



UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

Message from President Catherine Connolly

Tocatì Festival Verona

18-20 September 2026

Mar Uachtarán na hÉireann I would like to extend my best wishes to the organisers, volunteers and participants of the 2026 Tocatì Festival in Verona.

In Ireland, as in Italy, the playing of traditional games forms an important part of our culture, identity and relations with one another. Recent decades have seen an expansion of Gaelic Games across the world, where they have been embraced by both the Irish diaspora as an important connection with home, and by local and international communities, including in Italy.

Events such as Tocatì, which promote the sharing of cultures, make a valuable contribution to increased understanding between peoples which is to be warmly welcomed.

I am delighted that Ireland has been selected as guest of honour at this 24th edition of the Tocatì Festival and that Verona will welcome players from across Europe to take part in the final round of the Gaelic Games Europe Central East Championship. I know that, beyond sports, this festival will also showcase a range of traditional crafts, music, dancing, cuisine and more.

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I warmly commend all those who have contributed to the organisation and running of this event and hope that this rich sharing of our respective cultures will further strengthen the enduring bonds of friendship between Ireland, Verona and the Veneto Region.

Guím gach rath oraibh agus tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh agus tairbhe as an bhféile fhiúntach seo.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Catherine Connolly'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending from the end of the name.

Catherine Connolly
Uachtarán na hÉireann