# Cardiff Chosen to Host Euro 2028 Opener as Northern Ireland's Venue Plans Under Scrutiny



**Cardiff to Host Euro 2028 Opening Match**

Cardiff's Principality Stadium has been selected to host the opening match of the European Championship in 2028, following the decision to forgo Wembley Stadium in London for the event. The stadium, which seats 74,500, is situated in the Welsh capital and is frequently used for international rugby, though it also hosted the Champions League final in 2017.

The tournament, held across the UK and Ireland, will see Wembley Stadium hosting the semi-finals and final. Though the English FA had also sought to host the opening game, UEFA organizers chose Cardiff for the inaugural match.

There are ongoing concerns regarding Northern Ireland's ability to stage matches due to delays in the redevelopment of Casement Park in Belfast. UEFA is reconsidering the allocation of Northern Ireland’s planned four matches, potentially redistributing them to venues in England, Scotland, and Dublin. Despite these issues, First Minister Michelle O’Neill has reaffirmed her commitment to completing the stadium's redevelopment.

The 2028 European Championship will require host nations to qualify through the standard routes, with two automatic spots reserved for hosts that fail to qualify. If more than two hosts do not qualify, the two highest-ranked teams will be granted these spots.

**Politicians Discuss Northern Irish Future**

In another development, various political and community leaders, including First Minister Michelle O’Neill, former Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, and former DUP advisor Wallace Thompson, gathered at an event in Belfast organized by Ireland’s Future to discuss the potential reunification of Ireland. The event, attended by over 2,000 people, highlighted different viewpoints from across the political spectrum about the island's future.