

Strasbourg, 22 September 2021

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Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

Meeting of the Bureau of the EPAS Governing Board

Monday 13 September 2021
9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.

By video-conference

Working language: English

Conclusions

Participants: Alexandre Husting (Chair), Andrea Carletti (Vice-Chair), Andrew Decelis, Kolë Gjeloshaj, Tone Jagodic, Alexey Morozov, İnanç Özçakmak, François Tricarico

EPAS Secretariat: Stanislas Frossard, Francine Raveney, Michael Trincker, Caroline Larghi, Despina Tramoutani, Françoise Rui

The Chair Alexandre Husting (AH) welcomes everyone including the two new members. AH proposes to start the meeting immediately due to a busy agenda. The below draft agenda is adopted with two additional points under AOB (see points c and d).

1. Date and themes of the next Ministerial Conference MSL17

After consultations with the Turkish authorities, IO announced possible dates to hold the Conference:

- 25-27 October 2022 (preferred dates)
- 18-20 October 2022

The Secretariat will check the dates and come back to the Bureau before the end of this year. A decision will also have to be taken about the main topics of the Conference. Priority could be given to i. Revised European Sports Charter ii. Integrity and human rights iii. The role of public authorities in physical education and iv. A topic of high importance to the Sport Conventions.

2. Visit of the Republic of North Macedonia concerning the European Sports Charter (reference documents: [Outline of possible co-operation with North Macedonia and PowerPoint presentation](#))

The Prime Minister's office of the Republic of North Macedonia has requested support from the EPAS Secretariat to update and modernise its sports strategy and law, based on support documents. EPAS agreed to launch a pilot project, which will help to update its methodology. SF has identified some key topics to focus on.

A new approach would be to start the project with a videoconference in order to set up a complete and precise proposal from the member state, so that our team can travel to the country. As the first discussions will be held online, we can have more experts in the evaluation team, and we can spread the meetings over several days/weeks.

As far as evaluation visits are concerned:

- We used to have 4 persons in the team (3 experts, e.g. 1 GB, 1 CC and one Bureau member) + 1 staff from the Secretariat. It could be extended to 5-6 persons (one more expert and/or one consultant). Criteria for identifying experts are their area of expertise, their experience in visits and gender-balance.
- In reference to the visit in Albania which was cancelled due to the earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic, it is decided to apply the same procedure (first online meetings, then on-site).

- ➔ **Bureau members are invited to express their interest in joining the evaluation team before 28 September 2021.**
- ➔ **The Secretariat is invited to resume contact with Albania on a possible ESC evaluation visit.**

3. Joint projects:

- a. Contributions for the EU gender equality / human rights project

The idea is to run a project on human rights and gender equality in 2023 on the EPAS budget or Extra-budgetary with the European Commission.

- b. Fight against hate speech in sport
(document: [41 Hate Speech Project Outline](#))

MT explained that the project needs to be addressed on a larger scale with additional smaller workshops. The scope will be extended to other themes such as combating discrimination, and possibly racism.

The project will start in 2022 for 24 months and the estimated budget is 560 000€, and the partners would be rather from the Consultative Committee (namely Engso Youth, EOC, FARE, Panathlon International) and other stakeholders. The project shall be approved by the Commission by the end of the year.

- ➔ **Action: Bureau members are invited to send their written comments on the document to the Secretariat by 20 September 2021.**

4. Update on the Start to Talk (STT) offer (document: [51 Start To Talk Factsheet](#))

The STT initiative was officially launched in April 2018. In the meantime, 9 countries have launched the initiative. The aim is to improve the organisation with concrete actions in order to enhance the sustainability of the initiative and make it more attractive:

- Stakeholders organisations have to make an online assessment first (with the online tool), exchange with the EPAS Secretariat and the experts pool. National seminars could be organised as well.
- The new idea is to first identify the weaknesses of the country, then we propose to set out roadmap.

- ➔ **Action: Bureau members are invited to send their written comments on the strategy document to the Secretariat by 20 September 2021.**

5. Results of the consultation on e-sport and proposed roundtable
(document: 50 Factsheet)

Portugal has requested that the EPAS Secretariat carry out research on e-sport in EPAS member states. 23 countries responded to the survey and the results have been analysed.

This is a very topical issue raised by many ministries. EPAS will organise a round table before the end of this year by videoconference. A proposal will follow soon with clear questions highlighting links between the discussions on the agenda, to avoid long discussions and get clear outcomes.

The Bureau members will be consulted on the dates by e-mail.

➔ **Action: Bureau members are invited to indicate their availabilities in the doodle survey:** https://doodle.com/poll/a9qtr7a9mb525p6y?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link

6. Update on the [Recommendation on “extreme martial arts and combat activities”](#)

One country only replied to the survey. A reminder has been sent with a new deadline by 17/09 + targeted emails to France, Belgium, NL... It is proposed to start working with countries which have already implemented some action in order to start with the monitoring and follow up.

➔ **Action: Bureau members are invited to fill in the survey on Recommendation on “extreme martial arts and combat activities”, especially if they have national experience to share on the topic.**
<https://app.evalandgo.com/s/index.php?id=JTk4ciU5QWo1OTglQUE%3D&a=JTk1ciU5QW4lOUU1QjI%3D>

7. Any other business

- a. Presentation of new members in a short video

The idea is to have a small gallery with Bureau members on the website to give a human touch to the Bureau members.

The Secretariat (FR) will contact the members to this aim.

- b. Call for candidates on the election of a rapporteur on gender equality

A gender equality rapporteur must be elected among the Bureau members. They are all part of a network and will receive training. The mandate will be for 2 years. KG is a volunteer for this position.

- c. Consultative Committee (CC)

KG reminded all those present that the next CC Bureau meeting will take place physically in Strasbourg on 11 October. The CC will organise 1 or 2 webinars by June 2022. KG suggests that the topic “physical education” be on the agenda of the CC work for these webinars.

d. Update on the Diversity Conference on 20/9

AH regrets that the Conference is taking place at the same time as the Working Party WG organised in Brussels. On this point, SF clarified that the Conference was moved from 27/09 to 20/09 upon the demand from Slovenia. Unfortunately, no further information was transmitted to EPAS about this change.

FHR added that the Conference will be recorded. Portraits will be published this week on the [website](#). There will be a separate login for the press conference with a number of journalists, and a press article in the Sport & Citizenship magazine.