

Dear,
Alderman for Sport Peter Wauters
Honorary rector Francis Van Loon
President of the PCU committee Peter Verboven
Dear guests
Dear coaches
Dear athletes,

First of all, I am very honored to attend this event, thanks to the chairman for the invitation.

Our president of Panathlon International, Pierre Zappelli, sends you all his greetings and wishes you all the best in this wonderful sporting event.

We are almost past the most difficult period of the Covid virus, many events are planned or restarted. In this period, "SPORT" has taken on a much deeper meaning to provide better physical and mental health to the population. In the Panathlon values sport has a great involvement and is also one of the spearheads of the movement.

More than 10 years ago, the International Executive Board gave the green light for the establishment and development of the Committee of University Panathlon Clubs (PCU). It has been a success.

With this, PI has taken an important step to introduce and help spread Panathlon values among youth, adolescents, and young adults. The involvement of the student community is crucial for the future of PI.

In these years, many initiatives have been undertaken to promote our values: from the International University Games to trophies to graphic and photographic competitions. A very lively, active, and dynamic activity that has also led to an excellent synergy between Panathlon International and the University of Antwerp. The University has also hosted several Assemblies and Congresses of Panathlon International, a path full of initiatives and commitment to convey the values we believe in, education, fair play, moral education in sport and civic life.

Now we must look to the future. Each of us, regardless of our role in the organisation, must contribute to the growth of our association by transforming our objectives into concrete actions and trying to become a key player in the field of the values that inspire us. After this period, we will need it even more! Times change and demand more and more commitment, dedication and passion, but these are qualities that we sportsmen and women know well and that do not discourage us.

This year, PI conducted a general survey which is currently being processed no less than 800 surveys were received, a great success! This will allow us to make a SWOT analysis and work out an appropriate master plan for the future.

In addition to my mandate as Conseiller international, I am also chairman of the PI expansion committee, which is currently running at full speed. You will be able to read about it on the PI website and in the PI expansion committee newsletter.

We are going for an expansion to different continents not only for the traditional clubs but also for the university clubs of Panathlon. At the next PI General Assembly in Lausanne at the beginning of June, it will be possible to take an overall view of PI as an important snapshot. Work will then continue the dissemination and elaboration of the Panathlon values.

I wish you a very successful PCU games!

Long live Panathlon!

I declare the 23rd PCU Games officially opened!!!!