

Strasbourg, 22 October 2024

EPAS(2024)56

Meeting of the EPAS GB Bureau

Wednesday 2 October 2024

1 pm – 2 pm CET

Online (Teams platform)

Working language: English

REPORT

Participants

Governing Board (GB): Alexandre Husting (Luxembourg, Chair), Solène Charuau (France), Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus), Filipa Cavaleri (MSL18)

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

Secretariat: Francine Hetherington Raveney, Cassandra Mactavish, Caroline Larghi

Apologised: Bram van Houten (The Netherlands)

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the GB.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following items for consideration:

- A. Update on the 18th Ministerial Conference
 - a. Draft programme
 - b. Agenda of the Senior officials meeting
 - c. Draft Resolution
- B. Other EPAS administrative issues
 - a. EPAS Strategy 2024-2025
 - b. List of Decisions
- C. AoB

3. Update on the 18th ministerial Conference

- a. Draft programme

The EPAS Deputy Executive Secretary indicated that the programme had been updated to ensure more gender balance. Gévrise Emane from the French National Institute for Sport, Expertise and Performance (INSEP) was included in the session on the European Sports Charter at 9.30am. The newly appointed Minister for Sport of France, Gil Avérous, would deliver an introductory speech under Session 1 on Collaborative Governing. The United Kingdom Minister for Sport, Stéphanie Peacock, had cancelled her participation and had to be replaced. The signing ceremony for the Sports Conventions had been cancelled and replaced with a session on Ukrainian sport during the war, in which Matvii Bidnyi, Minister of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, would present an exhibition on the consequences of the war on sports infrastructures in Ukraine.

The Youth Initiative roundtable had been reduced to 30 minutes, bringing the closing of the Conference to 6.15pm rather than 6.30pm.

On 10 October Annamarie Phelps had been added to the programme as a keynote speaker.

The Chair of the Governing Board requested that comprehensive information be sent to all registered participants and all delegations, and published on both websites (EPAS and the

Conference website). It was decided that two different messages would be sent out, one to the national delegations (who would attend the Senior Officials meeting) and one to all registered organisations.

b. Agenda of the Senior Officials meeting

The primary focus of this meeting was the finalisation of the draft Resolution. The document would be displayed on a screen for immediate corrections. The Secretariat would make sure that a screen would be available and linked to a computer for this meeting. There was only one Resolution and one Reference document.

The opportunity would also be given to the national delegations present to register for a 3-minute intervention for one of the two sessions on 9 October.

The Deputy Executive Secretary reminded the GB Bureau that EPAS would have to report to the Committee of Ministers on the follow up given to the adopted Resolution.

The Chair of the GB suggested a more flexible approach be adopted regarding the contributions by the delegations on 9 October, and not to request registrations in advance, in order to improve the dynamics of the debates. Heads of Delegation could, for instance, raise their nameholders during the Conference if they wished to take the floor, and the Secretariat would take note, or delegations could enrol with the Secretariat before the Conference started. These options would have to be announced at the Senior Officials meeting.

It was also suggested that the order of speakers be reviewed – so to start first with Ministers, then Heads of delegations who aren't Ministers etc.

The draft list of participants in the Conference would be circulated at the Senior Officials meeting, so that delegations could check it and amend it, as necessary.

A factsheet on EPAS and the EPAS Activity report would be displayed on each table. Copies of the European Sports Charter would also be made available in the meeting room.

c. Draft Resolution

A new wording of the paragraph on the war in Ukraine would be proposed as this current paragraph in the draft Resolution might be controversial. This would be discussed with the Ukrainian delegation first.

4. Other EPAS administrative issues

a. EPAS Strategy 2024-2025

The GB and the CC had been consulted about this over the summer. Their comments had been taken into consideration. The GB had been asked to provide feedback on the updated draft Strategy by 8 October. If no objections were brought up, the Strategy would be considered adopted. It was decided that it was too soon to give EPAS a new name. The Strategy would not be mentioned at the Senior Official meeting but rather at the restricted EPAS Ministerial Gathering .

b. List of Decisions

The GB had been asked to provide feedback on the draft List of Decisions (LoD) by 8 October. If no objections arose, the LoD would be considered adopted. No comments had been made so far.

5. AoB

Solène Charuau enquired about the format of the restricted gathering of EPAS member States on 8 October in the afternoon, and asked if interpretation could be provided for the French Minister. The EPAS Chair would speak at the opening of the event. There would be two introductory speeches by Gianluca Esposito, Director General for Human Rights and the Rule of Law at the Council of Europe, and Pedro Dias, Secretary of State for Sport of Portugal. The Chair of the GB would then invite member States to complete a survey on EPAS' working priorities. The questionnaire would be distributed at the gathering (pens would be made provided) and collected anytime, but by the latest at the gala dinner. It was foreseen that a box would be provided by the Portuguese authorities and placed at the entrance of the restaurant to collect the completed questionnaires.