



International Committee of Sports for the Deaf

e-News

The Official Publication of International Committee of Sports for the Deaf

No. 224 October 2005

Printed Version

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Letter from the President

I am pleased to share with you that on 1 September 2005, the U.S. District Court of Maryland has again rejected Rafael Pinchas' fourth civil action case. This case is declared closed by Judge William Nickerson.

After engaging in a meaningful dialogue with the International Olympic Committee for several months, we both were able to reach a consensus that the legal name of the organization would be the **International Committee of Sports for the Deaf** and the quadrennial event would be called **Summer & Winter Deaflympics**. Next month, Tiffany Granfors and I will meet with the Sports Department and Legal Affairs of IOC to discuss critical issues relating to the status and impact of Deaflympics on our members.

At the Management Team meeting held in mid-August in Frederick, Vice President David Lanesman presented the idea of conducting a survey for all members with a goal of collecting data on how our members receive external funding for programs and participation in the Summer and Winter Deaflympics. It was fully endorsed by the Management Team. So I ask you to please complete the survey and send it right away. I intend to share the results with the IOC at our November meeting.

Again, it is time for us to nominate 2005 Widex Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year. The year of 2005 has been very excellent for many athletes who performed phenomenally and set new Deaf world records or raised the level of standards. I personally invite each member to nominate one male and one female athlete with supporting documents and photo by **15 November 2005**.

I would like to reiterate that thinking about the 2013 Summer Games is not too early! The Executive Committee must review the bidding

proposals from interested candidates at its EC meeting in March 2006 in Salt Lake City. Subsequently, a site visit must be held prior to the 2007 Congress. Hence, the Management Team has taken an initiative in identifying prospective cities for the 2013 Summer Deaflympics, based on location, city's managerial/fiscal capability, experience. Just to name a few, cities such as Barcelona, Athens, Montreal, London, Edmonton, and Munich are considered very desirable for the 2013 Summer Deaflympics. I respectfully request that interested federations submit bids, directly to the Secretariat by **31 December 2005**.

Till next time-
Donalda Ammons
President

Inside DEAFLYMPICS

Report From Vice President David Lanesman

Since my last Vice President Report immediately after the EC meeting in Passugg I was assigned to do several major projects. Those projects include strengthening the Marketing and Finance Commission as the Chairman, supporting the CADS into implementing the first General Assembly, and developing survey which was sent out recently to our members. This helps our organization to continue to move in the right direction and for a better and stronger future.

With the help of International Committee of Sports for the Deaf funds, the Secretariat had distributed the CADS Constitution to all African members for their review before the first General Assembly of CADS, which was supposed to take place in November 2005 in Accra Ghana. Due to last minute cancellation by the host -Ghana, it will be postponed to later date in 2006. With my guidance and support I will ensure that CADS have their General Assembly in early 2006. We want to see all regional confederations to be able to have procedure in place.

I want to thank the Members who have already submitted their survey responses! For those of you who have not responded yet, please do so as soon as possible since this is important information. This is very useful tool for our reports.

As the Chairman of Finance commission I ask those who have not paid membership dues or other debts to the Deaflympics to settle their debts as soon as possible. The year 2005 is ending in 2 months before we start on 2006 membership dues! Those who have problems with paying off their debts, please contact the

Secretariat and discuss with their issues and work with us on plans to pay off their debts.

Let us all move forward in a positive direction for the sake of deaf sports!

Report From Sports Director Josef Willmerdinger

Dear Friends and Members,

As I am the Sports Director, I would like to invite you to read my report about the last three months.

The Austrian Association of Sports for the Deaf invited me to the Tennis Open in Kottlingbrunn/Austria, which took place from 27th to 29th July 2005. This Tennis Open has been very impressive for me. I pay tribute and applause to the organisation and cooperativeness of the Austrians. Thanks!

On 18th and 19th August 2005, I have been at the mangagement team-meeting in Frederick, Maryland, USA. There have been the President Donald Ammons , Vice president David Lanesman, myself, as the Sports Director and the Executive Director Tiffany Granfors. Additionally invited to the meeting included, honorary member Jerald Jordan, staff member Wayne Langbein, bookkeeping contractor Terry Berrigan and financial consultant Lee Kramer. We continue to do motivational work for the Deaflympics and we want to be visible all over the world through our efforts.

At the moment, there are some Technical Director positions vacant, so I would like to ask you, readers , to support us in finding qualified persons for it. The positions are: Football, Ice

Hockey, Snowboard, Karate, Taekwondo and Judo. If you are interested to become involved with us, please contact your National Deaf Sports Federation, the Federation can recommend you. I'd be pleased, if there would be new entrants at Deaflympics.

Now something very interesting. So far, Deaflympics was made up of 16 sports for the summer and 4 sports for the winter. But this is no longer quite correct. Let me explain further:

We've got a good staff member in the secretariat, Wayne Langbein, who explained the changes and the purpose of the changes are to be more in line with the Olympic programme.

Some Examples:

Winter Deaflympics 2003 Sundsvall		Summer Deaflympics 2005 Melbourne	
Before	Now	Before	Now
4 - Sports	2 - Sports	16 - Sports	14 - Sports
	4 - Disciplines		17 - Disciplines
23 - Events	23 - Events	150 - Events	150 - Events

See selective breakdown example below:

Sports	Disciplines	Events
FINA (Aquatics)	Swimming	Men's 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 200m freestyle, Women's 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 200m freestyle, ... Total of 38 events combined including relays
	Water Polo	Men's Water Polo Total of 1 event
FIS (Skiing)	Alpine Skiing	Men's Downhill, Giant Slalom, Slalom, Parallel Slalom Women's Downhill, Giant Slalom, Slalom, Parallel Slalom Total of 8 events
	Cross Country Skiing	Men's 10 km-free technique, 15 km- classical technique, ... Women's 5 km- free technique, 10 km-classical technique, ... Total of 8 events combined
	Snowboard	Men's Halfpipe, Giant Slalom, Slalom Women's Halfpipe, Giant Slalom, Slalom Total of 6 events
FILA (Wrestling)	Freestyle	Up to 55kg Up to 60kg Up to 66kg Up to 74kg Up to 84kg Up to 96kg 96kg to 120kg Total of 7 events for men's only
	Greco Roman	Up to 55kg Up to 60kg

		Up to 66kg Up to 74kg Up to 84kg Up to 96kg 96kg to 120kg Total of 7 events for men's only
FIVB (Volleyball)	Beach Volleyball	Men's and Women's Beach Volleyball Total of 2 events
	Volleyball	Men's and Women's Volleyball Total of 2 events

Note that Deaflympics' Aquatics, Volleyball, and Wrestling has two (2) disciplines each. To see all of the individual event breakdowns for each sports, please refer to the specific [technical regulations](#) under the **6. Events** section.

I thank Wayne Langbein for his new breakdown which will clarify our sports classification and to be in line with the Olympic Programme.

Yours faithfully,
Josef Willmerdinger
Sports Director

Athletics Update

World Championships 2008

Those attending the athletics meeting in Melbourne will remember that Venezuela announced that they would apply for the 1st World Championships in 2008. We do not have much information but it has been agreed that the World Championships will be held during the last part of September at the city of Lara. Most athletes would prefer the months of July or August but as you know there will be Olympic Games 8 to 24 August in Beijing, China, followed by the Paralympics Games 6-17 September.

World Junior Records

Since the Melbourne Games where we began to register the best results for World Junior Records, we have received several

applications during the summer months. At the end of 2005 the best result obtained for each discipline during 2005 will be recognised as a World Junior Record. Unfortunately not many applications have been received so far and for some applications the necessary documents still are missing. The season at the Northern Hemisphere has almost ended but for the countries at the Southern Hemisphere where the season starts now. There are better opportunities to make results that may be recognised as a World Junior Record.

Awaiting Ratification for World Junior Records

- [Junior Men](#)
- [Junior Women](#)

Seminar for athletics leaders

On request I am trying to hold a one-day seminar for athletics leaders before or after the World Championships in 2008. Many leaders and coaches should know more about the

Regulations for our sport. During the Melbourne Games it often happened that not all were aware of the many rules of IAAF or Deaflympics.

Barbara C. Søndergaard
Technical Director, Athletics

Swimming and Water Polo Report

Greetings!

It was nice to see and meet many of you at the MSAC pool last January in Melbourne. Both Swimming and Water Polo competitions were excellent. Many Swimming records were broken (Games, World, Regional, and National). Swimming also had six new 50m stroke events that were well received and brought more excitement to the pool. A total of 154 swimmers from 33 countries participated. Water Polo has a new and first time ever Deaflympics team champion, Germany. Welcome Australia, who participated for the first time and played well. Congratulations to all Deaf aquatic athletes who competed. Many thanks to the Deaflympics EC and staff and M2005 committee members and volunteers for a well run Deaflympic Games.

I have been re-appointed as the Technical Director for Swimming and Water Polo for the next four years. Thank you for your support and confidence.

The last and only Deaf Swimming & Water Polo World Championships were held in 1995 in Belgium. There were no aquatic World Championships in 1999 and 2003. No country has proposed to host this competition for 2007. Please encourage your National Sports Association to strongly consider submitting a bid to host the 2007 Deaf Swimming and/or Water Polo World Championships. I am more than happy to assist with the preparations if needed.

Ireland will host a Deaf Water Polo Tournament later this month in Dublin with four countries entered. Denmark will participate after a 56 year absence (1949 Deaflympics Water Polo Champion). Greece will host EDSO Swimming Championships in 2006. Hungary will host EDSO Water Polo Championships in 2006 as well. Please let me know of any other Deaf aquatic events between now and 2009. Again, I sincerely hope a country will come forward and bid to host the 2007 Deaf Swimming and/or Water Polo World Championships.

Deaflympics staff members are currently entering all Deaf Swimming World Records from 1924 to 2005 in each event. This project looks exciting and many other projects will be coming. Be sure to check out the Deaflympics website from time to time. At this present time of writing, the old World Records were entered up to 1949. This project is still ongoing.

Aquatically yours,

Reed Gershwind
Deaflympics TD Swimming & Water Polo

Table Tennis Plan To Use Ranking Points For Future International Events

To the attention of the entire Deaf National Sports Federations:

I am about to compile the Worldwide Ranking Grid of deaf table-tennis players. This tool could also be a great help when preparing of drawings for future international competitions.

Honestly I actually have results on hand of Deaflympics and the European Championship only – to create a complete and fair ranking list I would need to have results of other great tournaments such as PanAmerican, African & Asian events – if and when they are

available. If such an opportunity arises, I would personally attend and observe at those games.

I also request to please receive any Table Tennis news, no matter where from all around the globe would greatly be appreciated. News, highlights & results of regional tournaments, jubilee games etc. are also welcome. My Hungarian contact details are available on Deaflympics website.

I encourage you to bid for Table Tennis World Championships so we can have more opportunity for competitions! Please contact the Secretariat for more information if you are interested in hosting Table Tennis World Championship.

- Looking forward to hearing from you –

Zsolt Nyírő
Table-Tennis TD

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Update

Our status with WADA

International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (DEAFLYMPICS) has been officially recognized as one of the sports organization that have accepted WADA's code. This means that we have agreed to abide by WADA's Anti-Doping policies and Prohibited List. WADA has also recognized our official DEAFLYMPICS Anti-Doping Guidelines which can be found on our website.

Please see the list of sports organizations that have accepted the Code: [Code Acceptance List](#)

WADA Prohibited list for 2006 is now available

Following its approval by the World Anti-Doping Agency's Executive Committee on 20

September, the WADC [Prohibited List 2006](#) has been published and will come into effect on 1 January 2006.

More information for our members regarding anti-doping and The 'WADC Prohibited List – Summary of the Major Modifications' will be forthcoming from Deaflympics Anti-Doping Commission

Games Database Project II

Work on the CISS database has continued steadily. At the present time we are entering names from the 1993 Sofia Games. At this point, we have 9484 unique athletes. A total of 12352 athletes participated in Summer Deaflympics and 1398 athletes participated in Winter Deaflympics.

The work is being done in two phases. First, Mr. Jordan is entering the names of athletes and, where possible, their birth dates and the events they entered. Mr. Langbein is verifying this work. When we have completed entering all names up to the 2005 Melbourne Games, then we will begin to enter the results of each event. Our goal is for anyone to be able to type in a name and instantly view all the events and results for that athlete. Only then will the database be certified as official. However, that will take many, many more months of work.

It has been interesting and frustrating work. Unfortunately, we have not been able to locate the entry forms for several summer games and for all winter games. So we have had to work from the final results. These, however, cause problems because often the athletes are only identified by an initial and last name and, of course, there is no birth date. So we are asking our member federations to please review our work and to give us any corrections and missing information.

For the present time, you can observe the work as it progresses by going to www.deaflympics.com then clicking on the Games tab. When that opens, click on any Summer Deaflympics (up to 1993 now) or Winter Deaflympics (up to 1995 now), then click on Participants and click on the country you are interested in and you will see a list of all participants from that country, with their birth year.

If any member federation would like to have a list of all their athletes, they should contact Mr. Langbein at tech@deaflympics.com and he will send it by email.

Please send any corrections to tech@deaflympics.com. We especially would like to be informed of the correct spelling of names and the full birth date where that is missing.

Bundle of Joy!

Siv Fosshaug, our EC board member, and her husband, Michel, joyfully announce the birth of their son, Magnus, who was born on 12 July 2005. We all welcome Magnus to the DEAFLYMPICS family!

Deaf Sports Events

16th International Athletics Meeting at Darmstadt, Germany

On 8-9 July about 140 sportsmen and women from 19 countries met at Darmstadt for the International Athletics Meeting. The German Deaf Sports Association proudly organised this grand event for the 16th time. Among the athletes were well-known Deaflympics stars like the two British women runners Lauren Peffers and Candy Hawkins, the Italian sprinter Osmel Cejas Rodriguez and the Spanish long distance runner Javier Soto Rey. Moreover famous shot put athletes Oleg Bilokon of the Ukraine and Larisa Voroneckaja of Lituania came to Darmstadt for the competition and many more who have already won medals in Deaflympic Games.

Some countries, e.g. the Ukraine, sent their junior talents to get some experience on international grounds.

During the two days competitions were held in most of the classic athletics disciplines. Unfortunately there were too little entries for all-round competition and throwing the hammer. The German athletes were very strong in the relays and the men especially in the throwing-competitions. Runner Nele Alder-Baerens who won Deaflympics gold in the 5000m competition proved her outstanding long-distance talent again. All in all it was a very successful event for the German athletes.

During the athletics meeting on 9 July there was a football friendly match between Ireland and Germany. It was an equal match that was won luckily by the German team 1 : 0.

Click here for [results](http://www.dg-sv.de/news/archiv_2005/la-sportfest_darmstadt/bericht_20050709.html). (http://www.dg-sv.de/news/archiv_2005/la-sportfest_darmstadt/bericht_20050709.html)

Report From the 1st Austrian Deaf Tennis Open 2005 in Kottingbrunn

We started with the negative things so we have more time and space for the positive things: The 9 officials from Africa could not make it happen to come to Austria. All the work with the Embassy to receive a Visa was very complicated. We really tried to do our best to support them in that case, but we think, at least they started too late with their organisation.

Because of 18 registrations from different countries we had a lot of participants. At least 14 Nations took part. So the three planned days for the Austrian Open were a little bit too short. Some of the players had to play three times a day, especially if they had registered in three different disciplines.

But now to the positive side from the Event: The whole organisation – the time table, the team- was perfect! Our Sport director Bernd Brunbauer already built up the Organizing Committee office on Sunday with the team. The Technical Meeting and the draw had been led by the head of the referees, Mr. Gerhard Seidmann. We had received very good feedback especially from the hearing trainers from Great Britain and from Norway. Also the proposal from ÖGSV President Grill on application for a Ranking list, 3 times a year we should have Tennis Open brought a lot of applause.

We received some gifts from sponsors whom we are very thankful for: Voeslauer gave us a lot of Water bottles (which were already finished after just one and a half day- the weather god was very kind... he brought us sunshine and 38,5 degrees) and Mr. Strack who organised the Tennis balls for free for us!

His daughter also gave us three prizes of honour from her factory. The travel agency gave us the first prize for our raffle: a trip to the Caribbean for one person!

For the opening we welcomed guests from the Austrian Government. They spoke some inspiring words to welcome everybody to Austria. Sport director Brunbauer and Tennis TO Jürgen Scheutz started at time the Opening Ceremony. Two sign language interpreters worked there also. Afterwards we had some drinks and small snacks for our special guests.

Already the first rounds were played very serious. During the first day the participants received their identity cards. One of the Italian Players we had to disqualify in his first game; he forgot to take of his hearing aid! Another service the Austrian Deaf Sport Association offered to all the players from the different countries: Marlene Lenzenwöger was always prepared to help, as she is a professional Physiotherapist. And we had a perfect organised transport- team to pick up people from the airport or from their hotel and bring them back when ever they wanted.

We had referees at the courts from to beginning, sometimes there were discussions about their decisions, but the first rounds went on without greater problems.

On Thursday evening we welcomed a lot of guests, especially EDSO member Mr. Bela Panyi from Hungary and we all had a fine dinner than, we made a "Kaiserschmarr`n Party". (It is a typical Austrian Meal). On Friday many games had to be played until the 3rd set, because of the great heat it was hard for the participants to stand it.

We welcomed Deaflympics Sport director Josef Wilmerdinger. He was very happy with the organisation and the whole schedule of the program; he thanked everybody for making this beautiful event happen. At that night we had a fine "Barbecue – Party". All the time our treasurer worked out all the settlements of

accounts and he also made the awards for the Tennis Open.

The team of sign language interpreters worked very well. They had to interpret during the games, between referees and players in difficult situations. The Austrian TV Association "ORF" was there for many hours and they also were very much impressed about the Austrian Tennis Open. The made a report in the Austrian TV about it and it was shown in the same program as they showed reports from hearing top athletes.

At this time some people worked already busy for the Closing Ceremony in a big hall close to the tennis centre. We started there with a "Spaghetti Party". Then the talks from Austrian Deaf Sport Association President Herbert Grill, Deaflympics Sport Director Josef Willmerdinger and EDSO Member Bela Panyi were held. Afterwards all the players were pleased to come forward. Everyone should stand straight and open one hand; we put a tennis ball with a surprise in each hand. At the same time they were told to open the ball...it was pendant in silver for every participant- handmade from our treasurer.

After that we started the presentation ceremony and the athletes received their price money. This was the end from the official part. The next thing was a performance from two sign language interpreters: they interpreted 4 songs into sign language. It was very special and the people were really amazed! Until the early morning we had a big disco with bars all around. The atmosphere was great! We had organized a transport system back to the hotel -started at 1:00 a.m., every 30 minutes. At 8:00 a.m. we started to clean the hall and began also to take down the things in the hall and also in the Organizing Committee office.

You can find all the results at the homepage from the Austrian Deaf Sport Association:
www.deafsport.at



Silver pendant handmade from Austrian's treasurer, Mr. Guenther Duschet.

DIBF EuroCup for Champion Clubs, men and women

Today we received the dates for arrangement of Qualification Group A and Group B. Invitation, information and format of tournament were sent out last week. You should have received it by now. In case not, do not hesitate to contact me and I will send you a new invitation.

Group A is arranged 9 - 11 December 2005 in Vilnius, Lithuania

Champion Clubs from following countries are invited: Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden. Please contact Lithuanian Deaf Sports Federation email iksfa@takas.lt or fax # +370 26 15 480 for information about accommodation and local travels.

Group B is arranged 9 - 11 December 2005 in Patras, Greece

Champion Clubs from following countries are invited: Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Turkey, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine. Please contact Greece Deaf Sports Federation email

Greece@ciss.org or fax # +30 210 82 14 435 for information about accommodation and local travels.

You are very welcome to submit your entry with a fee of \$40 USD per team according to invitation. Please, for our and the arrangers planning, respect the last date of entry which is 31 October 2005.

Kjell Gunna
Secretary General
Deaf International Basketball Federation

World Deaf Cycling Championships Updates

The World Deaf Cycling Championships event will be held 18-24 June 2006, as planned in the San Francisco Bay area. I keep my eyes on the progress of the local organizing committee. All venues will be very interesting that will excite the riders. Not only this but new experiences and challenges will be great for the riders. The competition will include remote countryside hills for road race, velodrome for points race and sprint events and countryside for time trial event and mountain bike. Jack Lamberton, United States Vice President of the International Affairs, and I were at the velodrome for a venue inspection. We both rode on the track and found it very appealing for the world championships. We will attract a lot of people for this race.

Bobby Skedsmo
Cycling Technical Director

Deaf Sports In Brief

Berlin Marathon 2005 – Results

The big day at last! After a training camp on La Santa in March and six months of hard individual training the day came where the participants really were to push the limits and face the distance of 42.195 kilometres.

A total of 35 runners from 17 different countries participated. The youngest was a girl from Denmark (19 years) and the oldest a man from USA (73 years). Most of the participants are hard of hearing - wearing Widex Elan hearing aids.

The agreement was that they would give 3 Euros for every kilometer run, and 5 Euros for every minute below 4 hours, to Deaflympics.

The result is: Euro 7.775! Big thanks goes to Team Widex!

The impressive running times are listed below.

Aalders, Marlen	NED 4:28:13
Andresen, Hildegun	NOR 3:50:36
Anton, Abel	ESP 2:34:54
Bardy, Fabrice	SUI 3:37:09
Braender, Henning	DEN 3:44:22
Condor, Richard	CAN 4:22:09
Copps, Tom	CAN 3:20:45
D'Arrigo, Giuseppe	ITA 4:29:31
Deneef, Alfons	BEL 2:42:46
Eliasson, Jan	SWE 3:42:40
Espersen, Christian	DEN 3:21:13
Fingerhut, Holger	GER 5:15:59
Flores, Juan	SUI 4:49:10
Guerrero, Gloria	ESP 4:03:43
Horstmann, Michael	GER 4:30:49
Johns, Ken	USA 4:07:12
Leger, Michel	CAN 3:32:08

Laurent, Stephane	FRA 4:16:49
Le Foll, Jacques	FRA 4:16:49
Monzoni, Roberto	ITA 6:23:42
Olayos, William	USA 4:07:49
Paalberg, Regina	SWE 4:50:52
Pedersen, Trine Malig	DEN 3:37:10
Reeslev, Peter	DEN 4:03:17
Riddoch, Clyde	AUS 4:41:21
Roest, Irma	NED 4:23:38
Sjöberg, Guri Pernille	NOR 5:44:48
Stacey, Judith	GBR 3:37:56
Steinbrenner, Susanna	GER 5:04:55
Swietek, Andrzej	POL 2:41:35
Vibe, Bjarne Blankholm	DEN 5:28:40
Walczak, Leszek	POL 3:08:53
Walker, Graham	GBR 4:01:57
Winge, Signe Frederikke	NOR 4:46:54
White, Wendell	USA 5:18:01



L to R: Trine Pedersen, Tom Westermann, and Henning Braender.

IOC In Brief

2014 Applicant Cities Attend IOC Seminar In Lausanne

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has concluded a four-day information seminar with the seven 2014 Applicant Cities and their National Olympic Committees (NOCs). The aim of the seminar was to assist Applicant Cities in responding to the IOC's questionnaire in Phase One of the bid process - also known as the candidature acceptance procedure - and to give them a complete overview of the complexity of organising the Olympic Games and of what will be expected from them should they be selected as Candidate Cities and reach Phase Two of the procedure.

Gathered for the first time in Lausanne, Almaty (Kazakhstan), Borjomi (Georgia), Jaca (Spain), PyeongChang (Republic of Korea), Salzburg (Austria), Sochi (Russian Federation) and Sofia (Bulgaria) were given the opportunity to learn about the Olympic Movement, meet with those who have organised or are currently organising the Olympic Games, and collect all the necessary information to prepare good quality bids.

The seminar covered all aspects of the bid process and the organisation of the Olympic and Paralympic Games such as Games benefits and legacy, finance, the Organising Committee's structure and public authority interface, and infrastructure. The need for cities to have a clear vision of what hosting the Olympic Games in their city and country would do for the socio-economic, sporting and urban infrastructure was also stressed.

Past experiences of bidding for the Olympic Games were shared with the seven Applicant Cities by John Furlong, CEO of the Vancouver 2010 Organising Committee (VANOC), and Sebastian Coe, Chairman of the London 2012

Organising Committee (LOCOG), who came to present case studies of their respective bids. Both of them underlined the importance of legacy and sustainable development as well as working in partnership with governments and local authorities.

By holding seminars of this nature on a regular basis, the IOC clearly shows its will to provide guidance, and help Applicant Cities better understand the philosophy behind bidding for the Olympic Games. As a consequence the quality of the Olympic bids, which in turn leads to high quality Games, is constantly improving, as demonstrated by the 2012 candidature files.

Everything that was discussed over the last four days will be put into practice during the Olympic Winter Games in Turin when cities will follow an Observer Programme throughout the Games, specifically tailored to their needs. This will be a unique opportunity for them to see behind the scenes and grasp the complexity and challenges inherent to the organisation of the Olympic Games.