

Mr Bjørn BERGE
Deputy Secretary General
Council of Europe
Avenue de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Ref □ DAD-sport 20 SF/AH

Strasbourg, 22 April 2021

Dear Deputy Secretary General,
Dear Mr Berge,

Thank you for your letter of 20 April in which you draw my attention as EPAS Chair to the initiative of a football Super League and its possible consequences on football and sport in general. The EPAS Governing Board members care deeply about the European sporting values as defended and promoted in the European Sports Charter and which will be reinforced with the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of a revised Charter, scheduled for the end of 2021. At the same time, we also recall our shared commitment to the principle of autonomy of the sport movement in Europe as well as the strong commitment of European countries to freedom of association and economic freedoms, while explaining that the Council of Europe and EPAS in particular, is not used to taking position on the format of sports competitions or to intervening in relations between organisations involved in sport.

However, in the light of the common features of a European sport framework and how it is organised that are enshrined in the current draft of the revised European Sports Charter, it seems that the prospect of a European Super League of Football would:

- undermine the financial solidarity from top sport to grassroots sports and across borders
- be in breach of the openness in sports competitions, giving priority to sporting merit
- depart from the traditional organisation of competitions, which are mainly based on a national configuration with competitions at regional, national, continental and global levels
- ignore the regulatory role of the relevant sport governing bodies, and thus threaten the consistent implantation of sport integrity regulations, the coherence of the sports rules and the co-ordination of competition calendars
- disregard social rights by neglecting social dialogue with players and players' union and dialogue with key stakeholders such as fans.

These reasons certainly explain that some governmental authorities have taken a stand on the prospect of European Super League and were critical towards the breakaway clubs.

Following your question, the topic of closed sports competitions will be on the agenda of the joined meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and Consultative Committee on 15 June, which you are of course very much welcome to attend and intervene in should you so wish.

I remain at your disposal should you have any questions about this topic or about EPAS.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Husting', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Alexandre Husting
Chair of the EPAS Governing Board