

MONTHLY REPORT

July 2024



EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



EU
Office

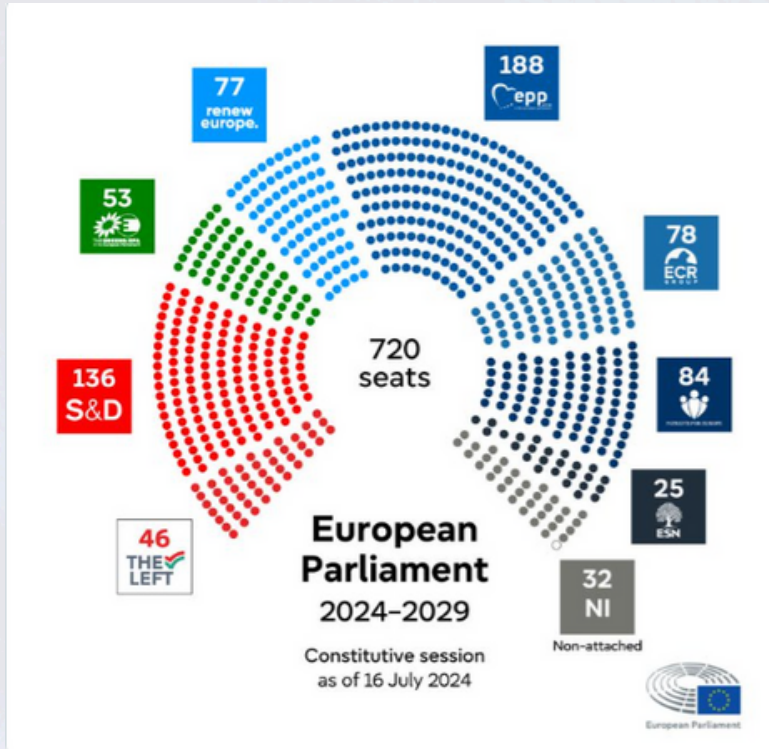


EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

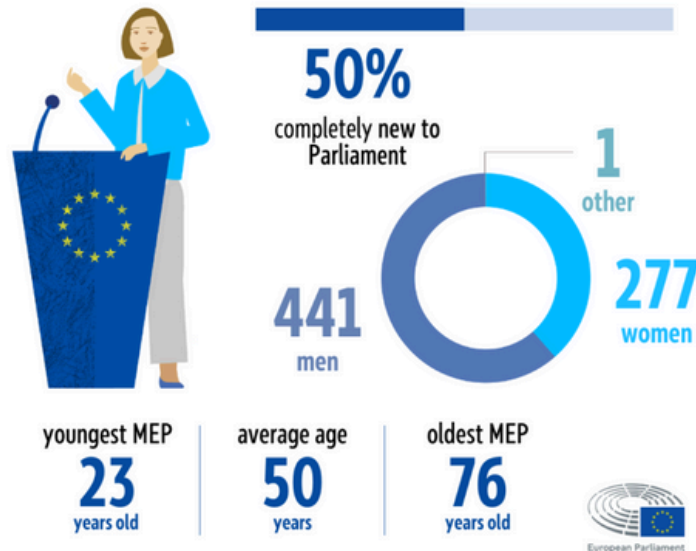


How does the new European Parliament look like?

Find out more about the MEPs who will be working for you over the next five years:



Members of the European Parliament at the start of the 2024-2029 term



Data as of 16 July 2024

Source: europa.eu/IPyyxNv

- Editorial

4



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

- New European Parliament: inaugural plenary session, formation of political groups and thematic committees **5**
- EU Commission publishes study on athletes' rights in and around big sport events **7**
- The Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in Sport 2024 continue to encourage emergency sport actions for youth **8**
- Hungary takes over Presidency of the Council of the EU **9**



PARTNERS' CORNER

- Mid-term meeting boosts progress on SIGGS 3.0 project **10**
- Belgian Olympic Academy 2025: Applications open! **11**
- The European Paralympic Committee invites the EOC EU Office network to visit the first European House and its plans for Greater Games **12**
- Upcoming events **13**



EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

A bit more than a month has passed since the European Parliament elections and a few personnel policy decisions regarding the appointment of committee chairs have just been made. It is clear that the current Parliament President Roberta Metsola (Malta) will be allowed to remain in office for another 2.5 years. With 562 of the 699 votes cast, she received a clear absolute majority in the vote on 16 July. Now that Commission President von der Leyen has also been confirmed in office, the EPP Group and the Christian Democratic party family have once again managed to place their candidates in the top positions in Europe. It confirms the consensual approach that the new Council President Antonio Costa was also hoisted into office relatively quietly. Even short-term concerns regarding his forced resignation as Portuguese Prime Minister in November 2023 could not change this. The confirmation of the new EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Kaja Kallas, still has to be confirmed by the European Parliament (EP). Like all other Commissioners, the former Estonian Prime Minister will have to undergo hearings by the relevant EP committees after the summer break.

At any case, the political decision-makers in the Council and EP wanted to avoid a political crisis in the EU due to too strong party-political interests. European politicians were afraid that the rise of right-wing populism, the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, a beginning trade war with China and the uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the US election could not be adequately countered by a divided EU. Von der Leyen's ambitious timetable to launch the new EU Commission already on 1 November confirms her approach of preventing a political vacuum.

From a sports policy perspective, the Olympic Games in Paris, which begin on 26 July, will dominate the headlines. Organising a mega-event of this magnitude in such politically and economically tense times commands the greatest respect. The development towards more sustainable Games will continue with Paris 2024 and, incidentally, there is no alternative. The hope remains for inspiring and safe Games that are dominated by sporting rather than political headlines. After two Olympic Games influenced by Covid-19, the positive anticipation of 'normal Games' can be felt everywhere.

With kind regards,



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office



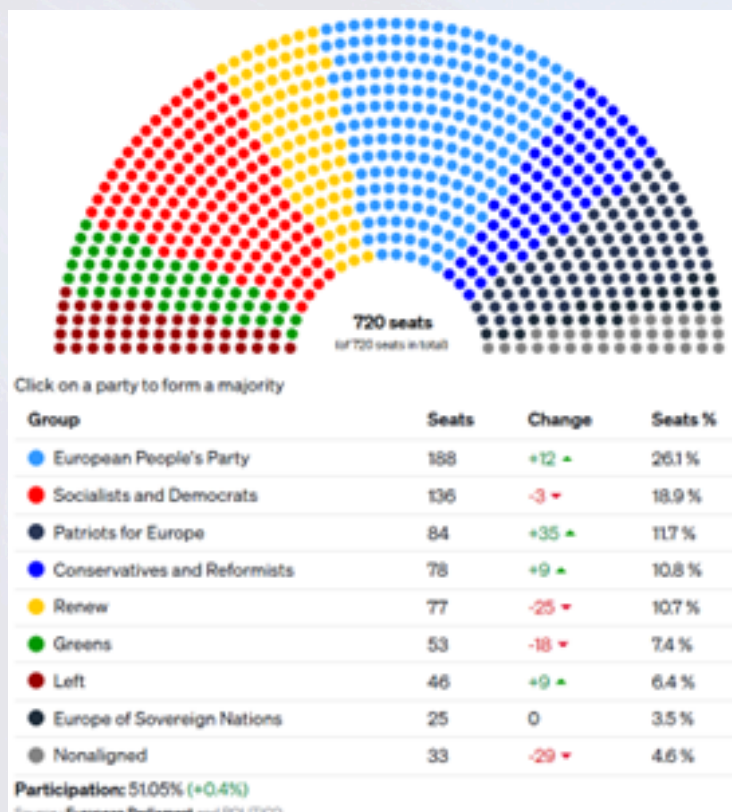
EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

New European Parliament: inaugural plenary session, formation of political groups and thematic committees

A month after the elections of the Members of the European Parliament, the 720 new representatives of European citizens have gathered for the first time for the inaugural plenary session in Strasbourg.

On this occasion, representatives of all political groups, including the newly-formed Patriots for Europe (led by French far-right MEP Jordan Bardella) and Europe for Sovereign Nations (Co-Presidents René Aust (AFD Germany and Stanislaw Tyszka Konfederacja Wolność i Niepodległość Poland) elected the President and Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament, and chose the composition of the thematic committees.

Political groups: new far-right group takes 3rd position



Source: [Politico](#)

Created following the impulse of Viktor Orbán (Hungarian Prime Minister) and Marine Le Pen (President of the French National Rally), a newly formed far-right group, Patriots for Europe, has become the third-largest faction in the European Parliament, with 84 MEPs from 12 countries, thus replacing the former Identity and Democracy group. Led by Jordan Bardella of France's National Rally, the group includes members from Viktor Orbán's Fidesz, Italy's League, Spain's Vox, and others.

Additionally, the Europe of Sovereign Nations Party was formed just shortly before the constitutive Plenary session. The alliance, which counts 25 MEPs among its ranks, is led by Germany's far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) and Poland's Confederation, and is also comprised of MEPs from Bulgaria's Revival, France's Reconquête, Slovakia's Republic Movement, Hungary's Our Homeland Movement, Lithuania's People and Justice Union, and the Czech Republic's Freedom and Direct Democracy.

Election of President and Vice-Presidents

In a vote on 16 July, Roberta Metsola was re-elected as President of the European Parliament for another 2.5-year term. Her re-election was smooth, requiring only one round of voting to secure the absolute majority with 562 votes out of 699.

Among the newly elected 14 Vice-Presidents, Sabine Verheyen (EPP, Germany) stands out. Starting her 4th term in the European Parliament, Verheyen is a well-known name for sport. She chaired the Committee on Culture, Education and Sport (CULT) during the previous mandate and was a good support to secure funding for sport in the Erasmus+ programme.

Committees

During the inaugural plenary session, the composition of the 20 Committees, four sub-committees and 48 standing delegations was determined. The Committee on Culture and Education, which also covers sport, consists of 30 MEPs, one fewer than in the previous mandate. The Chair of the CULT Committee is Nela Riehl (Greens, Germany) following a secret ballot with opposing candidate Malika Sorel (Patriots for Europe, France). The Vice-Chairs of CULT include Bogdan Zdrojewski (EPP, Poland) who was Minister of Culture and National Heritage in Poland (2007-2014), and Diana Riber I Giner (Greens, Spain) who was vocal about the FIFA Women's World Cup. Notable members include Laurence Farreng (Renew, France), the rapporteur for the "E-Sport and video games" report (2022), and Hannes Heide (S&D, Austria), a returning CULT Committee member with an interest in sport.

The re-election of the Chairs of the AFET (Dacid McAllister, EPP, Germany) and BUDG Committees (Johan Van Overtveldt, ECR, Belgium) ensures continuity and experience in areas marked by geopolitical tensions and the upcoming negotiations for the Multiannual Financial Framework. Additionally, Vice-Chair Janusz Lewandowski (EPP, Poland), who served as a member of the Sport Group during the 2019-2024 mandate, might open a door for sport in the negotiations.

Notably, the bureau of the ENVI Committee does not include any members of the Greens, while the EMPL Committee features Jagna Marczałajtis-Walczak, a three-time Olympian.

Election of European Commission President

After a week of meetings with various parties in the European Parliament, Ursula von der Leyen faced her vote on 18 July.

With 401 votes in favour, the European Parliament re-elected her as President of the European Commission in a secret ballot. This marks her second term as Commission President having first been elected by MEPs in July 2019.

Next Steps

- 16-19 September: The first full plenary session of the new term will take place.
- 30 September - 4 October: European Parliament Committee hearings for Commissioners-designate.
- 1 November: New College of Commissioners takes office.
- 1 December: new European Council President takes office.

Impact on sport and supporters of organised sport

The composition of the new European Parliament will impact sport-related files, especially with the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) negotiations set to start in 2025. Although several previous supporters of organised sport, such as Tomasz Frankowski, have not been re-elected, finding new allies for sport will be vital. It is essential to represent the interest of the organised sport movement to influential MEPs to ensure sport organisations receive the support they deserve.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Full list of Committee bureau members](#)

[List of all EP Committees and members](#)

[Analysis of the European Parliament](#)

EU Commission publishes study on athletes' rights in and around big sport events

On 8 July the European Commission published a study on "[Athletes' Rights in and around big sport events](#)", produced by Ecorys. This comprehensive study provides a thorough examination of the current legal and policy frameworks that govern athletes' rights, alongside an analysis of the roles played by sport governing bodies and national governments.

The study focuses on three critical dimensions of athletes' rights:

- **Sport Governance and Athletes' Representation:** This section explores how athletes are represented within sport governance structures and the mechanisms in place to ensure their voices are heard.
- **Global Politics and the Use of Social Media:** It examines the intersection of global politics and athletes' use of social media, considering how these platforms can both support and challenge athletes' rights.
- **Mental Health:** Recognizing the importance of mental well-being, this dimension focuses on the mental health challenges athletes face and the support systems available to them.

To illustrate the dimensions, the study includes cases and good practices from various sport organisations, showcasing effective strategies and initiatives that uphold and protect athletes' rights.

Key findings

In terms of sport governance and athletes' representation, the study underlines the importance to uphold principles such as transparency, accountability, and athlete consultation in decision-making processes. Exemplary practices include FIFA, FIBA, the International Paralympic Committee's adherence to the Sporting Chance Principles, and UEFA's design of the EURO 2024 match schedule to minimize team travel.

Additionally, the Olympic Games Paris 2024 Human Rights Strategy is mentioned as a good measure to ensure comprehensive protection of athletes' rights. Increased athlete representation in governance is also evident in recent Olympic Charter changes and initiatives like FIFA's Team Liaison Officer and independent player associations, the authors mentioned.

Regarding global politics and the use of social media, good practices include policies that ensure non-discrimination and equal participation, such as the International Equestrian Federation's host agreements. Examples of how athlete freedom of expression and commercial interests are protected include initiatives like Team USA's recommendations for racial and social justice demonstrations during the Olympics. In the realm of mental health, the authors underline sport federations' policies that promote mental well-being, such as hiring mental health professionals, conducting regular check-ins, and fostering dual career development. Notable campaigns like FIFA's #ReachOut, along with mental health hotlines and safeguarding measures at events, highlight ongoing efforts to support athletes' mental health.

Lessons learned and recommendations

Despite the mention of good practices in place in sport organisations, the study concludes that the diverse nature of sport and the complexity of managing big events often results in inconsistent standards for athletes' rights. Recommendations focus on promoting greater consistency and limiting the impact of diverse practices, for instance by calling on the European Commission to facilitate ongoing dialogue on athletes' rights with the involvement of all stakeholders.

Furthermore, to protect athletes' rights at big events, national and international bodies are asked to develop a comprehensive framework based on international human rights standards. This framework should include representation standards to ensure fair athlete participation in decision-making processes.

Additionally, guidelines to balance freedom of expression with political neutrality, providing clearer definitions of what constitutes 'political' expression are encouraged. Safeguarding participation for athletes from conflict regions is also perceived as crucial, necessitating consistent approaches across all events. Enhancing mental health literacy through a common framework and increased resources dedicated to mental health support services for athletes before, during, and after big events are encouraged.

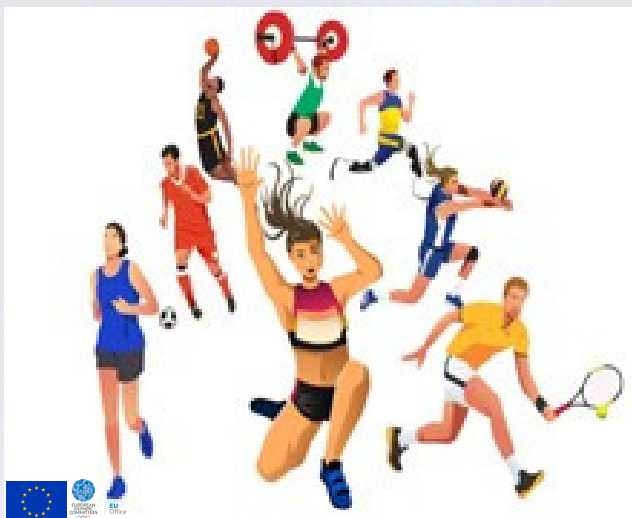
Together with the IOC the EOC EU Office provided a number of written and oral contributions ensuring a fair representation of the Olympic movement's initiatives to respect athletes' rights. For further details, we encourage you to review the full study.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Commission Press Release](#)

[Study "Athletes' rights in and around big sport events"](#)

The Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in Sport 2024 continue to encourage emergency sport actions for youth



The European Commission published the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions (PPAs) in Sport on the 17th of July 2024.

The specific priorities of the Preparatory Actions and Pilot Projects (PPAs) in sports vary each year and aim to evaluate the feasibility of new policy initiatives or establish a basis for future actions (e.g. EU policies, legislation, funding programs). Consequently, PPAs offer a valuable chance for sports stakeholders to enhance their activities and capacities while obtaining financial support for sports initiatives not covered by the Erasmus+ Programme.

In 2024, only one Pilot Project will be financed for sport with a total budget of € 1.920 million: [Sports Supports – Emergency Sports Actions for Youth](#).

This Pilot Project seeks to promote community integration, mental well-being, and trauma recovery for children/youth affected by humanitarian crises through sport, facilitate adaptation and bonding with host communities, and inspire other sports clubs to establish support programs by sharing good practices.

Accordingly, the project activities should be organised at the local level, mainly through grassroots sports clubs, within a 12- and 18-month timeframe.

The grant is based on budget-based real and unit costs with a maximum grant of €400.000,00 per project at a co-financing rate of 80% of the total budget of the project. Accordingly, approx. 5 – 7 projects are expected to be financed under the Pilot Project [Sports Supports – Emergency Sports Actions for Youth](#) in 2024.

Any sports organisations established in the EU Member State can directly apply – either as a consortium or mono beneficiary – by submitting the official forms (Part A, Part B, and related annexes) to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency via the [Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal](#) before the deadline on the 17 October 2024 at 17.00h (CEST).

Insights from 2023

[2023 PP “Sports Supports – Emergency Sports Actions for Youth”](#). 50 project proposals were submitted out of which 7 were financed so representing a success rate of 14%. The financed projects had an average budget of approx. € 267,100,00.

[2023 PP “Sport for People and Planet”](#). 92 project proposals were submitted out of which 4 were financed so reflecting a success rate of approx. 4.5%. The financed projects had an average budget of approx. € 300.000,00.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Call document. Sports Supports – Emergency Sports Actions for Youth](#)

[Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal](#)

Hungary takes over Presidency of the Council of the EU

Hungarian Presidency (July-December 2024)

In July, [Hungary took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU](#) from Belgium for the upcoming 6 months. The Presidency [programme](#) is structured around seven general priorities:

- New European Competitiveness Deal
- The Reinforcement of European Defense Policy
- A Consistent and Merit-Based Enlargement Policy
- Stemming Illegal Migration
- Shaping the Future of Cohesion Policy
- A Farmer-Centered EU Agricultural Policy
- Addressing Demographic Challenges

Sport-related objectives and events

The Hungarian Presidency is the first one to implement the [EU Work Plan for Sport 2024-2027](#), adopted by its predecessor, Belgium, and will mostly focus on the legacy of major sporting events and the future framework for health-enhancing physical activity.

The legacy of major sports events was the topical focus of the EU Directors General for Sport meeting, which occurred on 11-12 July. Council Conclusions will be adopted on this same topic. The EOC EU Office is following the negotiations process, as it aims to ensure the adoption of a text that brings added value to an already ongoing discussion, and that fairly depicts the efforts already implemented by sports events organisers.

The following events will be held under the Hungarian Presidency:

- 23-24 September 2024: High-level Ministerial and International Conference on the Legacy of Major Sporting Events, connected with the opening ceremony of the European Week of Sport, Budapest, Hungary - [Info](#)
- 1-4 October 2024: Meeting of European Group of Football Safety and Security Experts, Budapest, Hungary - [Info](#)
- 26 November 2024: Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (Culture and Sport), Council of the EU, Brussels, Belgium: adoption of the Council Conclusion - [Info](#).

The EOC EU Office has already met the representative chairing the sport-related meetings and will maintain contact with the Presidency throughout the term to make sure that the Olympic movement is represented during the various events.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Programme of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU](#)



PARTNERS' CORNER

Mid-term meeting boosts progress on SIGGS 3.0 project

The EOC EU Office recently hosted a productive mid-term meeting for the SIGGS 3.0 project, marking significant progress and setting the stage for the next phases of development for the updated SIGGS governance tool. Attendees from the EOC EU Office and technical partner Symantra gathered to review milestones and outline future steps.



The meeting provided crucial updates on project administration and management, while also taking stock of successfully submitted deliverables. Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, highlighted advancements in content development, emphasizing the collaborative efforts with external experts. These collaborations have refined the Action Plans and Roadmaps, aiming to enhance sports governance across Europe.

The consortium is on track to finalize all 31 topics across six dimensions of the SIGGS 3.0 Tool by the end of August. These topics will then be incorporated into the software. To ensure accessibility across multiple languages, the translation process was thoroughly reviewed, with key languages slated for completion by November 2024.

The first multiplier event is tentatively scheduled for mid-September 2024, featuring an online webinar on governance. More details will follow soon. If you wish to stay updated on the project, you can sign up for the newsletter, which will be sent out this month [here](#).

The consortium will reconvene in early September to finalize preparations for upcoming deliverables and events. For more information about the SIGGS 3.0 project, please contact the EOC EU Office at siggs3.0@outlook.com.

About the SIGGS 3.0 Project

The SIGGS 3.0 project aims to support the implementation of good governance in sport enhance by developing a comprehensive self-evaluation tool. The project seeks to provide resources and guidelines to support effective governance in sports based on their current status quo with tailor-made action plans.



Support the Implementation of GOOD GOVERNANCE in Sport
-Edition 2024-



Co-funded by
the European Union

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Siggs 3.0 - EOC EU Office \(eurolympic.org\)](https://eurolympic.org)

Belgian Olympic Academy 2025: Applications open!



The [Belgian Olympic Academy](#) has opened its registration procedure for the 2025 edition of the training programme.

The Belgian Olympic Academy

A collaboration with [Universiteit Gent](#), the [Université Catholique de Louvain](#) and the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee (BOIC), the aim of this unique course is to professionalise management within sports organisations by drawing on innovative academic and practical approaches to leadership and management skills.

The programme will run for just over a year starting in January 2025. It includes five 2-day modules and one 1-day module and takes place at different centres of Sport Vlaanderen and ADEPS.

Two 3-day international courses are planned where students will be guests of the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne and the Netherlands Olympic Committee* Netherlands Sports Federation in Papendal.

Application procedure

Applications are open as of now and until 1 November 2024. Applicants can send their resume and motivation letter to mbdcock.decock@ugent.be.

A maximum of 30 participants will be admitted based on their profile, cover letter and registration date. They will be notified by e-mail.

21/1/25	BOIC	Starting event
6-7/2/25	Brugge	Module 1: Strategic management & leadership
3-4/4/25	Auderghem	Module 2: Sport marketing, communication & sponsoring
16/5/25	Louvain-La-Neuve	Module 3: Sport ethics and sustainability
3-6/6/25	Papendal	International Module NOC*NSF
18-19/9/25	Spa	Module 4: Finance in sport organisations
TBA	Lausanne	International Module IOC
6-7/11/25	Gent	Module 5: Human resources management in sport
4-5/12/25	Genk	Module 6: Business Game
Jan/26	Gent	Proclamation

FURTHER INFORMATION

<https://www.teambelgium.be/over-het-boic/belgian-olympic-academy>

[Marie De Cock, Coordinator BOA edition 2025](#)
Mbdcock.decock@ugent.be

The European Paralympic Committee invites the EOC EU Office network to visit the first European House and its plans for Greater Games

The doors of the first European House at a Paralympic Games will open between 15:00-17:00 at TeamNL House in Parc de la Villette on 4 September.

The European Paralympic Committee would be very excited to welcome the EOC-EU Office network so they can hear more about plans for Greater Games, which aim to deliver for citizens across the region and strengthen pathways to the Paralympics.

Since the organisation launched its Strategic Plan at its 2021 General Assembly, it has been working alongside Members, sports and new and existing partners to deliver meaningful development of Para sport in Europe.

This has involved the valued feedback of the Para sport community, which has enabled the revision and re-launch of the bid process for the European Para Youth Games (EPYG). This led to the recent [announcement of Istanbul, Türkiye, as the host of the 2025 edition](#).

In addition, working alongside Members, the European Paralympic Committee oversaw a successful first European Para Championships in Rotterdam in 2023, and has [confirmed patronage of the event until 2035](#). It has also begun to investigate how best to deliver a winter EPYG on behalf of Members and athletes.

The Greater Games programme will focus on these topics, and how these flagship events can meet the development goals of Members, athletes, sports, and national and international organisations, and contribute to realising inclusion and social progress locally and beyond. European House: Greater Games programme:

- The summer and winter European Para Youth Games
- Istanbul 2025 European Para Youth Games + exclusive updates
- The road to 2029: Looking ahead to future EPYG + exclusive news
- European Para Championships 2027

From 17:00: A special screening of 'Aim High, Dream Big', the official 2023 European Para Championships documentary.

European House is a great opportunity to bring everyone together, and offers the chance to network with National Paralympic Committees, International and regional sport Federations and valued current or future partners.

For more information or to register attendance, please contact lucy.dominy@europaralympic.org by 14 August.



UPCOMING EVENTS

12 - 16 September 2024

EOC Executive Committee (Paros)

23 - 29 September 2024

European Week of Sports

27 - 28 September 2024

EOC Seminar (Budva)



EOC EU Office
71, Avenue de Cortenbergh
1000 Brussels, Belgium



+32 2 738 03 20



info@euoffice.eurolympic.org



www.euoffice.eurolympic.org



EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



EU
Office