

Strasbourg, 11 August 2025

EPAS(2025)63

Meeting of the EPAS Bureau

Friday 4 July 2025

1.00pm – 2.15pm CET

Online (Teams platform)

Working language: English

REPORT

Participants

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

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

Apologies: Mogens Kirkeby (ISCA, Vice-Chair)

Secretariat: Sophie Kwasny, Francine Hetherington Raveney, Elena Casero, Cassandra Mactavish, Caroline Larghi, Stanislas Frossard (EPAS' Executive Secretary as of 1 August 2025)

1. Welcome

The new Chair of the GB, Solène Charuau, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. She explained to the new Bureau how it functions and how frequently the meetings took place (one online meeting per month, at lunchtime). She informed the representatives of the GB that two representatives of the CC are invited to be part of the Bureau in order to consolidate the co-operation between national authorities and sports organisations. The Chair also underlined that all members of the Bureau are welcome to make proposals or take the floor on any issue to make the discussion more dynamic, interactive and fully inclusive and should not hesitate to contribute to the exchange.

She thanked the previous Chair, Alexandre Husting, and was grateful for his leadership and impactful work during two mandates.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following items for consideration:

- A. 19th annual plenary meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and joint meeting with the Consultative Committee, 14-15 May 2025
 - Debrief and follow-up (comments received on the draft guidelines, activity report and strategy)
 - Working Group on the Autonomy of Sport and Good governance: candidacies received and composition
 - Sport in Ukraine during the war: follow-up
 - GER questionnaire
- B. 19th CoE Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Monaco, 3-4 November 2026
- C. Diversity Conference
 - Update

- D. Consultative Committee
 - New requests / process
- E. Tentative subject to timing
 - Conference on Human Rights in Sport, 23-24 June 2025, Morocco
 - MARS annual meeting, 1-2 July 2025
 - Implementation of STT in Cyprus in 2025
- F. Any other business
- G. Date and place of the next meeting

An item was added under AOB: Parliamentary Assembly resolutions adopted at the summer PACE session and required follow up by EPAS.

3. Follow-up to the 19th Annual Plenary Meeting of the Governing Board and Consultative Committee

- Guidelines, activity report and strategy
The Guidelines on Safer Recruitment, the Activity Report 2024 and the EPAS Strategy had been circulated to the GB for adoption by written procedure. As no objection had been received by the set deadline, these documents are adopted, and the activity report will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers in September 2025.
- Working Group (WG) on the Autonomy of Sport and Good Governance
The GB and the CC were invited to put forward candidacies by 20 June 2025. Ten candidacies were received from the GB and ten from the CC. The Bureau reviewed and confirmed the composition of the working group. The group was recognised for its gender balance, geographical diversity and rich CC representation. The Secretariat will now inform those who will be on the two committees and confirm the composition of the WG, schedule a first meeting and set a workplan.
- Sport in Ukraine during the war
The Secretariat has received draft proposals from the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine. The Secretariat will share these proposals with the Bureau. The next Bureau meeting will agree on the way forward based on those proposals.
- Gender Equality Report (GER)
The Bureau approved the proposal made at the Plenary meeting by Ioanna Paraskevopoulou to send two short questionnaires to the GB in early 2026 to ensure the follow up to ALL In Plus: one to EPAS members involved in the All In Plus project and another for those not involved. An advance notice email will be sent in July 2025 to allow member states to prepare.

4. Preparation of the 19th CoE Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sport (Monaco, 3-4 November 2026)

➤ Thematic proposals

The Bureau examined the revised thematic proposals for the conference and expressed support for this latest version. Monaco suggested including “violence among children” explicitly under the first sub-topic, and proposed minor textual adjustments to improve clarity and concision. The inclusion of the protection of children’s mental health under the second sub-topic of the conference was welcomed. The issue of children accessing doping substances during sporting activities shall be considered as one of the conference’s content elements. The Saint-Denis part remained unchanged. The content of bullet point one of the second sub-topic will be moved to the explanatory section of the document. Bilateral exchanges will now take place to ensure that all amendments have been taken on board. As the next steps, the Secretariat will amend the draft document and send it to the Monaco authorities for validation by their hierarchy. Afterwards, the draft will be submitted to the bureau for adoption at its September meeting. The document “Thematic proposals” will provide the thematic and content framework for the conference’s concept note, programme and political instruments to be adopted by the Ministers.

➤ Youth dimension

Building on the success of youth participation in Porto, the Bureau supported including a youth dimension in the Monaco conference.

5. Diversity Conference (October 2025)

C. Mactavish gave an update on preparations for the Diversity Conference, focusing this year on sport and intergenerational challenges. A draft programme is available, but the logistics are not progressing as the Secretariat had hoped as Malta hasn’t been able to confirm it could host the conference; an alternative date and venue are being explored. A concept note and the draft programme will be shared shortly. The GB will be involved by sharing their best practice examples alongside members of the CC or other grassroots organisations.

6. Consultative Committee

A revised version of the Terms of Reference was adopted at the plenary meeting of the GB and CC in May 2025. Some key changes include the expansion of the CC to a maximum 35 members (from 30); the Bureau noted that five additional are thus available. Interest has already been expressed by several organisations. The Bureau will review formal candidacies once all of the required documentation has been received. Applicants will send a letter of interest, alongside other required documents, specifying

how they intend to contribute to the implementation of the European Sports Charter (ESC). The new organisations will have a three-year renewable mandate.

The Secretariat stressed the fact that the membership administrative procedure was a time-consuming one.

No formal call for candidacies had been submitted, but the Secretariat had been informed by many organisations that they were interested in applying. To date no formal applications have been received but it is expected that many will arrive shortly.

7. Updates on recent and upcoming events

- *Conference on Human Rights in Sport* (Morocco, June 2025): E. Casero took part in the Conference together with Saint-Denis and Macolin colleagues. She presented EPAS' work and explored co-operation opportunities for the implementation of the "Start to Talk" project in 2026 thanks to Monaco's VC.
- MARS Network annual meeting (1-2 July 2025): E. Casero gave an update on the 4th meeting of the Network: a new Bureau was elected. This year, the discussions focused on organised crime in sport, fostering collaboration between sports organisations and the judiciary, and improving gender balance within the group.
- Implementation of the "Start to Talk" project in Cyprus (July 2025): the Secretariat will begin work with pilot sports federations in Cyprus to support healthier sporting environments.
- C. Mactavish gave an update on the ESC Support and Follow up visit, which took place in Athens, Greece, on 25 and 26 June. The visit was successful; a series of meetings with various actors in the sport community took place and a substantial number of infrastructures were visited. The report will be available, after validation by the Governing Board by written procedure, by the end of the year.

8. Any Other Business

The Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) adopted at its summer session two Resolutions and the corresponding reports: [Resolution 2097 on "Protecting human rights in and through sport: obligations and shared responsibilities"](#) and [Resolution 2607 on "the Olympic Movement and peacekeeping: is sport neutrality serving sport values?"](#).

Resolution 2297 is supported by a Recommendation to the Committee of Ministers which contains several specific actions that concern EPAS. EPAS is invited by the Committee of Ministers to provide elements of response to this Recommendation (deadline 19/09/2025); a draft opinion will be prepared and shared with the Bureau to respond to this request.

9. Date and place of the next meeting

The next Bureau meeting will be held in September 2025. The exact date will be confirmed by the Secretariat once the new Executive Secretary has formally taken up position.