

Strasbourg, 14 October 2026

EPAS(2026)71

Meeting of the EPAS Governing Board Bureau

Friday 18 September 2026

11 am – 12.25 pm CET

Online (Teams platform)

Working language: English

REPORT

Participants

Governing Board (GB): Solène Charuau (France, Chair), Ioanna Paraskevopoulou (Cyprus, Vice-Chair), Antonio Parrilla (Italy, Member), Simon De Coster (Belgium, Member), Michael Landau (Monaco, MSL19), Florian Botto (Monaco, MSL19)

Consultative Committee (CC): Charlotte Girard-Fabre (IFSO, Chair)

Secretariat: Stanislas Frossard, Roman Chlapak, Elena Casero, Céline Guth, Caroline Dollet, Kateryna Lavryk

Apologised: Patrik Perosa (IDO, Vice-Chair), Marija Jurčević (Croatia, Member)

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Solène Charuau.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted as circulated.

3. Adoption of the draft report of previous meeting

In the absence of comments, the report of the previous meeting was considered adopted.

4. 19th Council of Europe Conference of ministers responsible for sport (MSL19), Monaco, 4 November 2026 – Draft Resolution

The Bureau examined the outstanding provisions of the draft resolution for the 19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, to be held in Monaco on 4 November 2026. The Secretariat reported that more than 30 contributions had been received during the consultation and that most had already been incorporated. The provisions requiring further consideration were discussed by the Bureau.

Research, data and safeguarding measures

The Bureau first examined a provision inviting member States to encourage research and the dissemination of findings concerning violence and abuse against children. The Secretariat explained that Türkiye had expressed reservations about referring expressly to the collection and disaggregation of data according to LGBTQI+ status.

The Bureau agreed to retain a general formulation inviting member States to promote research and the dissemination of findings on the prevalence, consequences and risk factors of violence and abuse against children, and on the effectiveness of safeguarding measures. The text would refer in particular to sexual violence, gender-based violence against girls and technology-facilitated violence.

The Bureau supported wording providing that data should, where appropriate, be disaggregated according to relevant characteristics, with due regard for children's privacy and data protection.

Solidarity with Ukraine and the representation of Russia and Belarus in international sport

A substantial discussion focused on proposals concerning Ukraine and the participation or representation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in international sport, following the comments to the draft resolution presented by Ukraine.

The Bureau agreed that the provisions on the condemnation the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine and on the representation of the Russian Federation and Belarus should be presented in two separate paragraphs.

The paragraph on Ukraine should retain a clear link between the war of aggression, solidarity with Ukraine and the serious abuses and violations affecting children's human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The paragraph on the Russian Federation and Belarus should distinguish between State representation and the participation of individual athletes. The agreed drafting approach was that the Russian Federation and Belarus should not be represented in sport, while any participation by athletes from those countries would be subject to strict neutrality conditions, including the absence of State symbols. The wording would be circulated for further consultation.

The Bureau decided not to add a reference to Gaza and Israel to the resolution at this stage. It agreed that elements should nevertheless be prepared for a possible response if the issue were raised during the meeting of senior officials.

Intersectional discrimination and vulnerable groups

The Bureau agreed to retain standard Council of Europe terminology referring to an intersectional approach and to the heightened risks faced by children and young people with particular characteristics. These characteristics include disability, gender identity, sex characteristics, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, religion, migration status, social origin, language and birth status.

The Secretariat would verify the current positions of potentially concerned member States, while retaining the proposed wording for the next consultation.

Technology-facilitated violence and abuse

The Bureau agreed to replace references to "cyberbullying" and "cyber violence" with the broader Council of Europe terminology "technology-facilitated violence and abuse". It supported cooperation with relevant Council of Europe bodies.

The Bureau agreed that the issue of trafficking in children in sport should be addressed in greater detail, if appropriate, in the context of developing a possible recommendation rather than in the general ministerial resolution. The relevant paragraphs would therefore be revised and, where appropriate, merged.

Safeguarding officers and cooperation mechanisms

The Bureau agreed that the text should promote cooperation between child safeguarding officers, national authorities, umbrella sports organisations and relevant international bodies. It requested that the wording be simplified and clarified so that safeguarding officers would not appear to operate in isolation.

Children's health, physical activity and sedentary behaviour

The Bureau supported Cyprus' proposal to invite States to promote children's and young people's health through safe and inclusive participation in sport and physical activity, while reducing sedentary behaviour. The wording would be revised for linguistic clarity.

Inclusion of displaced children, including children from Ukraine

The Bureau agreed that the reference to displaced children and young people, including those from Ukraine, should be included in the paragraph on safe, inclusive and equitable access to sport and physical activity. The final wording should also retain references to accessible and affordable facilities and activities, equal opportunities and non-discriminatory participation.

E-sport and online gaming

The Bureau decided not to accept Mission 89's suggestion to include specific references to e-sports and online gaming at this stage. It concluded that the relevant concerns were adequately addressed by the broader references to technology-facilitated violence and abuse, and that there was no consensus on classifying e-sports as a sport.

Injury and concussion prevention

The Bureau agreed to retain the broader reference to injury and concussion prevention.

Next steps and consultation process

The Secretariat indicated that the revised draft resolution would be submitted to the next meeting of the GRC, scheduled for 6 October 2026. The outcome of the Bureau's discussion would also be circulated to members of the EPAS Governing Board and to Council of Europe member States that are not EPAS member States.

A deadline of 20 October 2026 was envisaged for receiving further comments.

5. Any other Business

No other business was raised.

6. Date, time and place of the next meeting

The Bureau agreed that a further meeting should be held after the GRC meeting and before the ministerial conference. The next Bureau meeting was scheduled for 13 October 2026 at 10 a.m.

The Chair thanked the participants for their active and constructive contributions and closed the meeting.

Appendix

Agenda

1.	Welcome	
2.	Adoption of the agenda	EPAS(2026)68
3	Adoption of the draft report of the previous meeting	EPAS(2026)67
4.	19 th Council of Europe Conference of ministers responsible for sport (MSL19), Monaco, 4 November 2026 ➤ Draft Resolution	MSL19(2026)5
5.	Any other business	
6.	Date, time and place of the next meeting	