



TO: Special Olympics National Programs in Europe Eurasia Region

FROM: David Evangelista, President and Managing Director, Special Olympics Europe Eurasia

RE: 2020 European Football Week

DATE: 23 March 2020

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Dear Special Olympics National Programmes:

As the Covid-19 crisis continues to impact countries globally, Special Olympics Europe Eurasia is committed to doing all it can to strengthen the Movement regionally during these challenging, and uncertain times. This support is wide-ranging and includes the postponement of certain key regional properties. We are taking these steps to provide Special Olympics National Programmes with the opportunity to focus on advanced planning, and to mobilize valuable resources.

To this end, Special Olympics Europe Eurasia asks all Special Olympics National Programmes to postpone their European Football Week (EFW) events, currently slated for 23-31 May 2020. Instead of EFW, we ask National Programmes to consider implementing these football competitions/activities/seminars/camps in alignment with the [European Week of Sport](#) (a key initiative of the European Union) between the dates of 23-30 September 2020. The regional office is currently in discussions with the European Commission to explore joint promotion of European Football Week during the European Week of Sport initiative, and we look forward to sharing more information with you by 31 March.

Special Olympics Europe Eurasia believes that this realignment of EFW in 2020 can offer great opportunity for enhanced promotion of our women's, youth and unified football initiatives. Connecting our region-wide celebration of football to the European Week of Sport will provide increased opportunities with regional stakeholders (including the European Union, and UEFA) in highlighting the example set by our athletes, Unified partners and our National Programmes.

Special Olympics Europe Eurasia thanks all National Programmes for this consideration, and we will share additional updates and information on or before 31 March 2020.