

Strasbourg, 27 August 2008

EPAS (2008) 24

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

Second Meeting of the EPAS Governing Board

Strasbourg, 21 and 22 April 2008

Report

1. Opening of the meeting

Krisztina Gontér (Hungary), Chair of the EPAS, opened the meeting and welcomed the representatives of the member states and ENGSO, as well as the observers from the Russian Federation and UEFA.

Ralf-René Weingärtner, Director of Youth and Sport, was pleased to announce that 24 countries had joined the EPAS, and others were progressing towards membership. He referred to the conference on education and sport, held jointly by the Slovakian authorities and the Council of Europe in Bratislava on 17 and 18 April 2008.

He hoped that the Governing Board's discussion would be rewarding, and introduced the new Executive Secretary of the EPAS, Mr Stanislas Frossard.

The Governing Board of the EPAS welcomed the representatives of the Enlarged Partial Agreement's member states and the observers from the Russian Federation, ENGSO and UEFA (see the list of participants in Appendix 2).

2. Adoption of the agenda

Raija Mattila (Finland) asked why the EPAS's rules of procedure were not on the agenda. She would like annotated agendas to be prepared for all future Governing Board meetings, as they used to be for meetings of the CDDS.

Stanislas Frossard (Secretariat) noted this request and explained that the rules of procedure had not yet been adopted but were to be discussed at the next meeting of the EPAS Bureau.

The EPAS Governing Board adopted the meeting agenda, which is in Appendix 1 to this report.

3. Reports of the meetings of the Bureau of the EPAS Governing Board on 12 February and 10 April 2008

The EPAS Governing Board took note of the reports of the meetings of the Governing Board's Bureau on 12 February and 10 April 2008, as set out in documents EPAS (2008) 7 and EPAS (2008) 13 respectively.

4. Information on the EPAS: update on EPAS membership including requests for observer status

Kalliopi Nedelkos (Greece) said that observer status should be regarded as a step towards accession.

Peter de Klerk (Netherlands) hoped that the deferral of admission of applicant NGOs would not be regarded as an indication that admission would be refused.

Trond Jorgen Glasser (Norway) said that since it had not yet been decided how the Consultative Committee would be organised, it would be better to clarify the situation and wait a few months before accepting applicant organisations.

Raija Mattila (Finland) asked for an acknowledgement of receipt, expressing a positive message and explaining the next stages in the proceedings, to be sent to the two organisations which had applied for membership of the Consultative Committee.

Zoran Verovnik (Slovenia) emphasised that setting up the Consultative Committee would be one of the keys to establishing dialogue with the sports movement.

The EPAS Governing Board:

- **took note of the oral report by the Secretariat on the latest membership of the EPAS and the requests for observer status;**
- **agreed to the Czech Republic's request to become an observer to the EPAS.**

5. Consideration of the Congress's recommendation and preparation of a draft reply from the Governing Board

The Secretariat announced that the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities had adopted Recommendation 233 (2008) on integration through sport. Representatives were invited to make comments on this text. The EPAS's reply would be drafted by the Secretariat and submitted to the Bureau.

The Governing Board took note of the Congress recommendation, as set out in document CM Rec 233 (2008) 13, and asked the Bureau to draft a reply.

6. Follow-up to the 2008 programme; EPAS budget

Peter de Klerk asked for the amount allocated for working group activities to be kept at a reasonable level, as in the current version of the budget. He asked if the level of contributions for 2009 was already known.

Jean-Luc Janiszewski (France) asked for the budget to be set out according to the EPAS's priorities. He welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to be open but called for clarification of the allocation according to priorities of all the amounts in the budget.

Of all the activities in 2008, the Ministerial Conference should be considered the absolute priority; the funds required for its organisation should be guaranteed and extra money should be assigned to the purpose, if necessary. Additional resources deriving from the accession of new members should be allocated to projects and activities.

The Secretariat confirmed that the current layout of the budget was consistent with the accounting models and rules which applied to all partial agreements. The clarifications that had been requested would be given, showing how funds were allocated to each budget item according to the priorities.

For the purposes of the 2009 budget, **Switzerland**, supported by **France**, requested simulations reflecting all the possibilities.

The Netherlands agreed that additional resources deriving from the accession of new members could be allocated if necessary to the organisation of the Ministerial Conference. There was no objection in principle to additional funds being paid into a special account to finance projects, but this decision should be deferred until an assessment of the contributions for 2009 had been made.

France welcomed the idea of a meeting open to non-members to allow an exchange of views on the preparation of the Ministerial Conference, but requested that the costs of this meeting not be financed by the EPAS budget.

The **Secretariat** said that the costs of this meeting were limited to interpreting costs and that they could be charged to another budget of the Directorate General so as not to detract from the EPAS's ability to offer interpretation at its meetings or activities.

A further discussion on budgetary and financial matters was held with Ms Françoise Prinz, Head of the Budget, Accounting and Linguistic Services Department, at the beginning of the meeting on 22 April.

Françoise Prinz (Secretariat) confirmed that the budget was set out in the same way for all partial agreements. She agreed that pensions contributions should be included among staffing costs and proposed that the layout should be altered accordingly. The contribution to the ordinary budget was calculated on the basis of the costs of the Directorate of Administration and Logistics (on items such as buildings and their maintenance, human resources management, financial services and language services) divided up according to the number of staff members benefiting, with an amount per staff member charged to each partial agreement.

It had been agreed that the costs of partial agreements should be covered by the partial agreements themselves.

The calculation was made by the Budget Committee and validated by the Committee of Ministers. The proportion of the total budget of the various partial agreements that this contribution to the ordinary budget represented depended on the total amount of the budgets and on the number of staff employed by the partial agreement concerned. With regard to the apportionment of members' contributions, Ms Prinz explained that account had to be taken not only of the anticipated price rises and the change in the number of members of the partial agreement, but also of the states' rates of contribution, updated in line with parameters such as their population and their domestic product.

Ms Prinz said that she would check whether the special account provided for by the EPAS Statute was already open or if it could only be opened following a decision by the statutory committee.

As to the allocation of additional resources such as those deriving from the accession of new member states to the current budget, it was possible, under a decision already taken on the 2008 budget, to update the budget in line with actual receipts.

Ms Prinz confirmed that 2009 budget contribution scenario would be prepared as soon as possible.

In reply to a question from **Luxembourg**, she said that at the end of the financial year, the statutory committee would have to decide when adopting the accounts how any outstanding balance should be allocated. Any such balance could either be repaid to the states which had contributed to that year's budget (by deducting it from their contribution for the following year) or paid into the special account.

The EPAS Governing Board:

- **held an extensive discussion on the 2008 programme of activities;**
- **thanked the Bureau and Secretariat for presenting the 2008 budget in detail in document EPAS (2008)17 rev;**
- **was pleased to learn that an additional sum of €43,244.08 had been added to the EPAS's 2008 budget and instructed the Secretariat to investigate the possibility of opening a special account for the EPAS into which the annual contributions of the new member countries (Liechtenstein, Monaco and Sweden) could be paid;**
- **agreed to allocate the sum of €30 000 left over from the symposium held as part of the Council of Europe's campaign against racism and discrimination in sport to the work in preparation for the 11th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Greece);**
- **agreed with the Bureau's decision to ask the Secretariat to use these additional resources, if necessary, for the implementation of the 2008 programme of activities.**

7. Consideration of the draft budget and priorities for work in 2009

Raija Mattila (Finland) said that follow-up to the Ministerial Conference should be considered the first priority, and that a degree of flexibility should be retained so that the new members' expectations could be taken into account. She asked how the work on combating discrimination was to be shared out between the EPAS and the Standing Committee of the European Convention on Spectator Violence. Many other organisations were highly active in this area. In her opinion, preference should be given to standard-setting and monitoring activities.

With regard to the division of tasks with the T-RV Standing Committee, **the Secretariat** explained that the CDDS had focussed on social cohesion through sport, integration through sport and the promotion of diversity through sport (i.e. promoting positive aspects), whereas the T-RV Standing Committee had concentrated more on combating manifestations of racism, particularly among spectators (i.e. combating negative aspects). However, these were two sides of the same coin. Since the T-RV's resources were very limited and it was required to deal with so many issues relating to its convention, a helping hand from the EPAS with awareness-raising activities would be welcome, enabling these challenges to be met more successfully.

Pascal Chatelain (Switzerland) said that he would like the EPAS to provide a forum for dialogue and pooling experience in areas causing concern to member states. Round tables or other forms of information exchange could be organised on a flexible basis (without long-term planning of themes), at the instigation of individual states. The EPAS offered a means of exchanging experience and ideas on current affairs, such as those under discussion in national parliaments. Several sports authorities had

recently decided to consider the promotion of sport among children as a means of combating obesity, for example.

Peter de Klerk (Netherlands) warned against the risks of duplication, bearing in mind the fact that the European Union was already highly active in the sport and health field.

Kalliopi Nedelkos (Greece) said that such informal exchanges would be a means of involving the European Commission, so that it could describe its own ideas and activities. These round tables could be open to non-member countries and NGOs.

Other national delegations, as well as ENGSO, called for an open approach to such forums, which could also involve the sports movement and cover various topics, such as the voluntary sector, management of facilities, self-regulation of the sports movement, good governance in sport and gender mainstreaming in sport.

The Secretariat proposed that a round table for EPAS experts should be included on the 2009 list of activities.

Ilham Madatov (Azerbaijan) urged that assistance activities should not be done away with and that seminars should not be ruled out.

Alex Philips (UEFA) emphasised that integration through sport and the fight against discrimination were very important. The sports movement did not hold all the cards, so it appreciated the Council of Europe's efforts in this area.

Various delegations (France, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway) expressed support for the following principles:

- EPAS priorities should be framed in a way that reflected the CDDS's positive approach: it was better to refer to diversity and intercultural dialogue through sport than the fight against racism;
- EPAS activities should reflect the Council of Europe's fundamental values and avoid duplicating other organisations' activities;
- priority should be given to political issues, particularly the policy proposals to be made at the Ministerial Conference relating to ethics and autonomy in sport;
- the EPAS programme of activities could also contain a permanent action line referring to the development of the EPAS and its statutory meetings.

The EPAS Governing Board

- **took note of the oral report by the Secretariat and the representative of the Directorate of Finance on the preliminary draft budget and the 2009 programme of activities;**
- **was pleased to note that the draft 2009 programme of activities table included activities proposed as a follow-up to the 11th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, to be held in Athens from 10 to 12 December 2008;**
- **asked the Secretariat to prepare and distribute the various 2009 budget simulations;**
- **took note of the preparation of the 2009 budget, as set out in document EPAS (2008)18;**

- took note of the progress made by the Bureau in 2008 on the future activities and priority aims of the EPAS, as set out in document EPAS (2008)15;
- stressed the importance of standard-setting and monitoring activities for the EPAS's programme of activities;
- endorsed the Swiss representative's proposal to include *ad hoc* practical exchanges on current issues on the programme of activities;
- agreed to propose the following activities for 2009:
 - o follow-up to the 11th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, to be held in Athens from 10 to 12 December 2008, with particular emphasis on "ethics in sport" and "autonomy in sport";
 - o the contribution of sport to integration and intercultural dialogue;
- instructed the Bureau to work closely with the Secretariat to draw up the detailed budget for the 2009 programme of activities, based on the draft table in document EPAS (2008)19.

8. Preparation of the 11th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Athens, 11-12 December

Stavros Douvis (Greece), Secretary General of the Greek Ministry of Sport, described the arrangements for the 11th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport to be held in Athens from 10 to 12 December 2008. His talk was supplemented by a multimedia presentation.

Ralf-René Weingärtner, Director of Youth and Sport, thanked the Greek authorities for the information provided. He invited EPAS delegates to pass on the message and encourage their ministers to take part in this major conference.

Zoran Verovnik said that the fact that a meeting of the ministers of the European Union was being held a short time before in Biarritz made it all the more important to specify the issues to be dealt with at the conference and pass on the message to ministers.

In reply to the **French delegation**, the **Greek delegation** confirmed that there would be no limit on the size of delegations, and that the Greek authorities would invite each minister to add a representative of the sports movement to his or her delegation. The cost of the ministers' stay in Greece would be covered by the Greek authorities, and attractive rates would be made available to other participants.

The Secretariat described the overall concept of the conference and the anticipated results.

Raija Mattila said that the ministers themselves would take the final decision on the conference agenda. She thanked the Secretariat and the Bureau for the information and emphasised the political tenor of conference discussions. She welcomed the involvement in the conference of non-governmental organisations representing the sports movement but stressed that the working documents and draft recommendations would have to be prepared by the Secretariat and validated by the Bureau of the Governing Board.

With regard to the discussion on ethics, the conference should confirm its support for the Code of Sports Ethics and decide how it might be updated. The emphasis should not just be on standards but on an effective means of promoting sports ethics in practice. It was also important for the list of new questions to be addressed in this field to include discrimination.

Autonomy was a key issue for the sports movement, and there was good reason to compare the different concepts of autonomy.

As conflicts between the administration of sport and Community law were a source of concern to sports organisations, improved co-operation between the European Union and the Council of Europe could be listed as one of the anticipated results of the conference.

Predrag Manojlovic (ENGSO) suggested that an item that could be added to the list of ethical issues was the trafficking of young players. It was essential for any presentations on ethics to reflect the viewpoints of the sports movement.

The EPAS Governing Board:

- **took note of the arrangements made for the 11th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, to be held in Greece;**
- **listened with interest to the oral report by the representative of the Greek ministry on the preparation of the 11th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport;**
- **instructed the Bureau to work closely with the working group, the Secretariat and the Greek delegation to prepare all the working documents for the conference, including the draft resolutions.**

9. Campaign against racism and discrimination in sport

Ita Mirianahvili (Secretariat) presented document EPAS (2008)10, which outlined the overall idea behind the EPAS campaign against racism and discrimination in sport.

She described the event held at Europa-Park, which had involved participants from EPAS member countries, experts from the T-RV Standing Committee and young people who had carried out sport-related activities as part of the “All different – all equal” youth campaign. Drawing on this experience, these young people could take part in other anti-racist activities, particularly at the forthcoming symposium.

Stanislas Frossard said that the Council of Europe might take part in, and the EPAS be involved in the organisation of, the European study days on sport and diversity to be held by the Education through Sport Agency (*Agence pour l'éducation par le sport*, a French NGO) and the Marc Bloch University, in Strasbourg on 20 and 21 November 2008.

There would be separate events on each day. The first, on 20 November, was a colloquy for young research workers at the Marc Bloch University, and the second, on 21 November, was a conference at the European Parliament, to be attended by politicians, practitioners and scientists.

The proposal was to get the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport involved in this event. The Council of Europe could help to organise a seminar for journalists in the context of DG IV's "All different – all equal" campaign, which could be held on Council of Europe premises on 19, 20 or 21 November, and bring together between 15 and 30 journalists, including the sports reporters already in Strasbourg for the conference.

This type of activity would be perfectly in keeping with the campaign priorities and timetable, and could receive support from the EPAS.

At the same time, the EPAS could promote the colloquy for young research workers by funding the participation of one young research worker from each member country. This would also enable the EPAS to take part in the process of identifying good practices to combat discrimination in sport and

strengthening intercultural dialogue. And its participation would raise its profile at local, national and international level.

Participation in this event would cost the EPAS €20 000 and twelve staff working days (on conference preparation, follow-up and publications).

The country which had expressed interest in hosting the symposium in November had withdrawn, so other contacts had been made. The symposium would be for representatives of the various ministries concerned in European states, and would help them to create networks at national level and exchange good government practices against racism in sport. It would also allow public authorities to prepare a contribution to the UEFA conference on the same topic scheduled for spring 2009.

The EPAS Governing Board:

- **took note of the oral report by the Secretariat on the campaign against racism and discrimination in sport;**
- **welcomed the success of the first campaign event, held at Europa-Park, Rust (Germany), from 6 to 10 April 2008;**
- **agreed to authorise joint funding of the seminar to promote diversity with the sports media;**
- **noted that the Liechtenstein authorities had declined the invitation to host this seminar as part of the Council of Europe campaign against racism and discrimination in sport;**
- **decided to postpone this seminar until the beginning of 2009 and asked the Bureau to look into the possibility of holding it with another interested member country of the EPAS.**

10. Information on the meeting on 9 April 2008 of the working group on the creation of the Consultative Committee

Stanislas Frossard presented document EPAS (2008) 11 rev, which described the progress of the concept of a Consultative Committee. The aim was to specify the functioning and tasks of the Consultative Committee referred to in the EPAS Statute, so that the results of this work could be presented to the Ministerial Conference in December 2008, and the first meeting of the committee could be held in 2009.

The delegations of the Netherlands and Finland emphasised the need for the message inviting NGOs to apply to be worded positively so as to avoid any misinterpretation.

The EPAS Governing Board:

- **took note of the oral report by the Secretariat on the EPAS Consultative Committee;**
- **congratulated the working group and the Secretariat on their efforts to set up the Consultative Committee and, in particular, to devise medium and long-term strategies for extending membership of the EPAS and attracting new partners;**
- **acknowledged the organisations that had applied for observer status with the EPAS, and asked the Secretariat to send them positive signals;**
- **agreed to discuss by September 2008 the applications made by some organisations for observer status with the EPAS and membership of the Consultative Committee, so as to give the working group enough time to finalise the concept of the Consultative Committee, including admission criteria that took**

account of the applicants' aims, bearing in mind their support for the Council of Europe's shared values;

- agreed that a decision on these organisations' applications for membership of the Consultative Committee would be taken in autumn, based on the opinion of the Governing Board, so that the first meeting of the Consultative Committee, in early 2009, could be prepared properly.

11. Information about co-operation with, and projects involving, other organisations

- European Union

Stanislas Frossard explained that relations with the European Union had been the subject of regular contacts between representatives of the Commission and the Secretariat of the Council of Europe. The practice of inviting Council of Europe representatives to EU meetings (of Directors and Ministers) was now well established, and representatives of the Commission were invited to all the statutory meetings of Council of Europe sports committees and its ministerial meetings. Closer co-operation was planned on anti-doping measures following the appointment by the EU of a working group on doping.

Raija Mattila said that the new EU working group would enhance the work of existing committees. She hoped, in particular, that the EU would focus more on public health questions and the use of doping substances by sportsmen and women who were not top-level athletes.

Zoran Verovnik confirmed that the EU working group had been set up during the Slovenian presidency of the Union, at an informal meeting of sports directors. It could enhance current measures in that it would be in a position to propose how the EU funds which were shortly to be made available under an EU sport programme should be used to strengthen anti-doping measures. Moreover, it was specified in this working group's terms of reference that its work should complement that of the Council of Europe.

- UEFA:

The Secretariat mentioned that, at the recent session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the president of UEFA, Michel Platini, had met the Secretary General, and a UEFA delegation had met the Chair of the EPAS and a Secretariat delegation.

- WADA :

The Secretariat said that various activities were being carried out under the auspices of the CAHAMA, including the following:

- assistance with the revision of WADA's statutes;
- clarification of the procedures and powers of the informal meetings of public authorities that precede WADA's statutory meetings;
- analysis of the system for the distribution of contributions and seats between the public authorities of the five continents.

The EPAS Governing Board took note of the Secretariat's oral report on co-operation and projects with other organisations.

12. Other business

Adoption of the list of decisions

In accordance with the former CDDS's procedure for the adoption of decisions, which applied *mutatis mutandis*, **the Secretariat** proposed that the list of decisions, which had been distributed in advance, should be adopted by the Governing Board after it had been read out to the Board.

The French delegation objected to this because the French translation of the decisions had not been distributed at the same time as the English version, so the French-speaking delegations had not had the same opportunity to examine it.

The Chair proposed that the list of decisions should be adopted following a written consultation of the delegations, leaving enough time for each delegate to study the decisions in detail and propose amendments. She requested that the procedure for the adoption of decisions be set out clearly in the future rules of procedure of the Governing Board.

The EPAS Governing Board asked the Secretariat to do what was needed to finalise the draft EPAS rules of procedure, so that they could be adopted at the next meeting of the Bureau of the EPAS Governing Board.

13. Dates of the next meeting

The Governing Board's 2009 meeting was scheduled for 20-22 April or 27-29 April 2009.

The EPAS Governing Board agreed that the third meeting of the Governing Board would be held from 20 to 22 April or from 27 to 29 April 2009.