

Strasbourg, 9 September 2026

EPAS(2026)62

Meeting of the EPAS Governing Board Bureau

Wednesday 24 June 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, Vice-Chair), Simon De Coster (Belgium, Member), Michael Landau (Monaco, MSL19), Marija Jurčević (Croatia, Member)

Excused: Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus, Vice-Chair), Florian Botto (Monaco, MSL19)

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

Secretariat: Stanislas Frossard, Cassandra Mactavish, Caroline Dollet

Excused: Francine Raveney, Elena Casero

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Governing Board, Solène Charuau, who welcomed participants and in particular Patrik Perosa in his capacity as newly elected Vice-Chair of the Consultative Committee and member of the Bureau.

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 20 May 2026 without any comments.

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

The Bureau exchanged views on the annual plenary meetings held in Strasbourg on 27 and 28 May 2026. Several members highlighted the quality of the discussions held during the in-camera session of the Governing Board, particularly on topics such as the new IOC policy on the female category, good governance and the autonomy of sport. The Bureau considered that these discussions generated valuable exchanges and should continue to form an important part of future meetings.

At the same time, members expressed concern regarding the density of the plenary agenda and the large number of reporting and information items. It was suggested that greater use be made of written procedures, information documents or alternative reporting formats in order to create additional space for substantive discussions.

The importance of strengthening interaction between Governing Board and Consultative Committee members was repeatedly underlined. Several participants noted that, despite the joint format of the meeting, opportunities for exchange between the two bodies remained limited. Suggestions included organising more informal networking opportunities, common dinners (which shall appear on the draft agenda of the meeting) and thematic breakout discussions bringing together members of both bodies.

Participants also discussed practical aspects of future meetings. A proposal was made to place discussion items earlier in the agenda and administrative or procedural items later in the programme. Concerns were also raised regarding the delay between meetings and the circulation of draft reports, given the need for some delegates to report back promptly to their national authorities.

The Chair noted that the in-camera session had been particularly successful and proposed maintaining this format in future years. However, she observed that the joint plenary session contained too many presentations and insufficient opportunities for debate.

The Secretariat concurred with these observations and informed the Bureau that reflections were already underway regarding future meeting formats. Possible options include limiting agenda items to those requiring discussion, increasing the use of written information points and exploring alternative ways of reporting on EPAS activities outside the annual plenary meetings.

The Bureau agreed that future annual meetings should place a stronger emphasis on interaction, discussion and exchange between participants.

5. Consultative Committee

The Secretariat provided an update on recent developments concerning the Consultative Committee.

Regarding renewals, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that the renewal process had now been completed. All organisations whose renewal applications had been approved had been notified accordingly. Following the completion of the process, 11 organisations had been renewed, resulting in one additional vacancy within the Consultative Committee and bringing its membership to 29 organisations out of a maximum of 30 under the current composition.

Concerning new membership applications, the Secretariat recalled that six organisations had been selected to be proposed to the Committee of Ministers. These applications will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers Rapporteur Group (GR-C) in October 2026 and, subject to approval, the organisations concerned would be invited to participate in the Ministerial Conference in Monaco. The Secretariat noted that, following the entry into force of the revised Terms of Reference, the Consultative Committee may comprise up to 35 members.

The Secretariat also reported on the Consultative Committee Bureau elections held during the in-camera meeting on 27 May 2026. Charlotte Girard-Fabre (IFSO) was re-elected as Chair of the Consultative Committee and Patrik Perosa (IDO) was elected Vice-Chair. Guido Battaglia, Anne-Marie Phelps, Marie Denitton and James Ogilvie were elected as Bureau members. James Ogilvie is the only newly elected member of the Bureau, while the remaining members were re-elected.

The Secretariat underlined the strong level of interest shown in the election process, which attracted a significant number of candidates and generated active participation among Consultative Committee members.

The Bureau welcomed the successful conclusion of the various Consultative Committee processes and congratulated the newly elected Bureau members.

6. Youth event on 26 May 2026

The Bureau reviewed the outcomes of the youth event organised on 26 May 2026 in Strasbourg. Members expressed strong appreciation for the initiative and highlighted the value of direct exchanges between youth participants and EPAS delegates. Several Bureau members noted that the event had provided a unique opportunity to hear the perspectives of young people and to strengthen links between youth policy and sport policy.

Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of creating platforms where young people and sport stakeholders can interact and jointly reflect on common challenges. Participants also highlighted the networking opportunities created by the event and welcomed the contribution made by youth representatives during the subsequent GB-CC plenary discussions.

The Secretariat reported that feedback received from participants had been overwhelmingly positive and that no major organisational difficulties had been encountered. The Bureau welcomed the success of this first experience and encouraged the Secretariat to explore possibilities for organising similar initiatives in the future, potentially in different formats.

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

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the successful annual meeting of the Pool of international experts on safe sport held in Strasbourg on 11 and 12 June 2026.

The Bureau was informed that the current term of reference of the Pool is approaching its conclusion and that a call for candidates will be launched before the end of the year. The Secretariat explained that membership of the Pool would continue to be based on expertise and balanced representation, while allowing for the renewal of expertise through the appointment of new members where appropriate.

The Secretariat further reported that the Pool had discussed the theme of the Ministerial Conference and had submitted proposals aimed at strengthening the draft Ministerial Resolution.

The Bureau welcomed the work of the Pool and requested that the forthcoming call for candidates be shared with Bureau members before its publication.

8. 19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Monaco, 4 November 2026)

The Secretariat presented the latest developments regarding preparations for the Ministerial Conference and introduced a document outlining the proposed methodology and criteria for the selection of speakers and panellists.

The Bureau reviewed the various speaking opportunities foreseen within the programme and discussed the need to ensure an appropriate balance between governmental representatives, sport organisations, partner institutions and high-profile personalities.

The Secretariat proposed that the selection process take into account a number of criteria, including geographical diversity, gender balance, representation of the Sport for All

movement, participation of strategic partners and the potential attendance of ministers from non-member States involved in Council of Europe sports conventions.

Participants discussed the possible involvement of organisations that are not members of the Consultative Committee, including FIFA, WADA and the European Commission. The Bureau noted the sensitivity surrounding some invitations and agreed that the Secretariat should continue consultations while keeping the Bureau informed regarding high-profile confirmations from these organisations.

The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that work was ongoing to revise the draft Ministerial Resolution following feedback received from the Pool of international experts on safe sport. The intention is to circulate a revised draft to participants during the summer period in order to gather comments and amendments well in advance of the senior officials' meeting.

The Bureau welcomed the proposed methodology and invited the Secretariat to continue preparations on this basis.

9. Designation of an expert for the Drafting Committee on Risks and Harms of Online and Digital Addictions

The Bureau discussed the request to designate an EPAS representative for the [Drafting Committee on Risks and Harms of Online and Digital Addictions](#). The Secretariat explained that the committee's work is relevant to EPAS given the links between digital addictions, sedentary lifestyles and sport policy.

Antonio Parrilla expressed his interest in serving as the EPAS representative and informed the Bureau of his relevant professional experience in the field. The Bureau welcomed his candidacy.

It was agreed that Antonio Parrilla would submit his curriculum vitae to the Secretariat for circulation among Bureau members. The Bureau will take a final decision at its next meeting.

10. Any other business

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the side event "Sport in the Time of War", organised on 24 June 2026 on the margins of the 62nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

The event was organised in co-operation with the Council of Europe Office in Geneva and the Permanent Missions of Monaco, Ukraine and Costa Rica to the United Nations Office, as well as other International Organisations in Geneva. The Bureau was informed that the event would contribute to ongoing reflections related to Ukraine and may also provide useful input for future EPAS work, including the Diversity Conference.

The Bureau took note of the information provided.

11. Date, time and place of the next meeting

The Bureau agreed in principle to hold its next online meeting on Tuesday 7 July 2026 at 10 am CET, subject to final confirmation by the Secretariat.

Appendix

Agenda

1.	Welcome	
2.	Adoption of the agenda	EPAS(2026)55
3.	Adoption of the draft report of the previous meeting	EPAS(2026)56
4.	Annual plenary meeting of the Governing Board and Consultative Committee ➤ Feedback ➤ Follow-up	
5.	Consultative Committee ➤ Feedback	
6.	Youth event on 26 May ➤ Feedback ➤ Follow up	
7.	Annual meeting of the Pool of international experts on safe sport, 11-12 June, Strasbourg ➤ Feedback	
8.	19 th Council of Europe Conference of ministers responsible for sport (MSL19), Monaco, 4 November 2026 ➤ Draft Programme ➤ Criteria for the selection of speakers ➤ Draft Resolution ➤ Working schedule to be updated before the summer holiday	MSL19(2026)2 List of speakers to identify MSL19(2026)5
9.	Designation of an expert for the Drafting Committee on Risks and Harms of Online and Digital Addictions	
10.	Any other business ➤ Event on “Sport in the Time of War”, organised on the margins of the 62nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council on 24 June 2026	Flyer
11.	Date, time and place of the next meeting	