

Strasbourg, 20 October 2025

EPAS(2025)70

Meeting of the EPAS Bureau

**Thursday 18 September 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), Florian Botto (Monaco, MSL19), Michael Landau (Monaco, MSL19)

Consultative Committee (CC): Mogens Kirkeby (ISCA, Vice-Chair)

Apologies: Antonio Parrilla (Italy, Member), Marija Jurčević (Croatia, Member), Mogens Kirkeby (ISCA, Vice-Chair), Charlotte Girard-Fabre (IFSO, Chair)

Secretariat: Stanislas Frossard (Head of Sport/Executive Secretary EPAS), Francine Hetherington Raveney (Deputy Executive Secretary EPAS), Elena Casero (Programme Manager), Cassandra Mactavish (Senior Project Officer)

1. Welcome

The Chair, Solène Charuau, opened the meeting, welcomed participants, and officially introduced Stanislas Frossard, who recently rejoined the Sport Division following his mandate with the Staff Committee. Stan expressed his enthusiasm at returning to the field of sport, noting the strong political support for EPAS' work and its potential for meaningful initiatives despite limited resources.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda EPAS(2025)69 was adopted without objection and with the addition of two AOBs:

- feedback on the recent meeting on social sustainability and sports facilities;
- possible EPAS contribution to the European Commission's consultation on a new EU sports strategy.

The Bureau also briefly discussed the frequency and timing of future Bureau meetings. It was agreed that regular monthly meetings be maintained, preferably on Thursdays over lunchtimes, with flexibility as required.

3. Meeting of the Statutory Committee (12 November 2025)

Stan recalled the largely administrative nature of the Statutory Committee’s work and the practice of organising a short thematic side-event immediately afterwards, in order to attract ambassadors, i.e. potential new member states and to promote EPAS activities. The Bureau members and Secretariat brainstormed possible themes:

- mental health and sport – suggested by several members, supported as highly topical and in line with the EPAS Human Rights Forum and ministerial priorities;
- genetic testing in sport – raised as a sensitive but attention-grabbing issue;
- violence against referees – supported as a timely matter;
- the right of children to participate in sport.

After discussions, members agreed to focus the November side-event on mental health and sport, ideally featuring the testimony from a high-profile athlete and a contribution from an expert, followed by an informal reception. This thematic choice would also create synergies with the December Human Rights Forum.

4. Diversity Conference (21 October 2025, Strasbourg)

The Secretariat (Cassandra Mactavish) updated the Bureau on ongoing preparations. The conference will explore “Sport and intergenerational challenges for young people and older persons” with participation from both Governing Board and Consultative Committee representatives. A rich programme is foreseen, with examples from France, Italy, Slovenia, Ireland, Bulgaria, and Portugal, as well as high-level speakers.

A demonstration of walking football will be organised during the lunchbreak, in the spirit of interactive showcases at previous EPAS plenary events. Bureau members welcomed progress and noted that Bureau meetings of both the CC and the GB would be organised either side of the conference dates in Strasbourg.

5. Consultative Committee (CC) – new members

The Secretariat recalled that the Committee of Ministers had approved the enlargement of the CC from 30 to a maximum of 35 members. Several organisations had expressed interest or submitted applications (e.g. FIFA, IOC, FISU, Sport and Citizenship, Federation of Sport in the Corporate Sector, FIFPro, International Dart Federation).

Stan reminded the Bureau of the need to ensure balance between different categories of organisations (federations, organisers, specialised NGOs) and between different sports. He cautioned against over-representation of powerful organisations already present (e.g. football, Olympic movement).

Members proposed exploring under-represented sectors, such as:

- martial arts federations;
- winter sports federations;
- organisations managing sports infrastructure;
- networks of gyms or fitness centres;
- local/community sport networks.

The Bureau concluded that the Secretariat should continue exploratory contacts but take time to assess applications carefully against the criteria, with further input at the upcoming Bureau meetings.

6. EPAS Human Rights Forum (16 December 2025, Paris)

Francine H. Raveney presented the proposed thematic focuses on “mental health and sport” and “women’s health in sport”, with morning panels open to the public in the form of a webinar and afternoon technical workshops. The Secretariat is exploring hosting the Human Rights Forum at INSEP (Paris), in partnership with the French authorities. Members supported the proposal and noted its coherence with the November Statutory Committee side-event.

7. 19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Monaco, 3–4 November 2026)

Stan updated members on the thematic scope of the conference. While the Bureau’s agreed themes remain unchanged, the concept note transmitted to the Committee of Ministers included additional references to DG1 priorities (e.g. anti-corruption, addiction, cybercrime, bullying), reflecting the recent transfer of the Sport Division to DG1. This was for institutional coherence only and did not affect the Bureau’s agreed approach.

8. Any Other Business

- **Mapping of sports facilities/“White Paper on social sustainability and sports facilities”**

Francine H. Raveney reported on the recent expert meeting (12 September) co-organised with the Mulier Institute. A White Paper has been produced, drafted by the Mulier Instituut, which will be promoted at the 2026 EPAS joint plenary meetings, in addition to webinars (accessibility and sports facilities, 2026; and environmental sustainability and sports facilities, 2027). The longer-term aim (from 2027) is to develop indicators on the sustainability and sports facilities to promote the harmonised collection of data to promote stronger and more informed policy decisions.

- **European Commission upcoming consultation** on “A Strategic Vision for Sport in Europe: Reinforcing the European Sport Model”.
Stan informed members of the ongoing consultation. The Bureau agreed that EPAS should contribute, drawing on the consensus reached in the revision of the European Sports Charter, whilst avoiding re-opening sensitive debates.
- **Play the Game Conference** (5-8 October 2025, Tampere, Finland)
The Secretariat provided an update about EPAS’ participation at this conference: Stan will deliver a presentation on good governance;(Elena Casero on child safeguarding, and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe will speak at the closing session.

9. Date and place of the next meeting

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg, on-site, following the Diversity Conference on 22 October 2025 during the morning.