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## EG2023, Men's doubles Bronze to Portugal Italy defeated with honour

The bronze medal in the men's doubles at the **European Games in Krakow** goes to Portugal's **Afonso Fazendeiro** and **Miguel Oliveira**. At the end of a tight final that lasted two hours and 31 minutes, Fazendeiro and Oliveira defeated 6-7 7-5 6-0 Italians **Simone Cremona** and **Marco Cassetta**. The result, at least in the third set, was affected by an ankle injury for Cremona, who nevertheless honoured the competition by staying on the court rather than retiring.

The first set was balanced, with only one break point conceded by **Fazendeiro** and **Oliveira** but promptly annulled. In the twelfth game, however, on the Portuguese's serve the Italians had six opportunities to close out the set. From 15-40, **Fazendeiro** and **Oliveira** recovered to deuce: at the advantages, four more chances for **Cremona** and **Cassetta**, none converted. It then went to the tiebreak, led by Italy from the first point. At 6-3 in their favour, three more chances were not taken by Italy, which, however, managed to close 8-6 at the ninth attempt.

Total balance in the first set, but balance also in the second: the **Portuguese's** first break point coincided with a set point, immediately transformed. From there, the match turned, with **Fazendeiro** and **Oliveira** having four break points in the first round of their opponents' service game: Fazendeiro's backhand volley made it 2-0, on which **Cremona** suffered a sprained ankle that forced the **Azzurri** to ask for a medical timeout at the end of the next game. In a precarious physical condition, Cremona remained on the court but the match effectively ended there. However, the great message from Simone remains: to honour the European Games and his own jersey even when injured.

*“My partner won the match at the end of the second set, with three or four impressive balls – said Oliveira -. I started to play better and Afonso gave me the energy to win the match. I’m sorry for Simone and for his injury, we preferred to win against an opponent playing at 100%”.*

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#### About the International Padel Federation (FIP)

About the International Padel Federation (FIP) The International Padel Federation (FIP) is the world governing body of padel, whose goal is to promote all forms of padel worldwide with: 90 Countries, 64 National Federations, + 25 million active players and 500,000 Federated Players. The sport was created in Acapulco, Mexico, by Enrique Corcuera in 1969. It was 32 years later that the FIP was established in Madrid by the legal representatives of the Argentine Padel Association, the Spanish Padel Association and the Uruguayan Padel Association, by means of Public deeds signed before the Notary Mr. Javier Gaspar Alfaro, with the protocol number 2486. We want to bring the worldwide Padel family together into one community, and make Padel a sport that is recognised and played in all the countries of the World. [www.padelip.com](http://www.padelip.com)

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