Council of Europe and Sport

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# 19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport

Monaco
4 November 2026

**Restricted Gathering of Heads of Delegations of EPAS Member States**

**Room Le Génois**
**6.30 p.m. – 7.30. p.m.**

**INFORMATION NOTE**

**prepared by**

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport
epas
Accord partiel élargi sur le sport

**Purpose**
This informal gathering will provide an opportunity for EPAS' Heads of Delegations to discuss key issues and exchange views in a spontaneous setting. Participants' feedback and ideas will inform EPAS work across five areas: the European Sports Charter, gender equality, safeguarding, diversity and good governance.

**Format**
The gathering will be opened by Solène Charuau, Chair of the EPAS Governing Board, and Charlotte Girard Fabre, Chair of the EPAS Consultative Council.
Five "cocktail" tables will be available, one for each topic. Each table and its guiding questions will be introduced briefly. Delegates may choose the topic they wish to discuss and may move to another table between the two discussion rounds. Each round will last 15 minutes, with time for a short introduction, open discussion and a brief summary.

**Topics and guiding questions**

- **European Sports Charter:** How can we make the European Sports Charter a stronger common reference for shaping and implementing sport policies across our member States? How can we make better use of the national Overviews and the findings of the European Sports Charter questionnaire to support national policymaking and guide EPAS priorities and activities?

- **Gender equality:** What are the main challenges and priorities for strengthening gender equality in sport today, and where could EPAS make the greatest contribution? In light of the IOC's new policy on the protection of the female category, what legal, human-rights and practical challenges may arise for States and sports organisations and what role could EPAS play in facilitating dialogue and supporting them in addressing these challenges?

- **Safeguarding:** What are the main obstacles to developing and implementing safeguarding policies? Which communication, training or guidance tools would be most useful to support the development and implementation of child safeguarding policy, and how could EPAS make them available or adapt them to national needs?

- **Diversity:** Which populations should be prioritised to widen access to physical activity and sport, particularly during emergencies such as war, climate-related hazards and pandemics, and how can EPAS support policies that build resilience for these groups and affected communities? What governance arrangements - including legal and policy frameworks, strategies and plans, and coordination mechanisms - should public authorities and sports organisations establish to maintain access to sport during emergencies and support recovery?

- **Good governance:** How can public authorities and other stakeholders encourage and assess whether sports organisations - particularly those receiving public support - comply with recognised good-governance and integrity standards, and support improvements where gaps are identified? What issues should be addressed with the international sports movement in the framework of IPACS, and how can international cooperation and tools such as the IPACS Sport Governance Benchmark advance integrity and good governance in sport?

**Programme**

| Time | Activity |
|---|---|
| 18:30–18:40 | Welcome by Solène Charuau, Chair of EPAS Governing Board and Charlotte Girard Fabre, Chair of EPAS Consultative Committee |
| 18:40–18:45 | Opening remarks |
| 18:45–18:50 | Introduction of the five tables and guiding questions |
| 18:50–19:05 | First round of discussions |
| 19:05–19:10 | Transition between tables |
| 19:10–19:25 | Second round of discussions |
| 19:25–19:30 | Conclusions |

The programme provides for two 15-minute discussion rounds, with a five-minute transition between them.