

Strasbourg, 15 September 2023

EPAS(2023)53

Meeting of the EPAS GB Bureau

Wednesday 5 July 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), Benthe Tanghe (Netherlands), Andrew Decelis (Malta), Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus, Gender Equality Rapporteur), Diana Santos (Portugal, MSL18), Charlotte Girard-Fabre (CC Chair)

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

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the GB, who welcomed the two new members: Benthe Tanghe representing the Netherlands and Charlotte Girard-Fabre from IFSO, Chair of the Consultative Committee (CC).

The Chair also thanked the members who decided to run for a second mandate.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted, i.e. with the following items for consideration:

- debriefing of the plenary meeting (8-9 June);
- consequences of the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine;
- support and follow-up visits on the European Sports Charter (ESC);
- promotion of EPAS;
- Any other business (AOB)

Two items were added under AOB:

- update on the 3rd iteration of the Forum on sport and human rights (30 June 2023);
- update on MINEPS VII and the Sport Integrity Guidelines.

3. Debriefing of the Plenary meeting (8-9 June)

The Bureau welcomed the opportunity given to member states to share their experiences and examples of best practice.

Feedback from the Bureau on the 2023 Plenary meeting included the following proposals:

- aiming at a better preparation of the delegations and making sure the delegations properly exchange with their ministers before the meeting;
- limiting the size of the agenda, focussing more on EPAS' activities and on sharing policies and good practices among GB members;
- allocating more time to delegations to share their experiences;
- consider the most appropriate ways for CC members to fully share their ESC-related achievements and actions;
- avoiding the organisation of a side event (like the training session on unconscious bias on 7 June) on the day prior to this important meeting and finding a better way to accommodate such initiatives;

- giving an update on the Secretariat staff (who does what, who are the current members of the Secretariat, who left, who arrived, etc.);
- avoiding having too lengthy and overly detailed presentations by the Secretariat;
- creating a Cloud where best practice can be shared, a space which delegations could use.

4. Consequences of the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine

The Bureau was tasked by the Governing Board “to consider the follow-up to give to [the] tour de table and revert to the Governing Board with possible proposals”. Since the Plenary meeting, a [Resolution](#) has been adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

Based on the exchanges held, the Bureau decided that the following proposals be submitted to the Governing Board:

1. Prepare a state of play of the damages to Ukrainian sport infrastructure and violations of athletes’ rights since the beginning of the war of aggression and use this material for a dedicated webpage of the EPAS website;
2. Raise awareness of those facts and figures in various relevant CoE instances and share elements with the services in charge of the new Register of Damage for Ukraine;
3. Facilitate possible exchanges between the Governing Board and IOC representatives.

5. Support and Follow-up visits on the European Sports Charter

According to the mandate, the target is to organise three support and follow-up visits a year. Two more visits are planned for 2023. Preference is given to new EPAS member states (e.g. Slovak Republic) and to Morocco. Ideas were brought forward for 2024: new member states or countries which will hold the presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

A lack of awareness among EPAS member states was identified. So far, the demand for visits has always been prompted by proposals from the Secretariat. The Secretariat should seek for a stronger interest from EPAS member states. To achieve this, EPAS shall communicate more on the necessity and the content of such visits, as most EPAS delegates don’t know how the visits are organised, how to apply etc.

6. Promotion of EPAS

The promotion of EPAS sometimes seems to be mixed with the promotion of the ESC and EPAS’ potential seems not to be recognised nor solicited outside its circle. What kind of actions could be taken?

Francine Raveney gave an update on the potential new accessions to EPAS by a number of potentially interested countries.

The Secretariat should also plan meetings with competent international organisations to share information on priorities and events, ensuring visibility of the tools and standards and supporting the mutual reinforcement of the reach of the. This is particularly important as the Bureau has sometimes noticed a lack of recognition from our partners / other international organisations about EPAS' work.

An accessible factsheet was requested on what EPAS is doing (what kind of projects) / has achieved, which other organisations don't do. What is EPAS financing and how? Such a document would be a first step and a big help for delegates, as it is difficult to quickly find data on the website, which is very technical.

The Secretariat agreed to prepare a short thematic factsheet over the summer, in connexion with an updating of the website and related to the preparation of a broader strategy/action Plan for EPAS.

7. AOB

Update on the 3rd iteration of the Forum on sport and human rights (30 June 2023)

The Forum on sport and human rights was a successful event, although very technical and addressing a specific dimension of sport policies. 120 persons attended (participants & speakers). A request was made to further explore the exchange of data in the context of the safeguarding of children.

Update on MINEPS VII and the Sport Integrity Guidelines

Francine Raveney gave an update on her participation in MINEPS VII in Baku, and more specifically on the issue of the Sport Integrity Guidelines, the preparation of which had been co-ordinated by EPAS within the Kazan Action Plan (Action 3). The guidelines were published in 2020, with a proposed revision by Unesco (based on the consultation of 120 delegations). The Secretariat requested the revised version, which was received just before the conference in Baku. It appeared that this version contains lots of outdated information. A meeting with a Unesco representative will take place on 6 July.

8. Date and place of the next meeting

The next Bureau meeting will take place online in September. As of September, the preparation of the next ministerial conference will be a recurrent item on the agenda.

The meeting was closed at 10.30am.