



TIPPING THE BALANCE IN FAVOUR OF SPORTING VALUES

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport



Accord partiel élargi sur le sport

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

WHAT IS THE EPAS?

■ EPAS is the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport. It is a body set up within the Council of Europe to promote the development of sport in society today. “Enlarged” means it is open for accession to countries both including and beyond the 47 Council of Europe member states. EPAS brings together both governments and sports organisations – its aim is to make sport fairer, to combat abuses in sport and to ensure that it conforms to high ethical standards.

■ EPAS develops policies and standards, monitors them and helps with capacity-building and the exchange of good practices on various issues affecting sport.

■ Building on more than 30 years of activity by the Council of Europe in the field of sport, the EPAS was established as recently as 2007. Its was created in order to give fresh momentum to pan-European sports co-operation and to address the current challenges facing sport across Europe (anti-discrimination, diversity in sport, the fight against match-fixing, to name just a few).

■ At ministerial level, EPAS organises conferences every two years to which the Ministers of Sport from all member states are invited. This is an opportunity for the Ministers to discuss and debate themes of high importance to sports policy within a pan-european environment.

” Did you know :

EPAS is the first pan-european platform created to bring together all the stakeholders in sport, such as governments, international sports federations and NGOs..



HOW IS THE EPAS STRUCTURED?

It is made up of four central bodies:

■ **Governing Board:** one representative is appointed by the government of each of the EPAS member states. It is responsible for the general implementation of the tasks conferred upon EPAS, and it decides on pilot projects in line with the Council of Europe's political priorities, and draws up the relevant budgets.

■ **Consultative Committee:** comprises members of sports organisations, NGOs and international organisations. As a partnership body, it gives its opinion on the programme of activities and provides advice for the decisions of the Governing Board. The Committee meets once a year to discuss progress in sporting issues, and to share common projects and developments in the sporting network. The Governing Board and the Consultative Committee meet together once a year, creating a platform for dialogue and co-operation.

■ **Statutory Committee:** comprises the representatives from the Committee of Ministers of the member states of the Council of Europe which are members of EPAS, plus representatives specifically designated by states which are not Council of Europe members but which are party to EPAS. It adopts the budget and approves the accounts.

■ **Secretariat :** comprises four Council of Europe staff members, based in Strasbourg (France); the secretariat is headed by its Executive Secretary, and is part of the Directorate General for Democracy. It is responsible for all administrative aspects of the EPAS (organising meetings, documents, publications), as well as working in close collaboration with other Council of Europe entities as well as external partners on transversal programmes and projects where sport can play an important factor.

WHY IS SPORT SO IMPORTANT?

■ Sport touches the daily lives of so many of the 800 million citizens across Europe. It is the principal activity organised on a non-governmental and voluntary basis in Europe, and has more participants and voluntary workers than any other activity. Sport is also the most widely covered activity on the broadcast media and in the press. European major events attract audiences of several billion and command the highest fees for sales and broadcasting, thereby showing the rest of the world that sport is one of Europe's essential cultural activities.

WHY IS SPORT AN AREA FOR CO-OPERATION IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE?

■ Human Rights... Democracy... Rule of Law

These values are the foundations of a tolerant and civilised society and indispensable for European stability, economic growth and social cohesion. Our cultural environment is becoming increasingly diversified which brings about new social and political challenges. It often triggers intolerance, stereotyping, racism, xenophobia, discrimination and violence. The Council of Europe tries to find shared solutions to major problems such as conflicts, organised crime and corruption, cybercrime, gender inequality, children's rights, and trafficking in human beings. The transversal nature of sport means it has an important role to play in all of these issues and can be used as a building block.

” Did you know :

Since the creation of the EPAS in 2007, four recommendations relating to sport have been adopted by the Council of Europe's 47 member states (sports ethics, the autonomy of the sports movement, the fight against match-fixing and the protection of child and young athletes from dangers associated with migration).



WHAT ARE EPAS' PRIORITIES AND THE CHALLENGES IT FACES?

■ Bearing in mind the Council of Europe's values and all that it stands for, promoting fairness in sporting competitions as well as the physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen is a major challenge for the EPAS. It is therefore working hard to fight against corruption in sports, in particular in the struggle against match-fixing. It co-operates with its member states, with sports organisations, and authorities such as betting regulatory bodies in order to set up standards to help combat organised crime in the sporting world. The Council of Europe, EPAS and its member states also continue with their efforts together in the fight against discrimination with regard to disabled people in and through sport.

■ EPAS is also partner to various projects dealing with sporting issues such as homophobia, gender mainstreaming, and good governance.

■ In order to promote good practices on such issues among its member states, EPAS has launched a collection of handbooks which illustrate current policies and practices throughout Europe. Sharing these positive experiences highlights the potential of promoting the Council of Europe's fundamental values in and through sport.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT EPAS?

■ More information can be found on our website www.coe.int/epas. A full list of publications and handbooks aimed at helping sports associations and NGOs is also available on the site.

” Did you know :

EPAS works with partner organisations such as the Centre for Access to Football in Europe (CAFE), and helped fund the training in Poland of volunteer commentators to provide specialist audio-descriptive commentary for partially sighted and blind fans at each match in each host stadium during the EURO 2012 tournament.






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