

Strasbourg, 26 May 2021

EPAS(2021)76

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

Meeting of the Bureau of the EPAS Governing Board

Wednesday 19 May 2021
9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.

By video-conference

Working language: English

Conclusions

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

Excused: M. Jurčević,

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

1. Draft Factsheet and Programme of the “Forum on Sport and Human Rights” being held on 1 June 2021 (for approval by the Bureau)

The Bureau discussed the factsheet and asked for clarification from the secretariat regarding the target group of participants. The secretariat explained that the invitation to the sports conventions had been limited to the Bureaus of each committee, but since the Macolin Convention Follow-up Committee (7 states) had not yet elected its Bureau, the decision had been taken to invite all 7 states parties. The invitations for the sports sector had been limited to members of the Consultative Committee, and to those organisations with a particular link to the Council of Europe. The secretariat added that if it was to open to a wider audience, the focus of the event may be lost.

The Bureau agreed on the target audience and the content of the factsheet, but asked that the following change be made:

- Para 3: “...national and international jurisdictions only intervene in a limited way in sporting affairs” should be modified to “national and international jurisdictions rarely intervene in sport cases”.

The Bureau noted the explanation by the secretariat regarding the programme and timing of the forum. It also took note of the secretariat’s intention to make an accompanying document available to participants explaining the different topics of the forum’s round tables.

Decision: the Bureau approved the factsheet and programme, with the inclusion of the modification to the factsheet mentioned above.

2. Draft agenda of the 15th joint meeting of the Governing Board and Consultative Committee (for approval by the Bureau)

The Bureau discussed the draft agenda of the joint meeting, and made the following comments:

- Item 6: replace “Regarding the recent announcement” by “Following the announcement”;
- Item 6: replace “closed sports competitions” by “closed leagues and competitions”;
- Item 12: harmonise use of European Union (and not European Commission).

The Bureau briefly discussed the notion of closed competitions/leagues, and whether this could apply to individual sports as well as team sports. Also, the idea of them being

described as “purely commercialized” or “purely profit-aimed” was raised. The Bureau looked forward to a wider debate on this issue with the whole Governing Board at the plenary meeting on 15 June.

Decision: the Bureau approved the draft agenda, with the inclusion of the modifications mentioned above.

3. The 2021 EPAS “diversity” Conference (update by the secretariat)

The Bureau took note of the short update by the secretariat on the organisation of this year’s EPAS diversity conference. The date of 20 September 2021 for the event has been selected, and the secretariat is in contact with possible speakers, with great support from EGLSF and EUSA. The conference is being arranged in a hybrid set-up, with participation possible either via an online connection, or in person at the Council of Europe Paris Office.

4. Any other business

- a. The Chair of the CC informed the Bureau of the 2nd webinar being organised at the CC’s initiative, this one being on the topic of criminal records checks as a tool to protect children in sport. It will be held online on 3 June. As the EU Sports Directors meeting and a conference are scheduled on the same day, and many Governing Board members will not be available to attend, the Chair of the Governing Board asked the secretariat to produce a summary of the webinar.
- b. The secretariat informed the Bureau of several new applications that had been received from organisations wishing to join the Consultative Committee, one being from Panathlon International (a previous member whose membership was not renewed in 2020). The process will continue for all the applications, the next step being the consultation of the CC for its opinion.
- c. The secretariat brought to the attention of the Bureau the situation regarding two of its current members who had been involved in the Bureau as representatives of the host country of the last ministerial conference (Zoran Verovnik and Dionysos Karakasis). With the SG’s conference report due to be presented to the Ministers’ Deputies on 2 June, and the Governing Board due to elect a new member of the Bureau to this “host country” position on 15 June, the secretariat said this would no doubt be their last Bureau meeting, and thanked the two outgoing members for their contribution to the Bureau’s work during this period.
- d. The Chair asked if the secretariat could provide the Bureau with a summary of the different ongoing requests to EPAS states that required their contribution or reply, along with the deadlines for each one.