Good evening, everyone.

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Castle of Formigine, a symbol of our community, which today brings together athletes, sports officials, associations, and international delegations for an important opportunity for dialogue.

I would like to thank AGWA and the Honey Badgers for organising this event, demonstrating how sport can take on not only a competitive role, but also a social and educational responsibility.

We are approaching **November 25th, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**. This is an important occasion, but our commitment cannot be limited to a single day of reflection. The fight against gender-based violence and all forms of discrimination must be a daily responsibility.

Sport plays an essential role in this effort. It is not simply about competition and achieving results. Above all, it is a powerful educational tool through which young people learn the importance of rules, equality, and mutual respect.

Strength must never become a means of domination, and every opponent deserves dignity and respect.

A safe and equal sporting environment can make a real contribution to preventing violence by challenging stereotypes, discrimination, and power imbalances, while promoting self-confidence, independence, and solidarity.

The **Charter of Formigine**, which we are presenting today, represents an important achievement, but above all, a starting point.

It is not simply a formal document, but a shared commitment between institutions, sports organisations, and civil society to ensure that no woman, female athlete, or girl ever feels excluded, belittled, or unsafe, either on or off the sports field.

Thank you to everyone who has made this event possible.