

Strasbourg, 20 October 2023

EPAS(2023)44

Meeting of the EPAS GB Bureau

Wednesday 31 May 2023

9am – 10am CET

Online (Teams platform)

Working language: English

REPORT

Participants

Governing Board (GB): Alexandre Husting (Luxembourg, Chair), Andrea Carletti (Italy, Vice-Chair), Solène Charuau (France), François Tricarico (Belgium), Andrew Decelis (Malta), Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus, Gender Equality Rapporteur), Diana Santos (Portugal, MSL18), Mogens Kirkeby (ISCA, representing the Consultative Committee (CC))

Secretariat: Sophie Kwasny, Francine Raveney, Cassandra Mactavish, Caroline Larghi, Despina Tramountani

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the GB.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with no modifications, i.e. with the following items for consideration:



- Latest updates on the plenary meeting (8-9 June)
- Draft declaration on Sport Integrity
- Draft mandate of the Network of Magistrates/Prosecutors Responsible for Sports (MARS)

3. Latest updates on the plenary meeting (8-9 June)

The meeting will take place on Thursday 8 June (all day) and Friday 9 June (morning only). It will be preceded by a training session on unconscious bias (7 June in the morning for the GB and in the afternoon for the CC).

❖ Elections

An email was sent to the delegations summarising the candidacies received. Two have been received at this stage:

-  Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus) for the positions of member representing Region 4 and Gender Equality Rapporteur – current holder of these 2 posts;
-  Solène Charuau (France) for the position of member representing Region 1 – current post holder.

Andrew Decelis (Malta), current holder of the position of member representing Region 3, is ready to apply for a second mandate, but will not send a candidacy before the meeting, to give a chance to other delegates to apply.

Andrea Carletti (Italy), current holder of the position of Vice-Chair would be interested in applying for a second mandate subject to his hierarchy's approval.

François Tricarico, current holder of the position of member representing Region 2, cannot re-apply, as he has completed two mandates. Some countries have shown an interest, but no delegate has applied so far.

Alexandre Husting is ready to apply for a second mandate, but will not send a candidacy before the meeting, to give a chance to other delegates to apply.

The secretariat prefers receiving the candidacies prior to the meeting, but they can according to the Rules of procedure be accepted during the meeting as well.

- ❖ Consequences of the aggression against Ukraine (Tour de table on possible initiatives by EPAS)

Thirty minutes are allocated to this item, starting by a short introduction by the Chair and an intervention by Ukraine, represented by Andriy Chesnokov, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports responsible for European Integration issues. There will be a sequence of interventions from a number of delegations after that.

- ❖ Update on EPAS membership

Canada is withdrawing from EPAS at the end of the year for financial reasons.

Belarus announced its withdrawal as well in November 2022. This withdrawal will take effect on 31 December 2023 in accordance with the applicable decision of the Committee of Ministers on the Practical modalities governing accessions to and withdrawals from partial and enlarged agreements.

Regarding CC membership, the GB has received a circular letter inviting them to decide on the possible renewal of the membership of the 13 CC organisations due to be held in 2023. Few responses (7) have been received so far. A reminder will be sent.

- ❖ Exchanges on how to better promote EPAS and its activities

Thirty minutes are allocated to this item. The Bureau will ask some active delegates from the CC and the GB to bring forward interesting ideas. The CC has already been invited to signal on which item they want to take the floor.

- ❖ European Sports Charter implementation by CC members

This item is different from the item on the promotion of EPAS as it relates to the European Sports Charter only. CC members who are implementing some parts of the ESC are invited to present their activities.

- ❖ ECROS cultural route

This pan-European project is led by a consortium of entities including the Alice Milliat Foundation (CC member) proposing sport specific cultural routes. The Council of Europe has a number of cultural routes. It would be the first one on sport. The GB will be provided with a short presentation and invited to take note.

4. Draft declaration on Sport Integrity

The draft declaration on sport integrity shall be adopted during the round table on sport integrity on 8 June in the afternoon.

The GB will have to decide if it wants a CM Declaration or a GB document.

The objective of the Declaration is to recall the importance of protecting sport integrity, and the means to do so, recalling that tools exist and that countries shall use them. This important objective is interrelated to the MARS Network, to be set up under the aegis of EPAS. Twelve specific actions are listed in the Declaration.

The following modifications have been requested by the Bureau:

- § 2: add “member” after “Invites”, so it reads “invites member States to enact”;
add “democracy” so it reads “democracy and ethical behaviour in sports organisations”;

- §4: add “acting at national, European and International levels” after relevant organisations;
- § 6: a reformulation is proposed as follows: “Encourages EPAS to review the policies and practices related to sport integrity”;
- §8: a reformulation is proposed as follows: “Invites EPAS to explore how to reinforce the standards in relation to sport integrity, including through a possible legal framework for upholding such integrity”;
- §10: was checked with GRECO and MONEYVAL. A reformulation is proposed as follows: “Invites the Council of Europe’s Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) to specifically consider sport integrity related matters in their future work, paying attention to corruption, money laundering and organised crime linked with sport.”

The Secretariat will circulate a revised version of the draft Declaration for possible comments by the delegations. The Declaration shall be adopted on site or by written procedure after the meeting. If the text goes to the Committee of Ministers for adoption, the GB will approve the draft and submit it to the Committee of Ministers for adoption. The idea is to have it adopted after the summer. If it is adopted by EPAS, the GB will adopt the text.

5. Network of Magistrates/Prosecutors Responsible for Sports (MARS)

The draft MARS mandate was approved as it stands.

The Network was proposed before Covid, and its setting-up was delayed until it then came to life in November 2022 and held its first informal meeting. The proposal is that the Network be framed under EPAS, then its membership shall be linked to EPAS’ membership. This prerequisite could push non-EPAS member States to join EPAS.

Each participant will have to ensure they have the internal authorisation and they were officially nominated by their authorities.

The idea is to enhance the judicial co-operation.

The MARS Network will touch upon all sports integrity issues including manipulation of competitions.

Regarding resources, EPAS has had this item (sport integrity, DACCS) in its budget for years, so it shall be fine.

7. Date and place of the next meeting

The next Bureau meeting will take place online after the plenary meeting.

The meeting was closed at 10.05am.