

EOC

We are all French, Russian, Turkish – this was the theme for the month of November across the whole world.



The Olympic family of Europe offered its solidarity and sympathy with the victims of recent terror attacks across Europe during its annual General Assembly in Prague: a deeply European moment for all members of the EOC.

At the beginning of November, EOC President **Patrick Hickey** faced numerous responsibilities as the end of 2015 loomed - a year which he has defined as "historic".

The biggest engagement for Patrick Hickey was the EOC General Assembly in Prague, where he welcomed the leaders of the

Olympic Movement, including IOC President **Thomas Bach**, ANOC President **Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah**, and IOC and EOC Honorary Presidents **Jacques Rogge** and **Mario Pescante**. Czech Olympic Committee President **Jiří Kejval** was also a prominent figure throughout the weekend and delegates were honoured by the presence of **Milos Zeman**, the President of the Czech Republic.

Following the meetings in Prague, President Hickey went on to Monte Carlo for the 8th Peace and Sport International Forum, chaired by **HSH Prince Albert II**. Whilst there, the President of the EOC joined a panel of judges awarding this year's distinctions, which were presented during the Grand Gala at the Monte Carlo Sporting Club.

November 2015 was not a month to be forgotten easily.

4th Executive Committee meeting of 2015 - On the eve of the 44th EOC General Assembly, the Executive



Committee met in the Czech capital to review the year's activities. Czech Olympic Committee President **Jiří Kejval** and Secretary General **Petr Graclik** attended the opening, offering their European colleagues and President **Patrick Hickey** a warm welcome. Later in the meeting, the Executive Committee members welcomed IOC President **Thomas Bach** and ANOC President **Sheikh Ahmad**, both of whom were special guests of the EOC General Assembly. The agenda allowed participants to address the key topics of 2015, principally the first European Games in Baku along with future editions of the event, and preparations for the forthcoming European Youth Olympic Festivals. Members discussed items

related to institutional activities and focused in detail on the General Assembly that opened on Friday morning in a beautiful hotel in the heart of the old city. Our Czech hosts wanted all participants from the European Olympic family to enjoy the artistic and cultural atmosphere of Prague, which is also known as "the golden city".

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held in Lausanne early next year.

44th General Assembly - The 44th EOC General Assembly followed the Executive Committee meeting and was



attended by over 350 delegates, including members from the EOC's 50 member NOCs and many other delegations from the Olympic family, including members of the IOC administration, delegates from International Federations, Organising Committees for upcoming Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games, and Candidate Cities for the 2024 Olympic Games. Other key sports organisations and numerous media representatives also attended the event.

At the opening, the General Assembly observed a minute's silence in memory of the sports leaders who had passed away

during the year: **Mario Vázquez Raña (MEX)**, **Peter Tallberg (FIN)**, **Leo Wallner (AUT)**, **František Janda (CZE)** and **Monique Berlioux (FRA)**, as well as the victims of the Russian plane crash and the recent attacks in Ankara and Paris.

In Prague, the EOC awarded its annual European Laurels and the 5th Piotr Nurowski Prize for Best European Young Athlete.

President Hickey hailed 2015 as a "*historical year for European sport*", referring in particular to the inaugural European Games. Regarding the event's future, Patrick Hickey informed the General Assembly that: "*Russia is still the EOC's preferred partner for hosting the 2019 European Games. That is provided the independent authorities can confirm Russia's ability to support an anti-doping programme that meets the highest international standards.*"

The EOC will hold its 2016 General Assembly in **Minsk**, Belarus, where the Belarus NOC will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

2015 European Laurels - The EOC General Assembly was the perfect place to award the European Olympic



Laurels to NOC sports leaders who stood out on merit, and for their commitment to sport this year.

European Laurels were awarded to five European NOC sports leaders: **Morana Palikovic Gruden (CRO)**, **Alain Geles (FRA)**, Joseph Cassar, (MLT), **Ioan Dobrescu (ROU)** and **Igor Kazikov (RUS)**. These are sports leaders who, day after day, have put their efforts and expertise to the service of sport, whether within their NOC or their country in a wider sense.

Each year, the EOC receives many nominations for the European Laurels and it is far from easy for the Executive Committee to choose the final number of recipients, whilst

taking into account a fair regional balance.

The candidatures of this year's five winners were as follows:

Morana Palikovic Gruden (Croatia): President of the Croatian Skating Federation and member of the Croatian Olympic Committee Council, Chair of its Women in Sport Commission and European Fair Play Movement delegate. After a career as a journalist, she built a political career.

Alain Geles (France): He served the French National Olympic Committee (CNOSF) until 2002 in different roles, including Director of International Relations, President's Chief of Staff and Director General of the Organising Committee for the 1994 Olympic Congress Centennial.

Joseph Cassar (Malta) has served on the Maltese Olympic Committee Council since 1990 and has been the Secretary General of the Maltese Olympic Committee since 1993. Since the 1970s Cassar has held important administrative posts in numerous sporting bodies and managed a number of international sporting events in Malta.

Ioan Dobrescu (Romania): a strong pillar of the European and international sports environment, one of the longest serving secretary generals of the NOC of Romania and has dedicated his life to sport. He will step down as Secretary General after Rio 2016.

Igor Kazikov (Russia): a distinguished leader in the Russian Olympic Movement, Kazikov has devoted more than 40 years of his life to working in Russian physical culture and sporting institutions. He has been a Deputy Chef de Mission at five Olympic Games from Atlanta 1996 to London 2012, and four Olympic Winter Games from Nagano 1998 to Vancouver 2010. His managerial talent was most evident during the run up to, and execution of, the XXII Olympic Winter Games in Sochi.

The 5th Piotr Nurowski Prize for the Best Young European Athlete - Czech track cyclist **Jiří Janošek**, received the prize in Prague from IOC President **Thomas Bach** and EOC President **Patrick Hickey**.



The awards ceremony took place during a Gala Dinner at Prague Castle, after the first day of the 44th EOC General Assembly.

The 50 NOCs attending the EOC General Assembly had elected Janošek as the winner out of the 5 final nominees.

The other 4 finalists were: 2nd Prize - **Yana Kudryavtseva**, Russian Federation (Rhythmic Gymnastics), 3rd Prize - **Luke Greenbank**, Great Britain (Swimming), 4th Prize - **Jakub Grigar** - Slovakia (Canoe Slalom) and 5th Prize - **Jessica Tiebel** - Germany (Luge).

COMMISSIONS

The Prague General Assembly was also a suitable place for EOC commissions to meet.

The EOC Medical and Anti-doping Commission, chaired by **Dr Klaus Steinbach** (GER), had their annual meeting on 19 November. All sports events were monitored by the commission: the Winter EYOF 2015 in Voralberg/Lichtenstein, the Summer EYOF 2015 in Tbilisi, Georgia and the inaugural European Games in Baku this summer. The WADA Observer Programme for Baku 2015, published this month on WADA's website, received positive comments. Finally, the commission expressed a number of recommendations, which will be submitted to the Executive Committee, regarding sample storage after the European Games and EYOFs.

Informal meeting of the EOC Gender Equality in Sport Commission, chaired by **Daina Gudzinėvičiūtė** (LIT). Attendees reviewed the policy – approved at the first meeting in the capital of Lithuania, Vilnius – to communicate, encourage and implement gender balance in sport in Europe.

Six areas of activities have been submitted to the EOC for enactment in the near future. Many activities have already started, such as opening a dialogue with the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) about the promotion of positive images of women in leadership positions and the collection of data of female participation, which has been completed by 19 NOCs at the time of writing.



The EOC Marketing & Communication Commission also met in Prague on 19 November to prepare for the 44th General Assembly. During the past 12 months, Chair **Peter Mennel** (AUT) and other members have been trying to win new sponsors for the EOC. The possibility of a collaboration between the EOC and a well-known Austrian bakery company has been examined.

ENOCs

ALBANIA - this November the NOC of Albania, in partnership with UN Women Albania, implemented a project entitled "*HeforShe in Sport*" in the Feti Vogli school in the village of Baldushk, located in the rural area around Tirana. The project was brought to life through the participation of 350 students, including kindergarten children and students of primary and middle schools.



After a presentation by Albanian record holding ambassadors Luiza Gega (middle-distance running) and Erkand Qerimaj (weightlifting), the project was welcomed by, among others, the President of the NOC of Albania, **Viron Bezhani**; representatives of UN Woman Albania; representatives of the sports community; representatives of foreign

embassies in the country; and physical education teachers from schools in the Tirana district.

The NOC of Albania hopes to garner support from the younger generation for "*HeforShe in Sport*" and show them how to achieve and respect gender equality in sport.

Other Olympic values such as respect, understanding, fair play, non-violence and non-discrimination were evident in all programmed activities.

This activity is the start of a series of initiatives and activities that will be supported by other schools who will give their support and become promoters of the message: "*Become a HeForShe*".

CZECH REPUBLIC – the NOC will use Rio 2016 to promote sport and an active lifestyle throughout its



Olympic Park, a concept in line with Olympic Agenda 2020. As in Sochi, the Olympic Park will offer visitors a unique chance to try out sports next summer while acting as a base for supporting Czech athletes competing in Rio. NOC President **Kejval** presented the project at the 44th EOC General Assembly: *“We believe this project has great potential for involving and directly engaging people around the world in the excitement of an*

Olympic Games: it inspires the young to support national Olympic teams and provides opportunities for IOC and NOC partners”, he said.

In February 2014, over 400,000 Czech fans had the chance to enjoy the park, offering a great opportunity to watch the Sochi 2014 Games, share in the excitement, and meet Olympians. Most of these fans were children who were able to skate or go skiing in a central area of Prague.

The 2016 summer park – which is benefitting from IOC and Olympic Solidarity support – will be set up on the banks of the Lipno reservoir in South Boemia, a centre for water sports and a popular tourist resort. No large building investments are foreseen, as almost all municipalities in the area have their own sports facilities.

“We believe that in the future everyone will use this fantastic opportunity to promote the Olympic Games in their home country” President Kejval said, adding that the Czech Olympic Committee has contacts with several NOCs interested in developing a similar concept. The Netherlands has already developed a similar project entitled “The Olympic Experience”.

GREECE – a refugee support programme, organised by the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC), and financed out of the emergency fund established by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), has been hailed as a success by refugees and local authorities alike.



The first phase was concluded in mid-October, when Hellenic Olympic Committee President **Spyros Capralos** opened four basketball courts for use by the refugee camp of Elaionas, near Athens. Sports and clothing equipment (basketballs, volleyballs, footballs, 500 jackets and 600 pairs of sports shoes) were also delivered in the course of that week by the HOC President, together with the President of the International

Olympic Academy (IOA), **Isidoros Kouvelos**, members of the HOC Plenary Session and representatives of the Hellenic Olympic Winners Association.

Personal hygiene products were provided by NOC partner, **P&G Greece**. Later on, the HOC also came into contact with the authorities in charge of the 2004 Olympic Venue of Gymnastics in Galatsi, which also started to receive and host huge flows of migrants. A very significant quantity of necessary materials (blankets, sheets and towels, shoes and toys) were again gathered by the HOC and delivered to the Olympic venue of Galatsi at the end of October. The HOC now plans to introduce similar projects in Athens and elsewhere around the country.

ISRAEL – on 20 November, **Gili Lustig**, Secretary General of the Israel Olympic Committee, hosted **Wilfried**



Lemke, Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace to the United Nations Secretary-General. **Ghazi Nujeidat**, International Relations Coordinator at the Ministry of Culture and Sports, also attended this meeting. The attendees shared thoughts and ideas on how sport can act as a bridge between peoples, and on how to assist and improve the relationship between Palestine and Israel. Gili Lustig delivered a presentation to the UN Adviser on “The Olympism Project”, a programme set up by the Israel Olympic Committee in cooperation with Olympic Solidarity. About 1,000 students per year participate in this project, whose purpose is to disseminate

Olympic values amongst schoolchildren and build a better world through sport and physical education.

SWITZERLAND - on 18 November, the fourth ceremony of the Swiss Olympic Coach Awards was held in Ittingen, where the NOC is headquartered. The Swiss sport's umbrella association honoured football coach **Dany Ryser**. The prize is annually awarded by the Swiss Olympic Association to a coach who has demonstrated exemplary commitment or exceptional success throughout his or her career with Swiss sports. In addition to Dany Ryser, coaches **Adrian Rothenbühler** (athletics) and **Manuele Celio** (ice hockey) were also distinguished in their respective categories.

The winners received 5,000 Swiss francs in recognition of their outstanding work. During the evening ceremony, tribute was also paid to Michael Vogt who was awarded a special prize. This long-time collaborator of Swiss skiing passed away this year following a serious illness.

EYOF



The debriefing after the Winter EYOF, Tbilisi 2015, took place on the eve of the EOC General Assembly in Prague. Delegates from the Georgian organisers, EYOF Commission Chair Victor Sanchez, Coordination Commission Chair, Josef Liba and EYOF Manager Katerina Nycova reviewed the event, ensuring a transfer of knowledge to the Gyor 2017 representatives in attendance. The various items addressed will help the next organiser to stage a great event.

EUROPEAN GAMES

The inaugural European Games were unanimously hailed as a great success according to the answers received from NOCs and European Federations to the questionnaires circulated after Baku 2015.

Regarding selection of a host city for the 2019 European Games, EOC President **Patrick Hickey** informed the General Assembly that: *“Russia is still the EOC’s preferred partner for hosting the 2019 European Games. That is provided the independent authorities can confirm Russia’s ability to support an anti-doping programme that meets the highest international standards.”*

OLYMPIC GAMES

RIO 2016 organisers presented a short update at the 44th EOC General Assembly, with most of the items having been addressed at the ANOC meeting in Washington a few weeks before. Updates on the current and future phases of the test events, new plans for additional accommodation for officials, ticketing, and NOC visits were among the main topics.

PYEONGCHANG 2018 - a worldwide public survey has been launched this month to select the look that will supply the artistic branding on all Games facilities and promotional items for the 2018 Winter Games.



The PyeongChang Organising Committee for the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (POCOG) held a Look Motifs Exhibition & Survey at Dongdaemun Design Plaza (DDP), Seoul, from 11-17 November.

Fourteen renowned artists – recommended by the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art and the Korea Institute of Design Promotion – participated in this special

national event to develop graphics for the Look of the 2018 Games. Their depictions of PyeongChang 2018’s vision and slogan will be showcased to globally promote Korean winter sports and contribute to the successful hosting of the Games.

In line with the exhibition, POCOG will also open a public survey through an online and offline poll, to be evaluated by the Selection Committee, in order to help select the best design.

2024 CANDIDATES – **Hamburg** has withdrawn from the race to host the 2024 Olympics after falling short in a public referendum.

Hamburg's decision leaves four cities - **Rome, Paris, Budapest** and **Los Angeles** - in the running.

Earlier in the month, all five Candidate Cities attended individual one-and-a-half day workshops in Lausanne between 16 and 20 November.

This is part of the new Olympic Games Candidature Process, introduced in line with the Olympic Agenda 2020 recommendations. At the workshops the focus was on Stage 1 of the process – Vision, Games Concept and Strategy – and included a strong emphasis on legacy and the sustainability of the Olympic Games project.

This is the first of a series of workshops that will be organised for the Candidate Cities over the next two years as part of the IOC's Education Programme and increased dialogue offered by the IOC.

On 24 November, the EOC issued a statement stressing the importance of neutrality towards all candidatures, as per the IOC rules. The statement was made in reaction to news surrounding support of the Budapest candidature by 16 European NOCs.

YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

LILLEHAMMER 2016 - Her Royal Highness Princess Ingrid Alexandra of Norway will light the Olympic flame



during the Opening Ceremony of Lillehammer 2016, just as her father did in 1994. The Opening Ceremony of the Lillehammer 2016 Youth Olympic Games takes place on 12 February in the Lysgårdsbakkene Ski Jumping

Arena – the same place where the flame was last lit in Norway for the 1994 Olympic Winter Games. 12 February is also the same calendar day as the Opening Ceremony of the Winter Games 22 years ago,

Her Royal Highness, aged 11, will be the last person to receive the Olympic flame after its journey from Greece through Norway. The Princess will light the same Olympic torch in Lillehammer as her father, **His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon**, did in 1994.

The Royal Family has been involved in the Youth Olympic Games from the beginning, due to the Crown Prince's involvement with the organisation of the

Games.

Sigrid Strøm Reibo will be the director of the Opening Ceremony. The 34-year-old usually works as a director at the Norwegian National Theatre.

BUENOS AIRES 2018 – representatives at the Prague General Assembly gave an update on preparations and

**BUENOS
AIRES
2018**
YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES



informed delegates that the construction of the Youth Olympic Village has started. The General Assembly also learned that a new website has been launched together with active and successful digital media channels offering inspirational videos. Locally, various sport and cultural projects are ensuring increasing visibility of this future

event.

WADA

The World Anti-doping Agency's Independent Observer Report on the anti-doping programme at the first European Games in Baku was published this month on WADA's website.

In it, the EOC is commended for the technical proficiency of the Baku anti-doping programme along with its innovation, especially considering, as the report states in its conclusions, that this was the first such event under the authority of the EOC.

Led by **Frederic Donzé**, WADA's Director, European Regional Office and International Federation Relations, and **Stuart Kemp**, WADA's Deputy Director of Standards & Harmonisation, the Independent Observer (IO) programme in Baku adopted a cooperative approach which saw WADA and its experts partner with the EOC to enhance anti-doping efforts.

The IO programme in Baku sought to identify opportunities for improvement and address them collaboratively rather than simply report on matters retrospectively. This approach necessitated communication between the EOC, WADA, the Games organisers (BEGOC) and BEGOC's contracted service provider (PWC) ahead of the Games themselves.

MISCELLANEOUS

8th Peace and Sport International Forum – Prince Albert II of Monaco and Peace and Sport founder **Joel Bouzou** opened the 8th edition of the Peace and Sport International Forum, held from 25 to 27 November in the Principality of Monaco.



attended the Forum and was part of the jury for the Peace and Sport Awards that celebrated eight categories of winners in 2015.

A “Peace Walk” kicked off the Forum, themed “Endangered peace: how can sport help?”. A 1,000-strong procession, including sports champions, political figures, athletes and members of the public, marched from the Place du Casino to the

Grimaldi Forum, where the Forum took place.

Very good debates, many exchanges and the presence of a large number of Champions for Peace, including **Sergey Bubka**, **Paula Radcliffe**, **Novak Djokovic** and **Pernilla Wiberg** were the keynotes of the Monaco Forum.

Over the three days, partnerships were signed with the International School Sport Federation (ISF) and the UEFA Foundation for Children, which will enable Peace and Sport to intensify its actions through these organisations’ activities.

Prince Albert said: “Sport has the unique and extraordinary capacity to unite people together, communities under extreme tension, populations facing dramatic armed conflict.

“Because of its intrinsic values, sport contributes also to establishing and maintaining peace in a number of regions of the world”.

The next edition of the Peace and Sport International Forum will be staged from 23 to 25 November 2016 in Monaco.

IN MEMORIAM

František Janda (CZE), President of the European Fencing Federation, passed away suddenly on 3 November while travelling to Japan. František Janda was born on 5 July, 1967 in Prague. He was a film producer and general manager of a Czech film and TV company. In 2005, he resigned and decided to devote his life to sport and fencing.



His fencing career was impressive: in 1994 he became Executive Vice-President of the Czech Fencing Federation before becoming President from 1995 to 2010. Simultaneously he was President of the International Fencing Federation’s (FIE) PR and Promotion Commission. From 2000 to 2005 he was an FIE international referee for epee and foil. At the Athens 2004 Olympic Games he was a referee for fencing events included in the modern pentathlon.

In 2009 he became a member of the Executive Committee of the Czech Olympic Committee and in the same year he was appointed President of the European Fencing Confederation (EFC) – thus becoming a member of the FIE Executive Committee. In 2013, Janda was re-elected President of the European Fencing Confederation (EFC) for a further four-year term. František was a good friend of the European Olympic family.

The EOC expresses its sincerest condolences to his family and the Czech Fencing Federation.