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EUROPEAN CYCLE MESSENGER
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026 BERLIN

EVENT CONCEPT

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ECMC 2026

EUROPEAN CYCLE MESSENGER CHAMPIONSHIPS (ECMC) IN BERLIN

participants: between 400 and 600 people
time: 14.05.-18.05.2026
place: tba

HISTORY OF THE ECMC:

The European Cycle Messenger Championships (ECMC) is an annual competition for bicycle messengers from all of Europe. It premiered 1996 in Hamburg. In the last 29 years, the event has taken place in numerous European cities like Rotterdam, Warsaw, Paris, London, Zürich, Brussels, and Helsinki. Through the preceding commitment of our club CourierCompany, Berlin's bid to host the 30th edition of the ECMC, was the winning one.

What started as a small event of the inner circle with competition being the main focus, the championships became a place for European couriers to meet, connect, and race.

Throughout the years, a multi-day event has been established, that also puts bicycle related art and culture in the centre, and strengthens the scene's sense of community. The last years usually saw between 400 and 800 participants.

DER VEREIN: COURIER COMPANY

The planning and realization is done by the charitable club „**CourierCompany**“ which can pride itself with over 20 years of experience and is run by both active and former messengers. For such an important event, it will be supported by bicycle enthusiasts coming from a variety of backgrounds who will contribute their diverse expertise.

Our club so presents the requirements, passion, and talent to host the approaching championships. The strong community spirit is founded on common experiences and solidarity which is expressed in charitable activity and events. Also, our participation in national and international competitions facilitates the interconnection with the global courier community.

EXPERIENCES & NETWORK

In 2023, we successfully held the German Messenger Championships (DMFK) and would like to continue this in a bigger way with the ECMC. Many of our club members are active in other event collectives, including **Fahrrad Kultur Kollektiv 3000**, **Freilaufcamp DIY Camp**, **Deutsche Meisterschaft der Fahrradkuriere (DMFK)**, **Berlin Triathlon**, **Upcycling**, **Neue Republik Regler**, as well as the annual **Halloween-Alleycat**, which has been running for over 30 years.

We are in close contact with clubs and couriers from all across Europe like **By-Expressen**, **Joyride Stockholm**, **Cyklokuriér Švihaj Šuhaj**, **Associated Bicycle Couriers London**, to name but a few, who have organised similar events in the previous

SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL IMPACT & PARTNERS:

years. We are being supported by Berlin courier collectives and companies like **CrowCourier, Messenger and Fahrwerk**.

In the context of sustainable mobility concepts, the services provided by bicycle messengers are still gaining importance. They relieve innercity traffic, offer a CO2-neutral alternative to car based transport companies and contribute to the reduction of particulate and exhaust emission. Especially couriers who work with cargobikes play a central role in urban last-mile transport.

With our event and the visibility of fit for future transport of goods connected to it, we provide an important impulse for the sustainable advancement of Berlins City center, particularly in terms of politics concerning transport and urban development.

Our championships´ open character enables everybody interested to take a close look into sustainable mobility and transport, the cargorace being one of the highlights here. The city´s support of our event can be an important acknowledgement of the transport transition.

Besides the competitions, we offer **workshops, discussions, cultural programs like concerts, DJ-Sets exhibitions and join-in activities** to make it accessible to everybody interested. With the support of local cultural and catering partners, we are expanding the action space and tendering participants from all over Europe a new perspective on Berlin. To promote the coming edition of the event, we are cooperating with local media, and are using social media platforms for enhanced reach. Besides, our interviews and reports are being published in international cycling and lifestyle magazines.

The courier community in Berlin is closely connected to the **local bike scene**, leading to a wide support. Also, the event provides an important space for bicycle related culture.

SUSTAINABILITY:

As in our occupation as couriers, we put a focus on sustainability. This includes the following:

- cooperation with local companies and producers
- Zerowaste concept, prevention of garbage and single use products in all sections
- consideration of the CO2 footprint of all materials and services used
- logistics concept that avoids motorised transport as much as possible
- maximum usage of material lent by supporters and sponsors

Participants mostly travel to the event by climate friendly means, the majority by train or in cycle groups which can be riding through Europe for over a week.

COMPETITIONS:

The central competition is a race in which the couriers´ day to day work is simulated. This is reflected by the racecourse and layout, and requires excellent orientation, very high level of bicycle handling, splitsecond decisions, and anticipation of the surroundings. During the raceday, several runs of qualifiers will take place in which it will be decided who gets to compete in

the finals the following day. The racecourse consists of several checkpoints that need to be connected approached efficiently. As in the actual work, spontaneous tasks may appear, situations can suddly change, and transporting unwieldy parcels can challenge the racers. Deciding whether to ride direct or detour to pick up more jobs, reflects real everyday challenges, where every delivery is important and timebound.

To win, racers will have to master riding technique, speed, and skilful combining of deliveries. The cargobike race relies on the same principles but adds more bulk and heft of parcels. The challenge is to organise and anticipate even more. While it may be easy to carry a lightweight bike up some stairs to avoid a detour, this often is not an option whith a fully loaded cargo-bike. This results in new routes for the same tasks.

As was already the case in Lausanne and Zürich in 2024, we will organise a team race. Such a format requires exceptional organisation and cooperation among the teams, an aspect that plays an important part in many courier companies and ensures efficiency and punctuality.

Besides the beforementioned competitions, other activities are planned, for example: **Sprints, Slalom, Goldsprints, Trial, Bike Polo, a sightseeing ride, lake jump.**

FOOD & HOUSING:

We will provide catering and accomodation. Partly this will be done by the local community and we are encouraging residents to host participants, too, something that always makes for a great way of international connection building.

FINANCING:

Bike messengers´ salaries are often amongst the bottom of the already low numbers in the transport industry. To enable them to travel to Berlin and join the ECMC, we need to make the registration fees as low as possible.

A part of our costs will be covered by said fees which will be progressive. Another part will come from donations, sponsors, and sale of merchandise and bevarages. This will not cover the entirety of costs why we are dependant on support from the city. Especially financing and allocation of a suitable and safe race course leads to a monetary burden that is cannot sustained otherwise.

The vast majority of planning, preparation and realization is done by volunteer club members and supporters. Because this consumes a lot of time and effort, we budgeted an allowance for the core team.

As organisers of a physically demanding competition, we acknowledge our responsibilty to actively promote participation of non-male presenting people. That is why every competition will have two categories, an open one, and a women, trans, non-binary (wtnb) one. Both categories are treated equally.

AWARENESS:

Another aspect that is very important to us is to provide a respectful and safe environment for everybody involved. From the experience of previous events, guidelines have been agreed upon by the community, part of those is to have a so-called Awareness team in place at all times, which acts as contact persons and offers help in situations of conflict and when people feel uncomfortable. Members of the team will be trained and visible.

We call on you to avow to the European Cycle Messenger Championships ECMC 2026 in Berlin and support this unique event.

Cycling brings happiness!

IMPRESSIONS FROM PREVIOUS CHAMPIONSHIPS

