

Lausanne, 8 February 2026

Dear Presidents of the European Member Federations,

In 2022, you put your trust in me when you elected me to the board of European Rowing, and I hope I have lived up to your expectations. I am now asking for your trust once more as I am applying for the presidency of European Rowing.

I started rowing in Switzerland at the age of 10, then went on to row competitively in England during my university years. I now row for pleasure on Lake Geneva. The sport of rowing has taught me dedication, endurance, "fair play" and team spirit, which remain some of my core values to this day. These values accompanied me when I was elected president of the Forward Rowing Club Morges (Switzerland) in 2007, then vice-president of SWISS ROWING in 2012, and president in 2020.

During this period, I was particularly proud to have been part of the team that organised the European Rowing Championships in Lucerne in 2019, and equally proud to have been involved in the winning bid of the World Rowing Championships to be held on the Rotsee in 2027. These championships are important for us a community as they ensure the sustainability of our sport at top regatta venues. These championships are also vehicles to attract top athletes and to maintain rowing standards such as fairness, teamwork and environmental awareness.

Should I have the honour of being elected president of European Rowing in March of this year, there are actions that, in my eyes, need to be addressed rapidly. Firstly, and as I mentioned before, we absolutely need to ensure the sustainability of our European regatta venues, and I fully appreciate the complications of doing this year after year. One of the ways to secure this is by proactive involvement in the different World Rowing commissions, and by regularly inviting them to European Rowing Board meetings.

As the biggest confederation, European Rowing must increase its synergies with World Rowing. An example of such synergies are the 2025 World Rowing Beach Sprint championships when, after the unexpected withdrawal of Rio de Janeiro, European Rowing together with the Turkish Rowing Federation assisted World Rowing in finding a solution at short notice in Antalya. Such synergies need to be developed and expanded.

Given the ever-increasing complexity in the world of sports, European Rowing must also intensify its collaboration and communication with World Rowing and its Executive Committee. Living 20 km away from the World Rowing headquarters in Lausanne, this is something I wish to address immediately.

Europe is a mosaic of history, customs and traditions. Over the last 30 years, I have travelled for business and pleasure to most European countries, which has allowed me to understand different sensibilities and cultures. I am convinced that living in the heart of Europe as well as speaking four of its major languages will help me to represent the uniqueness of the European rowing family.

I hope that in this brief letter, I have been able to convey the reasons why I am applying for the presidency of European Rowing. I would very much appreciate your support in my endeavour, and I remain at your disposal and would welcome any questions or remarks you may have concerning my candidacy.

Yours sincerely



Neville Tanzer