

Report of the European Rowing Board 2025

ERC Activities

The European Rowing Confederation (ERC) is the organisation that represent 46 European national rowing federations, including Israel and Gibraltar and has the capacity to add Member Groupings. The ERC is recognised by World Rowing as the continental confederation of Europe. It is managed by the European Rowing Board (ERB) comprising seven elected members, four directly elected by the General Assembly and three nominated by World Rowing and ratified by the General Assembly.

European Rowing's stated mission is to be a leading continental confederation, adding value to rowing globally and in particular within Europe by supporting its member federations to work together for the sustainable future of our sport.

Key activities and achievements in 2025

The European Rowing General Assembly 2025 was held alongside an Extraordinary General Assembly, to update and clarify the Constitution, during the European Rowing Championships (ERCH), Plovdiv, Bulgaria (29 May-1 June).

The mandates of Patrick Rombaut (BEL) and Algirdas Raslanas (LTU) ended at the end of 2025. Dušan Machacek (CZE) as World Rowing's Continental Representative for Europe remains an ex-officio member of the European Rowing Board (ERB) according to Article 18.5.3 of the World Rowing Statutes. World Rowing nominated Patrick Rombaut (BEL) and Jacomine Ravensbergen (NED) who were duly ratified by the congress delegates to begin new mandates on 1 January 2026. Annamarie Phelps was re-elected to the Board and as President, having reached the end of her mandate.

The ERCH programme incorporated and piloted the new progression system for racing and a new Victory Ceremony format and we greatly appreciated the flexibility of the Organising Committee (OC) and teams in these matters. The event was very positively received by athletes and teams, and the OC took great care in the preparation of the racing and social events in the historic city centre. Plovdiv is well known for producing fast racing and close finishes, and we saw 16 new European Rowing Championship, and two new World, Best Times. Although GBR, GER and ROU topped the medal table, gold medals were spread across 8 Federations with 19 taking home medals.

32 Federations participated and although crew and athlete numbers were slightly higher than in 2024, they remained low from a historic context. The ratio of male to female athletes, and crews, entered also showed a slight improvement on the previous year, at around 60/40 with plenty of doubling up in the women's eights. As expected, entries in lightweight events dropped considerably following changes to the Olympic programme for 2028. Only the LM1x required heats. 13 Federations participated in the Para-rowing events, the highest number (equal to 2021) since the inclusion of para-events at the ERCH, however with no entries in the PR3 Mix 4+ the numbers of athletes were lower than usual, and the percentage of male/female athletes was the poorest to date with only 25% of crews and 23% of athletes being female.

We returned to the beautiful natural Goplo Lake for the third consecutive year, with the experienced OC at Goplo Rowing Club in Kruszwica, Poland, taking on the European Rowing U19 Championships (ERU19CH) 24-25 May. The number of entries remained around the 128₊ level similar to the previous three editions of the ERU19CH, but with a slight improvement in gender balance in both athlete numbers and crews making this the most gender equal age group event since 2016.

The 9th European Rowing U23 Championships (ERU23CH) took place in Račice, Czechia, 6-7 September. Athlete and crew entries increased slightly from the previous two editions and the new Mixed 8+ event attracted 6 entries to make an exciting finale to the Championships. All races were livestreamed allowing everyone to follow the action. Racing on the final morning was delayed due to heavy fog but thanks to the efficiency and collaboration of all stakeholders, races were rescheduled without competitive compromise, and everyone made their transport home. Although the number of female athletes compared to male was low, the ratio of female to male crews was one of the most equal in the event's history at approximately 42/58, due to the small boat entries.

The European Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships (ERCBSCH) took place the following month in Manavgat, Antalya, Türkiye, 8-12 October. This four-day regatta, incorporating Beach Sprint and Endurance formats, is now a large event; and a new record of 325 crews and 580 athletes from 31 nations reflected the growing interest in coastal rowing and particularly Beach Sprints: now an Olympic discipline for Los Angeles 2028.

In the Club Coastal Endurance clubs from 19 nations entered 161 crews including 6 from the USA. As the World Coastal Championships did not take place in 2025, the ERB agreed to open the European event for any nation. In the event this was only taken up by a small number of USA crews. 13 nations entered Member Federation crews to compete in the European Endurance races with 26 coastal solos (14 male, 12 female) and 14 mixed doubles. Türkiye, boosted by local interest and proximity had by far the largest number of entries but Germany, Italy, France, Great Britain and, of course, Spain continue to have enthusiastic competitors willing to travel in large numbers.

In the 4th edition of the European Beach Sprint Championships a record number of crews competed in every event, both senior and U19, totalling 131 crews. Excluding the mixed crews this represented a gender balance of 55/45 - Male/Female crews. Türkiye won its first gold medal in Beach Sprints in the U19 Mix 2x, with Great Britain and Italy winning the two solos. In the senior events Great Britain, Austria and Portugal took gold and 12 Federations shared the medals.

The 2025 European Rowing Presidents' Meeting was hosted by the Belgium Rowing Federation in Ghent, with delegates invited to a Sport Seminar, the Vice President, Patrick Rombaut, President, Annamarie Phelps and Belgium Federation President, Gwenda Stevens as well as World Rowing President Jean-Christophe Rolland contributed with Jean-Michel Saive, President of the Belgium National Olympic Committee also attending. The two-day Meeting refreshed the Confederation's strategic priorities; discussed the Continental Confederation Review undertaken by World Rowing; and reviewed possible changes to event categories and disciplines following decisions taken at the IF's Quadrennial Congress.

Several webinars were held in the area of communication and marketing initiated by Seada Van Den Herik, President of the Dutch Rowing Federation with the aim to help Member Federations by sharing best practices. The ERB expresses thanks and acknowledgement to Seada for that initiative.

In addition, the ERB made progress in assessing the possibilities of a new development office to be based in an EU country with several Federations expressing interest. In May the ERB signed a memorandum of understanding with EUSA, the European University Sports Association, committing to cooperate to further university rowing across Europe through events, projects and partnership. The two organisations will also coordinate umpires and relevant rowing rules, competition data and organisational event standards and calendars.

European Rowing did not hold a stand-alone Indoor Championships event in 2024 or 2025 European indoor rowing athletes could race at the virtual World Indoor Championships.

Summary

The ERB would like to thank our Member Federations for their open engagement and commitment to European events; our members and Organising Committees who have hosted have been exceptional, providing excellent opportunities for our athletes and teams to compete, and for families and fans who travelled to spectate. We also thank Jean Christophe Rolland, Vincent Gaillard and the Executive Committee for their continued support, the staff at World Rowing and especially Jodie Cameron for helping coordinate our communications and administration throughout recent years and Tine Jacobsen who has succeeded her.

Before stepping down on 31 December 2025, Annamarie and the ERB paid special tribute to Algirdas Raslanas. A member of the ERB since its founding 20 years ago, Algirdas has served European Rowing with exceptional loyalty, dedication, and dependability.

At the Extraordinary General Assembly in Budapest on 28 March 2026, the ERB nominated Annamarie Phelps as Honorary President, recognising her lifelong dedication to rowing and, in particular, to European rowing.

The ERB extends special thanks to Patrick Rombaut for serving as Interim President ahead of the elections in Budapest and offers its best wishes to Jacomine Ravensbergen and Morten Juel Hansen, who joined the Board in 2026. Above all, it congratulates Asuncion Loriente on her recent election as President of European Rowing.

Annamarie Phelps (GBR) President

Asuncion Loriente (ESP)

Patrick Rombaut (BEL) Vice President

Neville Tanzer (SUI)

Eva Szanto (HUN), Secretary

Algirdas Raslanas (LTU)

Dušan Macháček (CZE)