

Strasbourg, 30 October 2007

EPAS (2007) 10

## **Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)**

### **First Meeting of the EPAS Governing Board**

Strasbourg, 8 October 2007

## **Report**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The first meeting of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) was chaired by Mr Ralf-René WEINGARTNER, Director of Youth and Sport. The list of participants appears in Appendix II of this report.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed representatives of fifteen member states of the EPAS present during this meeting.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted as it appears in Appendix I to this report.

### **3. Presentation (tour de table) of representatives appointed to sit in the EPAS**

The Chairman asked the representatives to introduce themselves and describe their duties in their respective countries.

### **4. Election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the EPAS**

For the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the EPAS Governing Board the following candidatures were submitted:

Chair:

- Mrs Krisztina GÖNTER (Hungary)
- Mrs Kalliopi NEDELKOS (Greece)

Vice-Chair:

- Mr Jean-Luc JANISZEWSKI, (France)
- Mrs Kalliopi NEDELKOS (Greece)

The EPAS Governing Board held an election by secret ballot, in conformity with Article 12 d of the Appendix 1 to the Resolution Res(2005)47 on committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods. The results were as follows:

- Mrs Krisztina GÖNTER (Hungary) was elected as Chair of the EPAS Governing Board (9 votes in favour);
- Mr Jean-Luc JANISZEWSKI (France) was elected as Vice-Chair of the EPAS Governing Board (10 votes in favour).

## **5. Election of the Bureau members**

In conformity with the Statute of the EPAS, Article 3.2, the following four delegates were elected as the members of the EPAS Governing Board Bureau:

- Mr Ilham MADATOV (Azerbaijan)
  - Mrs Kalliopi NEDELKOU (Greece)
  - Mr Per Kristian AASMUNDSTAD (Norway)
  - Mr John TUCKER (UK)
- The ENGSO representative was confirmed to act as a member of the EPAS Governing Board Bureau without the right to vote.

## **6. General discussion on the Statute of the EPAS**

The newly elected Chair of the Governing Board took over from the Secretariat to chair the Governing Board meeting.

The Governing Board held a general exchange of views on the Statute of the EPAS. The Governing Board asked its Bureau and the Secretariat to draft the EPAS Rules of Procedure paper, and to present it to the next Governing Board meeting.

## **7. Update on EPAS membership including requests for observer status**

The Governing Board held an exchange of views on the verbal report made by the Secretariat on the update on countries interested in joining the EPAS.

The Governing Board discussed the request made by the Russian Federation (see Appendix III) under Article 2.3 of the Statute of the EPAS to become an observer to the EPAS and agreed to grant observer status to the Russian Federation with immediate effect.

The Governing Board of the EPAS supported the request for observer status made by UEFA by letter of 31 October 2006 (see Appendix IV). In accordance with Article 2.6 of the Statute of the EPAS<sup>1</sup>, the Governing Board requested the Committee of Ministers, in its composition limited to the representatives of the States members of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, to invite UEFA to participate in the work of EPAS as an observer without the right to vote.

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<sup>1</sup> “**Resolution CM/Res(2007)8 establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)**

2.6 The Committee of Ministers, in its composition restricted to the representatives of the States members of the Enlarged Partial Agreement, may, by the majority stipulated in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe, authorise the EPAS to invite international organisations, NGOs or other bodies to participate in its work as observers without the right to vote.”

## **8. Work priorities and 2008 programme of activities of the EPAS**

The Governing Board examined this issue in the light of document EPAS (2007) 5 rev, containing a draft programme of activities for 2008, presented by the Secretariat in accordance with the decisions taken by the Working Group on the Programme of Activities (see meeting reports in documents EPAS (2007) 3 and EPAS (2007) 7 rev).

The Governing Board held an extensive debate on the selection of the three main topics for the future activities of the EPAS for 2008. Representatives of the Governing Board agreed that: (a) they should try to define the 2008 programme of activities in such a way that it would reflect the work of the Council of Europe and its core values (human rights, rule of law and parliamentary democracy), (b) there was no need to have so many working groups for implementing the 2008 programme of activities, and (c) the third topic proposed by the Secretariat for the 2008 programme of activities on Capacity Building needed to be postponed until a later date as it was not a priority for the members of the EPAS for 2008.

The representatives from Finland and Norway underlined the importance of EPAS policy-making and standard-setting functions, including providing the only platform for pan-European sports co-operation and official Ministerial Conferences for Ministers responsible for Sport. Therefore, as proposed in the draft programme of activities drafted by the Secretariat (EPAS (2007) 5 rev), it was agreed to keep the 11th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport in Greece as the first main topic for 2008 activities of the EPAS.

The French representative made a concrete proposal to use the topic of the autonomy of the sports movement as one of the main topics for the 2008 programme of activities. He underlined that the study on sports movement autonomy was a pertinent issue in pan-European sports co-operation. Furthermore, he proposed to involve the sports movement in general and in particular ENGSO for implementing this study in 2008. The representatives from Hungary, Finland and Luxembourg as well as the representative of ENGSO supported this topic and proposed to integrate it into the framework of the 11th Ministerial Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport.

The representatives from Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands agreed with the proposal to build the EPAS programme of activities on the core values of the Council of Europe and thus, supported the proposals made by the Secretariat to use the topic of combating racism and discrimination in sport as the third main topic for the 2008 programme of activities.

Following the extensive discussions of the Governing Board, the three main topics for the 2008 programme of activities of the EPAS were agreed upon as follows:

1. The 11th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport in Greece;
2. The autonomy of the sports movement in Europe;
3. Combating racism and discrimination in sport.

## **9. Consideration of the preliminary draft budget for the year 2008**

The Secretariat informed the Governing Board that the draft Budgetary Proposals for 2008 will be prepared according to the newly adopted programme of activities of the EPAS. Therefore, the Secretariat, in co-operation with the Finance Directorate of the Council of Europe and under the supervision of Chair and Vice-Chair of the EPAS Governing Board, will prepare the Budgetary Proposals for 2008.

The Governing Board instructed the Secretariat to transmit Budgetary Proposals for 2008 to the Secretary General for consideration by the Budget Committee, prior to their transmission to the EPAS Statutory Committee's approval on 30 November 2007.

#### **10. Preparations for the 11th Ministerial Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Sport in Greece in 2008**

The Governing Board examined this issue in the light of proposals made under the previous agenda point on the work priorities and working programme for 2008. Following the French representative's proposal, the Governing Board agreed on the main theme for the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport to be "Autonomy and Ethics in Sport".

The Governing Board took note of the organisational arrangements for the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference presented by the Greek delegate and noted the change of date to December 2008.

The Governing Board instructed its Bureau and the Secretariat to set up a special Working Group to prepare the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of European Ministers responsible for Sport.

#### **11. Update on the Consultative Committee**

The Governing Board held an exchange of views on the Consultative Committee of the EPAS. A number of delegations, including the representative from ENGSO, raised questions concerning the aims, future composition, and budget of the Consultative Committee. The Governing Board stressed the importance of partnerships with sports NGOs, international federations and other national and international sports organisations. The Secretariat underlined the importance of co-operation of the EPAS with different stakeholders in sport.

#### **12. Communication strategies: graphic line of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)**

The Secretariat made an oral report on the graphic line of the EPAS. The Governing Board held general discussions on the topic. Furthermore, it instructed its Bureau to assist the Secretariat in reflecting on general communication strategies for the EPAS.

#### **13. Miscellaneous**

The Governing Board asked the Secretariat to forward them the list of decisions of its first meeting by the means of e-mail communication.

#### **14. Dates of the next meeting**

At the Secretariat's proposal, participants noted that:

- the 2nd meeting of the Governing Board should be held in mid April, on **21-22 April 2008, in Strasbourg.**
- the Bureau will hold its first meeting in **Strasbourg on 7 December 2007.**

## **Appendix I Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Presentation (tour de table) of representatives appointed to sit in the EPAS
4. Election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the EPAS
5. Election of the Bureau members
6. General discussion on the Statute of the EPAS
7. Update on EPAS membership including requests for observer status
8. Work priorities and 2008 programme of activities of the EPAS
9. Consideration of the preliminary draft budget for the year 2008
10. Preparations for the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Sport in Greece in 2008: discussions on themes, working documents, working methods, draft agenda and other organisational questions
11. Update on the Consultative Committee – interested organisations and federations
12. Communication strategies: graphic line of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)
13. Miscellaneous
14. Dates of the next meeting

## Appendix II List of participants

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## **APOLOGISED / EXCUSES**

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Appendix III

05/10 2007 11:59 FAX 0388241974



*A l'attention de  
M. Weingartner*

REPRESENTATION PERMANENTE  
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AUPRES DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Strasbourg, October 2007

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

*✓ 123 c*

I am glad to note that during last several years cooperation of the Russian Federation with the Council of Europe has a stable character. It also applies to activities of the Organization in the field of sport. This area was one of the priorities of the programme of the Russian Chairmanship in the Council of Europe in 2006 and will remain the same in the future. We appreciate our relations in this direction and support the development of interaction among European States in this sphere.

Upon received instructions I have the honor to inform you that the Russian Federation would like to request the status of observer with the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS). We see this action as a first stage of our joining the EPAS.

According to the procedure, stipulated in the point 2.3 of the Article 2 of the EPAS, the decision in such matters is made by the Governing board of the EPAS.

Taking into consideration that a meeting of the Governing board is scheduled on 8 October, I would like to kindly ask you that an item concerning the observer status is included in the agenda of this meeting by the Secretary of the EPAS, provided in conformity with the Article 6 of the Agreement.

This delegation would be grateful if such decision could be made in the beginning of the meeting so that a Russian representative could take part in the last session of the Governing board in 2007.

I am sure that the growing number of countries and Federations interested in the development of the activities within the EPAS on the European level will make our cooperation more efficient.

Sincerely Yours,

THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND SPORT  
- 4 OCT. 2007

*Yours,*  
Alexander LUKSEEV  
Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative

## Appendix IV



Union des associations européennes de football  
Chief Executive

Mr Terry Davis  
Secretary General  
Council of Europe  
FR-67075 Strasbourg Cedex  
France

Your reference

Your correspondence of

Our reference  
CEO/haa

Date  
31.10.2006

**17<sup>th</sup> Informal Meeting of European Sports Ministers, Moscow**

Dear Mr Davis,

On behalf of the UEFA President I would like to thank you for the invitation that was extended to UEFA on the occasion of the abovementioned meeting. It was a very important meeting, and we very much appreciate having been able to attend and to speak. We would also like to thank you for the most excellent welcome and the organisation of the event in Moscow. I would be grateful if you could also pass our thanks on to your colleagues in the DG Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport and in the Sport Department for their highly professional approach and work.

UEFA is very much looking forward to a future collaboration. We anticipate that this could take place in the context of the Council of Europe's newly approved Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS). This could ensure that the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent European Sport Review benefits sport throughout the whole of Europe, and not just within the EU.

In this respect, we would like to hereby formally register UEFA's interest in participating in the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), in UEFA's capacity as the European governing body for one of Europe's most practiced and popular sports.

Yours sincerely,

U E F A

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lars-Christer Olsson'.

Lars-Christer Olsson  
Chief Executive

cc: Lennart Johansson, UEFA President

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