



Roma 2024 European Athletics Championships ready to start

Six days of competition at the Olympic Stadium and the Foro Italico Park

Roma, 6 June, 2024 - Tomorrow will start the **Roma 2024 European Athletics Championships**, hosted for the third time ever in Italy, fifty years after the last edition organised in the Eternal City in 1974. The Championships has been officially presented today by the European Athletics Federation in the pre-event press conference held at the Honour Hall of CONI in Rome, in front of about two hundred international media representatives.

From tomorrow until 12 June, the **Olympic Stadium**, with a new athletics track set up in preparation for the event, the **Foro Italico Park**, with the marvellous **Stadio dei Marmi** returned to its former glory, and Rome's most iconic locations will be the setting for six consecutive days of competition.

In Rome, more than **1600 athletes** from **48** European federations will compete for the **147** medals that will be awarded in **24** different disciplines. The competition is divided into **11 sessions**, **5** in the morning and **6** in the evening, for **6** consecutive days.

The Roma 2024 European Athletics Championships will be attended by **8,300** accredited people, including **2,700** representatives of the 48 teams, **168** judges, almost **1,000** volunteers and **700** media workers. Radio and TV coverage of the event will be provided worldwide by **41** international broadcasters.

The Roma2024 European Athletics Championships will also involve amateurs and runners, that will take part in the competitive and non-competitive '**Roma 10K**' race on Sunday 9 June. The race will start and finish at the Fori Imperiali, in the same iconic spot of city from which the official half-marathon of Roma 2024 will start in the same morning. The half marathon will finish inside the Olympic Stadium.

Tomorrow from **9.35am** the competition will start with the first qualifying session. At **6pm** the Open Ceremony is scheduled in the Piazza della Fontana della Sfera at the Foro Italico, which during the six days of the event will be transformed into the Medal Plaza and will be accessible to everyone. Following the Opening Ceremony, the first scheduled final will take place: the women's 20km race walk, with a course designed inside the Foro Italico Park, around the Medal Plaza and the Stadio dei Marmi. Also the race walk will finish inside the Olympic Stadium.



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The "School Day" will be celebrated on the first day of competition: school students from all over Italy and their accompanying persons (relatives or teachers) will be able to enter the stadium, in the Curva Sud, Curva Nord and Distinti Sud stands, for **1 euro**. All tickets and packages remain on sale on the roma2024.vivaticket.it website, with prices reduced by **40%** thanks to the "Last Call" promotion.

Today the press conference was attended by European Athletics President Dobromir Karamarinov, FIDAL and LOC President **Stefano Mei**, Italian Olympic champions **Antonella Palmisano** (race walk), **Marcell Jacobs** (100m and 4x100m relay) and **Gianmarco Tamberi** (high jump), the Dutch 400m hurdles World champion **Femke Bol**, the German Olympic long jump champion **Malaika Mihambo** and British ephathlon World champion **Katarina Johnson-Thompson**.

"I am sure we will have a fantastic competition. All the European athletics stars are here, especially the Italian ones. Italy's team is probably now the best in Europe and will be able to compete in front of the home crowd. It is going to be a 'game changer' edition because for the first time there will be bonuses linked to the athletes' performance, to convince the big names to be present in this wonderful stadium. I really believe it will be the best European Athletics Championships ever in the Olympic year," said **Dobromir Karamarinov**.

"The European Athletics Championships return to Rome after 50 years in a more beautiful Olympic Stadium and with the renovated Stadio dei Marmi. We are all very excited. This event is on the level of the Olympics Games and the best of Europe is here in Rome. The athletes are our heritage, following in their footsteps many young people are growing up," added **Stefano Mei**.

"We are competing at home, we are a strong team and the results prove it. There will be a lot of positive energy. We racewalkers will have the arrival inside the Olympic Stadium, where 50 years ago another athlete that was born in Puglia like me, Pietro Mennea, won the gold medal: I want to charge myself with that energy," said **Antonella Palmisano**.

"It is important for me to compete at home. Rome is my city because this is where I started to believe in my medal and this is where I built the Olympic gold medal. I want to give something back to Rome to thank her. I don't want to give too much away, but the goal is to run under 10 seconds," **Marcell Jacobs** said.

"We don't want to aim for a middle result here. My team is prepared to do crazy well at these championships. We are reaching a crazy peak, we have never seen such results in Italy. We are one of the best teams in Europe so I am hoping our country will finish in the first spot on the medal table. Everyone wants the others to succeed and this creates a positive bond. So I am putting the pressure on our guys," added the Italian captain **Gianmarco Tamberi**.



“I’ve raced here before, but it’s such an amazing stadium. It’s so huge and the track is brand new. I was happy to try it and try my hurdles. I must say, it felt fast and it has smooth bends, so I am happy,” said **Femke Bol**.

"I am in good shape, also mentally," said **Malaika Mihambo**, "and the pressure helps us to compete better, it is important to always focus on yourself and your performance.”

"My condition is good, for me it is the first time competing in Rome, the Olympic Stadium is an incredible venue, majestic," added **Katarina Johnson-Thompson**.

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