European Commission

#BEACTIVE

European Week of Sport
Ambassador

Jean-Michel Saive

BIOGRAPHY

Jean-Michel Saive is a Belgian professional table tennis player. He has won a total of 130 medals in international singles tournaments. He has participated in seven consecutive Olympic games, 24 world Championships and 20 European championships.

Jean-Michel Saive began playing table tennis as a small boy with his brother when his parents were already competing at a national level. He joined the Belgium national team at the age of thirteen and, since 1985, has been consistently ranked best player in Belgium. In 1994, he held the world number one position for 515 consecutive days.

His achievements have made him a high-profile sports personality in Belgium. He was chosen as Sports Personality of the Year in 1991 and 1994, and won the UNESCO World Award of Fair Play in 1989. He is currently Chair of the European Olympic Committees Athletes Commission, and was a member of the Coordination Commission at the 2015 Baku European Games, where he also competed.

"There are a number of values people learn to use when playing individual or team sports. These range from fair play, to team spirit, respect and tolerance. Applying those unwritten rules are crucial to our daily lives and can help us build a better and more inclusive society."

MEET THE AMBASSADORS

European Week of Sport ambassadors support one main goal: increase levels of sport and physical activity across Europe by inspiring people to **#BeActive**. To learn more about the ambassadors team and the European Week of Sport, please visit:

Sport

http://ec.europa.eu/sport/week/meet-team/ambassadors_en.htm