



Badminton Europe
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Dear Member Associations,

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

"I would like to congratulate the 16 sports that we have already confirmed will be included in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, in particular badminton, who after missing out four years ago, submitted a very strong application" Sir Philip Craven, the IPC President.

The first step has been taken and it was last year that our sport moved to a new chapter. 7 October 2014 is a date to be remembered as this was when para-badminton was named among the first 16 sports for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

We look forward to this new chapter and are very excited about the integrating para-badminton into our organization process. I would personally like to welcome all para-athletes to our family and look forward to see our organization help develop the participation and the performance of para-athletes in our great sport.

The para-badminton activities in Europe are gaining momentum with tournaments like the bi-annual European Para-Badminton Championships, the recently concluded V Spanish Para-Badminton International in March, the Irish Para-Badminton International taking place in June and the BWF World Para-Badminton Championships in England in September. On top of that, coaches who work with para-badminton players will be invited to the 2015 BEC Coach Education and Summer Schools.

There are currently 323 licensed para-badminton players from 20 countries and we hope that these numbers will increase as well as the level of competition among the players.

As good things never come easy, we need to go the extra mile to achieve our goals for para-badminton. I urge all of you to work hand-in-hand and together, we move towards 'One Sport- One Team'!

Yours in Badminton,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Verpoorten".

Gregory Verpoorten