and cooperation with Ukraine, a European country facing a situation of a war.

For the second one, it was suggested to reframe the subject, not to be too general and to focus on the question of female category that is mostly affecting intersex and transgender people.

These two topics would be politically relevant and could be connected to other parts of EPAS' activities.

7. Consultative Committee

7.1 New members

The Secretariat recalled that 10 applications for membership had been under consideration.

Following the Bureau's previous decision to consult UEFA, in line with the Terms of Reference, the Secretariat informed members that UEFA had indicated that it does not agree to the candidature of FIFA proceeding.

In light of this position, and in accordance with the applicable provisions, the Secretariat indicated that the candidature of FIFA would not be pursued further at this stage.

The Secretariat underlined that:

- UEFA reaffirmed its continued and active engagement in the work of EPAS;
- UEFA recalled the principle that the Consultative Committee should primarily involve European organisations;
- UEFA considered that its existing role already allows it to contribute effectively without creating overlaps in representation.

The Secretariat suggested exploring alternative modalities for co-operation with FIFA or other organisations with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council of Europe, including:

- the possibility of an associate status for organisations with established co-operation frameworks with the Council of Europe;
- or participation in joint meetings only, while preserving the working space of the Consultative Committee.

The Bureau took note of the information and supported further reflection on possible options, to be submitted to the Bureau at a later stage.

7.2 Renewals

The Secretariat informed the Bureau of the status of the renewal process.

It was recalled that:

- 12 members were initially due for renewal;
- 2 organisations had been discouraged from reapplying;
- 1 of these organisations nonetheless submitted a renewal request.

As a result, 11 renewal requests are currently under consideration.

The Secretariat outlined the next steps:

- a non-binding consultation of the Consultative Committee on both renewals and new members;
- followed by a vote of the Governing Board on renewals;
- and subsequently a vote on new memberships, once the number of available seats is confirmed.

The Secretariat indicated that the aim is to complete both processes ahead of the plenary meeting, subject to timely responses from members.

The Bureau took note of the information.

8. Any other business

The Secretariat informed the Bureau of the forthcoming dissemination of two gender equality questionnaires to the Governing Board and the Consultative Committee.

The questionnaires:

- are based on All In Plus indicators;
- are concise and targeted;
- aim to support reporting at the plenary meeting.

The Bureau was informed of the indicative timeline for dissemination and replies.

9. Date and time of the next meeting

Following discussion, the Bureau identified the following options:

- 20 April 2026 (afternoon)
- 30 April 2026

The Secretariat will confirm the date following written consultation.

Appendix: Agenda

1.	Welcome	
2.	Adoption of the agenda	EPAS(2026)29
3.	Adoption of the draft report of the previous meeting	EPAS(2026)28
4.	Feedback on the European Sports Charter Support and Follow up visit in Monaco	
5.	Annual plenary meeting of the Governing Board & Consultative Committee ➤ Key items on the agenda (+ possible new item e.g. IOC policy on female category)	EPAS(2026)16
6.	Themes for the 2027 Diversity conference • Option 1: Sport in time of war • Option 2: Fair and inclusive female category	
7.	Consultative Committee ➤ Renewals ➤ New members	
8.	Any other business	
9.	Date, time and place of the next meeting	