

Strasbourg, 5 July 2024

EPAS(2024)44

## **Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)**

### **16<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting of the Consultative Committee**

Strasbourg, 29 May 2024

9.30am – 12.30pm

**Meeting report**

## 1. Opening of the meeting

Charlotte Girard-Fabre, Chair of the Consultative Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

The quorum was confirmed by the Secretariat. The list of participants is appended to this report (see Appendix II).

## 2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without any modifications (see Appendix I).

## 3. CC membership

### Renewals

12 CC member organisations were due for renewal in 2024. Of the twelve, all organisation requested renewal to the CC by sending both a letter of intent and an application for renewal to the Secretariat.

The following were the results of the votes by the Governing Board:

- 15 member States (out of 39) voted.
- 5 organisations received the full 15 votes in favour of their renewal.
- 2 received votes against their renewal.
- 7 received abstentions

Based on the final decision of the Governing Board, 12 of the 12 organisations who had requested renewal of their membership of the Consultative Committee, had their membership renewed.

	Requested renewal	Renewed
Alice Milliat Foundation	✓	✓
European Athletics	✓	✓
European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation (EGSLF)	✓	✓
European Network of Sport Education (ENSE)	✓	✓
European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO)	✓	✓
European University Sports Association (EUSA)	✓	✓
International Basketball Federation (FIBA)	✓	✓
International Federation for Sports Officials (IFSO)	✓	✓
Panathlon International (PI)	✓	✓
Peace and Sport	✓	✓
TAFISA Europe	✓	✓
Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)	✓	✓

Renewal letters will be sent individually to each member by the Secretariat.

## **New members**

Of a possible 30 members, the CC currently consists of 27 members organisations.

The Secretariat received 4 requests for accession to the CC from:

- Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA)
- International Dart Federation
- Rugby Europe
- World Snowboard Federation

As per the Terms of Reference, the GB Bureau in collaboration with the Secretariat, prepared an eligibility table and determined that all 4 applicants met the required criteria for membership to the CC.

The current members of the Consultative Committee were consulted by the Secretariat and the overall result of the consultation was shared with the Governing Board which then proceeded to vote on these four accession requests.

The 3 candidates that received the most votes by the GB were: the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, Rugby Europe and the World Snowboard Federation. These 3 candidates were then presented to the GR-C and then to the Committee of Ministers on 29 May.

## **4. Elections**

Elections were held for the following positions:

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- 4 members of the Bureau
- Gender Equality Rapporteur

### **Election of the Chair**

A first election was held to elect the Chair.

The Secretariat received one candidacy, from Charlotte Girard-Fabre (IFSO) in advance of the meeting.

No additional candidacies for the position of Chair of the CC were submitted at the meeting.

Due to the single candidacy submitted, it was decided to conduct the election by acclamation.

Charlotte Girard-Fabre was re-elected Chair of the CC.

### **Election of the Vice-Chair**

The Secretariat received one candidacy, from Mogens Kirkeby (ISCA) in advance of the meeting.

No additional candidacies for the position of Vice-Chair of the CC were submitted at the meeting.

Due to the single candidacy submitted, it was decided to conduct the election by acclamation.

Mogens Kirkeby was re-elected Vice-Chair of the CC.

### Election of the 4 members of the Bureau

Candidacies submitted in advance of the meeting to the Secretariat were as follows:

- Annamarie Phelps, European Olympic Committees (EOC)
- Andrej Pisl, European University Sports Association (EUSA)
- Patrik Perosa, International Dance Organization (IDO)
- Pauline Johanet, Peace and Sport

Tess Harmand (Alice Milliat Foundation) submitted an oral candidacy at the meeting.

Patrick Vajda (IFSO) and Janez Sodržnik (TAFISA) acted as scrutineers for the vote.

The results of the votes received from 22 sports organisations (19 CC members in the room + 3 proxies: EU Athletes proxy to Play the Game, ESA proxy to EUSA and EFPM proxy to IDO) were the following:

Candidates	Votes in favour	Votes against	Abstention
<b>Tess Harmand</b>	11	6	1
<b>Pauline Johanet</b>	19	2	1
<b>Patrik Perosa</b>	20	0	0
<b>Annamarie Phelps</b>	16	4	0
<b>Andrej Pisl</b>	16	1	4

Please note blank votes were not included in the count.

Considering there were 4 open positions for the Bureau of the CC, only the 4 candidates with the most votes were elected, resulting in the election of (in alphabetical order by organisation):

- Annamarie Phelps (EOC)
- Andrej Pisl (EUSA)
- Patrik Perosa (IDO)
- Pauline Johanet (Peace and Sport)

### **Election of the Gender Equality Rapporteur**

The Secretariat received one candidacy, from Marie Denitton (ENGSO) in advance of the meeting.

No additional candidacies were submitted at the meeting.

Due to the single candidacy submitted, it was decided to conduct the election by acclamation.

Marie Denitton was re-elected Gender Equality Rapporteur.

## **5. European Sports Charter Working Group**

### **Missions and mandate of the Working Group (WG)**

The Secretariat recalled the mandate given to the European Sports Charter (ESC) Working Group for the past 2 years, namely working toward:

- further enhancing and improving the current methodology for the implementation of the ESC through country-specific activities;
- developing a strategy to support member States in the promotion of the ESC within their country;
- exploring the possibility of including quantitative summary of the implementation of the ESC in each member state

The work of the WG led notably to revisions of the questionnaire which was piloted first in Portugal and Slovakia in 2023 and then again in Finland in 2024.

The group also guided the development of ESC promotional tools such as the ESC Factsheet, the translation of the ESC in numerous languages and an upcoming ESC video.

Finally, the group will be presenting at the upcoming joint plenary meeting, a first draft of the ESC national report; a 3 page summary through graphics and words, of the implementation of the ESC in Finland.

An extension of the mandate of the ESC Working Group will also be requested at the upcoming joint session of the GB and CC.

Guido Battaglia, the CC representative of this Working Group, underlined that the work of the group is a way to help governments connect the dots between the activities that they are involved in and encourage and enable a collaborative spirit and approach for the ESC Support and Follow up visits.

The Working Group went to great lengths to identify practical and thought provoking questions that would allow all counterparts to think about their role as something much bigger than their day to day. This is about how, through collaboration with civil society, governments, the private sector, etc, governments can have a stronger collaboration with all actors in the sport ecosystem.

Mogens Kirkeby shared his views that efforts by the members of the CC to promote the ESC and its implementation, should be matched by Governments and proposed to put the topic on the agenda of the biennial ministerial meeting.

Guido Battaglia added that the ESC should be pushed to non-governmental actors too.

The Secretariat indicated that a specific agenda item was dedicated to the ESC on 30 May at the EPAS joint plenary meeting including the speeches of high-level speakers. A similar approach will be applied at the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sport in Porto, on 8 - 10 October 2024.

## **6. European Sports Charter Support & Follow-up**

### **Updates**

The Secretariat shared that the objective of the implementation of the European Sports Charter is to conduct three European Sports Charter Support & Follow-up visits per year. In 2023, two visits were conducted: one in Portugal and the other in Slovakia. In 2024, there was a visit to Finland on 18-19 April, where the new quantitative questionnaire prepared by the ESC WG group was piloted. The following visit will be in Morocco in June and a third visit is planned for the end of the year (location tbd).

The following members represented/will represent the CC at the ESC Support & Follow up visits:

- Janez Sodrznik (TAFISA) – ESC S&F Portugal (2023)
- James Ogilvie (UEFA) – ESC S&F Slovakia (2023)
- Hugh Torrance (EGLSF) – ESC S&F Finland (2024)
- Annemarie Phelps (EOC) – ESC S&F Morocco (2024)

The ESC Support & Follow up team is composed of 2 members of the GB, 1 member of the CC and the Secretariat. It was also recently decided by the ESC WG that a second member of the CC may be asked to join the team as rapporteur should no existing team member be available for that role. Mark Lichtenhein (SROC) will be rapporteur for the ESC S&F visit to Morocco next month.

As part of the team that visited Slovakia, James Ogilvie noted that, as Slovakia had just had its national election, it was an interesting political moment to arrive in the country. He highlighted the motivation of the ESC team and shared that the CC were treated on an equal footing to GB members. James also explained that the team came across as a serious delegation as everything was well prepared. He added that it was emotional to see the engagement of schoolteachers in sport and the passion of the people working in sports during the visits in Bratislava. He also mentioned that it was enlightening to participate in these visits as it gave a fresh perspective on the work right down to the vernacular. Finally, and on a more technical note, James underlined that the process of reporting should be sped up.

Hugh Torrance, who was part of the team that visited Finland echoed most of the feedback given by James Ogilvie. Although, he mentioned that the Finnish delegation had a quite different starting point than Slovakia as they've been a member of EPAS for years. He also emphasised the fact that more utility should be given to the report. On a personal level, he indicated to have found the visit an enriching experience. However, he would have appreciated an opportunity to exchange with one of the CC members who had been on a previous visit to help him be better prepared.

The Chair then asked for a show of hands of which CC members would be interested in joining the visits in 2025 and beyond. The following members raised their hands.

### **Volunteers for future ESC Support & Follow up visits (alphabetical order):**

- Guido Battaglia, CSHR
- Anthon Behrens, EASM
- Patrik Perosa, IDO

- Charlotte Girard-Fabre, IFSO
- Marc Lichtenhein, SROC
- Jens Sejer Andersen, PTG

#### **Volunteers for the rapporteur role (alphabetical order)**

- Guido Battaglia, CSHR
- Anthon Behrens, EASM
- Annamarie Phelps, EOC
- Charlotte Girard-Fabre, IFSO

### **7. Events**

#### **Presentation of the upcoming events**

The Secretariat provided information on the events calendar, providing information on upcoming events and bringing additional insight into the previous events, including:

- the Olympic Torch relay, 26 June, Strasbourg
- the Conference on equality and diversity in francophone sport, 25 July, Paris
- the Paralympic race, 25 August, Strasbourg
- 18<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for sport, 8-10 October, Porto, Portugal
- Diversity Conference 2025

CC members were thanked for their attendance at previous events and highly encouraged to keep up with the upcoming events such as the next Diversity Conference (2025), for which the main focus will be either youth, the elderly, or both generations.

Jens Sejer Andersen encouraged the Secretariat to set up more workshop and social events for the CC only, on the model of the one organised on 28 May.

Andrej Pisl recommended to continue with the organisation of more informal meeting/workshop of the CC. Indeed, he explained that it was a great opportunity for the members of the CC to meet each other and exchange on their activities, experience and background.

Anthon Behrens noted that it would be interesting to think about the development of a dashboard which would display good practices (with a thematic division) from the different members' organisations of the CC. This was discussed at the CC workshop on 28 May 2024.

However, Annamarie Phelps recalled that the CC should ensure to avoid any duplication with existing repertoires of good practices. She rather proposed to set up a webpage with direct links to the different repertoires already existing.

### **8. Tour de table**

The Chair invited those organisations who had prepared and shared a presentation in advance to present one example of the work/activity of their organisation that is directly linked to the European Sports Charter. Presentations were given by:

- Centre for Sport and Human Rights (CSHR)
- European Association for Sport Management (EASM)
- European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF)

- European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO)
- The European Olympic Committees (EOC)
- European Physical Education Association (EUPEA)
- European University Sports Association (EUSA)
- International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICCSPE)
- International Federation for Sports Officials (IFSO)
- International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA)
- Panathlon International
- Peace and Sport
- Play the Game (PTG)
- Sports Rights Owners Coalition (SROC)
- Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

#### **9. Any other business**

No items were discussed.

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

The Secretariat submitted the proposal to organise the next Consultative Committee meeting on 8 October 2024, from 2pm to 3pm, in Porto, Portugal, on the occasion of the 18<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sport. This proposal was accepted.

**Appendix 1: Agenda**

1.	<b>Opening of the meeting</b>
2.	<b>Adoption of the agenda</b>
3.	<b>CC membership</b>  3.1. Overview of the CC membership 3.1.1. Renewals 3.1.2. New members
4.	<b>Elections</b>  4.1. Information on the organisation of the elections 4.2. Elections 4.2.1. Election of the Chair 4.2.1.1. Information on candidatures received in writing 4.2.1.2. Oral nominations of candidates 4.2.1.3. Introduction round of candidates 4.2.2. Election of the Vice-Chair 4.2.2.1. Information on candidatures received in writing 4.2.2.2. Oral nominations of candidates 4.2.2.3. Introduction round of candidates 4.2.3. Election of the 4 members of the Bureau 4.2.3.1. Information on candidatures received in writing 4.2.3.2. Oral nominations of candidates 4.2.3.3. Introduction round of candidates 4.2.4. Election of the Gender Equality Rapporteur 4.2.4.1. Information on candidatures received in writing 4.2.4.2. Oral nominations of candidates 4.2.5. Introduction round of candidates
5.	<b>European Sports Charter Working Group</b>  5.1 Updates
6.	<b>European Sports Charter Support &amp; Follow up</b>  6.1. Updates
7.	<b>Events</b>  7.1. 18th Joint meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and the EPAS Consultative Committee 7.2. Olympic Torch Relay, 26 June, Strasbourg 7.3. Round table on equality and diversity in francophone sport, 25 July, Paris 7.4. Paralympic race, 25 August, Strasbourg 7.5. 18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Porto, Portugal 7.6. Diversity Conference 2025

8.	<b>Tour de table</b>
9.	<b>Any other business</b>
10.	<b>Date and place of the next meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="316 499 1390 566">○ 18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Porto, Portugal, 8 October 2-3pm (TBC)</li></ul>

## Appendix 2: List of Participants

### CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE / COMITÉ CONSULTATIF

#### **CHAIR / PRÉSIDENTE**

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**Apologised for the morning of 29/05/24**

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