



REPORT OF THE WAE PARA ARCHERY WAE CONGRESS, 2022

Munich, 5.06.2022

Mr. President,
Dear WAE board members, Dear Representatives,

Let me introduce this report by underlying that World Archery Europe is the only continental association that can claim the organization of a circuit for Para Archery. Born in 2019 from a Dominique Holman's idea the circuit consisting in two legs plus the final stage. This happens every year, with the only exception of the Paralympic Year.

This summer Nove Mesto in Czech Republic will host the 1st leg and more than 130 athletes are expected to compete: eleven of these are new archers at their first international appearance.

The second leg will be the European Championship that will be host, for the first time, in Rome, where the first Paralympic Games was organized in 1960.

Next year we'll be very busy as well: in addition to the Euro Cup, the World Championships and the first edition of the Para European Games will be held in Europe, respectively in Pilzen (CZE) and Rotterdam (NED). Both events will assign Paralympic slots.

All this demonstrate that, despite the worldwide pandemic situation, our MAs have continued their research, education and technical and competitive growth of new para athletes, and we all know how much effort all this has required.

The European Para Committee was created last year for the first time, in order to further develop the Para Archery movement in Europe and worldwide, offering our support to the World Archery Para Committee.

Right now, the European Para Committee is composed by three members, who were elected by all the MAs: Chiara Barbi (from Italy, being the chairperson), Hervè Togwiller (from France) and Kaarina Saviluoto (from Sweden).

MAs have put an enormous effort into the movement so far, and brilliant results have been achieved, but we cannot afford to stop growing: we owe it to the athletes, we owe it to thousands of volunteers, we owe it to all the staff members and the families that offer their time, their professionalism and their commitment day by day.

We are fully aware that this is a difficult moment for Europe, and we all know how important sport can be in sending a message of peace, unity, and solidarity, and especially para movements can have such role in our society.

Today, out of 51 MAs within Archery Europe, no more than two dozens see their athletes competing at international level and this is for sure one of our focus areas: we want to help more members to reach their goals and grow as a movement.

We are therefore asking you to answer a short survey, so that you can help us understand how we can maximize our support to all of you. We kindly ask you to complete it by the end of June, so that we can work on the results starting from July.

Last but not the least, let me say “thank you” to the LOC of Para events: we are fully aware of the specific tasks that can make the organization and management of para events very challenging...without your job, all of this wouldn't be possible!

<https://it.surveymonkey.com/r/YT6CJZW>

Chiara Barbi, Italy

Hervé Toggwiler, France

Kaarina Saviluoto, Sweden