





Strasbourg, 1 October 2019

EPAS(2019)59

Enlarged Partial Agreement on sport (EPAS)

31st meeting of the Bureau of the EPAS Governing Board

Friday 20 September 2019 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Council of Europe 55 avenue Kléber Paris, France (meeting room no. 2)

Working languages : English and French (simultaneous interpretation provided)

List of Decisions

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened and chaired by Mrs Madeleine Delaperrière, Chair of the Governing Board. She suggested grouping together items on the agenda which could be discussed quickly, so as to leave more time for longer debates on the more complex items.

The Vice-chair, Mr Alexandre Husting, took over the chairing of the meeting from item 6.2.iii onwards.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Bureau adopted the agenda as it appears in Appendix I.

3. Update on member states and organisations of EPAS

3.1 Governing Board

i. New member states

The secretariat updated the Bureau on the state of play concerning contacts with the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Germany, Turkey, Sweden, Italy and the UK. The Bureau also discussed the possible attraction to EPAS of countries like Australia, which was taking steps to ratify the Macolin Convention. The secretariat mentioned that, in addition to taking the decision and allocating financial resources to the EPAS budget, any new states joining needed to ensure they had the human resources allowing them to be fully involved in EPAS.

The Bureau discussed the need for a comprehensive strategy in approaching potential new members. The secretariat said that it prioritised the countries it approached and used the channels of the Committee of Ministers at its disposal. However, a document outlining the way forward would be a useful tool to have, for the secretariat and Bureau members alike, so that it was done in a harmonised way.

ii. Payment of 2019 contributions

The secretariat informed the Bureau that a political solution had been found allowing the Russian Federation to return to the Parliamentary Assembly session in June 2019 and that it had paid its financial contributions for 2019. Some of its contributions owed from 2018 were still unpaid but the payments were ongoing. The 2020-2021 biennium budget had therefore been recalculated based on the full payment of contributions, and no Contingency Plan would be rolled out.

3.2 Consultative Committee

i. New members and requests to join

The Bureau took note of the recent decision taken by the Committee of Ministers on 9 September 2019 to admit the EASM and the IDO to the Consultative Committee, bringing its total number of members up to 29. The secretariat informed the Bureau of recent interest shown by World Taekwondo in submitting an application.

ii. Revision of the Terms of reference

The Bureau took note of the working document comparing the current terms of reference with the new version proposed by the Consultative Committee and welcomed an exchange of views on the proposed modifications with Mrs Irene Suominen, legal advisor (DLAPIL).

The Bureau held a general discussion on whether the Bureau members were representing themselves or their state/organisation. Mrs Suominen said that, under the current rules, when attending Bureau meetings, elected members were acting in a personal capacity and could not be replaced by another colleague from the ministry/organisation; but when in the plenary meeting, they were representing their state/organisation and could therefore be replaced by another representative.

She said that there was no harmonised procedure across the other bodies of the Council of Europe: the Parliamentary Assembly, Congress and Development Bank all used a system with substitutes who were appointed from the beginning; the Venice Commission also has one representative and one substitute per state appointed from the start (although the substitute was not eligible to vote).

The EPAS bodies could bring in a new way of working, but it must be made clear in the rules of procedure. The Bureau acknowledged that it was not always possible to attend all the meetings, and having a replacement attend would be useful, although not ideal for continuity purposes especially when discussing complex issues. It recommended working on this in future when next modifying the rules of procedure.

Regarding the proposed modifications to the Consultative Committee's Terms of Reference, its chair, Jens Sejer Andersen, gave a brief overview of the main proposed changes and the reasons behind them. These were, however, only suggestions, and the final decision would be up to the Governing Board.

The Bureau discussed the overall admissibility criteria for being a member of the CC and decided they needed modifying in order to make the CC more interactive, participative and rich in discussions.

The Bureau highlighted three issues in the proposed ToR which required further drafting (2/3 majority v consensus on decisions; membership admission/exclusion process; composition of the CC) for which solutions could be found within a small working group (composed of Alexandre Husting, Viktoria Slavkova, Jens Sejer Andersen and the secretariat).

Decision: the Bureau decided to set up a small working group to re-draft these three parts of the ToR and asked the secretariat to arrange the first meeting by video-conference as soon as possible, with a view to the ToR proposal being ready before the end of the year.

iii. Update on the situation regarding ICSS

The Bureau took note of the situation regarding this member of the Consultative Committee and the exchange of letters that had taken place between it and the EPAS secretariat, following the publication in November 2018 of a Mediapart article in which the Council of Europe's relationship with the ICSS was depicted as being economically-motivated (according to an alleged quote in the article from an ICSS staff member). ICSS had denied the accusations in the article and said it was considering bringing legal action against Mediapart. The Bureau, in its previous mandate and composition, had decided to postpone its decision regarding ICSS's membership of the Consultative Committee until the outcome of the legal action was known. To date, no legal action has been tabled by ICSS.

With this in mind, the Bureau discussed the impact the situation may have on the continuity of the copublication agreement which EPAS had signed with the ICSS and the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne in 2015, to publish a study on the exchange of information and data protection within the fight against the manipulation of sports competitions. The production of the study was still ongoing, but it had not yet been translated or published. A meeting with experts from various Council of Europe committees is due to take place on 27 September 2019 in order to comment on the manuscript.

The Bureau felt it fair to proceed, for the moment, with the production process of the publication, but to ask for a legal opinion on possible options. The Bureau also decided that the Governing Board should take the decision regarding the ICSS's membership of the Consultative Committee when it was due to be renewed in June 2020.

Decision: the Bureau asked the Secretariat to request a written legal opinion from DLAPIL on the possible renunciation by the Council of Europe of the co-publication agreement.

3.3 Promotion of EPAS

i. Draft promotional leaflet

The Bureau took note of the draft leaflet and the promotional messages it contains, aimed at attracting new members to the partial agreement. It discussed the dissemination of the leaflet and how EPAS could communicate more regularly. The secretariat took note of the comment regarding the type of photographs to be used in the leaflet, as well as the idea of including quotes on the added value of EPAS.

Decision: the Bureau decided to send its comments on the content of the leaflet within two weeks (i.e. by 4 October 2019).

4. Reports and recent meetings

4.1 Lists of decisions of the following meetings:

- i. 30th meeting of the Bureau of the Governing Board, Strasbourg, 19-20 March 2019
- ii. 13th meeting of the Governing Board (joint meeting with the Consultative Committee), Strasbourg, 5-6 June 2019 (draft)
- iii. 11th meeting of the Consultative Committee, Strasbourg, 5 June 2019
- iv. 5th meeting of the IPACS Steering Committee, Paris, 1 July 2019 (draft)

The Bureau took note of these (draft) reports.

4.2 Recent news from the Council of Europe

- i. Committee of Ministers / Parliamentary Assembly
- ii. Other bodies of the Council of Europe
- iii. Sport Conventions
- iv. Secretariat

The Bureau took note of the update given by the secretariat on the latest developments within the Council of Europe. It noted in particular the election in June of Mrs Marija Pejčinović Burić (Croatia) as Secretary General of the Council of Europe, who took up her duties on 18 September 2019, replacing Thorbjørn Jagland at the end of his 10-year stint (2 x 5-year terms of office).

The Bureau also noted the situation regarding signatures and ratifications to the Macolin and St Denis conventions. Spain was the tenth State Party to ratify the St Denis Convention (on 10 September 2019), and so the convention's Committee on Safety and Security at Sport Events will hold its first meeting on 1 April 2020 in Monaco. As for the Macolin Convention, which entered into force on 1 September 2019, no date had yet been fixed for the first meeting of the Committee, although Spring 2020 was a possibility. The Bureau hoped an outcome from the talks within the EU presidency of Finland would end the stalemate to enable EU states to ratify.

5. Evaluation visits

5.1 Visits planned in 2019

i. Bulgaria, 7-9 October

The Bureau noted the intensive two-day programme for the visit. The evaluation team has been set up and the visit was ready to go ahead.

ii. Albania (dates tbc)

The Bureau noted that the secretariat was in contact with the Albanian authorities to pinpoint the objectives of this follow-up visit, and to fix a possible date by the end of the year, if possible.

5.2 Visits planned in 2020

i. Portugal (dates tbc)

The Bureau decided to launch a new call to member states to host evaluation visits in 2020, starting with those which had already shown an interest.

Decision: the Bureau asked the secretariat to launch new individual calls for evaluation visits in 2020, starting with the countries which had already expressed interest.

6. Conferences of Ministers responsible for Sport

6.1 16th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for sport

i. Logistics (date, schedule)

The Bureau took note of the date of the Ministerial Conference, which would be on Thursday 5 November 2020.

- ii. Themes and preparation of documents:
 - a. Revision of the ESC
 - b. Human rights/child protection/gender equality in sport

The Bureau took note of the themes proposed by the secretariat, the draft schedule for preparing the documents, the draft overview and of the list of states and organisations to be invited.

The Bureau approved the topic of theme 1: revision of the European Sports Charter. For theme 2, several suggestions were put forward (e.g. human rights within major sports events, the rights of athletes, achieving sustainable development goals, etc.). The Bureau agreed on human rights with a focus on child protection rather than gender equality, in order to really boost the Start to Talk initiative in more countries and to show the potential for developing more activities.

The Bureau discussed the format of the conference and was in favour of a livelier set-up rather than introductory presentations and speeches. The idea of a panel discussion was put forward, but the Bureau ruled out a workshop-style set up due to the way in which the Ministers' prepared their interventions.

Decision: the Bureau decided to maintain Theme 1 on Strengthening our European common approach to sport (Revision of the European Sports Charter) and Theme 2 on Human rights in sport (for example, Safeguarding children in sport and/or other human rights issues to be identified). The Bureau gave its green light to proceed with the preparation of the conference documents according to the schedule, and to submit the general documents to the GR-C for information.

6.2 Follow up to the $15^{\rm th}$ Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Tbilisi, Georgia, 16 October 2018

i. Revision of the European Sports Charter – next steps in the process

The Bureau took note of document EPAS(2019)54 containing the conclusions from the Workshop held on 11 September in Brussels, a tentative structure of the new charter with potential chapter titles, the schedule of its preparation and the consultation process (leading to possible adoption by the Committee of Ministers at the end of 2021), and the secretariat's opinion on the consultant's recommendations.

Although the outcome of the workshop was to opt for a recommendation rather than a convention, the Bureau noted the lack of discussion during the workshop on the pros and cons of each of these options. Nevertheless, it decided that the secretariat should go ahead with the process and start to prepare the elements for a draft recommendation.

Decision: the Bureau decided to give itself more time to study the consultant's recommendations and to send its comments to the secretariat on Appendix 4 of the document EPAS(2019)54 within two weeks (i.e. by Friday 4 October).

ii. Sport and human rights – Seminar planned on 20 November

The Bureau took note of the working documents for this seminar and the nine themes suggested in the draft programme. The secretariat added that, according to the factsheet, the seminar would be open to any country or organisation interested in the topic.

The Bureau advised the secretariat to remove the text between square brackets in the factsheet, as it wished to keep "the right to sport" as one of the nine topics.

The Bureau agreed that the secretariat could go ahead with publishing the information about the event and consult stakeholders on the nine themes. Following this consultation, only the four most popular themes will be included in the final programme.

iii. IPACS – next steps

The Bureau took note of the recent exchange of e-mails between the EPAS secretariat and the IOC secretariat regarding the wider invitation EPAS sent out to enhance transparency and to increase participation in the European Contact Group, including to members of the Consultative Committee which the IOC secretariat is now disputing.

The Bureau reiterated that the Consultative Committee was an important stakeholder of EPAS. The European Contact Group was set up as an informal internal process as a way to hold dialogue with EPAS stakeholders and to keep up to date with IPACS developments. The Bureau agreed that the ECG was not an official body of IPACS and that no strategic decisions were taken at the ECG meetings.

To avoid any further misunderstanding, the Bureau suggested avoiding short titles such as "IPACS European Contact Group" and to designate the group in a consistent way as the "European Contact Group on IPACS" and as an EPAS-managed working group.

Regarding the continuation of Task Force 3's workplan, the Bureau agreed with the drafting of the common benchmark, the development of implementation guidelines and then a future discussion on monitoring the benchmark. It also agreed with having a fixed time-frame for the Task Force to complete its work according to the schedule presented, and to allow the EPAS resources to be attributed accordingly.

The Bureau was eager to learn more about the IPACS general conference being planned on 15 December 2019 in Abu Dhabi. The secretariat will distribute information once it had received more concrete details from the co-ordinator, the UNODC. The Bureau took note of the possibility of EPAS covering costs for the Bureau members to attend the conference, if the financial resources at the end of the year allowed it.

iv. Kazan Action Plan – state of play regarding Action 3

The Bureau took note of the working documents and of the secretariat's presentation on the ongoing process. It also took note that the next meeting of the Working Group on Action 3 would take place in Paris on 28 October 2019.

v. Reports to the Committee of Ministers

The Bureau took note that the resolutions adopted in Tbilisi in 2018 mention that EPAS should report to the Committee of Ministers on how the resolutions are being implemented. The secretariat suggested reflecting

on this before the next Bureau meeting and possibly including the ministries of foreign affairs as a target audience in its communication strategy.

7. Programme of activities: 2018-2019

7.1 ALL IN: towards gender balance in sport (1 March 2018 - 31 October 2019)

The Bureau took note of the conclusions of the project's closing event, the excellent deliverables produced by the project over the 20 months, and the proposals by the secretariat as follow-up activities. It also took note of the interest being shown by UNESCO on a possible future collaboration to collect more data, should a Global Observatory for Women, Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity be established.

7.2 2019 Activities

The Bureau took note of the 2019 <u>calendar of activities</u> and, in particular, events to which EPAS had been invited between October and December 2019.

Decision: the Bureau decided that members will inform the secretariat if they are interested in representing EPAS at, or participating in, any of the events mentioned in the calendar.

8. Programme of activities: 2020-2021

8.1 New CoE-EU joint project (direct grant agreement/E+)

The Bureau approved the submission to the EU of the joint project description, which, following the survey launched to the Governing Board, focuses on the emotional abuse of children in sport and will aim to set up "child welfare officers" in a number of countries. The next step would be for the secretariat to continue finalising the submission papers and transmit them to the European Commission. If everything runs smoothly, the project could start in March 2020.

8.2 Associate partner in the DE-PASS project

The Bureau approved the draft letter of support proposed by the secretariat.

Decision: the Bureau asked the secretariat to send the letter of support from EPAS to the DE-PASS project owners.

8.3 Overview of 2020 activities

- i. Calendar
- ii. EPAS participation in events organised by third parties

The Bureau took note of the new technological solution the secretariat was proposing to set up in order to plan EPAS and Conventions' meetings and to share the dates of all sport-related meetings with experts. The solution involved installing an iCal link so that experts could, if they wished, insert the Sports meetings into their own Outlook calendar. In the long-term, the calendar could also be shared in a more interactive way on the Sport website.

Decision: the Bureau asked the secretariat to send the iCal link to the Bureau members so that they could test the feasibility of this solution.

iii. Proposal to share themes of responsibility among the Bureau members

The Bureau took note of the 2020-2021 programme of activities and, following a brief "tour de table", certain members showed an interest in the following themes:

- Extreme combat sports and martial arts (Alexey Morozov, Michal Buchel)
- Sports governance observer (Jens Sejer Andersen)
- All In follow-up (Viktoria Slavkova)
- IPACS (Viktoria Slavkova)

9. Miscellaneous

The Bureau noted the presentation by Madeleine Delaperrière (France) on the inter-ministerial sport heritage programme being launched under the auspices of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Decision: the Bureau is asked to send its reactions to the Secretariat by the end of October (putting M. Delaperrière on copy). The Secretariat will produce a summary of the feedback received which will be discussed again by the Bureau at a later stage.

10. Date and place of the next meeting

Decision: the Bureau decided to hold its next meeting on Tuesday 28 January 2020 in Paris.

Appendix I: Agenda

1.	Opening of the meeting The meeting will be opened and chaired by Mrs Madeleine Delaperrière, Chair of the Governing Board	
2.	Adoption of the agenda Action: the Bureau is invited to adopt the agenda and any proposed amendments to it.	EPAS(2019)45
3.	Update on member states and organisations of EPAS 3.4 Governing Board iii. New member states iv. Payment of 2019 contributions Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the update given by the secretariat. 3.5 Consultative Committee i. New members and requests to join Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the update given by the secretariat. ii. Revision of the Terms of reference Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the working document comparing the current terms of reference with the new version proposed by the Consultative Committee; the Bureau is invited to discuss these	EPAS(2019)INF17
	modifications with Mrs Irene Suominen, legal advisor (DLAPIL), and to approve the document for transmission to the Governing Board for its validation by written procedure. iii. Update on the situation regarding ICSS Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the situation regarding this member of the Consultative Committee, and in particular to take a decision on the continuity of the production of the EPAS publication in which ICSS is a partner.	EPAS(2018)INF30
	 3.6 Promotion of EPAS Draft promotional leaflet Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the draft leaflet and to approve the promotional messages it contains, aimed at attracting new members to the partial agreement. 	EPAS(2019)50
4.	Reports and recent meetings 4.1 Lists of decisions of the following meetings: i. 30 th meeting of the Bureau of the Governing Board, Strasbourg, 19-20 March 2019 ii. 13 th meeting of the Governing Board (joint meeting with the Consultative Committee), Strasbourg, 5-6 June 2019 (draft) iii. 11 th meeting of the Consultative Committee, Strasbourg, 5 June 2019	EPAS(2019)30 EPAS(2019)47 EPAS(2019)42

	iv. 5 th meeting of the IPACS Steering Committee, Paris, 1 July	
	2019 (draft)	IPACS(2019)05
	Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of these (draft) reports.	
	 4.2 Recent news from the Council of Europe i. Committee of Ministers / Parliamentary Assembly ii. Other bodies of the Council of Europe iii. Sport Conventions iv. Secretariat 	
	Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the update given by the secretariat on the latest developments within the Council of Europe.	
5.	Evaluation visits 5.3 Visits planned in 2019 i. Bulgaria, 7-9 October ii. Albania (dates tbc) Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the auto-evaluation reports prepared for the visits foreseen in 2019.	EPAS(2019)51 EPAS(2019)52
	5.4 Visits planned in 2020 ii. Portugal (dates tbc) Action: the Bureau is invited to decide on action to take for visits in 2020 (e.g. send out another call to states interested)	
6.	Conferences of Ministers responsible for Sport 6.1 16 th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible	
	for sport ii. Logistics (date, schedule)	EPAS(2019)INF13
	iii. Themes and preparation of documents:a. Revision of the ESCb. Human rights/child protection/gender equality in sport	EPAS(2019)53 EPAS(2019)INF14
	Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the date, schedule and themes proposed by the secretariat and to approve them; the Bureau is invited to give the secretariat the green light to submit this information to the Committee of Ministers.	
	6.2 Follow up to the 15 th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Tbilisi, Georgia, 16 October 2018	EPAS(2018)62rev2
	vi. Revision of the European Sports Charter – next steps in the process Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the conclusions from the	EPAS(2019)54
	Workshop held on 11 September in Brussels, to approve the actions suggested, and to agree on the next steps.	
	vii. Sport and human rights – Seminar planned on 20 November Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the working documents for this seminar and to discuss the nine themes suggested in the draft programme.	EPAS(2019)36rev EPAS(2019)56

	viii.IPACS – next steps Action: the Bureau is invited to approve the next steps in the process concerning the work of Task Force 3. ix. Kazan Action Plan – state of play regarding Action 3 Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the working documents and of the secretariat's presentation on the ongoing process; the Bureau is invited to give its opinion on how the results of Action 3 can be promoted. x. Reports to the Committee of Ministers Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the secretariat's presentation.	IPACS(2019)06 EPAS(2018)40rev1 EPAS(2019)INF03rev1 EPAS(2019)INF02rev
7.	Programme of activities, 2019 2010	
/•	Programme of activities: 2018-2019	
	7.1 ALL IN: towards gender balance in sport (1 March 2018 - 31 October 2019) Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the conclusions of the project's closing event and of the deliverables produced by the project; the Bureau is invited to agree on the next steps and to approve the actions suggested.	EPAS(2019)57
	7.2 2019 Activities Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the 2019 calendar of activities and to decide, where necessary, if EPAS should be represented or participate in certain events.	EPAS(2019)07 EPAS(2019)INF15
8.	Programme of activities: 2020-2021	
	8.1 New CoE-EU joint project (direct grant agreement/E+) Action: the Bureau is invited to approve the submission to the EU of the joint project description.	EPAS(2019)55
	8.2 Associate partner in the DE-PASS project Action: the Bureau is invited to decide if EPAS should write a letter of support to the project owners or if it should become an associate partner to the project.	EPAS(2019)INF16
	8.3 Overview of 2020 activities i. Calendar ii. EPAS participation in events organised by third parties iii. Proposal to share themes of responsibility among the Bureau members Action: the Bureau is invited to take note of the 2020-2021 programme of activities and to decide if themes of responsibility should be shared among Bureau members.	EPAS(2019)33rev

9.	Miscellaneous	
10.	Date and place of the next meeting Action: the Bureau is invited to decide on a date for its next meeting (2019 or 2020).	

Appendix II: List of participants

BELGIUM / BELGIQUE

M. François TRICARICO

Direction des Relations internationales

Ministère de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles

BULGARIA / BULGARIE

Ms Viktoria SLAVKOVA

Director for "European programmes, projects and international cooperation"

Ministry of Youth and Sports

FRANCE / FRANCE

Mme Madeleine DELAPERRIERE (Chair)

Cheffe du bureau des relations internationales, des affaires européennes et des grands événements sportifs internationaux

Ministère de la ville, de la jeunesse et des sports

LUXEMBOURG / LUXEMBOURG

M. Alexandre HUSTING (Vice-chair)

Attaché Education, Jeunesse, Culture et Sport

Représentation permanente du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg auprès de l'Union européenne

RUSSIAN FEDERATION / FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

Mr Alexey MOROZOV

Director Sport Department

Ministry of Sport

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE / COMITE CONSULTATIF

Mr Jens Sejer ANDERSEN (Chair of the EPAS Consultative Committee)

International Director

Danish Institute for Sport Studies

PLAY THE GAME

Mr Michal BUCHEL (Vice-Chair of the EPAS Consultative Committee)

Chief Executive Officer

International SAMBO Federation (FIAS)

EPAS SECRETARIAT / SECRETARIAT DE L'APES

Mr Stanislas FROSSARD

EPAS Executive Secretary

Ms Heather STEWART

EPAS Administrative Assistant

INVITED GUEST / INVITÉE

Mrs Irene SUOMINEN

Legal Advisor

Legal Advice and Litigation Department (DLAPIL)

APOLOGISED / EXCUSES

<u>CROATIA / CROATIE</u> Ms Marija CRNKOVIĆ

Head of Division for Sport Association and International Affairs Ministry of Science, Education and Sports

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

Mr Zoran VEROVNIK

Secretary

Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport