

Strasbourg, 18 July 2022

EPAS(2022)49

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

Meeting of the Bureau of the EPAS Governing Board

Wednesday 13 July 2022

11.00 am – 12.00 am CET

Via video-conference

Report

Participants:

Alexandre Husting (Chair), Andrea Carletti (Vice-Chair), Solène Charuau (France), Andrew Decelis (Malta), François Tricarico (Belgium), Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus), Kolë Gjeloshaj (ISF) and Mogens Kirkeby (ISCA)

EPAS Secretariat:

Sophie Kwasny, Francine Hetherington Raveney, Caroline Larghi, Despina Tramountani, Kateryna Lavryk

1. Opening

The Chair welcomes the new members of the Bureau - Solene Charuau and Ioanna Paraskevopoulou - as well as Mogens Kirkeby, the new Vice-Chair of the Consultative Committee (CC).

The agenda is adopted.

2. Working Group on the Implementation of the European Sports Charter

The Bureau is informed of the composition of the Working Group, which includes representatives from Azerbaijan, France, Portugal, Luxembourg as well as Kole Gjeloshaj, the Chair of the CC.

The first task of the Group will be to work on its terms of reference and a first meeting will be organised by the Secretariat, to be held in September. The Chair requested that previous studies prepared on the evaluation of the implementation of the Charter be shared with the Group ahead of its first meeting.

3. Membership of the Consultative Committee - amendments proposed

The Bureau received the text amended based on the comments received, which reads:

“The Governing Board may suspend the rights of representation of organisations members of the Consultative Committee that have headquarters, leadership and/or component primarily linked to non-member states of the Council of Europe concerned by decision CM/Del/Dec(2022)1429/2.5 and Resolution CM/Res(2022)3. The suspension of the concerned organisation(s), as identified by its Bureau, will be decided by the Governing Board on a case-by-case basis should the concerned organisation not solve the concerns raised by the Bureau within the set period of time”.

Further to a question regarding the compliance of this proposed decision with the Council of Europe’s statute and legal framework, the Secretariat confirmed that the legal adviser was consulted on the draft decision and that no issue was raised.

The Bureau confirmed that the final proposal as amended could be sent to the Governing Board for adoption by written procedure and that the Bureau would resume consideration of the matter at its next meeting.

4. MSL 17

The Bureau received the draft Resolutions and thematic document, as amended further to comments by members of the Governing Board.

Draft Resolution 1: 2 minor changes were validated.

Draft Resolution 2: minor changes to improve the text and the reference to biodiversity loss were validated.

The draft Resolutions will be presented to the Committee of Ministers early October (notably to Delegations that are not members of EPAS) and further comments be made at that point and another Bureau meeting may thus be needed mid-October.

Comments from Poland and Bulgaria referring to gender equality as equality between men and women were noted, the Secretariat will follow-up with those delegations to assess how to most appropriately follow-up on those requests.

Changes proposed to the thematic document were examined and accepted, the final version will be circulated to Invited delegations ahead of the Ministerial Conference.

5. MSL 18 – applications

The Secretariat confirmed having received the candidacy of Portugal for hosting the 2024 Ministerial Conference. Croatia also expressed interest during the joint Governing Board and Consultative Committee meeting and should confirm their application by the end of July.

The Bureau agreed to resume consideration of this matter at its September meeting.

6. Diversity Conference 2023

The Governing Board and Consultative Committee were consulted on 2 proposed topics for the Diversity Conference 2023:

- 1) integration of child refugees through sport, and
- 2) promoting women in sport – representation and visibility.

Considering that responses from Delegations were even, the Chair proposed to retain the first topic, in light of current circumstances and the fact that gender equality was already covered by a number of activities of EPAS and will continue to be in the future. The Chair of the Consultative Committee added that the gender perspective in the integration of refugees was an important angle to examine. The proposal to retain the first theme was supported by the Bureau.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to initiate the preparation of the Diversity Conference 2023 on the integration of child refugees through sport.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Bureau will be organised early September.

8. AOB

No other item is raised.