

Strasbourg, 9 September 2026

EPAS(2026)61

Meeting of the EPAS Governing Board Bureau

Tuesday 7 July 2026

10 am – 11 am CET

Online (Teams platform)

Working language: English

REPORT

Participants

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

Consultative Committee (CC): Charlotte Girard-Fabre (IFSO, Chair), Patrik Perosa (IDO, Vice-Chair)

Secretariat: Stanislas Frossard, Francine Hetherington Raveney, Elena Casero

Excused: Caroline Dollet

1. Welcome

The Chair, Solène Charuau, opened the meeting, welcoming participants and confirming attendance. The meeting was held online, and all key stakeholders were present.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

At Francine Raveney's request, an AOB item was included on EPAS participation in the IWG Women & Sport Global Summit and the Madrid Summit Human Rights Conference.

The draft agenda EPAS(2026)60 was adopted without objections. It was noted that the adoption of the draft report from the previous meeting would be processed via circular decision.

3. Annual plenary meeting of the Governing Board and Consultative Committee – Draft list of decisions

The Secretariat briefly presented the outcomes and decisions from the annual plenary meeting contained in the list of decisions (document EPAS(2026)58). The Bureau agreed that a short deadline of one week would be provided for the Bureau to provide feedback on the list of decisions.

4. Working Group on the Autonomy of Sport and Good Governance - Candidacies for the vacant seat, draft recommendation, and next steps

The withdrawal of Paulina Tomczik (European Athletes and Players Association, EAPA) from the working group was announced, requiring the launch of a call for new candidates to fill the vacant seat. The Bureau discussed the complications of the current only candidate, whose organisation (European Fair Play Movement, EFPM) would not be renewed as a Consultative Committee member after August 2026. It was suggested that, ideally, EAPA could nominate someone to ensure continuity.

Antonio Parrilla reminded the group of the terms of reference, noting that the balance of representatives from the Governing Board and Consultative Committee must be respected. The Chair promised to verify these terms. The consensus was to wait for additional applications, with decisions to be finalised either at the next meeting or via written procedure if necessary. Antonio also suggested that events from the past days should influence the review of the draft recommendation on autonomy, and participants agreed to take more time

for in-depth examination of recent developments. The updated draft recommendation on autonomy will be sent to Bureau members for comments. It was agreed that reactions and amendments should occur within a two-month timeframe, aiming for approval by the Bureau during the October Governing Board Bureau meeting and a new approval by the GB following this update.

5. 19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (MSL19) - Draft Resolution, draft invitation letter and factsheet

The Secretariat provided a detailed presentation of the draft resolution for the upcoming ministerial conference in Monaco. The draft highlighted Council of Europe priorities (such as zero tolerance for violence), the need for child-centred policies, trauma-informed training, comprehensive reporting systems, and inclusive cooperation.

Feedback from Bureau members noted the extensive length of the draft. Michael Landau recommended a shorter and more focused text, tailored specifically to key conference topics. The Chair agreed, proposing a first round of Bureau comments before forwarding the document to the Governing Board.

The inclusion of cyberbullying as a sub-theme was discussed following questions from Florian Botto, who observed inconsistencies between the factsheet and previous thematic proposals. The rationale was explained as a political need to highlight Council expertise, especially as safeguarding policies in sport need to address cybercrime. Ultimately, members agreed that if cyberbullying is included, it requires follow-up proposals and not just a brief mention.

6. Report following recent events

Francine Raveney delivered a report on recent EPAS' activities and international collaborations. Highlights included:

- EPAS' participation in the 62nd session of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council, notably the side event "Sport in the Time of War," focusing on Ukraine and inclusion for veterans and amputees.
- Presentation at the UN panel discussion about empowering women and girls through sport, delivering a Council of Europe statement.
- Involvement in the Gay Games in Valencia (moderating a diversity panel and Advocacy Awards), focusing on LGBTQI+ inclusion and the recognition of activists.

Francine Raveney underlined the importance of these engagements for EPAS' visibility in diversity, inclusion, and human rights in sport. The Chair thanked her for her commitment and ongoing representation of EPAS.

7. Designation of an expert for the Drafting Committee on Risks and Harms of Online and Digital Addictions - Candidacy of Antonio Parrilla

The Bureau reviewed Antonio Parrilla's CV and his expertise in digital addiction risks. After brief discussion and general agreement, Antonio was formally appointed as the expert for the committee. He expressed his gratitude and committed to keeping the Bureau updated on the committee's progress.

8. Any Other Business

Francine Raveney delivered a report on:

- EPAS' contributions to the International Working Group on Gender Equality and Sport, on 10 July including online panels and data sharing for systemic change.
- Online contribution to the Madrid Summit Human Rights Conference on 3 July during the Pride in Madrid, promoting LGBTQI+ inclusion and sharing testimonies of trans athletes.

The Chair invited any further comments; none were proposed, allowing the meeting to proceed to closure.

9. Date, time and place of the next meeting

After discussion, it was agreed that the next EPAS Bureau meeting would take place on Tuesday 8 September 2026 at 10:00 CET, online via Teams. This timing ensures that new candidates for the working group are confirmed and logistics for upcoming events are synchronised.

Action Points & Decisions

- The Bureau will revise and shorten the draft ministerial resolution before circulating it for feedback to the GB.
- Selection of a new representative for the Working Group, pending candidacies.
- Antonio Parrilla appointed as expert for digital addiction risks.
- Continued active representation in international events and projects.

End of Meeting

The Chair thanked all participants for their engagement and contributions, wishing everyone a pleasant summer break and confirming the next meeting date and time.

Appendix

Agenda

1.	Welcome	
2.	Adoption of the agenda	EPAS(2026)60
	(The adoption of the draft report of the previous meeting will be processed by circular decision)	
3.	Annual plenary meeting of the Governing Board and Consultative Committee ➤ Draft list of decisions	EPAS(2026)58
4.	Working Group on the Autonomy of Sport and Good Governance ➤ Candidacies for the vacant seat ➤ Draft recommendation and next steps	Draft Recommendation
5.	19 th Council of Europe Conference of ministers responsible for sport (MSL19), Monaco, 4 November 2026 ➤ Draft Resolution ➤ Draft invitation letter ➤ Draft factsheet	MSL19(2026)5 MSL19(2026)6
6.	Report following recent events • United Nations Human Rights Council 62nd session - Side event “Sport in the Time of War” (24 June) - Meeting on promoting women and girls’ rights in and through sport • Panel on inclusive sport for the 2026 Gay Games (28 June) and awards ceremony organised by EPAS CC member body EGLSF on gay rights in sport	
7.	Designation of an expert for the Drafting Committee on Risks and Harms of Online and Digital Addictions ➤ Candidacy of Antonio Parrilla	CV Antonio
8.	Any other business	
9.	Date, time and place of the next meeting	