

AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN 2019.

- METZ OCTOBER 13, 2019 -

The Metz Marathon, a major event in the Grand-Est region, will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2019.

Its location and its past make Metz a historic European city.

Robert Schumann, one of the fathers of Europe, lived, worked and was elected here.

Metz is bordered by three countries (Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany) and has been, since its inception, one of the keys to the influences and powers that have shaped Europe.

The city decided to place its heritage and history at the service of the European idea by creating a running event to bring people together.

Within the Metz Marathon, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2019 and will be the race used for the French Marathon Championship, and with the patronage of the Congress of the Council of Europe, the city of Metz and the marathon organisers have created the **European Challenge**.

THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGE: THE RACE FOR DEMOCRACY. HUMAN RIGHTS AND EUROPE.

Each region represented at the Congress of the Council of Europe, is invited to bring their runners, both amateur and professional, to this European Challenge.

The participants in this European Challenge will be identified at the Metz Marathon races, and will benefit from specific rankings, podiums and awards, which will be widely publicised.

The Metz Marathon includes 5 different races:

- the marathon (42.195 km), official, Olympic historical and mythical distance
- the relay marathon for 2 or 4 runners, the equivalent for a runner of a half-marathon or a 10K,
- the 10 km Haganis, official and Olympic distance,
- and UEM Run Kids races.

More than 7,000 runners participate in these races and the marathon village welcomes more than 25,000 visitors over the weekend of the event, set for October 12 and 13, 2019.

Part urban and part rural, the routes of the Metz Marathon are good for performance (the current record of the Metz marathon at 2h 11' 33"), and offer the opportunity to traverse the centre of the city and discover its monuments with their 3,000 years of history. For a few kilometres, the keys of the city are handed to the runners...



THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGE IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO DISCOVER AND TAKE AN INTEREST IN YOUR REGION.

LeThe European Challenge also aims to offer the provinces of Europe a media showcase to promote their destination.

We invite you to accompany your delegation of runners with a team responsible for promoting tourism in your area.

We will set up **a European Village** as part of the event with tents hosting delegations from provinces across Europe to invite people to get to know them better.

On the sidelines of the sports event and the European Village, a conference of elected representatives and experts will be organised by the city of Metz on a theme relating to the CLRA.

THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGE: EXCHANGE AND SHARING.

This new concept makes it possible to create a context of encounter, discovery and exchange between different peoples of Europe by building on a sporting event that is both popular and rich in universal values.

A robust communication campaign will boost the presence of athletes and delegations from the provinces of Europe, through promotional and press actions (TV, radio, print media, social networks). Many media partnerships are already in place.

Two specific and complementary modes are available for you to take part in this initiative:

- Represent and promote your province in Metz for two days with a stand in the heart of the marathon village, with a team responsible for promoting your region.
- Invite riders from your province to participate in the European Challenge by entering the different races of the Metz Mirabelle Marathon to defend your colours, with a team of amateurs, individual professional runners, or an athletics club...

Inside this folder, you will find everything you need to discover the European Challenge:

- An introduction to the European Challenge
- A map of the Metz marathon
- Tourist and practical information about the city of Metz
- A registration form for our different modes of participation and an explanatory document for runners

We hope to welcome you to Metz, a historic European city, to share and help build the European Idea together.

We remain at your disposal for any further information.

