Strasbourg, 14 June 2022 EPAS(2022)47

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

16th meeting of the EPAS Governing Board

(joint meeting with the EPAS Consultative Committee)

13-14 June 2022

Palais de l'Europe, Room 2

Report

Monday 13 June (10.00am-12.30pm)
First part of the meeting (*in camera*)

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Alexandre Husting (Luxembourg), Chair of the Governing Board.

The Governing Board took note of the participation of 27 delegations and of the confirmation that the quorum was reached.

It welcomed the first participation of the Slovak Republic as a member and expressed its satisfaction and appreciation of the fact that EPAS was celebrating this year its 15th anniversary, with a total of 41 members, with the recent accession of Canada.

The Governing Board condemned the unjustified aggression on Ukraine by the Russian Federation and expressed its solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Governing Board adopted the agenda (EPAS(2022)23rev2) with the addition of a new sub-item 3 under item 8 to discuss the 18th Conference of Ministers responsible for sport, to be held in 2024.

The agenda is appended in Appendix I, the List of Participants is set out in Appendix II.

3. Elections

i. Vacant seats on the Bureau of the Governing Board

The Governing Board proceeded with the elections for the vacant seats on the Bureau of the Governing Board.

Decisions: The Governing Board:
- elected Solène Charuau (France), for Region 1, for the remaining term of the mandate of the current Bureau, until 2023;
- elected Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus) for Region 4, for the remaining term of the mandate of the current Bureau, until 2023.

ii. Election of the Gender Equality Rapporteur

Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Governing Board, Cyprus) expressed interest for the role of Gender Equality Rapporteur of the Governing Board Bureau.

Decision: The Governing Board elected Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus) as Gender Equality Rapporteur for the duration of her term in the Bureau, until 2023.

4. Update by the Secretariat

i. Accession to EPAS

The Executive Secretary welcomed the Slovak Republic and Canada to the Governing Board and informed the Bureau about the exclusion of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation ceased to be a member of the Council of Europe as of 16 March. Belarus was also suspended on 17 March. Both decisions, as well as their financial implications, were adopted by the Committee of Ministers in Resolutions CMRes(2022)2, CMRes(2022)2.5 and CMRes(2022)3.

Decision: The Governing Board took note of the update given by the Secretariat about the decisions taken by the Committee of Ministers regarding the Russian Federation and Belarus.

In order to be in line with the decisions taken by the Committee of Ministers on the Russian Federation, the Governing Board agreed on the principle to suspend the rights of organisations in the Consultative Committee that have a primarily Russian or Belarusian leadership or component.

The proposed written draft decision and process will be sent to the Governing Board for comments by 1 July.

Decision: The Governing Board will provide comments and by 1 July 2022 decide by written procedure on the text circulated by the Secretariat.

ii. Committee of Ministers/Parliamentary Assembly

The Executive Secretary presented to the delegates document SG INF(2022)2, which sets the strategic priorities in the field of sport for 2022-2025. The document was presented to the Committee of Ministers in an informal meeting in January during which the Chair of the Governing Board presented the work of EPAS. This document is the first of its kind and shows great support for the sport sector, while setting priorities. Two main tools are highlighted, EPAS and the Conventions, and the priorities are described around three axes: the protection of human rights and respect of the rule of law, advances in the promotion of values-driven sport, and the reaffirmation of the role of the Council of Europe and EPAS as a reliable and key partner amongst all stakeholders.

The next four years will include a focus on promoting the implementation of the European Sports Charter as the backbone of all EPAS activities.

In respect of the Parliamentary Assembly, a resolution was adopted at the winter session in January 2022 (Res 2420) on “Football governance: business and values”. The work of EPAS is also praised in this resolution, in particular the work in the field of child safeguarding with a reference to the Start to Talk. Additionally, the Parliamentary Assembly expressed its support to the establishment of a safe sport agency and supports governments making a commitment to ensuring this agency is set up. Finally, the resolution contains references to gender equality, with requests made regarding the composition of UEFA and FIFA executive boards, equal pay and rewards for national team players, as well as a general call to step up efforts to counter sexual harassment and gender discrimination.

Decision: The Governing Board took note of the update given by the Secretariat and the documents presented.

iii. Sport Division

Delegates were informed last year of the changes in the Secretariat, which were notably made to maximise the impact of the work done in the field of sport, ensure better communication and consolidate the synergies between EPAS and the Conventions sector.

Decision: The Governing Board took note of the update given by the Secretariat.

5. Statutory issues

5.1 Annual account

- **i. Ordinary account – 2021 unspent balance**
- **ii. Ordinary account – 2022**

The Deputy Executive Secretary updated the delegates about the ordinary account of 2021, and the related unspent balance amounting to €7968.98, and about the ordinary account of 2022, including information on the budgetary implications of the cessation of membership of the Russian Federation (document EPAS(2022)40).

The proposal outlined in section C of document EPAS(2022)40 regarding the budgetary consequences of the cessation of membership of the Russian Federation in EPAS is to apportion €129,710.69 amongst EPAS member states. The impact varies from €1,000 to €20,000 for the larger contributors (France and Italy). The proposal will be submitted in written to the EPAS Statutory Committee for a formal decision.

5.2 Special account

- **i. Current balance: GB authorisation to transfer the 2022 unspent balance of up to €50,000 to the EPAS 2023 special account**
- **ii. GB authorisation on a specific transfer from the special account**

The Deputy Executive Secretary presented the balance of the special account and the list of projects financed by it, as outlined in document EPAS(2022)36. The balance of the account will have to be approved by the Statutory Committee.

Decisions:

- The Governing Board took note of the information provided by the Secretariat in respect of the ordinary account and the special account (see documents EPAS(2022)36 and 40).

- The Governing Board took note of the information provided by the Secretariat regarding the budgetary implications of the cessation of membership of the Russian Federation in EPAS and the proposal for the 2022 budgetary exercise to apportion €129,710.69 amongst member States of EPAS.

- The Governing Board authorised a transfer of up to €50,000 to be made at the end of the budgetary year 2022 should credit allow, from the EPAS ordinary budget to the special account.

- The Governing Board approved the transfer of €22,549 from the special account to cover staff costs for one staff member working on the Start to Talk project for 4 months (September-December 2022).

- The Governing Board agreed that an amount of up to €10,000 of special account could be used by the Executive Secretary – upon prior consultation of the Chair of the Governing Board – to deal with urgent expenditure requirements or to optimise the use of EPAS available funds.

6. Evaluation visits of the European Sports Charter

The Chair underlined the importance of the evaluation visits and suggested improvements in the methodology used to conduct these visits. The working group, as proposed, would be composed of maximum five members of the Governing Board and one observer from the Consultative Committee. The Consultative Committee will also be informed of the proposal and will coordinate the designation of the observer.

The Group will be responsible for developing proposals on supporting the implementation of the European Sports Charter evaluation, strategic guidance, questionnaires and key indicators, and will report on the progress at the next Governing Board meeting. Delegates are invited to express their interest in joining the working group by 1 July.

Delegates supported the proposal, calling for Terms of Reference of the working group to be developed, and highlighting the added value of involving in this work representatives of member states who already organised evaluation visits. The work of other Council of Europe's committees (e.g. ECRI) could serve as reference model of methodology.

The Chair clarified that it would be a matter of formalising a methodology in order to receive harmonised and comparable information from the country concerned and to obtain a report with concrete conclusions and recommendations. The current feeling is that there is no systematic discussion on the topics that need to be covered, and the idea is to produce some basic methodology guidelines, a checklist, and potentially to reflect on which countries could be invited to participate in an evaluation.

The Executive Secretary reminded the delegates that in this particular case, the evaluation of the implementation of a Committee of Ministers recommendation – and not Convention – is at stake. To make a link with other sport areas, the Secretariat can look into the evaluations done by the Sport Conventions and identify what is shared by EPAS and all Conventions, to ensure countries are not solicited multiple times for the same information. As for the Terms of Reference of the group, these could be discussed by the group itself.

Decision: The Governing Board decided to set up a working group on the evaluation and promotion of the European Sports Charter, and delegations agreed to express their interest in joining the working group by 1st July 2022.

i. North Macedonia

The European Sports Charter was adopted in October 2021, but the evaluation had started and some preliminary findings had been prepared by the evaluation team. These preliminary findings will now be checked by the North Macedonian authorities, who will then welcome the evaluation team in Skopje. This visit would ideally take place in September. After the visit, the

evaluation team will be able to finalise the report and formulate proposals and recommendations.

ii. Upcoming visits

The Secretariat is in contact with the Albanian authorities, who expressed interest in carrying out an evaluation. The first meeting would take place online and would be followed by an on-site mission to Tirana to discuss the preliminary findings with national stakeholders.

It would be valuable for the Governing Board that the Working Group reflects on the planning of evaluation visits and on evaluation criteria and potentially develops a multi-annual programme of evaluation visits.

Decision: The Governing Board took note of the information provided by the Secretariat in respect of the undergoing exercise for North Macedonia and the initiation of the process in respect of Albania.

Monday 13 June: 14.00pm-16.45pm
Second part of the meeting (with the Consultative Committee)

The Chair welcomed the Consultative Committee, particularly the new members who recently joined EPAS, and updated them on the outcomes of the *in camera* session.

7. Reports and recent news

7.1 Oral update by the Chair of the Consultative Committee on the outcomes of the plenary meeting held earlier

Kole Gjeloshaj (Chair of the Consultative Committee, representing ISF) gave an update regarding the outcomes of the meeting of the Consultative Committee plenary held in the morning. Twenty-four organisations out of twenty-nine attended the meeting.

Elections were held and resulted in the following:

Chair: Kole Gjeloshaj, ISF (re-elected)
Vice-chair: Mogens Kirkeby, ISCA

Bureau Members:
- Pauline Johanet, Peace and Sport
- Charlotte Girard-Fabre, IFSO
- Janez Sodrznik, TAFISA Europe
- Baiba Veisa, EFPM

Gender Equality Rapporteur: Emily Shaw, UEFA

Decision: The Governing Board took note of the update provided by the Chair of the Consultative Committee, notably regarding the elections held in the Consultative Committee.

The Executive Secretary congratulated the new Bureau of the Consultative Committee and gave an update about the ongoing membership process for the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, which attended the meeting as an observer. The request is now with the Committee of Ministers and their decision is expected on 15 June.

Decision: The Governing Board and Consultative Committee took note of the information provided by the Secretariat in respect of the application of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights.

7.2 Lists of decisions from the following meetings:

i. **15th joint meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and Consultative Committee (Strasbourg, 15-16 June 2021)**

ii. **13th plenary meeting of the EPAS Consultative Committee**

The Deputy Executive Secretary informed the delegates about two documents, EPAS(2022)40 and 44, which outline the lists of decisions from the 15th joint meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and Consultative Committee and of the 13th Consultative Committee plenary meeting.

7.3 Reports on EPAS events

i. **EPAS diversity conference 2021**

The Conference on the "Protection and promotion of the human rights of intersex and transgender athletes in sports competitions" was held on 20 September 2021 as a hybrid event. A high-level opening session was followed by two roundtables organised as part of this event, on biology, sex, gender and sport as well as on protecting human rights and ensuring fair competition rules. Up to 250 participants attended online, and speakers represented a variety of different organisations, including the IOC, Human Rights Watch, World Players Association and the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation, among others. Many resources are available on the webpage of the conference, including the full recording of the event, its conclusions and recommendations, and portraits of some athletes. The next step EPAS will take in this area will be to develop educational materials.

The Chair of the Consultative Committee congratulated the Secretariat for the successful event and underlined the availability of the Consultative Committee to find ways to continue the work on this important topic.

ii. **EPAS/Italian Department for Sport 2021 Integrity Conference**

The Integrity Conference was co-organised by the Italian Department for Sport and EPAS, in the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. It was held in Rome on 6-7 December 2021, as a hybrid conference. The Conference covered three main areas: the integrity guidelines, the manipulation of sports competitions and good governance in sport. More detailed information about the conference is available in document EPAS(2021)72.

The Italian representative expressed great satisfaction with the event. Many topical issues pertaining to integrity in sport were discussed during the two half-day conference and future developments were set forth on topics such as the manipulation of sport competitions and integrity issues in general, with the aim of fostering intersectoral cooperation amongst the Italian authorities working in these areas.

iii. EPAS webinars (on 1. Checking of criminal records and 2. Physical education and school sports)

Two webinars were organised in the past year, the first one on checking criminal records as a tool to protect children in sport (in June 2021) and the second one on physical education and school sports (in February 2022). The webinars had excellent speakers and were well attended, each attracting over 200 participants, and contributed to the creation and strengthening of links with other stakeholders who share the Council of Europe's objectives and values, such as law enforcement authorities in the case of the webinar on criminal records, or ministries of education when it comes to the work on physical education and school sports.

The Chair of the Consultative Committee underlined the added value of the Consultative Committee in connecting new organisations with the work of EPAS and flagged up the importance of bringing together ministries of education and of sport for further cooperation in the area of school sports.

iv. Mapping of sports facilities

In collaboration with the Mulier Instituut (Netherlands), three restricted meetings on the mapping of sport facilities had been organised. The first one took place on 14 December 2021 and focused on interchanging patterns of facility use during the Covid-19 pandemic. The second meeting will be held on 5 July 2022, addressing sustainability, and the final meeting will be held in December 2022 and will focus on financial investments. The latest version of the report will be shared on the dedicated webpage. Delegates are invited to designate national experts for the upcoming meetings.

v. Round table on E-sports/ E-Gaming

The roundtable was organised at the request of several Governing Board members in the second half of 2021. As a possible follow-up, a mapping exercise to identify how different countries approach the phenomenon and to continue discussions around this topic could be considered.

vi. Breakfast Roundtable: Women in Sport

The Breakfast Roundtable on Women in Sport took place on 8 March 2022. The event brought together many potential future partners for the next ALL IN 2023-2024 project. The participation of renowned experts and the broad attendance and participation at this event ensured that the Council of Europe work in the field was given strong visibility, building the momentum for the 2023-2024 new EU-COE joint project: All In Plus.

Decision: The Governing Board and the Consultative Committee took note of the information provided by the Secretariat in respect of the decisions made at the prior meetings as well as the reports on EPAS events, their organisation and outcomes.

The representative of ICSSPE reminded the delegates of the overarching topics of all the initiatives presented by the Secretariat, which is participation in sport. When looking at e-sport, the main issue is not whether it is to be considered a sport or not, but the aspect of participation: the number of men is much higher than the number of women participating. When thinking about the mapping of sports facilities, it needs to be considered that there are large groups within the communities that are very dependent on sport facilities and that are bound to use

those facilities even during lockdowns. It would be helpful to see all of these activities under the programmatic angle of the Governing Board and the Consultative Committee of protecting and promoting human rights.

8. Conferences of Ministers responsible for Sport

8.1. 17th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Antalya, 25-27 October 2022)

i. Introductory presentation by the Turkish authorities

Ahmet Temurci and Inanç Őzçakmak (Türkiye) gave an introductory presentation of the 17th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, which will take place in Antalya from 25 to 27 October 2022. The city, venue and draft programme of the Conference were presented to the delegates.

The Consultative Committee meeting, Senior Officials meeting and restricted Ministerial gathering would be held on 25 October, the Conference of Ministers on 26 October, and a side event on the inclusion of migrants and refugees through sport on 27 October. More information about the programme of the conference is available in document MSL17(2022)1.

The Vice-chair of the Consultative Committee (representing ISCA) asked about the format and status of the side event on the integration of migrants and refugees compared to the main programme.

The Executive Secretary clarified that a side event in the format of a conference will be hosted on 27 October in the morning, speakers for the different panels have been identified, including some Consultative Committee members and will be contacted shortly.

The representative of Play the Game commented on recent events in Turkey which they considered not to be in line with Council of Europe values.

The representative of ICSSPE underlined how the work of EPAS looks at participation in sport through a human-rights lens and seeks to accelerate dynamics in different fields in a national context and inquired about the human rights that the Turkish authorities seek to promote with the Conference.

The representative of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights drew attention to the fact that all nations and localities may bid and host mega sport events, provided they demonstrate their commitment to meeting the responsibilities and obligations under relevant human rights instruments, principles and standards in relation to the event.

Decision: The Governing Board and Consultative Committee took note of the presentation given by the Turkish delegation and the update given by the Secretariat on the preparation of the 17th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport on 25-27 October 2022.

ii. Update by the Secretariat (reference document, Draft Resolution No.1 and Draft Resolution No.2)

Three documents were discussed under this sub-item: the reference document and the Draft Resolutions for themes 1 and 2.

The Executive Secretary introduced document MSL17(2022)9rev, which presents the themes of the Conference. Both themes are based on the revised European Sports Charter, which will serve as the common thread of discussions throughout the Conference.

The first theme is "Sport for all: uniting us for stronger societies", with a clear reference to the right to access to sport for all. The theme will be developed in three sub-themes:

a) Gender equality – ensuring women's equal participation and involvement;
b) Sport as a means of inclusion: its role for disadvantaged groups;
c) Sport for children: education, safeguarding and development.

The second theme is "Rethinking sport: leading the way for a healthy and sustainable future". Within this topic, references are made to increasing sedentary lifestyles, prevalence of screens, decline of physical activity and the impact of Covid-19.

This theme is also divided in three sub-topics:

a) Addressing the emerging challenges to sport policies;
b) Facilitating access to sport and encouraging practice as part of a healthy lifestyle;
c) Boosting the return to sport activities and events.

Under each sub-theme, the ministers could address specific questions during the conference.

The result of the discussions among ministers on the two themes will be the two resolutions. Both drafts are composed of a preamble part, taking stock of what has been done, and then invitations to the Committee of Ministers and to EPAS and its member states.

Delegations are invited to send their written comments on the three documents by 1 July 2022.

The representative of Finland welcomed the chosen themes, especially those related to equality, inclusion and sustainability. In addition to climate change, safeguarding biodiversity should also be mentioned in the resolution for theme 2.

The representative of ICSSPE proposed to include a reference to climate change and resource pressure in the second resolution, as this is affecting sport facilities in many countries. Concerning the first resolution, the fragility of democracy as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic should be mentioned, as well as elderly people among the underrepresented groups in the second sub-theme.

Decision: The Governing Board and Consultative Committee were presented with the Draft Resolutions (MSL17(2022)4 and MSL17(2022)5) and the Draft reference document on Themes 1 and 2 (MSL17(2022)9rev), which they were invited to comment via written procedure by 1 July 2022.

8.2. Follow up to the 16th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Athens and online, 5 November 2020 – 11 February 2021)

The Deputy Executive Secretary presented the compendium of resolutions adopted at the 16th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, held between the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, and recalled the work done by EPAS for their implementation.

The representative of EAS drew attention to the concept of dual career, which should also be enforced in the workplace, and not only in academic institutions, as many elite athletes work on the side of their sport participation.

Decision: The Governing Board and Consultative Committee took note of the Report to the Committee of Ministers following the 16th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport and the updated actions on implementation of the MSL16 resolutions.

8.3. 18th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (2024)

The Executive Secretary invited delegations to express their interest in hosting the 18th Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, to be held in 2024, by 1st July 2022.

Decision: The Governing Board invited the delegations to submit their candidature to host the 2024 Ministerial Conference and to contact the Secretariat by 1 July 2022. The Board instructed the Secretariat to send the document "Ministerial Conference checklist" to all Governing Board members.

Tuesday 14 June: 10.00am-14.00pm
Second part of the meeting (continued)

The Chair welcomed the delegates.

9. Programme of Activities

9.1. Pillar 1: Ethical Sport

i. IPACS

The EPAS Secretariat updated delegations about the progress of Task Force 3 and the ongoing work on the Guidelines for implementation of the IPACS Benchmark on good governance. A number of guidelines were selected as examples to explain the structure to the delegates.

Decision: The Governing Board and the Consultative Committee took note of the information provided by the Secretariat and expressed interest in contributing to the remaining steps of the work on the International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport (IPACS).

ii. Guidelines on Integrity in Sport (Kazan Action Plan)

The Deputy Executive Secretary presented the Guidelines on Integrity in Sport, which were developed within the work of Action 3 of Unesco's Kazan Action Plan and presented at the CIGEPS 2020 meeting.

The guidelines are built around five key policy areas and six cross-cutting issues and are available on the EPAS website. It was foreseen to present these guidelines at the MINEPS meeting that was supposed to take place in 2022 but has been postponed to 2023. The Secretariat will explore further opportunities for dissemination.

The representative of the Centre for Sports and Human Rights echoed the comments made by the Secretariat on the importance of a human rights approach in all activities, as also mentioned in the European Sports Charter, and commended the efforts to ensure it is seen as an overarching topic.

Decision: The Governing Board and the Consultative Committee took note of the guidelines on integrity in sport (Kazan Action Plan). The Board instructed the Secretariat to liaise with Unesco with a view to ensuring the promotion and dissemination of the integrity guidelines at the next MINEPS and exploring further opportunities for their dissemination.

9.2. Pillar 2: Inclusive Sport

i. Hate Speech in Sport

Joint project "Combating Hate Speech in Sport" (January 2022 – December 2023)

The project officer for the new EU-CoE joint project on Combating Hate Speech in Sport presented the project. Partner countries include France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Spain. The launch event was held on 31 May 2022 and was opened by a Project Coordinators' meeting. Further information and resources can be found on the project website.

The representative of France reminded that hate speech in sport has been one of France's priorities for the last 15 years. Numerous resources and actions have been developed, ranging from repressive measures to awareness-raising, which is where the Ministry of Sport is most involved with campaigns and toolkits. There is a need to work further on the topic to have a hate-free culture at a European level and create an exchange around national policies with a maximum of countries.

Several Governing Board and Consultative Committee members expressed support for the new joint project and showed interest in cooperating and sharing resources on hate speech in sport. Several initiatives launched by different organisations were mentioned, such as a campaign launched by NBPA, WNBPA, FIFPro and WPA on online abuse or a Fans' Human Rights Guide developed by the Centre for Sport and Human Rights.

The Chair of the Consultative Committee, proposed ISF events, activities and network as a possible platform, especially in view of raising awareness and work with young athletes and their entourage. ISF is available to work closer with the project and include exchanges and presentation in different events to reach young athletes at a global level.

ii. **Gender equality**
All In project
Presentation on the planned activities on promoting gender equality in sport

The Deputy Executive Secretary presented the past and future work in the area of promoting gender equality in sport. EPAS has worked a lot on gender equality over the past years, from the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on gender mainstreaming in sport adopted in 2015, to various EU-CoE joint projects. In 2023, EPAS would like to carry on the work done in the All In project (2018-19) in a new All In Plus project.

The Chair of the Consultative Committee congratulated the Secretariat for the All In project and welcomed its expansion, inviting Consultative Committee members to get involved. He recalled the recent publication of the report of the European Commission's High-Level Group on Gender Equality. The report is divided into two parts, the first one on cross-cutting issues, and the second one focusing on six key themes: participation, coaching and officiating, leadership, social and economic aspects of sport, media coverage, and gender-based violence.

Delegates expressed strong support for the work carried out on gender equality and welcomed the new project. They also underlined the relevance of resources and the data collection developed by the All In project in 2018-19 and expressed interest in further cooperation.

Decision: The Governing Board and the Consultative Committee took note of the information in respect of the joint project "Combating Hate Speech in Sport" and the All In initiative, in particular the new project due to commence in 2023, and expressed strong support for the implementation of these projects.

iii. **Promoting diversity and fighting discrimination**
EPAS diversity conference 2023

The next Diversity Conference will be held in November 2023. Two themes are proposed to the delegates, who will be invited to express their preference by written procedure:

- Integration of child refugees through sport;
- Promoting women in sport – representation and visibility.

Decision: The Governing Board and the Consultative Committee took note of the presentation on the EPAS diversity conference 2023 and possible themes, for which comments by written consultation will be sought by 1 July 2022.

9.3. Pillar 3: Safe Sport

a. Presentation of the "Start to Talk" project

The Start to Talk project officer presented the latest developments of the project in the last year, including the work on a roadmap for Bulgaria and the update of the self-assessment tool developed in 2018.

The Chair of the Governing Board expressed support for the Start to Talk project and reminded delegates about a letter he co-signed with the Director of Anti-Discrimination and addressed to Ministries responsible for Sport to keep funding this project with voluntary contributions.

Decision: The Governing Board and the Consultative Committee took note of the presentation on the "Start to Talk" project, expressed their strong support for its implementation, and invited delegations of the Governing Board to nominate focal points and to contribute to the financial sustainability of this important project.

b. Presentation on the Joint project "Child safeguarding in sport" (March 2020 – June 2022)

The project officer responsible for this joint EU-CoE project on Child Safeguarding in Sport presented the work completed. The project started in March 2020 and was supposed to finish in October 2021 but was extended to June 2022. All results of the projects, as well as lessons learned and future developments, would be presented at the closing event of the project, which will be held on 23 June 2022.

Delegates from some of the partner countries (Croatia, Belgium and Portugal) and good practice owners (Finland) were enthusiastic about the work and results achieved in the project and encouraged other member states to develop a child safeguarding roadmap and, in general, to take part in EU-CoE joint projects.

Decision: The Governing Board and the Consultative Committee took note of the information provided on the joint project "Child Safeguarding in Sport" and welcomed the important results achieved during this project, highlighting the need to sustain the effects of those outcomes through a close articulation of this work with the "Start to Talk" initiative.

9.4. Programme of activities 2022-2023

a. 2020 Activity report
b. 2021 Activity report

The Deputy Executive Secretary informed the delegates about the 2020 Activity Report, adopted by the Governing Board in 2021, and the draft 2021 Activity Report (EPAS(2022)32). Delegates would be requested to provide comments on the 2021 Draft Activity Report by 1 July 2022.

Decision: The Governing Board and the Consultative Committee took note of the information presented in respect of the 2020 Activity Report and the 2021 Draft Activity Report (EPAS(2022)32) and agreed to send any written comments on the latter by 1 July 2022. The Bureau of the Governing Board was tasked with finalising the report with a view to its subsequent submission to the Committee of Ministers.

c. Programme of activities and 2022 budget

The Deputy Executive Secretary presented document EPAS(2022)7, which is based on the 2022-2025 Council of Europe Programme and Budget, with the addition of Table 2, containing the list of activities funded by the EPAS ordinary budget, which was adopted by the Governing Board last year.

d. Draft programme of activities 2023

The Executive Secretary presented document EPAS(2022)33. The first two pages are taken from the 2022-25 Programme of Activities, to which EPAS contributed. On page 4, delegates can find a transposition of the activities in budgetary lines under the 13 key EPAS activities. Delegates would be invited to submit comments on this by 1 July.

Decision: The Governing Board and the Consultative Committee took note of the information provided regarding the Programme of activities and budget 2022-2025 (EPAS(2022)7) and the Draft programme of activities 2023 (EPAS(2022)33) and agreed that they would send any written comments on the latter by 1 July 2022.

10. Conventions – update on activities and state of ratification

i. Anti-doping

The Secretary of the Anti-Doping Convention presented the Convention and the work of the monitoring group.

ii. Saint-Denis

The Co-Secretaries of the Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (Saint-Denis Convention) presented the Convention and the work of its Committee.

iii. Macolin

The Secretary of the Convention on the Manipulation of Sport Competition (Macolin Convention) presented the Convention and the work of the follow-up Committee. He invited delegates to financially support the newly started ACT project and to get in touch with the Secretariat should there be an interest in the support of the Macolin Convention.

The Belgian representative proposed that a point on the ratification of the Macolin Convention be included in the agenda of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU, which is planned for the first semester of 2024.

Decision: The Committees took note of the presentations on the Council of Europe's Anti-Doping Convention, the Macolin Convention and the Saint-Denis Convention, provided by the Secretaries of the Committees of the respective Conventions.

11. Cooperation with the European Union

The representative of France presented the priorities and work of the French Presidency of the Council of the EU, which is coming to an end. The accent was put on the link between sport, sustainability and SDGs. The Conclusions of the Council of the EU on "Sport and physical activity, a promising lever to transform behaviour for sustainable development" were adopted by the Council of Ministers in April; they invite member states, the European Commission and the sport movement to take into further consideration SDGs when developing and implementing sport policies and to develop tools to measure the impact of Major Sport Events in terms of waste, impact on biodiversity and carbon footprint. The Conclusions are available online on the Official Journal of the European Union. Two conferences were organised, one with Unesco on sport and SDGs during childhood, to show how participation in sport from a young age can contribute to the development of SDGs among children. The second conference was organised at the European Parliament and focused on green sport. The Sport Directors' meeting will be held on 15 June 2022 and will be followed by the European Commission's EU Sport Forum on 16-17 June, in Lille.

The representative of the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe underlined the constructive cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Union in the field of sport. The two organisations share many priorities and topics of mutual interest. The EU is keen to continue this close cooperation in the field of sport as it is a very useful tool for the promotion of human rights, democracy and the well-being of citizens, especially post-pandemic. The EU took note of the Council of Europe's invitation to accelerate the process of ratification of the Macolin Convention and invited EU member states who are also part of EPAS to take part in the negotiations of the priorities for cooperation for the next biennium, which will be subject of Council Conclusions to be adopted in November 2022.

The Chair of the Governing Board encouraged the continuation of this close cooperation with the EU and welcomed the proposal of a joint process to define priorities, possibly resuming the joint meetings between EPAS and the European Commission.

Decision: The Governing Board and the Consultative Committee welcomed the close cooperation between EPAS and the EU institutions in the field of sport and took note of the information provided by the delegation of France regarding the activities of the French Presidency of the Council of the EU, and by the representative of the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe.

12. Any other business

The Governing Board and the Consultative Committee took note of the information provided by representatives of Play the Game, FIBA, EAS and ENSE regarding future activities of relevance to the Governing Board.

The Chair of the Consultative Committee suggested to include on future agendas a specific item enabling the members of the Consultative Committee to inform the Governing Board of any activities of possible interest.

13. Date and place of the next meeting

Delegations took note of the proposed date of the next meeting, which will take place on 8-9 June 2023.

APPENDIX I – AGENDA

Monday 13 June (10.00am-12.30pm) **First part of the meeting (*in camera* GB only)**		
1.	**Opening of the meeting** The meeting will be opened by Mr Alexandre Husting, Chair of the Governing Board.	
2.	**Adoption of the agenda**	EPAS(2022)23rev
3.	**Elections** i. Vacant seats on the Bureau of the Governing Board ii. Gender Equality Rapporteur	EPAS(2021)31 EPAS(2022)INF03 EPAS(2022)39
4.	**Update by the Secretariat** i. Accession to EPAS ii. Committee of Ministers / Parliamentary Assembly iii. Sport Division	CM/Res(2022)2 CM/Del/Dec(2022)1429/2.5 CM/Res(2022)3 SG/Inf(2022)2 Resolution 2420 (2022)
5.	**Statutory issues** **5.1. Annual account** i. Ordinary Account – 2021 unspent balance ii. Ordinary Account – 2022 **5.2. Special account** i. Current balance: GB authorisation to transfer the 2022 unspent balance of up to €50,000, to the EPAS 2023 special account ii. GB authorisation on a specific transfer from the special account	EPAS(2022)40 EPAS(2022)36
6.	**Evaluation visits of the European Sports Charter** i. North Macedonia ii. Upcoming visits	EPAS(2022)38 SPORT(2017)2

Monday 13 June: 2.00pm-4.45pm **Second part of the meeting (with the Consultative Committee)**		
7.	**Reports and recent news**	
	7.1. Oral update by the Chair of the Consultative Committee on the outcomes of the plenary meeting	
	7.2. Lists of decisions from the following meetings: i. 15th joint meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and Consultative Committee (Strasbourg, 15-16 June 2021) ii. 13th plenary meeting of the EPAS Consultative Committee	EPAS(2021)40 EPAS(2021)44
	7.3. Reports on EPAS events i. EPAS diversity conference 2021 ii. EPAS/Italian Department for Sport Integrity conference 2021 iii. EPAS webinars (on 1. checking of criminal records and 2. physical education and school sports) iv. Mapping of sports facilities v. Round table on E-sports/ E-Gaming vi. Breakfast Roundtable: Women in Sport	EPAS(2021)81 EPAS(2021)72 EPAS(2021)43 EPAS(2021)71 EPAS(2021)67
8.	**Conferences of Ministers responsible for Sport**	
	8.1. 17th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Antalya, 25-27 October 2022) i. Introductory presentation by the Turkish authorities	
	ii. Update by the Secretariat	MSL17(2022)1
	Reference document	MSL17(2022)9rev
	Theme 1: Draft Resolution n° 1	MSL17(2022)4
	Theme 2: Draft Resolution n° 2	MSL17(2022)5
	8.2. Follow up to the 16th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Athens and online, 5 November 2020 – 11 February 2021)	
	i. Report to the Committee of Ministers	CM(2021)53
	8.3. **18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport**	

Tuesday 14 June: 10.00am - 4.30pm **Second part of the meeting (continued)**		
9.	**Programme of Activities**	
	9.1. PILLAR 1: ETHICAL SPORT	
	i. ***IPACS*** Dimension A on Transparency Dimension B on Integrity Dimension C on Democracy Dimension D on development and solidarity Benchmark *ii.* ***Guidelines on integrity in sport (Kazan Action Plan)***	 A1-A10 B1-B10 C1-C10 D1-D10 IPACS(2020)05rev2 Guidelines
	9.2. PILLAR 2: INCLUSIVE SPORT	
	i. ***Hate Speech in Sport*** Joint project "Combating Hate Speech in Sport" (January 2022 – December 2023) *ii.* ***Gender equality*** ALL IN project Presentation on the planned activities on promoting gender equality in sport *iii.* ***Promoting diversity and fighting discrimination*** EPAS diversity conference 2023	 CM/Rec(2022)16 SPORT(2022)2rev Project description CM/Rec(2015)2 ALL IN (March 2018 - October 2019)
	9.3. PILLAR 3: SAFE SPORT	
	Inclusion of children and their protection in sport a. Presentation on the "Start to Talk" project b. Presentation on the Joint project "Child safeguarding in sport" (March 2020 – June 2022)	 EPAS(2022)24 EPAS(2022)37
	9.4. PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES 2022-2023	
	a. 2020 Activity report b. Draft 2021 Activity report c. Programme of activities and budget 2022 d. Draft programme of activities 2023	EPAS(2021)23 EPAS(2022)32 EPAS(2022)7 EPAS(2022)33
10.	**Conventions – update on activities and state of ratification**	

	i. Anti-doping ii. Saint-Denis iii. Macolin	CM/Rec(2022)14 Website Website Website
11.	**Cooperation with the European Union**	
12.	**Any other business**	
13.	**Date and place of the next meeting**	

APPENDIX II – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

GOVERNING BOARD / COMITE DE DIRECTION

CHAIR / PRESIDENT

Mr Alexandre HUSTING
Attaché Education, Jeunesse, Culture et Sport
Ministère des Sports
Représentation permanente du Luxembourg auprès de l'Union européenne

VICE-CHAIR / VICE-PRESIDENT

Mr Andrea CARLETTI
Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Department for Sport – International affairs

MEMBERS / MEMBRES

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Ms Elvira BAZE
Head of Drafting and Feasibility Projects in Sport
Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth

ARMENIA / ARMENIE

Ms Mary BADALYAN
Foreign Relations and Diaspora Department
Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports

AUSTRIA / AUTRICHE

Mr Claus FARNBERGER
Deputy Head of division, Senior adviser
Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport

AZERBAIJAN / AZERBAÏDJAN

Mr Namig NOVRUZOV
Head of the international relations department
Ministry of Youth and Sport

Ms Matanat MAMMADOVA

Head of Division of the International Relations Department

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

Mr François TRICARICO (Chef de délégation)
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Direction des Relations internationales
Ministère de la Fédération Wallonie - Bruxelles

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Mr Boris SHABANSKI
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Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the CoE

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Ms Marija JURČEVIĆ
Head of Department for International Cooperation and EU funds
Central State Office for Sport

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Ms Ioanna PARASKEVOPOULOU
European and International Affairs Officer
National Coordinator for European Week of Sport (#BeActive)
GReFORM Project Coordinator & Administrator
Cyprus Sport Organisation

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Ministry of Culture

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Ministry of Education and Culture

FRANCE

Mme Solène CHARUAU
Cheffe de la mission des affaires européennes et internationales
Ministère des sports

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Specialist of Sport and Youth Affairs, Mass Sports and Youth Affairs Department
Ministry of Culture, Sport & Youth

HUNGARY / HONGRIE

Ms Kitti VARGA
Legal adviser of sport affairs
State Secretariat for Sport / Department of Sport Governance and Sport Development
Ministry of Human Capacities

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Mr Örvar ÓLAFSSON
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ITALY / ITALIE

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Sports Department Expert

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Ministry of Sport and Youth

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Vice-Consul au Consulat du Maroc à Strasbourg

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SWITZERLAND / SUISSE

Mr Pascal CHATELAIN
Responsable des affaires internationales
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TÜRKIYE

Mr Ahmet TEMURCİ (Head of Delegation) (13.06.22 only)

Director General of International Organisations and Foreign Relations
Ministry of Youth and Sports

Mr İnanç ÖZÇAKMAK (13.06.22 only)
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Ministry of Youth and Sports

Ms Naz TÜFEKÇİYAŞAR ULUDAĞ (13.06.22 only)
Deputy to the Permanent Representative to the CoE

UKRAINE / UKRAINE

Mr Oleksandr KULIKOVSKYI
Deputy to the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the CoE

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Deputy Secretary General/ GEO

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Alice Milliat Foundation
Ms Aurélie BRESSON
President

European Association for Sport Management (EASM)
Mr Stefan WALZEL
Secretary General

European Athlete as Student Network (EAS)
Ms Laura CAPRANICA
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European Fair Play Movement (EFPM)
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European Elite Athletes Association (EU Athletes)
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Mr Martin HOLZWEG
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Mr Andrej PISL
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International SAMBO Federation (FIAS)
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International Basketball Federation (FIBA)
Mr Andreas ZAGKLIS
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Mr Kosta ILIEV
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Mr Patrick PEROSA
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Mr Patrick VAJDA
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Panathlon International
Mr Pierre ZAPPELLI
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Peace and Sport
Ms Pauline JOHANET
External Relations Manager

Ms Melissa SASSI
International Relations Officer

Play The Game
Mr Jens Sejer ANDERSEN
International Director

Sports Rights Owners Coalition (SROC)
Mr Mark LICHTENHEIN
Chairman

TAFISA EUROPE
Mr Janez SODRZNIK (apologised - proxy to Patrik Perosa, IDO)
TAFISA Board Member & Vice President NOC Slovenia

UEFA - Union of European Football Associations
Mr James OGILVIE (apologised, proxy to CC Chair)
EU & Governmental Affairs Manager

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Ms Christine TRAPP-GILL