

Strasbourg, 5 April 2021

EPAS(2021)75

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

Meeting of the Bureau of the EPAS Governing Board

Wednesday 31 March 2021
9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.

By video-conference

Working language: English

Conclusions

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

Excused: M. Jurčević

Secretariat: S. Frossard, H. Stewart, C. Larghi, F. Carnio

1. Preparation of the agenda of the joint meeting (GB-CC) on 15-16 June 2021 (document EPAS(2021)15)

The secretariat introduced the document and invited the Bureau to identify which items should take priority on the agenda of the joint meeting, and which items could be handled via written procedure. The Bureau agreed that items such as the elections and the four-year Programme of Activities were important and time should be allocated to them on the agenda. The secretariat also suggested that members of the Bureau get involved in presenting items to the Governing Board, with help from appropriate CC members and the secretariat. The Chair of the CC was invited to circulate the document to the CC Bureau, which met later that afternoon.

Decision: the Bureau agreed in principle with the sharing of responsibilities and roles and asked the secretariat to update the document by adding which items required a decision by the Governing Board and then to re-distribute it to the Bureau.

2. Draft3 of the revised Charter, following comments at the workshop held on 10 March (document EPAS(2021)12)

The new proposals coming from the 10 March workshop had been introduced into the new Draft3 of the revised charter and circulated to the Bureau for comments. Bureau members agreed the text was much improved since the Draft1.

Z. Verovnik suggested, as a compromise to not including a direct reference to the European Sports Model, to add a footnote in article 2.2 which refers to the existence of the 2008 PACE resolution, which could read as follows:

“Bearing in mind the Resolution 1602 (2008) ‘The need to preserve the European sports model’ adopted unanimously on 24 January 2008 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe”.

The secretariat said that this PACE resolution had never been recognised by governments (the Committee of Ministers has not taken note of it, like it would with a recommendation). But the footnote could be added to Draft3 for the next circulation of the text to the Governing Board and a parallel consultation of non-EPAS member states, to see the reaction from other states.

V. Slavkova recommended adding a reference to the most recent ministerial resolutions into the preamble, which the Bureau agreed to.

Regarding monitoring of the charter, the secretariat added that North Macedonia had recently shown an interest in getting more involved in EPAS, and that it would be ready to host a visit as a pilot project. Any input or ideas from Bureau members on the organisation of such a visit would be welcome.

Decision: the Bureau asked the secretariat to update the Draft3 by adding the footnote and a reference to the most recent ministerial resolutions, and to continue consultation on the text within the Bureau by written procedure, before sending it to the Governing Board.

3. Continued preparation of the elections to the Bureau (see document attached, distributed after previous Bureau meeting, EPAS(2021)04)

The Bureau briefly discussed its intentions regarding election candidacies but invited the secretariat to send an official letter to the RPs of both France and Italy to see if they are interested in proposing candidates to stand for election to the Bureau.

The secretariat reminded the Bureau that given that the June plenary meeting will be online, it would be preferable, for organisational purposes, to receive candidacies in advance, rather than during the meeting itself.

Decision: the Bureau asked the secretariat to send an official letter to France and Italy; the Bureau members will inform the secretariat of their individual intentions with regard to standing for re-election.

4. AOB: update by the secretariat on the adoption process by the Committee of Ministers of the Recommendation on extreme martial arts and combat activities

The secretariat informed the Bureau that the long-awaited Recommendation on extreme martial arts and combat activities was due to be adopted this day by the Committee of Ministers, with a couple of minor amendments from Turkey and Germany which had not been objected to by other states.

The Bureau agreed that the first step upon adoption will be to ask France to play a role to help decide how the recommendation can be supported and implemented in states that are interested.

5. AOB

As mentioned in the ministerial resolutions, EPAS is invited to organise a forum with relevant Council of Europe monitoring bodies during which the 12 human rights highlighted at the ministerial conference will be looked at from a monitoring body point of view. The secretariat was moving forward with the organisation of this event and asked the Bureau to choose between two possible dates: 1 June or 7 June 2021.

Decision: taking into account other events, the Bureau agreed to hold the forum with human rights monitoring bodies on Tuesday 1 June 2021.