Strasbourg, 28 October 2026 EPAS(2026)75

Meeting of the EPAS Governing Board Bureau

Tuesday 13 October 2026

10 – 11 am 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), Marija Jurčević (Croatia, Member), Michael Landau (Monaco, MSL19), Florian Botto (Monaco, MSL19)

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

Secretariat: Stanislas Frossard, Roman Chlapak, Elena Casero, Céline Guth, Caroline Dollet, Delfine Gaillard

Apologised: Patrik Perosa (IDO, Vice-Chair)

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the participants and noted that preparations for the 19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, to be held in Monaco, would be the main focus of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Chair noted that the agenda included an item on the extended session of the Statutory Committee annual meeting. As no further items were proposed, the agenda was considered adopted.

3. Adoption of the draft report of the previous meeting

The draft report of the previous meeting was considered adopted, as no comments were raised.

4. Update on the Secretariat members and their responsibilities

The Bureau was introduced to Delfine Gaillard, who had joined the EPAS team on 1 October after working on a project concerning intersectional discrimination and artificial intelligence. Oumaima Lahrach had also joined the team as a communications officer but was unable to attend the meeting.

The Secretariat outlined adjustments to the distribution of responsibilities. Roman Chlapak would follow the Governing Board and Statutory Committee, while Céline Guth would be responsible for the Consultative Committee. Elena Casero would continue to oversee the activities of the MARS Network and the Pool of international experts on safe sport, and would also handle relations with UNESCO, particularly on safeguarding and human rights.

Roman Chlapak, with his strong background in anti-money-laundering and anti-corruption will look after sport governance, as well as follow-up of the DACCS database. Céline Guth's responsibilities would include disability sport and the Sport for All project, continuity of gender-equality activities, including the ALL IN project, and the development of extra-budgetary activities through voluntary contributions and joint projects with the European Union. Elena Casero would also be responsible for the Sports and Human Rights Forum and work on the issue of a female category in sport.

5. 19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (MSL19), Monaco, 4 November 2026

Registrations

The Secretariat reported 205 registrations in total, including Council of Europe and Monaco staff. The figures did not include participants in the separate Saint-Denis event. The registration file had only just been received, so the figures had not yet been fully checked. An earlier check had recorded 21

ministers and five state secretaries, and the total number of participants was expected to be broadly similar to that at the previous conference.

The Secretariat drew attention to delegations registering more participants than had been authorised (1 head of delegation, 2 delegates + 1 Youth delegate). It would consult the Monaco authorities and make sure all delegations have a fair access to registrations. The secretariat also noted that the number of people admitted to the conference will be limited by the figures announced for the welcome and closing dinners.

Draft programme and speakers

The draft programme was presented, with the speakers confirmed at that point. The opening was planned to include remarks by Prince Albert II and the Council of Europe Secretary General. Confirmation was still awaited from Alexander Čeferin, while Leila Marques, Vice-President of the International Paralympic Committee, had confirmed her participation in principle.

The morning programme would include the election of the conference Chair and Vice-Chair, adoption of the agenda, and a first session on the challenges and actions addressed in the draft resolution. Matthias Kloth and Maren Mildestvedt from the Norwegian Sports Confederation were to co-moderate that session. Speakers confirmed or under consideration included Gloria Viseras, from the International Olympic Committee, Emily Karakoleva, participant at the EPAS youth event, and the Minister of Youth and Sports of Bulgaria; the Minister's place in the programme was still to be decided. Interventions by the head of delegations, limited to three minutes per delegation, were also planned before the family photograph and lunch.

The afternoon programme would focus on implementing the resolution, including good practices, challenges and opportunities. Ingrid Beutler was to facilitate the session. Marie-Laure Lemineur of FIFA and Zander Newman, from the European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF) and participant at the EPAS youth event, had confirmed, while the Secretariat was still seeking athletes for one panel and an athlete and ministerial representative for another. An interactive session with ministers and participants would follow, using guiding questions circulated in a background document. The conference was expected to close with the adoption of the resolution and closing speeches, with one speaker from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe still to be confirmed.

Signing ceremony

Three countries had confirmed their participation in the signing ceremony and had transmitted their full powers to the Treaty Office: Andorra, the Czech Republic and San Marino. The Secretariat reported that Brazil had withdrawn from the ceremony in Monaco because of national elections and was considering signing the relevant convention earlier in Strasbourg. Contact was also ongoing with Australia, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Kazakhstan regarding possible signatures or deposits of instruments.

Restricted ministerial gathering

The proposed gathering would provide an informal opportunity for ministers to discuss EPAS themes in smaller groups and to learn about related tools, projects and publications. Five topic tables were envisaged: integrity in sport, good governance in sport, child safeguarding, diversity and gender equality, and the European Sports Charter. Participants would be able to move between tables after around ten minutes. The Secretariat proposed that each table be supported by a Bureau member and a Secretariat member.

Bureau members confirmed that they expected to attend the conference, and Michael Landau offered to help if needed. Solène Charuau and Roman Chlapak were identified as chairing the gathering. The format was intended to encourage informal discussion before the closing dinner.

Senior officials and draft resolution

The Secretariat confirmed that the senior officials' meeting would focus primarily on finalising the draft resolution, including consideration of any last amendments, and would also address practical matters relating to the following day's programme.

Following discussion of the draft resolution at the GR-C, some comments had been received from delegations, and two had already been reflected in proposed amendments. The consultation deadlines were 13 October for comments from the GR-C's delegations and 19 October for states participating in the ministerial conference. The Secretariat described a proposed formulation concerning the participation of Ukrainian, Russian and Belarusian athletes that would recognise both the position expressed in the draft resolution and the autonomy of international sports organisations to determine participation under their rules and applicable law. Further amendments were expected, and the Bureau might need to take a position on the final text.

6. Any other business

Extended session of the Statutory Committee

The Chair explained that the Statutory Committee's work would comprise a formal session restricted to representatives of EPAS member states reviewing past activities, followed by an extended session on a specific topic. Ioanna Paraskevopoulou would represent the Governing Board at the Statutory Committee in the Chair's absence.

The extended session would address combating hate speech. It would feature contributions from a Paralympic athlete (Arnaud Assoumami), representatives of Lega Nazionale Dilettanti (amateur football) and a chief referee of the French Fencing Federation (Timothé Boudhil), and would be open to delegates from EPAS member states as well as representatives of non-member states. The session was intended to highlight sport's potential to counter hate speech and to showcase relevant EPAS work and good practices. A cocktail reception would follow.

In response to a question, the Secretariat indicated that a Human Rights Forum was not planned for 2026; it was included in the 2027 programme of activities for 23 April in Strasbourg.

The Bureau also discussed coordination on combating hate speech across the Council of Europe. The Secretariat reported contacts with ECRI, including information exchange and co-operation on discrimination and hate speech in sport. It noted that this co-operation could be highlighted during the extended session to demonstrate that EPAS works with other Council of Europe bodies.

7. Date, time and place of the next meeting

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting online on 28 October at 10:00 am.

Appendix

Agenda

1.	Welcome	
2.	Adoption of the agenda	EPAS(2026)72
3.	Adoption of the draft report of the previous meeting	EPAS(2026)71
4.	Update on the secretariat members and their responsibilities	
5.	19th Council of Europe Conference of ministers responsible for sport (MSL19), Monaco, 4 November 2026 ➢ Draft Resolution ➢ Draft programme ➢ State of registrations ➢ Update on speakers ➢ Signing ceremony ➢ Restricted gathering	MSL19(2026)5rev5 MSL19(2026)2
6.	Any other business ➢ Extended session Statutory Committee	EPAS-SC(2026)3
7.	Date, time and place of the next meeting	