

Strasbourg, 19 December 2018

EPAS(2018)64

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

Ad hoc meeting of the Bureau of the EPAS Governing Board

Tuesday 18 December 2018
10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. (French time)

Via video-conference

Working language: English

List of Decisions

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr Zoran Verovnik, Chair of the Governing Board, who welcomed everyone to the videoconference.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Bureau adopted the agenda with no amendments.

3. Budget and Programme of Activities for 2019

3.1 Budget

The Bureau took note of the oral update by the Secretariat on the current budgetary climate of the Council of Europe and approved the draft downsizing scenario, from mid-2019 onwards, should the Russian Federation not pay its financial contributions and/or leave the Organisation.

The Bureau agreed the Governing Board members should continue to pursue all possibilities to convince non EPAS states to join, especially through bilateral meetings they have with such states.

3.2 Impact on 2019 Programme of Activities

The Bureau discussed the impact of the above-mentioned downsizing exercise on the EPAS Programme of Activities. It took into account the fact that the actions proposed following the Resolutions of the Ministerial Conference (see item 4.2) had not yet been added to the 2019 Programme of Activities, but this would have to be done to implement the decisions taken in Tbilisi.

It took note of the Secretariat's proposal to absorb the proposed 2019 reduction of 49.000€ by a 50/50 split between staff costs and non-staff costs. For the staff, the core team of EPAS would not be affected, but the cut would drastically reduce any temporary reinforcements foreseen. For the 2019 activities, the secretariat proposed to reduce those planned in areas of research and studies, in particular, activities n° 6, 7 and 10 in the table on page 4 of the document EPAS(2018)33rev. Where possible, the secretariat proposed to use its academic network to seek other ways of carrying out these activities.

Decision: the Bureau approved the downsizing scenario as outlined in document EPAS(2018)INF31 and agreed to cut activities n° 6, 7 and 10, unless external resources could be found. It agreed that EPAS should keep its focus on areas where it can have an impact, e.g. the themes of the Ministerial Conference.

4. Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport

4.1 [Report of the Secretary General](#) – Conference of Ministers responsible for sport, Tbilisi, 16 October 2018

The Bureau took note of the report of the Secretary General.

The Bureau discussed the organisational aspects of the Ministerial Conference, congratulating both the Georgian hosts and the EPAS secretariat on its success, thanks to their professionalism and mutual support. The Georgian authorities are willing to share their experience with the next host country, and the Secretariat had also improved its organisational procedural checklist. The Bureau discussed ideas on how the next conference could be set up in order allow for more real debate between ministers (eg. workshops, thematic groups).

4.2 Follow up to the 15th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Tbilisi, 16 October 2018

The draft actions to implement the resolutions as proposed by the Secretariat were approved, noting in particular that key actions, such as the revision of the European Sport Charter and identification of broader issues related to sport and human rights, should be added to the Programme of Activities, and be given appropriate follow up.

Decision: the Bureau approved the actions proposed by the secretariat to implement the resolutions adopted at the 15th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport.

5. Membership of EPAS

Consultative Committee

- International Dance Organisation (IDO)

The Bureau took note of the mixed opinions of the Consultative Committee members on this application.

Decision: the Bureau requested more information regarding the motivation behind this application before the Governing Board could discuss it in plenary.

- Exchange of letters with ICSS following the Mediapart investigation

The Bureau took note of the Mediapart article, as well as the exchange of letters between the ICSS and the EPAS Secretariat. The Bureau considered this to be a serious situation and asked the Secretariat to obtain a legal opinion on the possibility of temporarily suspending ICSS's membership of the Consultative Committee until the facts are clarified. There are not sufficient grounds to withdraw from the co-publication agreement, but the Secretariat is requested to take the necessary steps to ensure the content of this publication will be in line with CoE standards and values.

Decision: the Bureau asked the Secretariat to obtain a legal opinion; it asked the Secretariat to respond to the ICSS letter by expressing disappointment regarding the superficial nature of its reply; it also asked the Secretariat to involve an EPAS Bureau member in the meeting that will review the manuscript of the publication.

6. Any other business

6.1 Committee of Ministers

- [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2018\)12](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the promotion of good governance in sport + [Explanatory Memorandum](#)
- [European Athletics](#) – membership of Consultative Committee

6.2 Consultative Committee – requests for membership

- GAISF

The Bureau took note of these two recent decisions by the Committee of Ministers, as well as the receipt of the new application by GAISF to become a member of the Consultative Committee.

7. Date and place of the next meeting

Decision: the Bureau decided to hold its next meeting in Strasbourg on 19 March (afternoon) and 20 March (all day). This will be preceded by a meeting of the Bureau of the Consultative Committee in the morning of 19 March (and evening of 18 March if necessary).

Appendix I List of participants – connected by videoconference

BUREAU MEMBERS / MEMBRES DU BUREAU

BULGARIA / BULGARIE

Ms Viktoria SLAVKOVA

Director for “European programmes, projects and international cooperation”

Ministry of Youth and Sports

CROATIA / CROATIE

Ms Marija CRNKOVIĆ

Head of Division for Sport Association and International Affairs

Ministry of Science, Education and Sports

FRANCE / FRANCE

Apologised / excusée

GEORGIA / GEORGIE

Ms Manana KAVTARADZE

Deputy Director

International Relations Department

The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport

ICELAND / ISLANDE

Mr Óskar Þór ÁRMANNSSON

Senior Adviser

Department of Cultural Affairs

Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

RUSSIAN FEDERATION / FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

Mr Alexey MOROZOV

Head of the Department for Elite Sport

Ministry of Sport

Accompanied by

Ms Marina SEDUGINA

Expert / Adviser

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

Mr Zoran VEROVNIK (Chair of the EPAS Governing Board)

Secretary

Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and 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
Executive Secretary

Ms Heather STEWART
Administrative Assistant

Appendix II **Annotated Agenda**

1.	<p>Opening of the meeting The meeting will be opened by Mr Zoran Verovnik, Chair of the Governing Board.</p>	
2.	<p>Adoption of the agenda <u>Action</u>: the Bureau is invited to <u>adopt</u> the agenda and any possible amendments.</p>	EPAS(2018)61
3.	<p>Budget and Programme of Activities for 2019</p> <p>3.1 Budget</p> <p><u>Action</u>: the Bureau is invited to <u>take note</u> of the oral update by the Secretariat on the current budgetary climate of the Council of Europe and the implications the downsizing exercise might have on EPAS.</p> <p>3.2 Impact on Programme of Activities</p> <p><u>Action</u>: the Bureau is invited to <u>discuss</u> the impact of the downsizing exercise on the Programme of Activities, given the current budgetary climate.</p>	<p>EPAS(2018)INF31</p> <p>EPAS(2018)33rev</p>
4.	<p>Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport</p> <p>4.1 Report of the Secretary General – Conference of Ministers responsible for sport, Tbilisi, 16 October 2018</p> <p>4.2 Follow up to the 15th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Tbilisi, 16 October 2018</p> <p><u>Action</u>: the Bureau is invited to <u>take note</u> of the draft actions implementing the resolutions as proposed by the Secretariat, and to give its opinion or suggest other appropriate actions where necessary.</p>	<p>CM(2018)155</p> <p>EPAS(2018)62</p>
5.	<p>Membership of EPAS</p> <p>Consultative Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Dance Organisation (IDO) – request to join <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Consultative Committee was asked for its opinion and seven members replied (four in favour, three against); the next step in the procedure is to ask the Governing Board for its decision. • Exchange of letters with ICSS following the Mediapart investigation 	<p>EPAS(2018)INF20 EPAS(2018)INF29</p> <p>EPAS(2018)INF30</p>

	<p><u>Action</u>: the Bureau is invited to <u>take note</u> of the oral update by the Secretariat on these two cases, and to discuss in detail the application of the IDO.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>6.1 Committee of Ministers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)12 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the promotion of good governance in sport + Explanatory Memorandum • European Athletics – membership of Consultative Committee <p>6.2 Consultative Committee – requests for membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GAISF – request to join <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Consultative Committee has been asked for its opinion and has until 6 January to respond; <p><u>Action</u>: the Bureau is invited to <u>take note</u> of the oral update by the Secretariat on these latest developments within the Council of Europe.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Date and place of the next meeting</p> <p><u>Action</u>: the Bureau is invited to <u>decide</u> on the date of its next meeting (proposal by the Secretariat : 19-20 March 2019 in Strasbourg).</p>	