

Paris, France – 3 May 2017



Paris 2024 welcomes endorsement from European Athletics

The Paris 2024 Bid Committee has welcomed today's announcement that the European Athletic Association (EAA) is backing Paris to host the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The endorsement follows last week's decision by the EAA to award Paris the 2020 European Athletics Championships, further cementing the city's credentials as a trusted partner and host of top international sporting events.

In making the decision to support Paris 2024, **European Athletics President, Svein Arne Hansen**, said:

"It is not just a question of Paris being the sole European candidate and the fact that continental sports organisations should back each other in this respect. European Athletics has looked at both bids and we believe that Paris is the best from an overall perspective and specifically with regards to our sport.

"What is particularly impressive is the Paris 2024 commitment to sustainability, which is a very important area of interest to European Athletics. This ethos mirrors that of the Paris 2020 European Athletics Championships, which is also placing sustainability centre stage, something we have been pushing our organisers to do for a number of years through our Green Inspiration concept."

Paris 2024 Co-Chair, Tony Estanguet, said:

"We are thrilled that European Athletics has lent its strong support to Paris 2024 and our bid to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We welcome the comments from President Svein Arne Hansen and believe Paris is the perfect partner to showcase the very best of athletics in our iconic city as part of an incredible celebration of sport in 2024.

"Paris continues to prove that it has what it takes to stage spectacular, world-class events and we are particularly pleased that our efforts to create a truly sustainable Games - the first in line with the Paris Agreement – are being recognised globally by those within the sporting community."

French IOC Member and Olympic Athletics Champion, Guy Drut, said:

"Athletics deserves the best possible stage from which to showcase its sport and I believe Paris 2024 offers that platform. The unmatched atmosphere of the Stade de France will create a truly unique experience for athletes and spectators alike. It is the prospect of competing in this exceptional venue against the stunning backdrop of the iconic city of Paris that has captured the imagination of athletes and athletics organisations around the world.

"We are proud to have the strong public backing of European Athletics and we can't wait to welcome Europe's best athletes to our city in 2020 and again in 2024."

The European Athletics Championships will take place from 26 to 30 August 2020, making the event a fantastic precursor to the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Other world-class international events scheduled to be held in Paris this year include the Ice Hockey World Championships (May), French Open at Roland Garros (May-June), French Golf Open (May-June), the Tour de France (July) and the Wrestling World Championships (August). These events and Paris' already established track record as a major event host are a further demonstration of Paris' readiness to host the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

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For further information:

Raphaël Leclerc

Paris 2024 Bid Committee

Email: rleclerc@paris2024.org

Phone: +336 73 16 88 06

Sujit Jasani

VERO Communications

Email: sjasani@verocom.co.uk

Phone: +44 (0)207 812 6589 / +44 (0)7940 375 282

Engage with the Paris 2024 bid here:

Website: www.paris2024.org

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