

Strasbourg, 10 July 2018

EPAS (2018)44

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

Consultative Committee Plenary Meeting

Council of Europe/ Palais de l'Europe
Salle 14
Avenue de l'Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg

Monday, 14 May 2018
9:30 – 12:30

Report

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Jens Sejer Andersen, Chair of the CC.

The chair informed that even if there were no rules establishing the quorum, it would be regarded as sufficient that 14 organisations out of 25 were represented. The European Olympic Committees and EU Athletes designated via email a proxy: Natasa Jankovic for the EOC and Annette Wachter for EU Athletes.

The chair welcomed two new members to the CC

- The European Network of Sport Education (ENSE) and
- The European University Sports Association (EUSA)

The chair informed about the working priorities of EPAS – sport integrity being one of them. Therefore, many sport stakeholders follow closely the work being done by EPAS.

However, the Council of Europe (CoE) is facing serious budgetary constraints caused by a member state who withholds its membership fee and by another member state who substantially reduced its financial contribution to the CoE.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The chair introduced the agenda as it appears in appendix 1.

The CC decided :

- to exchange agenda item “Elections to the Bureau” with the agenda item “Renewals and new members”. Please see in appendix 1 of the revised agenda as decided by the CC.
- to include additional points on the agenda (EPAS(2018)19) “Agenda of the upcoming GB meeting” and “Networking event in Russia”.

3. Reports on recent meetings

3.1 Report on the CC Bureau meeting, Vienna, Austria, 24 January 2018

The chair briefly presented the conclusions of the CC Bureau meeting in Vienna and underlined the importance of reading the meeting reports to get a better picture of the work the CC is doing.

The chair also reminded about opportunities CC members can benefit from, such as the participation in the MESGO programme.

International Partnership against Corruption in Sport (IPACS)

The chair informed about the work of IPACS which was set up in 2017 by a few stakeholders such as UNODC, OECD, CoE and others. He regarded it as the most potentially promising multi-stakeholder platform set up so far to fight corruption in sport. However, only a very limited number of states are so far invited to participate in this process. It is also unfortunate that non-Olympic stakeholder organisations, outside expertise (Transparency International), grassroots sport and other important states are not represented in this partnership.

The following issues were raised/ discussed as possible input from the CC to IPACS:

- To base public funding on the fulfilment of minimum governance standards;
- There is a need for external, independent monitoring and evaluation of how sports organisations perform with regards to governance;
- Athletes and whistle-blowers must be protected;
- To protect the freedom of association, the CC would like to see EPAS equipped with a mandate and sufficient resources to set up a framework for negotiating an international agreement that can define the respective rights and responsibilities of governments and NGO's in sport.

On the question of inclusiveness of IPACS, the Secretariat informed that EPAS advocates a general assembly gathering all stakeholders to increase the representativeness and legitimacy of the work being done by IPACS.

UNESCO

The chair provided information on the sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VI) in Kazan, Russian Federation, from 13 to 15 July 2017. The items discussed in Kazan were very broad:

- Safeguard athletes, spectators, workers and other groups involved
- Protect children, youth and other vulnerable groups
- Foster good governance of sport organisations
- Strengthen measures against the manipulation of sports competitions
- Ensure an adequate anti-doping policy framework, its implementation and effective compliance measures

116 countries, around 50-60 ministers were represented, however not many ministers from Western Europe attended the conference.

Since this conference, UNESCO focusses on the implementation of the Kazan Action Plan (KAP).

Regarding KAP, EPAS is coordinating the work on Action 3: Unify and further develop international standards supporting sport ministers' interventions in the field of sport integrity

UN-SDGs

The CC Bureau discussed the setting-up of the working group on evidence-base/ UN-SDGs. This was decided at the 2017 CC Plenary in Cyprus, but for a number of reasons it had not been possible to get the working group started yet.

The following CC members are interested to be part of this process: EAS, TAFISA, ICSSPE, EUPEA and ICSPPE.

The group should create an evidence base on the UN-SDG.

The chair recommended to first discussing the Terms of Reference for this group.

ICSSPE is willing to act as a chair.

UEFA is interested to link EU documents to the UN-SDG.

Discussions on meetings

Kazan Action Plan

There is great interest in the KAP. However, the contribution of people is limited to the meetings. It would be advisable to allow feedback/ contributions in between meetings.

Also, the question was raised why experts are invited to these meetings to inform experts again.

It was recommended to

- develop a new methodology of the meetings;
- have a more effective output oriented discussion;
- increase group work in the meeting;
- reduce the number of presentations.

3.2 Agenda of the GB joint meeting

No points were raised.

3.3 Networking event in Russia ahead of the FIFA World Cup

The Secretariat informed that there is still uncertainty, whether the networking event will actually take place in Russia, ahead of the FIFA World Cup opening. The Council of Europe would be ready to organise it.

The chair informed about the German journalist Hajo Seppelt whose application for a visa to enter Russia was denied [after the meeting, the visa was granted].

Given the various controversies surrounding Russia's role in international sport, the chair asked the CC for opinions whether he should attend the event, if an invitation would be received.

The undisputed signal from the CC was that an invitation to this event should be accepted, since the event could be used as a chance to interact with people and raise awareness on various matters and important topics such as the Council of Europe values.

4. Renewals and new members

4.1 New members

The Secretariat informed on the formal decision of the Council of Europe to approve ENSE and EUSA as new members to the EPAS CC.

4.2 Renewals

According to the Terms of Reference of the CC, Organisations are appointed for the term of office of four years (for the EPAS Consultative Committee), renewable by decision of the Governing Board.

The following organisations had to renew its membership in 2018:

4.2.1 UEFA

The renewal letter was received.

4.2.2 EGLSF

The renewal letter was received.

4.2.3 ENGSO

The renewal letter was received.

4.2.4 Peace and Sport

The renewal letter was received.

4.2.5 TAFISA Europe

The renewal letter was received.

4.2.6 Rugby Europe

The renewal letter was not received.

5. [Updating the European Sports Charter](#)

The chair reminded that the European Sports Charter (ESC) is an important document of/ for EPAS, as its evaluation visits are based on this document for instance. It also is an important reference/ framework document for both governments and NGOs to develop sports in their respective contexts.

However, the European Sports Charter adopted in 1992 and revised in 2001 is a somewhat older document than other instruments such as the UNESCO international charter of physical education, physical activity and sport, the Kazan Action Plan or the EU White Paper.

In addition, major changes in our societies can be observed today which were not taken into consideration in the ESC then in view of participation, societal changes, commercialisation etc.

Consequently, CC members were of the view that a revision of the ESC could be beneficial and addressed elements which might be taken under consideration when revising the ESC:

- Peace and sport
- Enhance the definition of sport with other elements such as values etc.
- Non-organised sport
- Include the specificity of sport
- Sport facilities
- Environmentally-friendly sport
- Education and Dual Careers
- Social function of sport in view of including minorities
- Volunteering and grassroots sport as a top priority
- Safe sport and protect children/ the youth in sport
- Gender equality in sport
- Promotion of an active lifestyle
- Research and funding for sport and physical activity

Ideally, the new charter should contain new concepts and ideas for the development of sport. Regarding the process of revising the ESC, it should be inclusive and transparent.

The Secretariat informed that the revision of the ESC has not started yet. In the first phase, a feasibility study on the possible revision of the ESC might be conducted to identify and draft possible strategies and recommendations. However, no decision in this regard was taken yet.

6. Reports

6.1 [Good governance at FIFA: a factual account](#)

6.2 [Call for a major overhaul of sports governance structures and practices](#)

6.3 [Call for an independent observatory entrusted to assess the governance of football](#)

The chair briefly informed about the reports (6.2 and 6.3) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe listed above in which governance in football was addressed.

7. Elections to the Bureau of the Consultative Committee

According to point 6.c) of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the CC, the CC will elect for a period of 2 years a Bureau of 6 people. They may be re-elected only once. The ToR entered into force on 1 September 2016.

Regarding the question who can stand for the elections to the CC Bureau, the legal service of the Council of Europe informed, that, as the revised ToR of 2016 did not include any transitional provisions, they are valid as of 2016. So, term limits apply as of 2016, and previous terms served cannot be taken into consideration.

There were more candidates than required for all vacant positions, and elections were carried out in a written, secret ballot in this sequence: 1) Chair, 2) Vice-chair and 3) four other Bureau members (regarding those with most votes as elected).

Thus, the results of the elections to the CC Bureau are the following:

Date of the terms of office of the CC Bureau

	Composition	Elected on :	End of the term of office

Jens Sejer Andersen (Play the Game)	<i>Chair</i>	Re-elected 14/05/2018	▶ 15/05/2020
Michal Buchel (FIAS)	<i>Vice-Chair</i>	Re-elected 18/05/2016	▶ 15/05/2020
Members of the Bureau			
Laura Capranica (EAS)	<i>Member of the Bureau</i>	First elected 14/05/2018	▶ 15/05/2020
Annette Wachter (EGLSF)	<i>Member of the Bureau</i>	Re-elected 14/05/2018	▶ 15/05/2020
Paulina Tomczyk (EU Athletes)	<i>Member of the Bureau</i>	Re-elected 14/05/2018	▶ 15/05/2020
Carlos Cardoso (ENGSO)	<i>Member of the Bureau</i>	First elected 14/05/2018	▶ 15/05/2020
Members representing the Consultative Committee to the EPAS Governing Board Bureau meetings			
Jens Sejer Andersen (Play the Game)	<i>Representative (as non-voting member)</i>	18/05/2016 Re-elected 14/05/2018	▶ 15/05/2020
Michal Buchel (FIAS)	<i>Representative (as non-voting member)</i>	18/05/2016 Re-elected 14/05/2018	▶ 15/05/2020

Jens Sejer Andersen, Play the Game, was re-elected and received a majority of affirmative votes (10 out of 14 valid votes).

Michal Buchal, FIAS, was re-elected and received a majority of affirmative votes (11 out 14 valid votes).

There was a discussion how the group voting (election of the bureau) should be conducted. ENGSO underlined the importance of being very transparent and requested that the number of votes the candidates received should be included in the report on future elections.

8. Consultation on an extraordinary plenary meeting in Georgia

The chair briefly informed about the Council of Europe Conference for Ministers responsible for Sport on 16 October 2018 in Tbilisi, Georgia and proposed to organise an extraordinary plenary meeting of the CC on 15 October 2018 in Tbilisi, Georgia.

The CC decided :

- to organise an extraordinary plenary meeting of the CC on 15 October 2018 in Tbilisi, Georgia.

9. Terms of Reference of the Consultative Committee

There was agreement that the current ToR of the CC need to be changed to provide better guidance and directions, thus, the chair proposed that the Bureau revises the current ToR.

The CC decided :

- to ask the CC Bureau to revise the current ToR and to circulate the new draft ToR in time, ahead of the next plenary meeting of the CC on 5 June 2019.

10. Any other business

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not discussed.

11. Date and place of the next meeting

Extraordinary plenary meeting of the CC on 15 October 2018 in Tbilisi, Georgia, ahead of the Council of Europe Conference for Ministers responsible for Sport on 16 October 2018.

12. Closing

The chair thanked the participants for their active contributions and closed the CC plenary.

Appendix 1

Agenda

1.	Opening of the meeting The meeting will be opened by Jens Sejer Andersen, Chair of the CC.	
2.	Adoption of the agenda Action: The CC is invited to <u>adopt</u> this agenda.	EPAS(2018)19
3.	Reports on recent meetings 3.1 Report on the CC Bureau meeting, Vienna, Austria, 24 January 2018 3.2 Agenda of the upcoming GB meeting 3.3 Networking event in Russia Action: The CC is invited to take note of the oral update provided by the chair.	EPAS(2018)12
4.	Renewals and new members 4.1 New members 4.1.1 Application of the European Network of Sport Education (ENSE) 4.1.1.1 Opinion of the CC Action: The CC is invited to take note of the oral update provided by the chair/ Secretariat. 4.1.2 European University Sport Association (EUSA) Action: The CC is invited to take note of the oral update provided by the chair/ Secretariat. 4.2 Opinion on renewals 4.2.1 UEFA 4.2.2 EGLSF 4.2.3 ENGSO 4.2.4 Peace and Sport 4.2.5 TAFISA Europe 4.2.6 Rugby Europe ↓	EPAS (2017) INF17 EPAS (2017) INF10
5.	Updating the European Sports Charter Action: The CC is invited to discuss ideas/ activities in relation to a possible update of the European Sports Charter.	
6.	Reports 6.4 Good governance at FIFA: a factual account 6.5 Call for a major overhaul of sports governance structures and practices 6.6 Call for an independent observatory entrusted to assess the governance of football	
7.	Elections to the Bureau of the Consultative Committee Action: The CC is invited to elect its Bureau of six representatives	

8.	Consultation on an extraordinary meeting in Georgia	
9.	Terms of Reference of the Consultative Committee <u>Action</u> : The CC is invited to discuss a possible revision of the ToR of the CC.	
10.	Any other business	
11.	Date and place of the next meeting	
12.	Closing	

Appendix 2

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EPAS(2018)44

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Ms Paulina TOMCZYK - EU Athletes

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