



## Paris Olympics 2024 – D11 – A local victory

Local authorities are the first level of democracy. Within the Council of Europe (47 member countries in 2024), the European Charter of Local Self-Government, ratified by 47 member states of the Council of Europe, in 1988, has become a reference international treaty. It sets common standards to protect and develop the rights and freedoms of local communities. It calls upon the European states to respect democratic principles and practices, including the right to participate in the management of public affairs, autonomy, elections to local bodies. The European Commission has several proposals for action in this field. In the European Union, since 2003, the European Week of Regions and Cities has been organized jointly by the European Committee of the Regions (COR) and the European Commission. They are the first to benefit from the European structural funds.

Local communities play a key role in sport. Municipalities are the primary contributors to sport. The main item of expenditure is construction, renovation and maintenance of sports facilities. They own it but make agreements with private companies to ensure financing too expensive for their citizens. The City of Paris, owner of the Parc des Princes, has entrusted its concession to the football club Paris Saint-Germain. As an exception, the Stade de France belongs to the State which has signed an agreement with the Vinci-Bouygues consortium. The Palais Omnisport in Paris Bercy (POPB) has been renamed Accor Arena POPB since 2015 with a ten-year sponsorship contract. The sport facilities - Stade de France , Parc des Princes and POPB - were decisive arguments for the Paris 2024 dossier to be selected by the IOC in 2017.

Paris is not alone in the Olympics 2024. The department of Seine Saint Denis benefited from the JOP effect- 7 swimming pools built or renovated, 11 new gyms or stadiums, motorway infrastructures, 4100 new housing (Olympic village), restored parks, bike paths... The Ile de France region, which is responsible for transport, also celebrated the Olympic manna: extension of metro lines (11 and 14 to Orly) and RER, two new stations (Porte Maillot and La Défense). The Olympic sites concern other metropolitan territories outside of the Ile de France and the Overseas Sea (Tahiti) for surfing events. They all benefited from the JO effect.

The political sensitivities of the mayor of Paris, the president of the departmental council of Seine Saint Denis or the president of the Ile de France region are very different. They saw the advantage of being grouped together, and of forming a «republican front» to win the Olympic dossier that had already convinced presidents of the Republic with very different profiles and sensibilities. The sports movement is also very heterogeneous - some federations claim an attachment to «popular education» and sport for all, while others are more «high level sport» orientated with a more elitist speech. When it came to defending the Olympic issue, the sports movement spoke with one voice.

Sport has no political color, no social origin, no territorial preference- it is accessible to all, and for all, with the decisive support of local elected officials and local authorities engaged on the ground, in the front line to defend the rights of their citizens, without any exclusion.

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- (2) Commission européenne (2007) « Livre Blanc sur le sport » - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52007DC0391&from=DA>
- (3) Commission européenne, semaine européenne des régions et des villes - <https://cor.europa.eu/fr/events/Pages/European-week-of-regions-and-cities-EWRC.aspx>
- (4) Conseil de l'Europe, Charte européenne de l'autonomie locale- <https://www.coe.int/fr/web/congress/european-charter-of-local-self-government>
- (5) Sophie Fay « JO : les transports prêts pour l'affluence », Le Monde, jeudi 25 juillet 2024
- (6) Mickaël Gamrasni « Olympiques ! La France des Jeux », France, documentaire diffusé le 16 juillet 2024 sur France 2
- (7) Bénédicte Halba (1997) « Economie du sport », Paris : Economica
- (8) Bénédicte Halba (1999) « Dopage et sport », Toulouse : Milan
- (9) Bénédicte Halba (2010) - Valoriser les acquis de l'expérience des élus locaux - Pouvoirs locaux, Revue de l'Institut de la Décentralisation, n°85, juin 2010
- (10) Bénédicte Halba, initiatrice et co-coordinatrice avec l'Institut national de la Décentralisation (INDL) du projet VA2EL- Valoriser les acquis de l'expérience des élus locaux (projet européen Leonardo da Vinci- 2008-2010)- <https://www.iriv-vaeb.net/projet.php?id=15>
- (11) Site officiel du COJO-<https://olympics.com/fr/>
- (12) Silvia Zappi « Stéphane Troussel tire son épingle des Jeux », Le Monde, samedi 20 juillet 2024