

Strasbourg, 24 June 2026

EPAS(2026)56

Meeting of the EPAS Governing Board Bureau

Wednesday 20 May 2026

2 pm – 3 pm CET

Online (Teams platform)

Working language: English

REPORT

Participants

Governing Board (GB): Solène Charuau (France, Chair), Elnur Mammadov (Azerbaijan, Member), Antonio Parrilla (Italy, Member), Simon De Coster (Belgium, Member), Michael Landau (Monaco, MSL19), Marija Jurčević (Croatia, Member),

Excused: Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus, Vice-Chair)

Consultative Committee (CC): Charlotte Girard-Fabre (IFSO, Chair), Mogens Kirkeby (ISCA, Vice-Chair)

Secretariat:

Stanislas Frossard, Elena Casero, Cassandra Mactavish, Caroline Dollet

Excused: Francine Hetherington Raveney

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Governing Board, Solène Charuau, who welcomed participants and underlined the importance of the meeting in preparation for the upcoming plenary meetings in Strasbourg.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda was adopted without amendment.

3. Adoption of the draft report of the previous meeting

The Bureau adopted the draft report of the meeting of 30 April 2026 without comments.

4. Annual plenary meeting of the Governing Board and Consultative Committee

The Secretariat presented the updated draft agenda for the plenary meeting and outlined adjustments made following comments raised during the previous Bureau meeting, particularly regarding the balance between reporting items and opportunities for discussion.

The Secretariat highlighted several items expected to generate substantive exchanges, including:

- discussions on good governance in sport organisations and the future direction of EPAS and IPACS work in this area;
- the impact of artificial intelligence in sport and possible future EPAS work on the human rights implications of AI tools;
- co-operation with the European Union and future project frameworks.

The Bureau welcomed the efforts made to introduce more interactive elements into the programme, including facilitated discussions, surveys and dynamic presentation formats.

Several members nevertheless reiterated concerns regarding the density of the agenda and the large number of reporting items. The importance of ensuring sufficient opportunities for political discussion and interaction between the Governing Board and Consultative Committee was underlined.

Regarding the item on the new IOC policy on the female category, the Secretariat clarified that the discussion would take place during the in-camera session in order to allow governmental representatives to exchange views freely. The Secretariat stressed that the discussion was intended as an exploratory exchange to determine whether EPAS should further assess the policy and potentially undertake additional work on the issue. The Chair of the Consultative Committee informed the Bureau that the issue was considered highly important by CC members and underlined the expectation that the Consultative Committee be able to contribute to future reflections in its advisory role. The Secretariat confirmed that channels would be identified after the plenary meeting to collect and transmit the views of the Consultative Committee to the Governing Board.

The Bureau also discussed the structure of the second day of the plenary meeting. While acknowledging the necessity of reporting on numerous EPAS activities, members encouraged continued efforts to maximise opportunities for exchange and interventions from both GB and CC members.

A suggestion was made to consider, in future meetings, treating certain reporting items as written information points in order to reduce pressure on the agenda and create additional space for discussion.

The Secretariat took note of the comments and agreed to continue refining the balance between reporting and interactive exchanges.

5. Youth event on 26 May

The Secretariat presented the latest developments regarding the youth gathering to be held on 26 May in Strasbourg.

Approximately 50 participants from 32 member States had been selected to participate in the event, which will focus on safer sport and healthier sport, and will consist of practical exercises and facilitated discussions. The objective is to ensure that youth contributions inform discussions during the plenary meeting and the preparation of the Ministerial Conference.

The Bureau was informed that the organisers did not recommend the presence of observers during the discussions in order to preserve a safe and open environment for youth participants. An exception would however be made for Michael Landau, in his capacity as representative of Monaco and representative for youth issues, in order to establish a link between the youth event and the forthcoming Ministerial Conference.

The Secretariat further explained that youth participants for the EPAS plenary panels would be identified during the event itself, based on participation and engagement during the discussions.

The Chair noted that some Governing Board members still required further clarification regarding the rationale and objectives of organising the youth event in advance of the Ministerial Conference. The Secretariat explained that the objective was to ensure meaningful youth participation capable of informing the substance of the Ministerial process before the draft resolution is finalised, rather than limiting youth participation to a symbolic role during the Ministerial Conference itself.

The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that GB and CC members who nominated youth participants would shortly receive a request asking whether they intended to include these participants in their national delegations to the Ministerial Conference.

The Bureau welcomed the progress achieved and underlined the importance of clearly communicating the objectives and expected follow-up of the initiative.

6. 19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Monaco, 4 November 2026)

The Secretariat presented the updated draft programme for the Ministerial Conference, reflecting the “middle-ground” approach agreed at the previous Bureau meeting between traditional plenary sessions and more interactive exchanges.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that discussions had continued internally regarding innovative formats for Ministerial meetings, while noting that the current approach remained consistent with the position agreed by the Bureau.

The Bureau was informed that discussions on the identification of speakers and panellists would begin in the coming weeks. The Secretariat further indicated that the European Commissioner responsible for sport had expressed possible interest in participating in the Conference.

The Monaco representatives welcomed the progress achieved and expressed satisfaction regarding the compromise found on the conference format. The Bureau took note of the developments and invited the Secretariat to continue preparations in consultation with the Monaco authorities.

7. Consultative Committee

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the voting procedures concerning Consultative Committee renewals and new membership applications had been completed successfully, with quorum reached shortly before the deadline.

Regarding renewals, the Bureau was informed that all 11 organisations that had applied for renewal had been renewed.

Regarding new members, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that six organisations would be proposed to the Committee of Ministers for membership:

- UNESCO;
- European Federation for Company Sport;
- European Network of Outdoor Sport;
- ParaVolley Europe;
- European Association of Sport Employers;
- EuropeActive.

The Secretariat noted that the selected organisations reflected the strategic priorities previously identified by the Bureau regarding the development and balance of the Consultative Committee.

The Bureau also discussed broader questions relating to participation and engagement of CC member organisations. Several participants expressed concern that organisations demonstrating limited participation continued to be renewed despite efforts to strengthen expectations regarding active engagement. The Secretariat recalled that the revised Terms of Reference now referred more explicitly to participation and contribution, while noting that these elements were not framed as strict obligations. Members underlined the importance of preserving the credibility and relevance of the Consultative Committee through a more discerning approach to renewals in future cycles. The Bureau agreed that this issue should remain under consideration in future renewal procedures.

Regarding Alice Milliat, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that the organisation had changed legal status from a foundation to an association. The Secretariat proposed that the organisation remain a member until the expiry of its current mandate, after which it should apply as a new member organisation under its new legal status. The Bureau supported this approach.

8. Annual meeting of the Pool of international experts on safe sport (11-12 June 2026)

The Secretariat presented the objectives and main themes of the upcoming annual meeting of the Pool of international experts on safe sport. The meeting will focus on:

- discussions related to the Ministerial Conference and draft resolution;
- presentation of a compilation of existing research on safer and healthier sport for children;
- ongoing work on safeguarding tools and resources, including the HELP e-learning module on Child safeguarding in sports and the update of the Start to Talk training kit on identifying and reacting to child sexual abuse.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the compilation of research prepared by a member of the Pool had been structured around four thematic areas related to safe sport, healthy sport, protecting children from dangers associated with migration, and from concussion.

The Bureau welcomed the continued support of Monaco to EPAS activities in this area, including support for the HELP module and Start to Talk activities.

The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that a French-language version of the HELP module was currently under development. The Bureau welcomed the progress achieved and underlined the importance of ensuring coherence between the different EPAS networks and activities.

9. Any other business

The Chair encouraged Bureau members to contribute examples and practices to the [EPAS showcasing and sharing tool](#) ahead of the plenary meeting.

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the plenary meeting documents would begin to be uploaded following the Bureau meeting.

10. Date, time and place of the next meeting

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on Wednesday 24 June 2026 at 2 pm CET.

Appendix

Agenda

1.	Welcome	
2.	Adoption of the agenda	EPAS(2026)41
3.	Adoption of the draft report of the previous meeting	EPAS(2026)40
4.	Annual plenary meeting of the Governing Board and Consultative Committee ➤ Key items on the agenda (+ possible new item e.g. IOC policy on female category)	EPAS(2026)16rev
5.	Youth event on 26 May	EPAS(2026)34
6.	19 th Council of Europe Conference of ministers responsible for sport (MSL19), Monaco, 4 November 2026 ➤ Draft Programme	MSL19(2026)2
7.	Consultative Committee - Updates renewals, new members, Bureau candidates - Change of statute for Alice Milliat to be presented at the plenary meeting – for decision by the GB?	
8.	Annual meeting of the Pool of international experts on safe sport, 11-12 June, Strasbourg - Report on existing research on “Safer and Healthier Sport for all Children”	EPAS(2026)32 EPAS(2026)39
9.	Any other business	
10.	Date, time and place of the next meeting	