

Strasbourg, 22 June 2026

EPAS(2026)57

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

18th Plenary meeting of the Consultative Committee

Strasbourg, 27 May 2026

14.00 – 17.30

[Draft] Meeting report

EPAS(2026)57

1. Opening of the meeting

Charlotte Girard-Fabre, Chair of the Consultative Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

EPAS Secretariat introduced the two observers: **Christian Saint Lézer** representing the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (CINGOs) of the Council of Europe and **Maurizio Cuttin** representing the Advisory Council on Youth.

The quorum was confirmed by the Secretariat. The list of participants is appended to this report (see Appendix II).

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without any modifications (see Appendix I).

3. CC membership

Overview of the CC membership

Renewals

Eleven out of twelve possible renewals were received and approved for a three-year term:

- **European athletes as student network (EAS)**
- **European Paralympic Committee (EPC)**
- **European Athletes and Players Association (EAPA)**
- **European Physical Education Association (EUPEA)**
- **Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE)**
- **International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE)**
- **International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA)**
- **International School Sport Federation (ISF)**
- **Play the Game (PTG)**
- **Sports Rights Owners Coalition (SROC)**
- **The European Olympic Committees (EOC)**

The **European Fair Play Movement (EFPM)** was not renewed but will remain a member until the end of their current three-year term (August 21, 2026).

New members

The revised Terms of Reference of the Consultative Committee increased its maximum membership from 30 to 35 organisations. In parallel, the 2026 renewal process led to one existing member not being renewed. As a result, a maximum of six places became available within the Consultative Committee.

The level of interest in joining the Consultative Committee was particularly encouraging, with more eligible applications received than available places, demonstrating the growing visibility and attractiveness of the Committee's work.

The Consultative Committee held a non-binding advisory vote on the eligible candidates. Taking this advice into account, the Governing Board selected six organisations to be proposed for membership. Their admission will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for final approval by the Committee of Ministers at its next meeting (October 2026).

The six organisations selected for submission are as follows:

- **Europe Active**
- **European Association of Sport Employers (EASE)**
- **European Federation for Company Sport (EFCS)**
- **European Network of Outdoor Sports (ENOS)**
- **ParaVolley Europe**
- **UNESCO**

4. Elections

Election of the Chair

One candidacy was submitted for the position, and the candidate was invited to present their motivation to the Committee.

The results of the votes received from 27 sports organisations were the following:

Candidate	Total number of voters	Votes in favour	Result
Charlotte Girard Fabre	27	26	Simple majority (elected)

Charlotte Girard-Fabre (IFSO) was re-elected Chair of the CC.

Election of the Vice Chair

Two candidacies were submitted for the position, and the candidates were invited to present their motivation to the Committee.

The results of the votes received from 27 sports organisations were the following:

Candidates	Total number of voters	Votes in favour	Result
Annamarie Phelps (EOC)	26	12	
Patrik Perosa (IDO)	26	16	Simple majority (elected)

Patrik Perosa (IDO) was elected Vice-Chair of the CC.

Election of the members of the Bureau

Eight candidacies were submitted for the position, and the candidates were invited to present their motivation to the Committee.

The results of the votes received from 27 sports organisations were the following:

Candidates	Total number of voters	Votes in favour	Rank
Guido Battaglia (CSHR)	26	19	2 (elected)
Raymon Blondel (EPC)	26	7	7
Marie Denitton (ENGSO)	26	12	4 (elected)
James Oglivie (UEFA)	26	13	3 (elected)
Annamarie Phelps (EOC)	26	21	1 (elected)
Andrej Pisl (EUSA)	26	11	5
Melissa Sassi (Peace & Sport)	26	4	8
Patrick Stolpmann (ICSSPE)	26	10	6

In accordance with the Terms of Reference (Article 3.4 f)), the four Bureau member positions were filled by the candidates receiving the highest number of votes:

- **Annamarie Phelps (EOC)**
- **Guido Battaglia (CSHR)**
- **James Oglivie (UEFA)**
- **Marie Denitton (ENGSO)**

Election of the Gender equality rapporteur

Marie Denitton was the only candidate to present her candidature. All members of the CC agreed to vote by a show of hands.

Marie Denitton was elected by the majority of the 27 sports organisations as Gender Equality Rapporteur.

5. European Sports Charter Working Group

Missions and mandate of the Working Group (WG)

Guido Battaglia, acting as the CC representative on the WG, delivered an extensive report on the European Sports Charter Working Group, which concluded its three-year mandate in December 2025. He detailed the group's success in collecting national questionnaires from thirty-one out of forty-two member states, emphasising that this work is vital for identifying how countries prioritise and implement charter principles. One of the most significant procedural changes was the adoption of a

two-year update cycle for these questionnaires, now strategically aligned with the years of the ministerial conferences.

Battaglia also highlighted the development of a new visual format for national overviews, to provide a more accessible 3-page style summary of data. These National Overviews will also be updated on a biannual basis in line with the Ministerial conferences.

The working group also oversaw the tools developed to promote the European Sports Charter which are now available on a new webpage dedicated to the ESC. Among them will be the National Overviews (only those approved by our member states), a video, translated version of the ESC, reports from Support and Follow-up visits, etc.

6. ESC Support & follow-up visits

The Secretariat provided an update of the objective, format and calendar of previous and future visits.

Recent and upcoming visits include:

- 2025
 - Ireland (March) – CC member: Charlotte Girard Fabre (IFSO);
 - Greece (June) – CC member: Jens Sejer Andersen (PTG);
- 2026
 - Monaco (March) – CC member: Guido Battaglia (CSHR), rapporteur: Charlotte Girard Fabre (IFSO)
 - Armenia (July) – CC member: Patrik Perosa (IDO)
 - Montenegro (September) – CC member: Anton Behrens (EASM); rapporteur: Annamarie Phelps (EOC TBD)

Participant testimonials added insights into the value and challenges of these visits:

- Jens Sejer Andersen shared a brief reflection on his visit to Greece. He emphasised that these visits provide an invaluable opportunity to reflect on one's own national practices through the lens of another country's challenges.
- Guido Battaglia spoke about the visit to Monaco, recommending the experience to all members as extremely rewarding.

The Secretariat then asked for any volunteers to participate in the visits on behalf of the CC. The following members raised their hands:

- Raymon Blondel (EPC)
- Xavier Malenfer (FIA)
- Patrick Stolpmann (ICSSPE)
- Melissa Sassi (Peace and Sport)
- Mark Lichtenhein (SROC)
- Tess Harmand (Alice Milliat)
- Antonio Tessitore (ENSE)
- Martina Garziera (ISF)
- Jens Sejer Andersen (PTG)
- Aila Ahonen (EASM)
- Charlotte Girard Fabre (IFSO)

The Secretariat then asked for a show of hands of possible rapporteurs (this role is assigned to CC members or outside consultants)

- Raymon Blondel (EPC)
- Annamarie Phelps (EOC)
- Xavier Malenfer (FIA)
- Melissa Sassi (Peace and Sport)
- Mark Lichtenhein (SROC)
- Charlotte Girard Fabre (IFSO)

7. Events

The Secretariat provided an update on key EPAS events planned for 2026, including the annual joint plenary meeting with the Governing Board and the forthcoming Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport.

Members were informed of the arrangements for the Ministerial Conference, including opportunities for participation by Consultative Committee members with particular mention of the next CC meeting which would take place on 3 November in Monaco. A discussion followed on the participation of observers and youth delegates. Clarifications were provided regarding the invitation process and the practical arrangements for youth participation. The Secretariat indicated that further information would be communicated once confirmed.

8. Working Group on the Autonomy of Sport and Good Governance

The Secretariat provided an update on the work of the Working Group on the Autonomy of Sport and Good Governance. Members were informed that work on the draft recommendation on the autonomy of sport is nearing completion, with a view to its submission to the Committee of Ministers in 2026. Preparatory work on a second recommendation addressing good governance is expected to commence later in the year.

The Secretariat also informed members of a vacancy among the 10 CC members within the Working Group and announced that a call for candidates would be launched to fill the position. Members were further informed of the Working Group's agreed approach to ensuring coherence between the recommendations on autonomy and good governance.

9. Presentation by the two members with observer status

The Chair introduced the two observers, noting that Christian Saint-Lézer represented the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations (COING) and Maurizio Cuttin represented the Advisory Council on Youth, a recently added non-voting but significant role for the committee.

Youth perspective

Maurizio Cuttin presented the Council of Europe Youth Perspective Reference Framework, adopted at the Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth in 2025. He outlined the framework's objective of

ensuring that the experiences, needs and interests of young people are taken into account throughout the policy cycle and highlighted opportunities to further integrate the youth perspective into the work of the Consultative Committee.

Members exchanged views on the implementation and impact of youth participation mechanisms and shared examples of good practices from their respective organisations. Suggestions were made on how to further strengthen youth engagement within EPAS activities and governance structures.

COING

Christian Saint-Lézer presented the work of the Sport and Human Rights Committee, established in 2024 to promote social justice, inclusion and access to sport. He outlined key challenges identified by the Committee, including declining levels of physical activity among young people, discrimination and ethical concerns in sport.

Members were informed of the Committee's ongoing initiatives, notably the development of guidelines for sports organisations and the Charter of the Young European Athlete, aimed at promoting inclusive, ethical and rights-based approaches within sport. The ensuing discussion focused on the practical implementation of these initiatives and broader challenges related to access to sport and physical activity for young people.

10. Tour de table

To ensure the meeting concluded on time, the Chair proposed that individual oral updates be replaced by a one-page written summary that each organisation can submit to the Secretariat. This proposal was accepted by the members. An email will be sent by the Secretariat shortly.

11. Any other business

Hugh Torrance announced the completion of the draft toolkit for transgender and intersex people in sport, thanking the CC members who assisted in the analysis and focus groups.

The Secretariat then announced several staff changes, including the departures of Emma Zanichelli, Despina Tramountani, and Cassandra Mactavish, who are moving to new roles within the Council of Europe.

12. Date and place of the next meeting

The next CC meeting will be held on November 3, 2026, in Monaco, during the ministerial conference.

Appendix I - Agenda

1.	Opening of the meeting
2.	Adoption of the agenda
3.	CC membership 3.1. Overview of the CC membership 3.1.1. Renewals 3.1.2. New members
4.	Elections 4.1. Information on the organisation of the elections 4.2. Elections 4.2.1. Election of the Chair 4.2.1.1. Information on candidatures received in writing 4.2.1.2. Oral nominations of candidates 4.2.1.3. Introduction round of candidates 4.2.2. Election of the Vice-Chair 4.2.2.1. Information on candidatures received in writing 4.2.2.2. Oral nominations of candidates 4.2.2.3. Introduction round of candidates 4.2.3. Election of the 4 members of the Bureau 4.2.3.1. Information on candidatures received in writing 4.2.3.2. Oral nominations of candidates 4.2.3.3. Introduction round of candidates 4.2.4. Election of the Gender Equality Rapporteur 4.2.4.1. Information on candidatures received in writing 4.2.4.2. Oral nominations of candidates
5.	Coffee break
6.	European Sports Charter Working Group 5.1 Updates
7.	European Sports Charter Support & Follow up 7.1. Updates
8.	Events 8.1. Youth event, 26 May 2026 8.2. 20th Joint meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and the EPAS Consultative Committee, 27-28 May Strasbourg 8.3. Annual meeting of the Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport, 11-12 June, Strasbourg/Paris 8.4. 19th CoE Conference of ministers responsible for sport, 3-4 Nov. 26, Monaco
9.	Working Group on the Autonomy of Sport and Good Governance
10.	Presentation by the two members with observer status ○ COING

	○ Youth perspective
11.	Tour de table
12.	Any other business
13.	Date and place of the next meeting ○ 19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Monaco, 3 November, 10.00-11.30am

Appendix II – List of Participants

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE / COMITÉ CONSULTATIF

CHAIR

International Federation for Sports Officials (IFSO)

Charlotte GIRARD FABRE

Secretary General & CEO

Gwenda STEVENS

President

VICE-CHAIR

International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA)

Mogens KIRKEBY

President

MEMBERS OF THE CC

Alice Milliat Association

Tess HARMAND

Directrice Générale

Executive Director

Alexandre CHARRIER

Head of European Projects

Centre for Sport and Human Rights (CSHR)

Guido BATTAGLIA

Head of Policy & Outreach

European Fair Play Movement (EFPM)

(apologised / excusé)

European Athlete as Student Network (EAS)

Laura CAPRANICA

President

European Association for Sport Management (EASM)

Aila AHONEN

President

Anton BEHRENS
Secretary General

European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF)

Hugh TORRANCE
Co-President

European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO)

Marie DENITTON
Office Director

Theo NEYENHUIS
Secretary General

European Network of Sport Education (ENSE)

Antonio TESSITORE
President

European Olympic Committees (EOC / COE)

Annamarie PHELPS
Vice Chair of the British Olympic Association

European Athletes and Players Association (formerly EU Athletes)
(apologised / excusé)

European Paralympic Committee (EPC / CPE)

Raymon BLONDEL
President

European University Sports Association (EUSA)

Andrej PISL
Projects & Policy Manager

European Athletic Association (European Athletics)
(apologised / excusé)

European Physical Education Association (EUPEA)
(apologised / excusé)

The International Automobile Federation (FIA)

Xavier MALENFER
Director of Institutional and International Relations

Football Against Racism (FARE)

William GAILLARD
Board member

FIBA – International Basketball Federation

(apologised / excusé)

International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE / CIEPSS)

Patrick STOLPMANN

Executive Director

International Dance Organization (IDO)

Patrik PEROSA

Advisor to the President

International School Sport Federation (ISF)

Martina GARZIERA

Head of Protocol and Partnership

Panathlon International (PI)

Pierre ZAPPELLI

Past-President

Peace and Sport

Mélissa SASSI

International Relations and Advocacy Junior Manager

Play The Game (PTG)

Jens Sejer ANDERSEN

International Director

RUGBY EUROPE

Pavel MYSAK

General Secretary

Sports Rights Owners Coalition (SROC)

Mark LICHTENHEIN

Chairman

TAFISA EUROPE

Janez SODRŽNIK

President

Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)

James OGILVIE

EU & Governmental Affairs Manager

World Snowboard Federation (WSF)

(apologised / excusé)

OBSERVERS

Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (CINGOs) of the Council of Europe

Christian SAINT LEZER

Advisory Council on Youth

Maurizio CUTTIN

EPAS SECRETARIAT / SECRÉTARIAT DE L'APES

Cassandra MACTAVISH

Senior Project Officer / Co-ordinator Consultative Committee

Emma ZANICHELLI

Communications Officer

Léonie ASSIER

Trainee