

EUROPEAN ZONE DRAW FOR THE PRELIMINARY COMPETITION

Basic conditions

- 52 members.
- 51 entries.
- Germany qualified automatically as host.
- 13 teams to qualify plus Germany.

Preliminary competition

- 8 groups (3 groups of 7 teams and 5 groups of 6 teams).
- League system on a home and away basis.
- The 8 winners of each group and the 2 best 2nd placed teams qualify directly.
- The other 6 2nd placed teams are drawn against each other for 3 play-off matches (on home and away basis) to determine the other 3 qualifiers.

Allocation to pots

- The 51 countries will be classified on the basis of their results in the qualifying competitions for the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan and EURO 2004.
- 51 teams are divided into 7 pots. Pots A to F contain 8 teams and pot G contains 3 teams.
- England, France, Italy and Spain will be drawn into 6-team groups due to the greater number of matches played as a result of having more domestic clubs involved in international club competitions.

51 teams in 7 pots. Pots A to F contain 8 teams and pot G contains 3 teams.

Pot A

1. France
2. Portugal
3. Sweden
4. Czech Republic
5. Spain
6. Italy
7. England
8. Turkey

Pot B

1. Netherlands
2. Croatia
3. Belgium
4. Denmark
5. Russia
6. Ireland Republic
7. Slovenia
8. Poland

Pot C

1. Bulgaria
2. Romania
3. Scotland
4. Serbia and Montenegro
5. Switzerland
6. Greece
7. Slovakia
8. Austria

Pot D

1. Ukraine
2. Iceland
3. Finland
4. Norway
5. Israel
6. Bosnia-Herzegovina
7. Latvia
8. Wales

Pot E

1. Hungary
2. Georgia
3. Belarus
4. Cyprus
5. Estonia
6. Northern Ireland
7. Lithuania
8. Macedonia FYR

Pot F

1. Albania
2. Armenia
3. Moldova
4. Azerbaijan
5. Faroe Islands
6. Malta
7. San Marino
8. Liechtenstein

Pot G

1. Andorra
2. Luxembourg
3. Kazakhstan

Draw procedure

Draw starts with pot G and ends with pot A. Each pot is entirely emptied before proceeding to the next pot. The teams are allocated in the order in which they are drawn into groups 1 to 8 starting in their respective position (see below) from left to right.

- Teams in pot G are drawn into groups 1 to 3 and placed in position 7 in each group, starting with group 1 from left to right.
- Then, the 8 teams in pot F are drawn into the 8 groups and placed in position 6 in each group, starting with group 1 from left to right.
- The same procedure applies to pots E to B taking into consideration the respective position within the respective group.
- The 8 teams in pot A are drawn into the 8 groups and placed in position 1 in each group, starting with group 1 from left to right. **When England, France, Italy and Spain are drawn, they will be placed in groups 4 to 8, starting with group 4 from left to right.**

1st Stage

8 groups (3 groups of 7 teams and 5 groups of 6 teams).

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
7	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7	Group 8
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

- The winner of each group and the 2 best 2nd placed teams qualify directly.
- To determine the 2 best 2nd placed teams, the results against the teams of the same group in 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th place will be taken into consideration.

2nd Stage

- The other 6 2nd placed teams are drawn against each other for 3 play-off matches (on home and away basis) to determine the 3 other teams that qualify for the 2006 FIFA World Cup Germany™.