



EUROPEAN AQUATICS

YEARS



EUROPEAN AQUATICS CONGRESS 2026

& Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Integrity Conference

Baku, Azerbaijan | 8-10 October 2026

Four Season Hotel Baku



WELCOME LETTER

From Mr. António José Silva



Dear Friends of European Aquatics,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Baku and introduce this European Aquatics Congress Bulletin. My sincere thanks go to our friends from Azerbaijan's Ministry of Youth and Sports, Farid Gayibov, and the President of the Azerbaijan Swimming Federation, Zaur Aliyev, for their commitment to hosting us.

Congress is an opportunity not only to fulfil our constitutional responsibilities, but to reflect on our progress and look ahead together. Alongside our formal meetings, Baku will host the third "Waves of Change" Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Conference and the first "Sharing Experiences" Conference, creating valuable opportunities for dialogue between Member Federations, partners and stakeholders.

Since we met in Tbilisi in October 2025, European Aquatics has continued to turn ambition into action. We have advanced our Strategic Plan, strengthened governance, expanded education through the European Aquatics Academy, developed our Aquatics Social Responsibility and Integrity activities, embraced digital innovation and made significant progress towards our future headquarters in Belgrade.

At the same time, our athletes remain at the heart of everything we do. Europe once again delivered outstanding senior, junior and Masters championships in 2026, demonstrating both the quality of our athletes and the expertise of our host federations, organisers, officials and volunteers.



European Aquatics is also increasingly looking beyond competition. Through education, sustainability, inclusion, athlete welfare, innovation and cooperation with international partners and European institutions, we are building an organisation that serves its members and contributes positively to society.

None of this progress would be possible without our 52 Member Federations, together with my Bureau colleagues, committees, commissions, staff and volunteers. Thank you for your commitment, trust and willingness to embrace change.

We can be proud of our progress, but our journey continues. Together, we are building a modern, transparent and ambitious European Aquatics, with service to its members at its core.

I wish you all a productive Congress and look forward to shaping the next chapter of European Aquatics together.

António Silva
President, European Aquatics



WELCOME LETTER

From Mr. Zaur Aliyev



Dear colleagues, friends, and members of the European Aquatics family,

It is a great honor and privilege to welcome you all to Baku for the 2026 European Aquatics Congress.

On behalf of the Azerbaijan Swimming Federation, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to European Aquatics for entrusting us with the opportunity to host this prestigious event. We are proud to welcome representatives of national federations, athletes, experts, and leaders of the aquatic sports community to our beautiful capital.

Baku is a city where history, culture, and modern development come together. Located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, our city has always been a place of connection, dialogue, and cooperation. We hope that your time here will be memorable not only because of the importance of the Congress, but also because of the hospitality, friendship, and new partnerships that will be created.



The European Aquatics Congress is an important platform where we come together to exchange ideas, discuss the future of aquatic sports, and strengthen our common vision for the development of swimming and other aquatic disciplines across Europe.

Azerbaijan is strongly committed to the growth of aquatic sports. We continue investing in athlete development, improving opportunities for young talents, and creating conditions that support excellence at every level. We believe that cooperation between federations is the foundation for achieving greater success and inspiring future generations.

I would like to thank European Aquatics and all our partners for their continued support and cooperation. Together, we can continue building a stronger, more inclusive, and more successful future for aquatic sports.

On behalf of Azerbaijan, I warmly welcome you to Baku and wish you productive discussions, meaningful exchanges, and a wonderful experience in our country.

Welcome to Baku - we are delighted to have you here.

Thank you.

Zaur Aliyev
President, Azerbaijan Swimming Federation



BAKU

A City where Ancient Heritage meets Modern Elegance

Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, is a fascinating destination where history, culture, and innovation come together along the shores of the Caspian Sea. Known as the “City of Winds,” Baku combines centuries-old traditions with a dynamic modern identity, offering visitors a unique experience at the crossroads of East and West.

From the historic charm of the Old City (Icherisheher) and the iconic Maiden Tower to the futuristic architecture of the Heydar Aliyev Center and the stunning Flame Towers, the city’s landmarks reflect its rich heritage and ambitious vision for the future.

GETTING TO BAKU

Haydar Aliyev International airport will be the Congress’ official airport. Transfers will be provided to and from the hotel.



VISA REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION

Delegates are responsible for ensuring that they hold the appropriate travel documents and visa, where required, for entry into the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Nationals of countries eligible for the Azerbaijani **ASAN e-Visa** may apply online through the official e-Visa portal. The current list of eligible countries includes all EU Member States, as well as Switzerland, Norway and the United Kingdom, among others.

The standard e-Visa is a single-entry visa, valid for 90 days, allowing a stay of up to 30 days.

A standard e-Visa is normally issued within 3 working days.

Delegates are strongly advised to apply sufficiently in advance of their planned travel and **not to wait until the minimum processing period.**

Please ensure that the nationality selected in the e-Visa application corresponds to the passport/travel document that you will use to enter Azerbaijan.

Further details can be obtained at the following link:

<https://mfa.gov.az/en/category/visa>

FOR VISA APPLICATION PLEASE VISIT

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC VISA PORTAL

<https://evisa.gov.az/en/>



DEI & I - WAVES OF CHANGE

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & INTEGRITY CONFERENCE

Friday 9 October 2026 - 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

As part of the European Aquatics Congress, we are delighted to host **DEI & I – Waves of Change**, a dedicated conference bringing together European Aquatics Federations, experts and international guests to explore **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Integrity** in aquatics and sport.

The event will focus on **practical approaches**, inspiring examples and solutions that can help **Federations strengthen DEI & I** across their organisations and activities.

International speakers will share their knowledge, experiences and practical advice, while selected European Aquatics Federations will present initiatives and good practices from their own contexts.

A more detailed draft agenda can be found later in this bulletin.

Participation in the Conference is free of charge for up to two participants per Federation.

Additional travel assistance will be available to Member Federations attending both the Congress and the DEI & I Conference with at least one female participant, as explained later in this bulletin.

Registration is mandatory and will be managed through the European Aquatics Academy platform. The registration link will be made available shortly.

Registration period: **16 September – 7 October 2026**

For further information, please contact silviacosta@europeanaquatics.org



CONGRESS VENUE

Four Season Hotel Baku

Located on the promenade along the Caspian Sea, Four Seasons Hotel Baku offers world-class hospitality and luxury in the heart of Baku. Seamlessly blending classical architecture with modern elegance, the hotel is situated within walking distance of Old City (Icherisheher) and major city attractions.

- ~ Category: 5-Star Luxury
- ~ Location: City Centre / Caspian Sea Waterfront
- ~ Address: 1 Neftchilar Avenue, Baku, AZ1095, Azerbaijan

Accommodation & Travel Information

Accommodation at the Four Season Hotel Baku is provided on a bed & breakfast basis.

Accommodation expenses for one delegate per country (single room / bed & breakfast / for up to three nights) will be covered by the AZE Federation.

Any additional costs / nights are to be covered by the respective Federations.



Travel assistance up to a total maximum of 400€ / Federation will be provided by European Aquatics for the registered delegates of the Member Federations present on site and attending the Congress.

Member Federations that will attend both the Congress and the DEI & I Conference with at least one female participant — whether attending with one or two participants in total — will be eligible to receive an additional 200€ for travel assistance.

Booking Terms and Conditions

- ~ **Single Room:** US\$ 270 (≈ € 235) per night (bed & breakfast)
- ~ **Double Room:** US\$ 345 (≈ € 300) per night (bed & breakfast)

All hotel bookings and the registration of delegates and of any additional participant shall be made through the Event Management System Event Works by Wiz-Team.

Each Federation will receive an email from Event Works with a unique link to access its own account. Please click on the link you will receive to enter your booking request. Please note that the unique link and password will only be valid for this specific event, i.e., the EA Congress 2026. Once your booking is made and confirmed, the LOC will issue a pro forma invoice and payment shall be made according to the below schedule:

- ~ **50% by September 15, 2026**
- ~ **50% by September 30, 2026**



OFFICIAL DINNER

The Official Dinner will take place on Friday 9 October 2026 at 20:00 (exact location TBC). The Official Dinner will be an opportunity to celebrate the Congress and enjoy an evening together with colleagues and friends.



CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions and support, please contact

Local Organising Committee

~ Kamran Aliyev: communications@asf.az

~ Oqtay Atayev: oqtay.a@asf.az

European Aquatics Office

~ EA Office: eaoffice@europeanaquatics.org

~ Lorenzo Rulent: lorenzorulent@europeanaquatics.org

~ Gianni Minervini: gianniminervini@europeanaquatics.org



PROVISIONAL CONGRESS PROGRAMME

Wednesday 7 October 2026	
Afternoon	EA Bureau arrivals
Thursday 8 October 2026	
Morning	Federations / Delegates arrivals
9:30-13:00 (3.5h)	Bureau Meeting
13:00-14:30 (1h30)	Lunch
Afternoon	Knowledge Sharing & Experience plenary session with NF
Friday 9 October 2026	
Morning	DEI & I Conference
Afternoon	Various meetings (e.g., meeting with LOCs, Balkans meeting, Multinations meeting, Nordics meeting, COMEN Bureau, COMEN General Assembly, Women in Aquatics gathering...)
Evening	Official Dinner
Saturday 10 October 2026	
09:00-10:00	Congress Registration
10:00-13:00	Congress
13:30-14:30	Official Lunch
Afternoon	Social Programme (TBD)
Afternoon / Evening	Departures
Sunday 11 October 2026	
All Day	Departures



DEI & I – WAVES OF CHANGE

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & INTEGRITY

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

09:00–09:30	Arrival & Registration
	Welcome coffee and participant reception
09:30–09:45	Opening & Welcome
	Introduction, objectives and framing of DEI within European Aquatics
09:45–10:45	Case Studies – Practical Implementation of DEI
	Examples of DEI initiatives from selected National Federations
10:45–11:15	Coffee Break & Networking
11:15–11:45	Safe and Inclusive Environments in Practice
	Practical approaches to safeguarding and inclusive competition environments
11:45–12:15	Integrity in Sport
	Session in coordination with the Integrity Committee, focusing on respect, athlete protection and existing protocols
12:15–12:30	Closing & DEI Commitment Moment
	Key takeaways and invitation to National Federations to engage with a DEI commitment framework



**EUROPEAN
AQUATICS**

A century in your element