

Strasbourg, 18 December 2020

EPAS(2020)55

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

### **Meeting of the Bureau of the EPAS Governing Board**

Tuesday 2 December 2020  
9.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.

By video-conference

Working language: English

### **Conclusions**

Present: A. Husting (Chair), M. Crnković, D. Karakasis, A. Morozov, V. Slavkova, F. Tricarico, Z. Verovnik, K. Gjeloshaj, T. Jagodic

Secretariat: S. Frossard, M. Trinker, H. Stewart, D. Tramountani, L. Boussard-Turbet

**1. Update on MSL16 – state of play (information from the Secretariat)**  
**a. Five online events**

The Bureau took note of the state of play regarding the organisation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> event planned on 7 December. Given the unavailability of other ministers already contacted, the Bureau proposed that the Minister of Sport of Finland be invited to be a panellist in this session (she is active on human rights issues and fits the profile sought for the panel).

**Decision: the Secretariat should make contact with Finland as soon as possible**

**b. Draft resolutions**

The Bureau took note of the current situation regarding the draft Resolutions: the deadline for amendment proposals from the Senior Officials is 11 December. The secretariat is aware of two proposals that are forthcoming (Finland on clause regarding intersex athletes, and Croatia on clause regarding child safeguarding). When asked if amendments from CC Bureau members could still be submitted, the secretariat declined, explaining that this final step in the consultation process was open only at intergovernmental level.

**c. Next steps in European Sports Charter revision**

The Bureau noted that the next workshop to be organised on the revision of the ESC was due to take place in December or January, but that this schedule had been based on the assumption that the Resolution would be adopted in Greece on 5 November. Given the change in the timeline of the Ministerial Conference, and the fact that the closing session will now take place online on 11 February, the Bureau agreed with the secretariat proposal to modify the timeline and to organise this third workshop at the end of February 2021.

**Decision: the Secretariat should update the timeline of the ESC revision process and to schedule the third workshop at the end of February 2021.**

**2. (Expected) Request from Slovak Republic to become observer to EPAS**

The Bureau took note of the recent contacts between the Secretariat and representatives from the Slovak Republic, and the latter's intention to send a letter requesting observer status to EPAS. The Bureau noted that this status would allow the Slovak Republic to be included in EPAS activities but that it would not have the right to vote in any formal decisions. Observer status is limited in duration to one year, after which the state concerned is expected to formally request full accession to the partial agreement.

The Bureau also noted the ongoing consultations with Moldova regarding possible accession, and that consultations with France and Italy were being pursued regarding their intention to candidate for the vacant position within the Bureau.

**Decision: the Secretariat should launch a written procedure to consult the whole Governing Board on the Slovak Republic's request, once the letter arrives.**

### **3. Expenditure in 2020 and principle to increase the allocation from unspent balance to the special account**

The Bureau noted, given the lack of physical events organised in 2020 (i.e. less expenditure on experts' travel, accommodation, official journeys), coupled with the funds arriving from the accessions of Italy and Turkey, that the secretariat estimated the unspent balance to be between €40K to €60k. The Governing Board already took the decision at its meeting on 8-9 September 2020 to allocate up to €25K of any 2020 unspent balance to the EPAS Special Account. The secretariat proposed that this amount now be raised to €60K.

Having consulted the Finance Directorate on this, the secretariat also proposed to simultaneously spend funds sitting in the Special Account and therefore to allocate €50K from the Special Account to the specific budget head set up for contributions to Start to Talk activities (20 states are interested in launching activities and are waiting for EPAS support in this context).

**Decision: the Bureau agreed with the Secretariat's proposal and that the latter should launch a written procedure to consult the whole Governing Board on the following draft decision:**

*The Governing Board is invited to take note of the situation regarding the use of the 2020 Budget and :*

- *agrees to raise the maximal amount that could be transferred from the EPAS 2020 ordinary budget to the EPAS special account from €25K to 60k€;*
- *requests the Secretariat allocates the highest possible amount to the special account before the end of the 2020 budget exercise;*
- *decides to allocate the amount of €50k from the Budget Head 9000 (reserve) to the Budget Head 2590 (Start to Talk) of the Special Account.*

### **4. Request from SPIN Innovation inviting EPAS to be a dissemination partner, if its Erasmus+ project proposal on the contribution of sport to the Sustainable Development Goals is accepted by the EU**

The Bureau took note of the documents concerning SPIN's project proposal and the explanation from the Secretariat on what it would entail for EPAS to be a partner. The Bureau noted that EPAS is not a formal or financial partner in any of the projects it supports, but that it tends to accept those projects in line with its own priorities, and can take minimal commitment by agreeing, for example, to disseminate the project's results to its member states, without states having to complete questionnaires or play more active roles.

The Bureau noted the positive past experience by several of its members with SPIN and its project leader. Despite some doubts about the purpose and expected outcomes of the project, the Bureau agreed the subject of SDGs and grassroots sport was indeed of interest to EPAS.

**Decision: the Bureau agreed that EPAS could support the project and asked the Secretariat to send the letter of support to SPIN Sport Innovation.**

## **5. AOB**

### **a. Role of the CC and implication in events**

The Bureau took note of the request from the Chair of the CC on integrating the work of the CC more into EPAS, and not just at the joint meeting once a year. The CC is ready to play a more active role and recently organised a webinar on one aspect of human rights in sport. It envisaged continuing this type of event and was eager to organise activities that can integrate into other networks (not just EPAS but also the Sports Conventions and other CoE areas of interest) and to help disseminate information to its own networks (e.g. regarding Start to Talk).

The Bureau welcomed this approach to co-operation and the role envisaged by the CC.

It also agreed that dissemination of information to the GB and the CC on the different activities being organised within the CoE that could be of interest to sport, should be borne in mind by the secretariat.