

STATEMENT

EUROPEAN MASTER ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP INDOOR (EMACI 2020 BRAGA)

Dear participants of EMACI 2020 Braga,

It is common knowledge, regardless of country or nationality, that we live our daily lives with an unequal struggle with an invisible, dangerous and easily transmitted.

This danger, under the name of new coronavirus (COVID-19), has dramatically affected our daily routines, causing different responses, from country to country, depending on the volume of people infected.

Despite various interpretations of the danger of this virus, all government agencies have promoted a wide range of measures, restrictions and policies that aim to create measures to contain the spread of the virus.

The General Directorate of Health, a governmental entity that directs health in Portugal, defined a series of parameters that allow a risk assessment to be carried out, in the light of existing scientific knowledge.

In carrying out this assessment, it was concluded that EMACI 2020 Braga, is assumed as a high-risk sport event, due to the fact that it eminently takes place indoors, comprising a total of more than 3,000 participants, with an advanced age and coming from 51 countries, some with high incidence rates of COVID-19.

This analysis also found that any containment measures that can be adopted to reduce the risk of spreading the disease do not seem, in the sporting context in which it is carried out, sufficient guarantee to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

In view of the assumptions of this analysis, the organization decided to present the maintenance of this event to the Municipal Commission of Civil Protection, an organization that integrates all the entities responsible for the safety of the people who are part of the Braga community, such as the city council, civil protection, Ministry of Health, Public Health Organization, security forces, among others.

It was unanimously recommended that EMACI 2020 Braga not be held, not only because the safety of the participants, organization, judges and volunteers was not guaranteed, but also because the city itself and the country could suffer consequences with this sports event.

In view of this strong recommendation, which is associated with a high risk analysis by the General Directorate of Portuguese Health, the EMACI 2020 Braga organization cannot fail to hold this important sport event, which would certainly mark the sports history of Braga and Portugal.

As an entity responsible for the safety of all participants and their families, the Local Organizing Committee, despite the extreme work and investments already made so far, is absolutely unable to ensure this safety, something fundamental to the success that we all desired with this championship.

We understand the dissatisfaction that this measure may cause in the more than 3,150 participants who would have been with us in Braga, from March 15th to 21st, but we would certainly live a period of extreme uncertainty, which could end in a tragic way, something that we would not be able to bear on our conscience.

For us, the organizing entity, we understand that life is more important than holding a sport event.

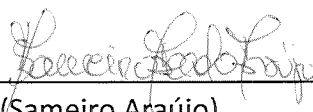
However, considering the responsibility we assumed when we became the organizing city of EMACI 2020 Braga and the importance of this sport event, we present to the European Master Athletics our total willingness to postpone this championship to January 2021 (10th to 17th), thus allowing its realization.

We thank you all for understanding this decision-making, which of course was extremely difficult to take, but which in conscience we understand that it would be the best option for everyone.

We sincerely hope that you will be here with us in January 2021. We count on all of you.

Braga, 04 of march of 2020

Braga City Hall Vice President | LOC President



(Sameiro Araújo)