

Strasbourg, 30 March 2022

EPAS(2022)19

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

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

Thursday 24 February 2022

10:00 am – 11:00 am CET

Via video-conference

### **Report**

**Participants:**

Alexandre Husting (Chair), Andrea Carletti (Vice-Chair), Andrew Decelis, François Tricarico, İnanç Özçakmak, Kolë Gjeloshaj and Tone Jagodic.

**EPAS Secretariat:**

Sophie Kwasny, Francine Hetherington Raveney, Francesca Carnio, Caroline Larghi

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Governing Board, who shared his concerns regarding the situation in Ukraine, rendering so many things actually meaningless, and confirmed to the Bureau the decision that had been taken to cancel the extraordinary Governing Board meeting.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

The meeting agenda was adopted with the addition of an item under AOB regarding an upcoming event on Women in Sport to be held on 8 March.

**3. Accession to EPAS**

Sophie Kwasny (SK) informed the Bureau of the next steps concerning the accession of Canada to EPAS. The Statutory Committee had been consulted on the subject matter and, as no objection was raised, the request would now be formally processed to the GR-J (Rapporteur Group on Legal Co-operation of the Committee of Ministers), ahead of its meeting on 17 March 2022. Should the request be supported, it would then be added to the agenda of the Committee of Ministers' meeting of 30 March 2022. If approved, the Secretariat would be able to respond to Canada on their accession request early April.

The GB bureau took note of the information provided.
--

**4. Planning of the EPAS Governing Board Plenary meeting (13-14/6/2022)**

Sophie Kwasny informed the Bureau of the confirmation of the dates for the EPAS GB/CC joint plenary meeting 2022, scheduled to take place on 13-14 June 2022. The two parallel in-camera sessions of the Governing Board and Consultative Committee will be held in the morning of 13 June 2022, while the joint plenary meeting will be held on in the afternoon of 13 June and during the whole day of 14 June. The Secretariat hopes that the meeting will allow physical participation, while ensuring the possibility of remote participation.

The Secretariat will provide a draft agenda to the Bureau for discussion before its next meeting.

Action: The Secretariat will prepare and send a draft agenda ahead of the next meeting of the Bureau.
---

**5. 17th Ministerial Conference (Antalya, Turkey, 25-27/10/2022)**

İnanç Özçakmak updated the Bureau on the ongoing preparation of the 17<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, which will be held in Antalya on 25-27 October 2022. Weekly preparatory meetings are taking place between the Secretariat and the Turkish counterparts. The meeting is being planned as a physical meeting and not online nor hybrid, with

full support from the Secretariat, but the format will be adapted should strong restrictions be applicable.

The themes of the Ministerial Conference, both strongly anchored in the revised European Sports Charter, and as already discussed at the last Bureau meeting were presented:

- 1) Sport for all: uniting us for stronger societies
  - a. Gender equality - ensuring women's equal participation and involvement
  - b. Sport as a means of inclusion: its role for minorities and less advantaged persons
  - c. Sport for children: education, prevention and development
- 2) Rethinking sport: leading the way for a healthy future
  - a. Addressing the emerging challenges to sport policies, relying on the ESC
  - b. Facilitating access to sport and encourage practice as part of healthy lifestyle
  - c. Boosting the return to sport activities

A document with more details on the themes of the Ministerial Conference will be promptly circulated to the Bureau and to Turkey for validation.

As for the programme, the Senior Officials and Consultative Committee parallel meetings will likely take place on 25 October, while a side event on sport and migrants and refugees was proposed for the morning of 27 October.

More details, including a draft programme of the Conference, will be submitted to the Bureau for its next meeting.

Kole Gjeshaj raised the question of the use of the concept of "sport for all", which would require consideration as to its meaning. The Secretariat confirmed that the use of the term was based on the provisions of the revised European Sports Charter and should be understood in that context.

The Chair asked the Secretariat to send a Save the date for the event directly to Ministers responsible for sport, exploiting communication channels such as the attachés for sport to the European Union, to avoid loopholes and ensure that all relevant stakeholders note the Ministerial Conference in their agenda.

Action: The Secretariat will send within a week's time a "Save the date" to Ministers/their advisers.

## **6. Consultative Committee**

### **1) Webinar, induction session and CC Bureau meeting**

Kole Gjeshaj, Chair of the Consultative Committee, informed the Bureau of the recent successful and productive events organised by the Consultative Committee:

- Webinar on "Physical education and school sports: a creative approach to Human rights and democracy" (21 February 2022) received very positive feedback from participants (113 in total) and brought light to a topic that is not often showcased. A second webinar could be envisaged to go more in depth on the topic.
- Induction session for new CC members: four new members took part (FIBA, Panathlon International, IFSO and Alice Milliat Foundation).

- CC Bureau (22 February 2022), dedicated to planning the future meetings, including the Joint Plenary meeting and the Ministerial Conference.

The CC will soon be at full capacity with 30 members out of 30 possible seats.

The Chair congratulated the CC for the work done and expressed full support to the topic of school sport. He underlined the difficulties of the topic and suggested organising a joint meeting of the sport and education sectors to discuss how to overcome these difficulties and improve school sport.

The GB bureau took note of the information provided.

## **2) Application from the Centre for Sport and Human Rights (next step)**

Sophie Kwasny informed the Bureau that the Consultative Committee supported the application from the Centre for Sport and Human Rights. The Governing Board will thus be consulted by circular letter and, should there be no objection, the request would then be submitted to the GR-C and Committee of Ministers (possibly at the April meetings).

Action: The Secretariat will proceed by circular letter to the consultation of the Governing Board members regarding the CSHR application.

## **7. PACE (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) Recommendation on football governance**

Sophie Kwasny informed the Bureau of the follow-up that the Committee of Ministers will give to the Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2221(2022) on Football Governance: Business and Values.

EPAS will be consulted by the Committee of Ministers on the topics mentioned in the recommendation and should be ready to contribute to this request.

At the request of the Chair, the Recommendation will be shared as a separate document.

Action: The Secretariat will share the Recommendation document with the Bureau.

## **8. IPACS (International Partnership on Corruption in Sport)**

Sophie Kwasny gave a short update on the progress made in the framework of IPACS. The IPACS Bureau recently validated the IPACS Benchmark Guidelines for Dimensions A, B and C (respectively Transparency, Integrity and Democracy), which will be shortly published on the EPAS website as drafts, until final approval by the IPACS Steering Committee at the end of 2022.

Task Force 3 is now working on Dimension D (Development and Solidarity) and will then focus on Dimension E (Checks and balances/Control Mechanisms) in the coming months.

The GB bureau took note of the information provided.

## 9. Co-operation projects

Sophie Kwasny gave a short update on the ongoing cooperation projects:

- Child Safeguarding in Sport (CSiS): the project will be extended until June 2022.
- Hate Speech in Sport: the Bureau will receive comprehensive information at the next meeting, with the intent to discuss how it can contribute to the implementation of the project.
- Start to Talk: out of 41 EPAS Member States, only 14 have designated a focal point. With the approval of the Bureau, it is proposed that a new call for focal points be circulated to the Governing Board.
- The Chair recalled the importance of seeking financial support for this initiative, as supported by the Bureau at its last meeting, and will shortly send letters to all 41 members of EPAS.

The GB bureau took note of the information on the cooperation projects and supported the call for the nomination of focal points.

Action: the Secretariat will communicate to the Governing Board the call for nomination of the Start to Talk focal points and ensure that a letter requesting financial support be sent to all capitals.

## 10. Any other business

Francine Hetherington Raveney presented the upcoming Breakfast Roundtable on Women in Sport, which will take place on International Women's Day on 8 March from 9.30 to 11.30 CET.

The event will be public and will be opened by Director General of Democracy Snežana Samardžić-Marković.

Speakers have been selected and mostly confirmed and include, among others, representatives from the Global Observatory for Women, Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity, IWG and the EU High Level Group on Gender Equality.

Further information on the event will be circulated shortly.

Action: the Secretariat will shortly share the invitation to the breakfast Roundtable on Women in Sport.

## 11. Date and place of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 9.00 CET.