

Strasbourg, 20 October 2023

EPAS(2023)63

Meeting of the EPAS GB Bureau

Monday 25 September 2023

12.45 – 1.45pm CET

Online (Teams platform)

Working language: English

REPORT

Participants

Governing Board (GB): Alexandre Husting (Luxembourg, Chair), Andrea Carletti (Italy, Vice-Chair), Solène Charuau (France), Benthe Tanghe (Netherlands), Andrew Decelis (Malta), Diana Santos (Portugal, MSL18), Charlotte Girard-Fabre (CC Chair), Mogens Kirkeby (CC Vice-Chair)

Secretariat: Sophie Kwasny, Francine Raveney, Cassandra Mactavish, Caroline Larghi

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the GB.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following items for consideration:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Debriefing of the MARS meeting (Paris, 18-19 September)
3. Debriefing of the events in Valencia (21-22 September)
4. Update on the sport integrity declaration
5. MSL 18 (Portugal, 8-10 October 2024)
6. Next events
7. AOB
8. Next meetings

2. Debriefing of the second meeting of the MARS Network (Paris, 18-19 September)

The Chair informed the Bureau that the conference, which had taken place at the Paris Court of Appeal on 18 September, had been well organised and that the debates had been very concrete and highly interesting. The feedback was extremely positive. The magistrates and prosecutors seemed very interested and involved in the subject and the event. Requests had been received for additional information on the MARS Network, which could be provided via the EPAS website. Furthermore, the high-level exchanges enabled to draw the attention to the topic and had showcased the work of the Council of Europe in this area.

Sophie Kwasny thanked the French authorities for their involvement as the French Minister of Sports and Olympic and Paralympic Games had opened the conference and the French Minister of Justice had closed the event. The French authorities also hosted the in-camera meeting on 19 September (morning) in the premises of the French Ministry of Sports and Olympic and Paralympic Games, where a series of specific presentations were made.

As the MARS Network is now operating under the aegis of EPAS, the participation of one representative per EPAS member state had been covered by EPAS. Several representatives of non-EPAS member states were conscious of the disadvantages of not being part of EPAS and informed the Secretariat they would push their authorities for accession.

The MARS Network is an excellent forum for the promotion of EPAS.

At the in-camera meeting of the Network on 19 September (morning), a Bureau had been elected:

Chair: Lourguilloux, Jean-Yves (France)

Vice-Chair: Lukowiak, Ann (Belgium)

Member: Tyburczy, Mikolaj (Poland)

Member: Spyropoulos, Konstantinos (Greece)

All of the presentations which had been made on 18 September will be published on the EPAS website, where respective speakers have given their agreement to publication.

Regarding the presentations made on 19 September, they will remain restricted.

3. Debriefing of the events in Valencia (21-22 September 2023)

The Chair, Solene Charuau and Bente Thanghe had attended the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union Conference "Safe environment in sport" and the meeting of EU Directors-General for sport. The main topics of these events were gender equality, hate speech in sport and child safeguarding in sport.

Irena Guidikova had taken part in both events and had spoken about the Council of Europe's work in the field of combating hate speech in sport. Lots of delegations made reference to the joint projects funded by the EU and implemented by the Council of Europe and the work done by the Council of Europe in this field. The Council of Europe received a great support from its member states for the ALL IN+ and Combating hate speech in sport projects as well as the previous joint project Child Safeguarding in Sport.

Gloria Viseras, a survivor, was among the speakers and informed the delegations of a proposal to come up with a Convention on safeguarding in sport.

Several side-events were organised, including one on gender-based violence in sport organised by Sport and Citizenship, in partnership with EU Athletes and Dona I Cinema, which was moderated by Francine Raveney, who also attended a side event on online piracy on sport events.

The next big event to take place under the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union will take place in Madrid on 14 and 15 November on gender equality. Francine Raveney will represent the Council of Europe and EPAS and Charlotte Girard-Fabre would also be a speaker about combating gender-based violence in sport.

4. Update on the sport integrity declaration

At its plenary meeting in June, a draft declaration on integrity was submitted to the GB for discussion and approval. The document was then sent to the Committee of Ministers (CM) for adoption after having been screened by the competent Group of Rapporteur (GR-C). It will be on the agenda of the CM on 27 September, and will be circulated to EPAS as soon as adopted.

5. MSL 18

As agreed at the last EPAS plenary meeting of June, the main topic of the next ministerial conference will be sport governance, with parallel sessions on dual careers and gender equality in sport.

Three days have been blocked for the conference: 8, 9 and 10 October. It still needs to be defined when the ministerial event and the different side-events will take place exactly. The exact dates will have to be communicated early, so the ministers can block the date.

The Bureau shall be involved in the organisation of the event to make it a success.

The Portuguese authorities will start working on the conference in October 2023. A working group bringing together the municipalities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Portuguese Institute for Sport and Youth (IPDJ) will be set up. Online meetings will be scheduled with the EPAS Bureau and Secretariat during the process. The EPAS Secretariat will be invited to visit the venues at the beginning of 2024. The organisation of the conference will be a collective work.

It was suggested that meetings be planned between ministers in a relaxed atmosphere, in smaller groups and on specific topics, allowing them to speak freely. These exchanges in smaller groups would take place in addition to the official part of the conference.

6. Next events (for information)

The Bureau took note of the upcoming EPAS events:

- a) ESC Working Group (Brussels, 29/9)
- b) Support and follow-up to the implementation of the European Sports Charter (Bratislava, 5-06/10)
- c) Diversity Conference on the Inclusion of Child Migrants and Refugees in and through Sport (Liechtenstein, 28pm-29am/11)
- d) 18th meeting of the EPAS Statutory Committee (Strasbourg, 4/12)
- e) Meeting of the Pool of International Experts in Safe Sport (Strasbourg, 05/12)

7. AOB

No items were added under AOB.

8. Date and place of the next meetings

The next Bureau meetings will take place online on 16 October and 7 December, from 12.45 to 1.45pm.

The meeting was closed at 1.45pm.