

# Let's Make the Women's Euro 2025 a Climate Champion

13 June 2025

## Open letter to the UEFA Women's EURO 2025

From 2 to 27 July, Europe's top women's football teams will gather in Switzerland for the Women's Euro 2025. But while we celebrate the power of the game, we also need to talk about something else that comes with tournaments: travel and the carbon emissions that it entails.

With teams, staff, and thousands of fans on the move, major sporting events carry a big climate footprint. During EURO 2024, transportation [accounted for around 80%](#) of total event emissions, with air travel alone responsible for around 60% of carbon emissions.

But here's the good news: football can lead the way in championing sustainable travel.

UEFA has already taken encouraging steps by [partnering with Swiss rail operator SBB](#) to make it easier for fans to travel across Switzerland by train. It also [requires](#) teams to travel by rail or coach within the host country. And finally, it has created a [carbon footprint calculator](#) that helps Euro teams assess their emissions during the tournament.

But there's more that can—and should—be done. As UEFA director Doris Keller said in [an interview](#), "It's important to ask the question about the real sustainability of these kinds of events. Should we be stricter? Can we prohibit teams from arriving by plane?"

We believe that UEFA, as an influential voice with millions of followers, can build on this momentum and take its sustainability commitments further **by establishing a travel policy for Euro teams**. With Europe's rail network continuing to grow and improve, it's both reasonable and timely **to ask teams to travel by train (or coach) to and within the host country for journeys under a certain distance or duration**.

Indeed, rail travel policies are already standard practice in the [business world](#) — there's no reason they couldn't be applied to major sporting events which create as much or even more pollution.

In addition, some of the teams participating in this summer's tournament have implemented and updated their internal travel policy to prioritise the use of ground transport for matches. The [French team](#), for instance, expanded its policy to require train or coach travel for journeys under four hours, up from the federation's three-hour limit announced in 2023.

The climate benefits are clear. If teams able to reach Switzerland in less than 6 hours by train were to avoid flying, total emissions from a round trip to Switzerland could be cut by -15%.<sup>1</sup> And

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<sup>1</sup> These include Germany, Italy, France, Belgium.

if we push the threshold to less than 10 hours, total emissions would be slashed by -32%.<sup>2</sup> This isn't wishful thinking —some of these teams could actually take direct trains to get to their base camps.

Rail is a feasible alternative to get to the host country for at least half of the teams participating in the tournament. The French,<sup>3</sup> German, Belgian, and Portuguese teams have already committed in separate exchanges with the Travel Smart campaign<sup>4</sup> and its partner organisations to avoid flying within Switzerland.

Last year in the men's EURO 2024, some teams also [made efforts](#). Switzerland took the lead, travelling to Germany and to its three group-stage matches (five out of six trips) by train. Romania, Poland, and Belgium also chose the train for at least one match.

All in all, UEFA's recommendations are solid, but there's room — and a real need — to take them further to ensure they're followed and strengthened by phasing out unnecessary flights and by supporting ground transport as the default travel option to and within the host country under a certain distance or duration.

We call on UEFA and national teams to drive meaningful change and make the Women's Euro 2025 a benchmark for sustainable sport.



<sup>2</sup> This adds the Netherlands, England and Wales to the list.

<sup>3</sup> However, the French team plans to fly for one of the matches in the knock-out round if they qualify, as the journey would take more than four hours, which partially weakens its commitment.

<sup>4</sup> [Travel Smart](#) is a global campaign led by T&E aiming to reduce business air travel emissions by -50% as the most effective way to reduce aviation's climate impact in our decade.