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## EG2023 Pappacena-Sussarello defeat Spain and win bronze: "Crazy joy"

Almost three hours of battle to win **Italian Padel's first medal at the EG2023 in Krakow** in three sets (7/5, 3/6, 7/5) against Spain. **Chiara Pappacena** and **Giulia Sussarello** - soon to be back on court with Marco Cassetta in search of gold in the 'Mixed' speciality - grabbed it when all seemed lost, when a break at 4-3 by the Spaniards in the third set seemed an impossible mountain to climb. Instead, what happened was that **Noa Canovas** and **Araceli Martinez** found themselves facing a pair that was once again compact, solid, with the lucidity of those who have to play for everything.

And so, from 5-3 Spain, **Marcela Ferrari's girls** strung together four games in a row, all on the volley, enriched by two crazy wins by Pappacena, which led to a 6-5 overtaking with as many errors by Araceli Martinez. Giulia Sussarello's hold and Pappacena's surge changed the scenario, turning it into a gentle descent towards the medal. In the last game, another great point by Pappacena in the opening was the overture to three errors in a row by Araceli Martinez that decreed the Italian triumph. Before this epilogue, a hard-fought first set won by Italy, a second set with Spain in comeback and the decisive match drawn out until the Italian acceleration, for 2 hours and 40 minutes of battle in the splendid Krakow Market Square. In the numbers, there is the great balance of the match, with 129 winners for the Italians against 124 for the Spaniards. The balance of points won on the first ball of serve was different, with a net 72 to 52 for Italy, the same effectiveness in the points at the response, with an even 45%, while on break balls Italy closed with 67% of converted chances against 26% for Spain.

*"We are very happy, the Azzurri jersey - the first words of the 'bronze' girls - we live it intensely, it is a second skin and we still do not realise how beautiful and incredible the feeling of having won a medal here at the Games is. It was a very tough final and that is why we are even more proud to have brought a medal to Italy".*

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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.padelfip.com](http://www.padelfip.com)

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