



CONFÉDÉRATION EUROPÉENNE DE PÉTANQUE

ANNUAL REPORT

26th Congress - 2026



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Confédération Européenne de Pétanque

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dr. Barnabas Novak

Looking back on a year and taking stock of its achievements is at least as challenging as planning a new one and bringing it to successful completion. The past year commenced with the conclusion of a lengthy administrative procedure, at the end of which the transition to the newly elected Board was successfully completed and full access to the bank account was secured. This process generated additional, unforeseen expenses for CEP; however, it ensured that the legal and financial framework of the organization was doubly safeguarded and placed on a stable footing.

As early as the Annual Spring Meeting in February, it became evident that we were facing a substantive and dynamic year – one that would not focus solely on the European Championships, but would also provide space for various initiatives, like Coaching for Coaches and CEP umpires' examination. These activities reflected our shared commitment to strengthening both the sporting and professional foundations of pétanque in Europe.

The first major event of the year was the Annual Congress, which, as in the previous year, was held in person in Luxembourg. In addition to the presentation and approval of the various reports, the Congress adopted the 2026 budget. Furthermore, the CEP Congress granted authorisation to the Executive Board to allocate a larger dedicated amount to promote the youth category and to support young players. This decision clearly demonstrates our common strategic commitment to investing in the next generation. The 1st Juniors and Espoirs (Female) training event, held as part of this program, only

took place in February 2026. However, I hope you will forgive me for mentioning it already, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the dedication and commitment of the players and their coaches who participated in this event.

The number of the CEP member federations is increasing, and cooperation among national federations is becoming ever stronger. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome our new member federation, the Romanian Pétanque Federation.



In this context, it is also important to highlight the strong compliance observed within the European transfer protocol by both the member federations and the players. Throughout the past year, the system operated effectively and in full accordance with the established regulations, while ensuring transparency and safeguarding the interests of all parties involved. In total, more than 250 successful transfers were processed, demonstrating not only the proper functioning of the system but also

the growing level of cooperation within the CEP. Special thanks are due to the officials responsible for this within the member federations, as well as to Jean-Luc Melleker, CEP transfer secretary for his outstanding work.

At the Congress, the Jeu Provençal and its related development project were presented for the second consecutive time. This initiative highlights CEP's intention to preserve and promote the diversity of boules sports within Europe, while simultaneously strengthening their visibility and structural support. As part of this initiative, alongside the European Cup, the first edition of the European Jeu Provençal Trophy was organized in Douai, with the participation of three countries: France, Armenia and Bulgaria. As with every new beginning, the launch required considerable organizational effort to bring this project to fruition. In 2026, it will be overseen by a dedicated committee.

We received the great news immediately after the Congress that a new shooting record was set at the International Junior competition in Belgium, by Sandra Luthi from Switzerland scoring 47 points. On behalf of the CEP, we once again congratulate her on this outstanding result.

Following the Congress, the CEP Board of Directors decided; in the interest of ensuring stable and secure operations, to engage the services of an external legal expert to provide professional assistance in clarifying emerging legal and sports law matters, as well as to ensure that all CEP documentation is fully compliant from every relevant legal and regulatory perspective. This cooperation is set to remain in effect until the end of December 2026. Importantly, the associated costs are covered on an almost pro bono basis.



Between 30 May and 1 June, the “Coaching for Coaches” training course was held at the CEP headquarters in Luxembourg, with the valuable and effective support of the FFPJP.

Over the course of the three-day programme, participants significantly expanded their professional knowledge and methodological expertise. The training provided an in-depth and practice-oriented framework, enabling coaches to refine their technical understanding, exchange best practices, and engage in meaningful professional dialogue.

However, the Luxembourg session represented only the first phase of the training programme. The initiative was deliberately designed as a multi-stage process. The coaches reconvened at the Espoirs European Championships in Spain, where they were given the opportunity to apply the knowledge and methodologies acquired during the Luxembourg seminar. By integrating classroom-based learning with real competition analysis, the programme successfully bridged the gap between theory and practice.

The Secretary-General's report provides a detailed account of last year's European Championships, including the results and champions, so I will only highlight a few of the most important events. During the European Championships, the CEP continued to communicate with the teams via the WhatsApp group, ensuring immediate information and an effective way to share updates.

Being a champion is a responsibility; however, CEP champions always rise to the occasion. Based on the feedback received, although it may seem a minor detail, the CEP Board has decided to increase the number of European Champions polo shirts from

one to two, thereby helping the champions to appear appropriately and with distinction at competitions.

Compared to 2024, there has been a very positive improvement in the teams' kit. Last year's competition season went almost without issue; the teams fully complied with all regulations, for which we are very grateful.

Last year's umpires' examination received considerable attention for several reasons. The CEP provided substantial financial support for the umpires' participation and also gave them the opportunity to actively take part in the European Championship; on one hand assisting the work of the CEP, and on the other gaining real on-field experience.



It is in our shared interest to have the best umpires available, and therefore the CEP remains committed to the training and support of umpires in the future, a responsibility that now falls under the CEP Umpires' Commission.

Preparing for a European Championship presents a significant challenge for both players and

professionals. Everyone aims to demonstrate their highest level of skill and, naturally, to become a champion. For this reason, the CEP has devoted, and will continue to devote, considerable attention to appropriate conduct, both in supporting proper spectator behaviour, on-field demeanour during the competition, and in addressing the disputes and comments that arise in the online environment.

The CEP acts in good faith throughout the registration process for the European Championships and is disappointed that it has become necessary to modify our rules to make it clear to everyone that the full team must be present at the time of registration. It is important to note that participating delegations arrive and conduct themselves appropriately, a responsibility which naturally falls primarily to the Head of Delegation and the coach.

Furthermore, the CEP maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of abusive behaviour at its events, whether directed at participants, spectators, or official staff. The CEP will continue to take strict action against such conduct and, if necessary, will address it through formal disciplinary procedures.

At the beginning of October, during the FIPJP Congress held in Douai, significant changes took place in the leadership of the FIPJP. A twenty-year period under the leadership of Claude Azéma came to an end, to whom I would like to express my sincere thanks for his work. At the same time, I extend my congratulations and best wishes to Gérard Scheider and the newly appointed FIPJP board for the tasks ahead. I am confident that the close relationship between the two federations will become even stronger, and together we will continue to develop pétanque not only in Europe but beyond.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the CEP, I would

like to express my gratitude to the Luxembourg Ministry of Sports for their continued support, as well as to the FLBP for all their assistance. Their contributions have provided the CEP with essential administrative backing, which is indispensable for smooth and predictable work.

Speaking of predictability, I would like to highlight another important milestone concerning the European Cup. Our existing and ongoing three-year collaboration has been extended by an additional three years, providing the European Cup with a true home, much to everyone's delight and satisfaction. I would like to extend special thanks to Mr. Christian Poiret and the entire Douaisis Agglo for their support and trust in our Confederation, as well as to the entire team and volunteers at the Boulodrome du Douaisis. This is a shared success, a collective achievement!



Staying with the European Cup, last year's competition also welcomed two first-time participants: Spain

and Serbia, breaking the previous participation record and raising it to 31. Briefly looking ahead, it is certain that this number will continue to grow in 2026, to the great joy of the CEP.

At the end of my annual report, I would like to focus on the year ahead and share a few recent updates. The CEP Board has decided to launch its own CEP YouTube channel, which will allow followers to watch the European Championships - entirely free of charge. The first events to be streamed will be the Juniors and Espoirs, and then the Women's European Championships in Greece. Detailed information about this will be shared with the member federations in due course.

Another important update concerns the potential "gender-based" Veteran European Championship. Based on the feedback received from the survey, the CEP Board currently does not consider such a separation necessary. Therefore, in 2027, the European Championship for this age group will continue to be held under the current open format, without restrictions on team composition.

Preparations for the 2026 European Championships are progressing very well as I write these lines. However, in the spirit of predictability, which is frequently

mentioned in this report, I would like to encourage the member federations, whenever possible, to act as hosts for the European Championships in the coming years.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Board of Directors, the member federations, and all volunteers for their work over the past year.

I am very much looking forward to 2026 and its events. Vive la pétanque!



SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT



Michael Regelin

Second year in my new role and I just can say it was the right decision to say “yes” and hopefully you and my colleagues also can agree to that. I’m getting used to my tasks, I know whom to ask if I need help and the experience is repeatedly: when help is needed help is given.

The first months of the year I already stated in my last year’s report: Annual Survey and the fun of creating and filing Excel tables and then analysing where the CEP-numbers are going to.

Reviewing the rules with lots of discussions and clearer rules at the end.

Director’s Spring Meeting to present what we all have done or prepared to ensure good quality work in future.

A bit nervous for the congress then, sitting in front of you all, being well prepared but will it run as expected? Yes, it did and so the next first-time experience was done.

So, the sportive year of pétanque can begin and my first task was to visit Benejuzar to evaluate the venue. Never done that before, but the venue was great, so I could report to the president that I recommend a green light to the Spanish federation for the EC Espoirs at that location.

Prior to the Championships the CEP carried out the start of a new Coaching for Coaches course, a three-year-programme full of theoretical considerations, practical exercises and networking. All this is helpful to establish training and coaching systems in all connected federations, so the players have the best chances to enter the top of the podium wherever they compete.

The Championships: Veterans (over 55 years old) in early summer in Santa Susanna, Spain. Smooth running contest although it was sunny and hot, but our Spanish host did the best. Switzerland sent the top team and got gold for the Veterans with Philippe Basting, Jean-Jacques Masnery, Joseph Molinas, Giovanni Tamburini and Coach Didier Chaoupay.

The Men EC later that week: From a German perspective, it was

special, because their men’s team did an excellent job, improving from game to game and finally winning gold in the final against the French.



I was proud to present the gold-medal to Matthias Laukart, Tobias Müller, Daniel Reichert, Moritz Rosik and Coach Sascha Koch.

Next on the agenda was the EC for Espoirs male in Benejuzar in autumn, organized by the Spanish federation as host and again a wonderful contest without any problems. France was winner in the young men’s with Titouan Olivier, Noa Molins, Evan Papillon, Lucas Bulliard and Coach Philippe Chesnau.

And then another German team on top of the podium for the Espoirs female. Ella Koch, Silvana Lichte, Celine Grauer, Mercedes Strokosch and Coach Leon Gotha showed the best performance in the elimination rounds.

Not to forget the Tir de Précision which was part of three former mentioned contests and found their champions in the Men with Michael Bonetto (France), Espoirs men with Titouan Olivier (France) and for Espoirs women Aitana Benzal (Spain).

Last contest as in every year: the European Cup-Weekend in November – the contest I like most. Europe's best Clubs meet to find out who is the champion. 31 Federations sent their clubs, a new record that lets us think about the future –we must rethink how to handle if there are more than 32 participants. But before that it's to mention that France (Pétanque Arlancoise this time) took the cup home from the wonderful Boulodrome Douaisis where the clubs will meet for three more years until 2029 then.

Congratulations to all medal winners and those they met on their way to the podium; all won their national competitions and have been sent as their federations best.

What's to add to the Championships?

New medals were given. Following an invoice from German customs in 2024 because the medals came from a country in Europe but not in the EU we tried to find a new supplier and found Girrback who always served the German federation without any complaints.

Our first order was taken out to our utmost satisfaction and so Girrback will remain our medal supplier.

During the contest in Santa Susanna three umpires passed the exam to become European Umpires. Congratulations to Eric Doinel, Mickael Malherbe and Gareth Sullivan. And the European Cup showed something special this year, a test with a small number of Federations meeting for a Jeu Provençal contest to find out if we can combine.

Another visit to Spain followed in autumn, together with Jean-Luc Melleker, this time to evaluate the venue at Lorca for the singles and doubles EC in 2026 and again we got a very good impression of what will happen then because again the timing allowed to see the venue during a running national contest. For Lorca we recommended some minor supplements due to the number of awaited athletes and to comfort a larger number of visitors.

So much for the 2025 highlights but that was not all.

Reviewing my time in 2024 and the 12 months in 2025 I again learned a lot. A lot about the CEP, European Championships, rules and how to develop them but the most exciting was (and still is!) to interact with you all. Some of you made the way from colleagues to friends, some of you are still on the way but it's always great how you react on personal approach.

So let me just ask you to act in the same way when I'm sending a serial mail, please answer,

please send the documents we need for confirmation, registration or reservation and don't wait too long.

If I'm sending with a four-week-deadline, I send a reminder two weeks before end, one week before end, two or three days before end and for those who don't react again 24hours before end and even then I have to extend the deadline – please don't let me do that.

Teamwork in the CEP team remains perfect as mentioned last year. Especially when the CEP is "on tour" with the Championships every one of us has special tasks but if the one in charge is not available there's always someone else to get things done.

Thank you to all my colleagues and a special thank you to the guy who learned in the meantime that I am not a native English speaker, he now only corrects me when I'm doing severe faults in his language.

Thank you to Marina who allows me to spend my time with you and for you and therefore she avoids that I use this time to create excel-lists to optimize her cooking and her household

Finally: Thank you Barna for the trust you have placed in me, our always open communication and the close relationship we have built. It's a pleasure to serve the CEP under your leadership.

CEP is so much more than European Championships and I am proud to be part of the team.



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT - 2025 (CONSOLIDATED)

INCOME	Note	€
MEMBERSHIP FEES CEP		27,900 €
MEMBERSHIP FEES FIPJP		18,920 €
EUROPEAN CUP		18,150 €
MEMBERSHIP/LICENCE TRANSFERS		5,870 €
COACHING FOR COACHES		2,800 €
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LUXEMBOURG MINISTRY OF SPORTS		7,500 €
BANK INTEREST		860 €
TOTAL INCOME		82,000 €

EXPENDITURE	Note	€
BANKING		824 €
MEMBERSHIP FEES FIPJP		18,920 €
MEETINGS (DIRECTORS, CONGRESS, TRAVEL ETC.)		10,327 €
ADMINISTRATION (OFFICE, TECH, BANKS, LEGAL SERVICE ETC.)		6,952 €
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS		16,632 €
COACHING FOR COACHES		10,086 €
UMPIRING PROGRAMME		8,839 €
JEU PROVENÇAL		1,747 €
EUROPEAN CUP	1	17,571 €
EUROPEAN CUP	1	91,898 €
EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		9,898 €

Notes:

1. INCLUDING €544 FROM 2024

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	Note	2025	2024
OUTSTANDING INVOICE - PORTUGAL TRANSFER FINE		500 €	
OUTSTANDING INVOICES: LICENCE TRANSFERS			360 €
SUBTOTAL		500 €	360 €

CURRENT ACCOUNT		36,110 €	46,554 €
RESERVE ACCOUNT		48,413 €	47,570 €
PETTY CASH		12 €	5,082 €
SUBTOTAL		84,535 €	99,206 €

TOTAL ASSETS		85,035	99,566
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LIABILITIES	Note	2025	2024
REFUND: RUSSIA 2022 CEP MEMBERSHIP FEE		280 €	280 €
PRIZE MONEY: 2024 EUROPEAN CUP			4,600 €
EUROPEAN CUP SPECIAL SUBVENTION DOUAI		1,000 €	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,280 €	4,880 €

NET ASSETS		83,775 €	94,686 €
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INCOME	€
CURRENT ACCOUNT	82,000 €
RESERVE ACCOUNT	860 €
PETTY CASH	12 €
TOTAL	82,872 €

EXPENDITURE	€
CURRENT ACCOUNT	91,898 €
TOTAL	91,898 €

EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	9,898 €
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BUDGET - 2026=7 (CONSOLIDATED)

INCOME	Note	€
Membership Fees CEP	1	27,900 €
European Cup	2	18,150 €
Membership/Licence Transfers		7,200 €
Coaching for Coaches		3,500 €
Juniors and Espoirs training event		3,500 €
Advertising / Marketing		5,000 €
Contributions from Luxembourg Ministry of Sports		7,500 €
Bank Interest		850 €
TOTAL		73,600 €

NOTES

1. FIPJP membership fees not included
2. Based on current (2025) registration fee structure

EXPENDITURE	Note	€
Administration (Office, Tech, Banks, Legal service etc.)		4,700 €
Meetings (Directors, Congress, Travel etc.)		15,600 €
Championships/European Cup		28,000 €
Umpiring and Umpiring Programme		8,000 €
Coaching for Coaches		5,500 €
Jeu Provençal		2,000 €
CEP YouTube channel	3	5,000 €
Juniors and Espoirs training event		10,000 €
TOTAL		78,800 €

NOTES

3. The revenue side has not yet been determined

Federations - 40

2025

Clubs - 8,693
Individual Members - 414,585

2024

Clubs - 8,742
Individual Members - 409,679

2023

Clubs - 8,633
Individual Members - 385,856

2022

Clubs - 8,597
Individual Members - 362,784

2021

Clubs - 8,399
Individual Members - 326,370

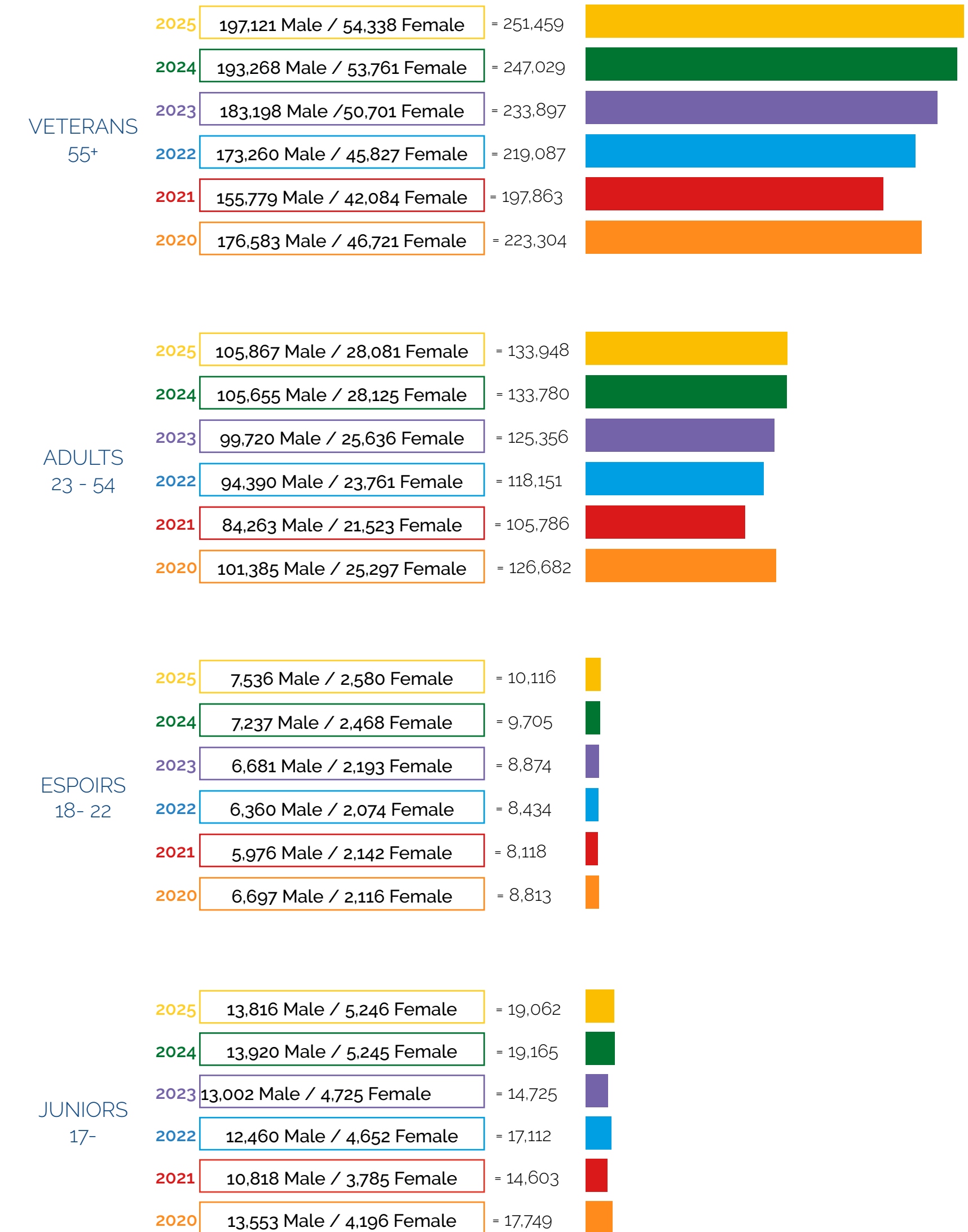
2020

Clubs - 8,633
Individual Members - 376,548

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY



Totals breakdown





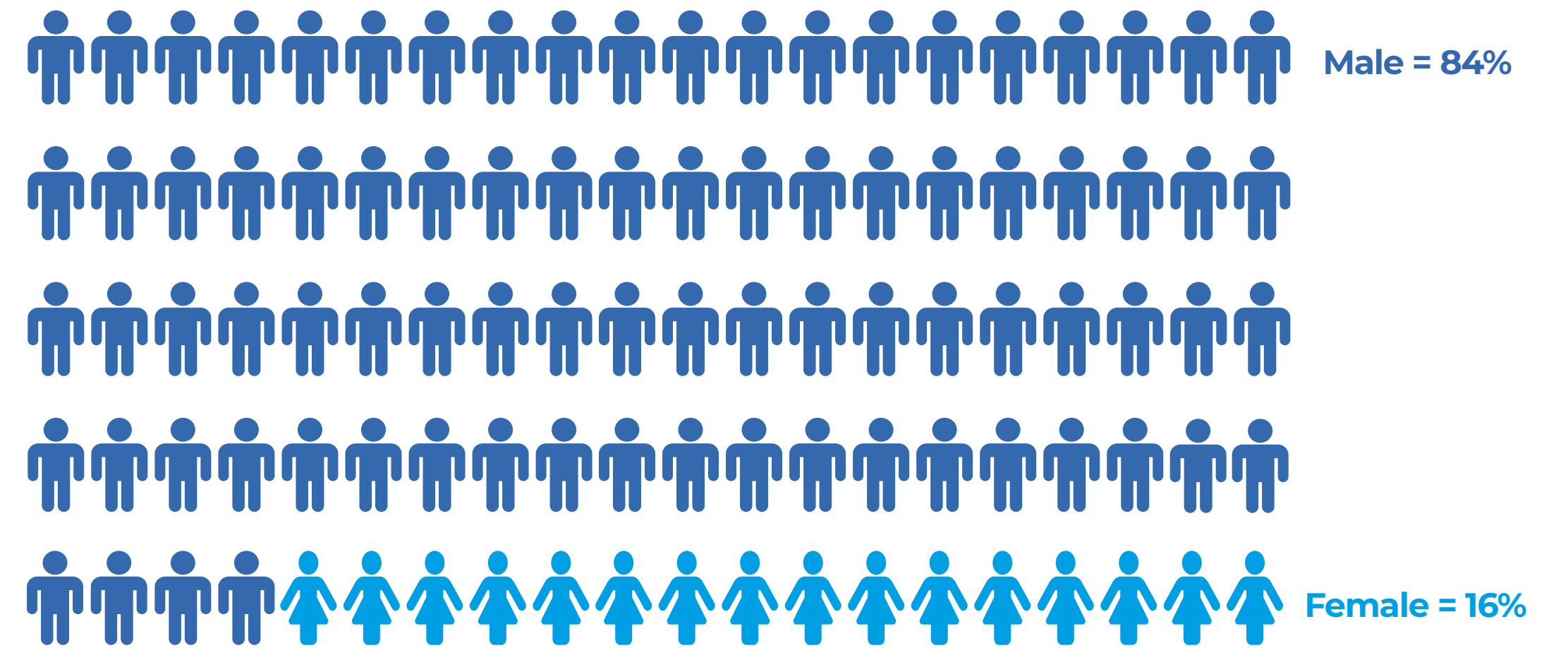
Jean-Luc Melleker

TRANSFER STATISTICS

Total by Category



Total by Sex



During the 2025 sporting year, some 200 transfer requests were once again processed.

Unsurprisingly, France remains our best customer, along with neighbouring countries.

While the procedure may now seem routine, I regret to say that it is sometimes poorly managed by many federations.

Therefore, in the coming days, I will draw up a summary, a kind of "procedure" or "policy," which I will send to the federations via our secretary, asking them to disseminate this information as widely as possible.

For France, I am of course thinking of the departmental committees, which have taken over the entire responsibility for managing licenses.

I would also like to emphasise that many requests are still being

sent by registered mail to the Luxembourg federation, which requires officials to make regular trips to the post office to collect the mail. I am sure you will agree that they have better things to do.

As a reminder, the entire transfer procedure is managed by email.

Unfortunately, we still have to report cases of double licenses, i.e., federations that grant licenses without following the procedure in use.

Even though I know that it is not always easy for federations to detect whether an applicant has been dismissed in previous years, I urge you to be particularly vigilant when considering applications from non-national players, i.e., those who hold another nationality, or at the very least to protect yourselves by adapting your application forms, for example, which in my opinion should specify where the applicant has been licensed in the last five years.

Failing that, it might be useful to have the applicant sign a sworn statement certifying that they have not been dismissed abroad in the last five years.

This will exempt you from any infringement in the event that a case of dual registration is discovered.

And to conclude, I would like to remind you that I am at your disposal for any further information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the procedure to follow.

I know that I am not always available, as I am still working during the day... but this will only be the case for another 10 months, after which I will be enjoying a well-deserved retirement after 45 years of work.

Umpiring



The aim of the CEP's Umpiring Commission is to improve the quality of umpiring throughout Europe. This involves striving for a uniform interpretation and application of the rules by umpires, during not only European Championships, but also during events within our federations.

To support umpires in this endeavour, we previously compiled documents to clarify ambiguous aspects of the rules that frequently arise in queries from within the federations. We submitted these documents to the FIPJP for review, but have not yet received a response. However, the FIPJP has made statements on a number of points, such as feet in the circle, the application of the precision shooting rules and the application of sanctions. Some of these statements have prompted the Commission to request further clarification in order to provide guidance to all umpires in Europe.

Another important objective is to provide umpires from our federations with the opportunity to gain experience at international tournaments by working alongside – and learning from – our certified European umpires.

This was also the case during the European Triples Championship for Men in July 2025, for example. Seven umpires from four federations worked alongside the two European umpires. To facilitate this, the CEP made a modest contribution towards their federations' related costs. All seven umpires also took part in the European umpiring exam organised during this European Championship – as is normally the case every two years. We are delighted to confirm that three of them passed the exam.

The commission has noted once again that the extent to which umpires can prepare for the exam, and the manner in which they do so, varies greatly from federation to federation. This is inevitable, given the differences between the federations and their respective resources. While the training and support of umpires is primarily the responsibility of the federations themselves, the Umpiring Commission aims to support, where practically possible, to the adequate preparation of candidates for the umpire exam. To this end, we are arranging online sessions to update umpires on aspects of the rules and how they are applied. The sessions will also familiarise the umpires with the types of questions they will encounter during the exam.

Contrary to expectations, the FIPJP did not make any

decision about changing the rules in 2025. It's now expected that this will happen in the course of 2026, and take effect in time for the 2027 playing season. The Umpiring Commission continues to be available to provide support and advise umpires throughout Europe.





Marija Silova

Social Media

Over the past decade, social media has evolved beyond just a tool for connecting with friends and family. It now serves as a platform for news dissemination and entertainment, becoming a significant part of our lives. Social media refers to internet-based platforms and applications that facilitate interaction, content sharing, and community building. Unlike traditional media such as newspapers, radio, and television, social media is a two-way communication channel.

Knowing the importance of social media today, the CEP actively engages and share latest information, important announcements, picture and video reviews.

Looking back at 2025, we can see what a prolific year we have had. Less than a year ago, the CEP began to operate social media more actively on Facebook and created a official Instagram account, so that all events could be covered and so that everyone could see what activities happened and are happening. It is an amazing opportunity to capture moments and emotions during the European Championships and CEP projects like: "Trainings for young players" "Coaching for coaches" etc.

Through social networks, we attract the attention of players by following news, current events that can interest them and find a greater desire to share on their social platforms about Pétanque.

Not only the players themselves are interested in pétanque their families, friends and relatives. Instagram and Facebook is a great way for them to keep track of the results and notice the people they actively support. Among Pétanque players, there are people who may not play this sport, but enjoy game broadcasts, watch results, statistics, reports and photo and video galleries.

For that reason, we are becoming more active on these platforms, so that everyone has access to the information they are looking for.

Right now, we are just starting to grow in the numbers of active followers. There is still a lot of work ahead and ideas to achieve the goal. Make sure that in every corner of Europe, people would hear what is Pétanque and would be able to share and follow our profiles more actively on Facebook and Instagram.

As the season of European Championships and various projects approaches, new ideas and opportunities are being considered in order to be able to show the Pétanque from all its beautiful sides, to make it even more pleasant for every viewer to see and understand it.

Representing a millennial generation immediately followed by Gen Z, I can immediately observe its generation actively engaging on various social platforms. For me, this is a great way to challenge myself by doing things that I haven't done before. I am looking at this upcoming year with great enthusiasm and fervour to act and not to stop at what I have achieved and work more for CEP and Pétanque community.



5TH EUROPEAN SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS (M/F)

&

3RD EUROPEAN DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS - (M/F/MXD)

Lorca, Spain 18-21 Junio 2026



14TH EUROPEAN TRIPLES & PRECISION SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS - JUNIORS (M/F)
&
14TH EUROPEAN TRIPLES AND PRECISION SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS - ESPOIRS (M/F)
03-06 October 2026

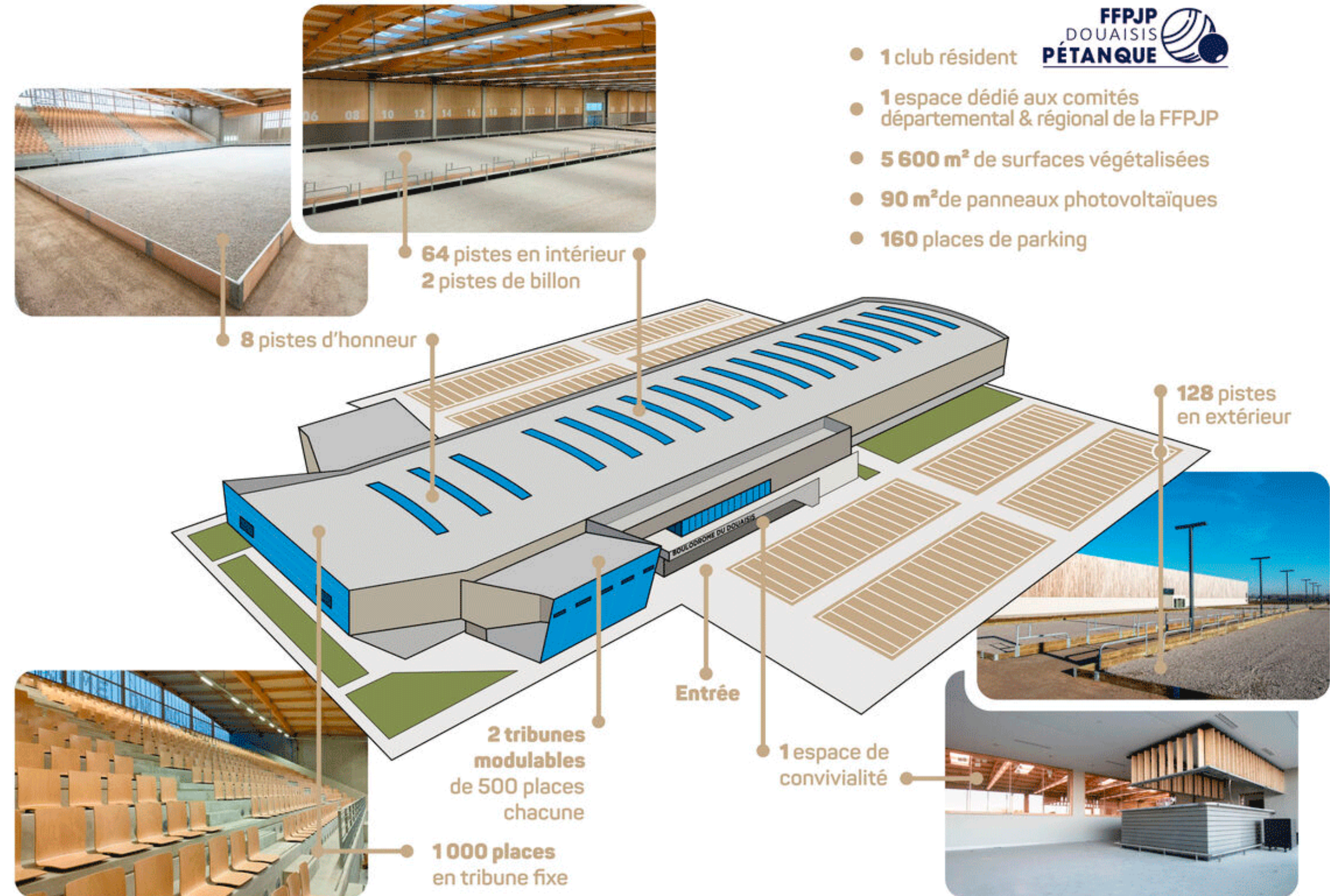
12TH EUROPEAN TRIPLES & PRECISION SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS - WOMEN
08-11 October 2026

Loutraki, Greece



28TH EUROPEAN CUP / DOUAISSIS AGGLO

Sin-le-Noble, France 05-08 November 2026



2027 Programme

- 15th European Triples and Precision Shooting – Juniors (M/F)
- 9th European Triples and Precision Shhoting Championships – Men
- 7th European Triples Championship – Veterans
- 29th European Cup – Douaisis Agglo – Sin-le-Noble, FRANCE (11-14 November



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