



**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

## **Up, up, and away: balloons launched at the 67<sup>th</sup> Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett**

Münster, Germany, 15 September 2024 – **The twenty-one Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett balloons are now crossing Europe in a south-westerly direction, in the race to become the 2024 FAI Long Distance Gas Balloon Champion.**

Against a **stunning backdrop** of Münster Castle, the balloons inflated during the afternoon of Saturday 14 September, 24 hours later than planned due to weather conditions.

*"A majestic sight and an emotional moment, which has invested countless voluntary hours over the past months,"* said a spokesperson from the organising team.

**Inflation was successful**, and the British all-female team of GBR-1 Scholes/Rich were first to launch into the evening sky, serenaded by the British national anthem. They were followed by the 20 other teams in the sequence that was announced at the Opening Ceremony.

Each team will follow its own strategy to keep the balloon aloft for the longest distance from the start point. This year it seems that the team meteorologists are united in believing that **heading south-west** towards France's Pyrenees mountains and into Spain will give them the best chance of success.

Event director Sebastian Eimers expressed his gratitude to the Münster audience: *"It's incredible to see so many spectators come out, offering the teams a truly special setting."*

The current position of the gas balloons can be **tracked live via the tracking app** and on the Gordon Bennett homepage, allowing fans to follow the thrilling race in real-time. *"The coming days will reveal which team will bring the Gordon Bennett race to their country in 2026"*, organisers said.

### **Key Dates:**

- 12 September: Check in, Opening Ceremony, filling of sandbags.
- 14 September: Briefing, inflation, launch.
- 14-16 September: Daily livestream and interviews on Gordon Bennett TV.
- 20 September: Welcome Back party
- 21 September: Awards Ceremony

### **Editor's note**

- [Livetracking](#)
- [Event Website](#)
- [GB Facebook](#)
- [GB Instagram](#)
- [GB X](#)
- [Pictures](#)
- [Youtube \(Gordon Bennett TV\)](#)
  - Morning show 10:00 CET
  - Afternoon show: 17:00 CET,
  - Late show: 20:30 CET
- TV distribution:
  - 12h after launch: Online Clip #1, Include updated press release

- 12-24h after end: Online Clip #1, Include updated press release
- 12-24h after end: TV News
  
- [FAI logo](#)
- [FAI media corner](#)

## **About FAI**

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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