

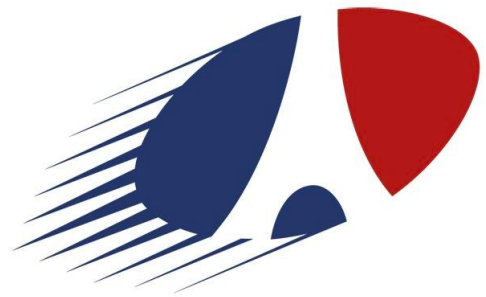
Media Pack

EPXV – European Parliament Rugby Team

The European Union is competing in the Parliamentary Rugby World Cup – the first time the EU competes in an international tournament.

What's the Parliamentary Rugby World Cup?

Since 1995 an international rugby tournament for Members of parliaments from around the world was organised ahead of the official Rugby World Cup championship. Since, the Parliamentary Rugby World Cup (PRWC) has been held every four years. This year, it'll be held in France.



**PARLIAMENTARY
RUGBY WORLD CUP
2023**

A little history

The year 1995 marked a turning point in the history of parliamentary competitions with the first Parliamentary Rugby World Cup, held in South Africa. This competition, presided over by Nelson Mandela, brought together England, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, France, as well as a team representing the "rest of the world."

In 1999, the second Parliamentary Rugby World Cup took place in England and Wales. It included six teams: England, Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand, Japan, and France. In 2003, the third Parliamentary Rugby World Cup was held in Australia, with the host country being joined by Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand, England, and France.

In 2007, France hosted the Parliamentary World Cup, in which Argentina participated for the first time. In 2011, in New Zealand played host, while England hosted the next World Cup in 2015.

In 2023, the Parliamentary Rugby World Cup will take place in France in the first week of September. Europe's team will compete alongside parliamentary teams hailing from France, England, Ireland, Japan, South Africa, Argentina, Australia, and New Zealand for the cup.

Who are we?

The European Parliament Rugby Team – EPXV for short – is composed of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and EP staff, but also open to all of the EU's institutions, as well as to organisations with bona fide dealings in EU Affairs.

Our mission is, on the one hand, to facilitate, develop, and promote the practice of rugby within the EP, European Institutions, and EU Agencies. On the other hand, it is to promote the European Parliament and more generally the EU in national parliamentary rugby circles.

Founding MEPs include Éric Andrieu, Pascal Durand, Radan Kanev, Anne-Sophie Pelletier, Irène Tolleret, Mohammad Chahim and Petar Vitanov.

The team has also been endorsed by the European Parliament's President, Roberta Metsola. The team itself has two co-presidents: Éric Andrieu MEP and Anne-Sophie Pelletier MEP, while the captainship is held by Pascal Durant MEP.

So far, EPVX has played friendly matches against the French parliamentary team, against Boitsfort, a local Brussels club – also where EPXV trains every other Monday, and against the Japanese Diplomatic Rugby team. This match took place at the Belgian national rugby stadium.

Off the pitch

EPXV continues to look for rugby enthusiasts to debate the trends, future, and sustainability of this beautiful sport, in line with EU values of diversity, inclusivity, and solidarity. at our annual “State of the Rugby” conference.

The team has also organised a number of events and conferences within the European Parliament, such as a press conference featuring the team’s Presidents, Anne-Sophie Pelletier and Éric Andrieu, alongside EP President Roberta Metsola, a photo exhibition, and a conference focusing on the importance of rugby’s values and safety in sport.

EPXV fixtures & other activities

The tour

EPXV's tour begins on 31 August, when the team will travel from Brussels to **Toulouse** for the first leg. Ernest Wallon Stadium will play host to the first set of PRWC matches. From there, the team will go on to play its next match in **Sarlat** at Sarlat Périgord Athletic Club Rugby Stadium. The final leg of the tour will take place in **Paris** at the Stade de la Faisanderie.



While the match dates are known (marked above by the black rugby ball), precise fixtures will be announced on 1 September.

Training session with RUBieS

On Friday 1 September, EPXV will train at Blagnac Rugby Club alongside *RUBieS*, an association and rugby club focussed on promoting the practice of the sport, particularly rugby, for those in remission from cancer.



les-rubies.com

Parliamentary Six Nations

The EPXV is also preparing for the 2024 Parliamentary Six Nations.

Meet the EPXV PRWC squad!

The European Parliament Rugby Team (EPXV) – a mixed team – started to train in September 2022. Below is the squad selected for the PRWC.

Players: MEPs

Eric Andrieu
(FR)
Co-President



Pascal Durand
(FR)



Eric Minardi
(FR)



Irene Tolleret
(FR)



Players: Former MEPs

Kader Arif (FR)



Players: PRWC Selection

Forwards:

- Antoine Clément
- Stefan de Koning
- Federico Carlo Martegani
- Olivier Giménez-Espinos
- Emmanuel Kujawski
- Gabriel Richard-Molard
- Olivier Baumard
- Patrice Millet
- Christian Voicu
- Fabian Kaisan
- Daniele Nardi
- Blagovest Tichev
- Nick Johnson
- Roccu Garoby
- Tom Korman

Scrum & fly halves:

- David Thioux
- Jeremy Zeitoun
- Antoine Larpin
- Ignacio Enrique Moreno Aramburu

Backs:

- Mathieu Ballu
- Emilian Tiba
- Maxim Calligaro
- Aurélie Brochard
- Lise Schwimmer
- Isidoros Sakkas
- Cataina Ficut
- Eleonore Devillepoix
- Michal Wojciechowski
- Michael O'Brien

Reserves

- Tim Bogaert
- Miguel Valero de Roca
- Vincent Madeline

- Ramon Gonzalez de Paz
- Stevi de Toledo
- Mustapha Kidari

Josep Calero
Vincent Stueur
Dan Maracescu
Stéphane Mangnay

Jérémie Zeitoun
Francesco Restivo
Carlos Fernandez Ojea
Vincent Mazzone

Management

Secretary
General

Gabriel Richard-
Molard



Tresurer

Antoine Larpin



Head coach

Alain Bloëdt



General
Manager

Philip Cordery



Ast. Coach

Romain Mortgaat

Ast. Manager

Pierre Saglier

Ast. Coach

Anthony Flynn

Coms Officer

Sébastien Reed

Partners

Without its partners, the European Parliament Rugby Team's journey to the PRWC would not have been possible. Zero public funds have been used to finance the team's budget. The team is 100% financed by private entities. (A breakdown of team finances features in the team's annual report, published at the end of 2023.) We therefore extend our utmost thanks to them. Read some words from our partners below:

Penta (formerly Hume Brophy)

Penta realises the vital importance of community and we're delighted to be able to give back to our colleagues and neighbours in the European Parliament and Institutions through this partnership with the EPXV. Indeed the complex interrelation between communities, organisations and business is where we live as the world's first comprehensive stakeholder solutions firm. We deliver an integrated intelligence and data led strategy for our clients in the same way that a good rugby team uses preparation, tactics and post-match analysis around a match. It's for that reason we can think of no better sport that reflects our values than rugby. We are thrilled to renew our long-standing support for the EPXV as they prepare for the challenge of the Parliamentary World Cup in France.



FESI - Canterbury

The Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI) is the pre-competitive platform representing the interests of the sporting goods industry in Europe, advancing its members' priorities and promoting initiatives that benefit the sector, EU citizens and the society as a whole.

Their member, Canterbury – world leader in sports equipment manufacturing, has generously provided the sports kits for the European Parliament Rugby Team.



Video Games Europe

Since 1998, Video Games Europe has ensured that the voice of a responsible games ecosystem is heard and understood, that its creative and economic potential is supported and celebrated, and that players around the world continue to enjoy great video game playing experiences. Being gamers at heart, we understand the value of teamwork and collaboration. That's why it's a huge pride to support the European Parliament Rugby Team.



Thalys/Eurostar

Like the European Parliament Rugby Team, Thalys/Eurostar is founded on a strong and sustainable European vision to connect communities – be they nations, families, or, indeed, sports teams. Thalys, launched in the early nineties, was developed to the scale of its 4 countries: Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Germany. The integration of Eurostar brings a fifth country to that remit. We stand side by side with EPXV and wish them all the best of luck in the PRWC.



J'Go

J'Go is a contemporary Gascon cuisine restaurant, founded in 1995 in Toulouse by the native of Gers, Denis Méliet. Today, it is managed by his sister Cathy and his nephews Tom and Léo. Our cooking is a meticulous and modern interpretation of traditional Gascon family cuisine. It is based on the respect for ingredients, the time taken in preparation, and the optimal use of ingredients. It brings much joy, produces minimal waste, and fuels the two essential engines of Gascon culture: the pleasure of being at the table and the joy of being together.



Honda

Honda's dedication to supplying products of the highest quality makes it a strong partner for the EPXV. Honda believes in the power of dreams. Dreams bring people joy that was previously unknown. Honda cheers on the activities of athletes, believing that the sight of athletes challenging their dreams is exciting to watch and conveys the wonder of having dreams.



Media Contacts

Relevant Members of the European Parliament, EPXV leadership and players can be made available for interviews.

For media inquiries, please contact:

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Media Channels



@Europarl_Rugby



EuroparlRugby



@europarl.rugby

Website:
epxv.eu

Hashtags

Over the course of the PRWC, EPXV's channels will be mobilised around the following hashtags:

#EPXV #UnitedInDiversity (EPXV hashtags)

#coupedumondederugbydesparlementaires