

Strasbourg, 1 February 2021

EPAS(2021)73

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

Meeting of the Bureau of the EPAS Governing Board

Wednesday 20 January 2021
9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.

By video-conference

Working language: English

Conclusions

Present: A. Husting (Chair), M. Crnković, D. Karakasis, A. Morozov, V. Slavkova, F. Tricarico, Z. Verovnik, K. Gjeloshaj, T. Jagodic

Secretariat: S. Frossard, M. Trinker, H. Stewart, C. Mactavish, D. Tramountani, L. Boussard-Turbet

1. Debriefing - Ministerial Round Table

The Bureau considered the round table to have been a success, with interventions running smoothly and on time, and a general consensus being reached on the content of the resolutions. The notion of a European Sport Model was raised several times, and the secretariat took note that this required more discussion in the forthcoming workshops on revising the Charter. The secretariat added that the individual video statements made by the Heads of Delegation on 15 January will soon be published on the website along with a search index on the themes covered by each statement. The Bureau took note of a quick presentation by the secretariat regarding the visibility of the round table on social media.

The Bureau also noted that the Start to Talk event held the day before for Greece had been a global event with the likes of CNN and BBC commenting on it in the media.

For the closing event on 11 February, the secretariat informed the Bureau that the session would be short and would be the conclusion of the conference process. The Chair of the conference will declare the resolutions as adopted, and this will be followed by three closing speeches. Although the session is open to all invitees and the press, it was acknowledged that there is little hope of attracting ministers to follow this session.

2. State of play - potential new EPAS members Expected

The secretariat confirmed that the Slovak Republic has become an observer to EPAS for a period of one year as from 1 January 2021. During the ministerial round table on 15 January, Ukraine announced that its full accession had gone through the necessary national parliamentary procedures, and that an official letter from the RP announcing the accession would be transmitted to the Secretary General very soon.

The secretariat told the Bureau that given the positive interventions by both Ireland and the Czech Republic during the round table, and strong contacts with Spain during the ministerial preparations, it would follow up with these three states on possible accession to EPAS. The secretariat also toyed with the idea of making renewed contact with the UK, given its withdrawal from the EU and thus fewer opportunities for international co-operation on sport policy issues.

3. Bureau decision on procedure concerning new request from International Federation for Sport Officials to join the Consultative Committee

The Bureau took note of the opinion of the Consultative Committee regarding the IFSO application. It questioned the added value of this organisation, given that several of its members were already represented in the Consultative Committee via other CC members. However, it also acknowledged that some of IFSO's member were referee/judge/umpire organisations and this was an important element currently missing from the CC's composition and would bring a new approach to EPAS topics.

Decision: the Bureau decided to ask the Secretariat to process IFSO's request to the whole of the Governing Board for a vote via written procedure, noting that the Bureau would strongly encourage IFSO, if admitted, to be represented in the CC by a delegate with a refereeing/judging background.

4. Bureau's ideas on how to promote the CM recommendation on extreme martial arts and combat activities which will likely be adopted by the CM in March

The Bureau discussed how to promote this new recommendation once adopted by the Committee of Ministers, including launching a survey to see what could be done in countries that are already addressing the issue via national co-ordination bodies.

Decision: the Bureau suggested that the secretariat make preliminary contact with France, which is one of the countries very interested in the recommendation, to see if it has an opinion or ideas on how to move forward.

5. Bureau opinion on how to follow up a request from Portugal regarding EPAS approach to e-sports

The Bureau discussed the topic of e-sports, following the questions raised by Portugal (and in addition to a similar question raised by Belgium in the EU). It noted in particular the financial stakes involved in e-sports and felt it would be useful to hold an exchange of views at some point. Given that member states were at different stages of handling e-sport (some already regulating, some not yet starting to face what will be an inevitable challenge), the Bureau considered launching a questionnaire first before organising a round table event (provided enough states were interested).

Decision: the Bureau asked the secretariat to prepare a questionnaire to be sent to all member states, based on the questions raised by Portugal, including the question raised by Belgium, and adding a question regarding interest in an EPAS round table. The Bureau requested that it be given the chance to approve the draft questionnaire before dispatch.

6. AOB

None.

7. Next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be fixed by exchange of e-mail between the secretariat and the Bureau members.