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The first Monegasque athletes have left

Yesterday in the late morning, the first Monegasque athletes competing in the Beijing Olympics left the Principality.

Romain Marchessou (weightlifting), Yann Siccardi (judo) and Mathias Raymond (rowing), accompanied by their respective trainers, Jean Canestrier, Marcel Pietri and Jean-Louis Antognelli, as well as the delegation's physiotherapist (Jean-Philippe Ringwald) took off for China from Nice, via Frankfurt. Their arrival is scheduled for tomorrow (Saturday 11.30 a.m. local time) in Beijing where they will meet Sylvie Bertrand (head of mission) in the Olympic village. Sylvie Bertrand has been there since Wednesday.

The news was announced on Wednesday that the Monegasque delegation now has a fifth athlete in its ranks: Fabienne Pasetti (shooting). Having obtained a wild card (invitation extended by the International Shooting Federation due to the withdrawal of a competitor at the very last minute), the Monegasque Olympic Committee did everything possible to enable the athlete to take part in this important event (Fabienne was the first Monegasque woman to take part in the Summer Olympics).

These four athletes (three of them will be competing on Saturday 9th August) will therefore become accustomed to their landmarks in Beijing and begin their training at the various venues. The fifth and last representative of the Principality of Monaco, Sébastien Gattuso (athletics) will be travelling to China on Monday, as will Ms Yvette Lambin-Berti, secretary general of the Monegasque Olympic Committee and H.E. Mr Rainier Imperti, the Monegasque ambassador to China.



From left to right, Mathias Raymond, Fabienne Pasetti, Romain Marchessou, Jean-Louis Antognelli and Jean Canestrier.