Business as usual at the EOC - As per usual, it was a busy month for the EOC, with the main focus being the upcoming events scheduled throughout Europe.

Acting President Janez Kocijančič and Secretary General Raffaele Pagnozzi have been tasked with addressing a variety of concerns of the NOCs of Europe. To help combat the issues presented to them by the NOCs, Kocijančič and Pagnozzi have liaised with Olympic Solidarity (OS) and various IOC departments throughout the month. They were joined by Treasurer Kikis Lazarides in Rome to make a number of important decisions related to the EOC Seminar, the Europeans Games and the Gyor 2017 EYOF.

After visiting Rome, Kocijančič travelled to Malta for the EU Sports Forum where he had been invited to address the Forum as a keynote speaker. In a busy month of travelling, he also visited Kiev for the Ukrainian NOC’s 2016 Heroes of Sport celebrations, and Prague for the Badminton Europe’s 50th anniversary and the 5th BEC Awards Gala.

Meanwhile, the EOC Head Office focused on accelerating the preparations for the 2019 European Games, which are to be held in Minsk, Belarus. Work has focused on a wide range of areas, from the sports programme, to marketing and sponsorships, to a dedicated logo and website, and much more. Preparations for the EOC Seminar in Skopje and next autumn’s General Assembly have also been stepped up this month. After a site visit to Zagreb to assess the suitability of the venue for the General Assembly, the EOC is happy to report that progress is on track to host an excellent event.

After the success of the Erzurum Winter EYOF, preparations are gearing up for the Gyor 2017 Summer EYOF. There will be a major flame lighting ceremony held on 22 May in Rome as part of the build-up to the event. The Gyor 2017 Coordination Commission is continuing to monitor preparations for the event, and recently reported that everything is going to plan and that the expectations are for another outstanding event.

Gyor 2017 will see the continuation of the EYOF Young Ambassador project successfully piloted in Erzurum. Together with OS Lausanne, the EOC administration department is now looking at how to best implement the new OS mentoring programme, as well as ways of improving the management skills of smaller NOCs.

Another event currently being organised is the 2017 Piotr Nurowski Award for the best young European athlete in winter sports. In other words “Business as usual”.

Gyor 2017 Summer EYOF flame lighting ceremony - For the first time in EYOF history, the lighting of the EYOF torch will be held in Rome. Thanks to CONI and its President Giovanni Malagò, the ceremony will be hosted on 23 May at the iconic Ara Pacis Museum, which houses the altar built by the first Roman emperor Augustus in honor of Pax, goddess of Peace and one of the oldest symbols of universal peace in the world.

The symbolic site will be the perfect stage for the event. After being lit in Rome, the EYOF torch will then travel to Gyor with the Chair of the EYOF Organising Committee and the Hungarian NOC President Zsolt Borkai.

More information about this event will be disclosed soon.

2nd Winter Piotr Nurowski Prize - Newly crowned champions from the Erzurum EYOF may have another reason to celebrate in the coming months. Their performances at the EYOF will give them a better chance of being awarded the 2nd Piotr Nurowski Best Winter Young European Athlete Prize.

To be eligible for the award, athletes must be under the age of 19 by December 2017. Performances and medals won during competitions will be taken into consideration for the award, as will the candidates’ sportsmanship and general behaviour. Those who have demonstrated fair play, Olympic culture and values and friendship will be more likely to win the award.
The prize was created in 2010 to remember the EOC’s dear friend and one of the great men of the Olympic Movement - Piotr Nurowski. Through his example and his enduring memory, he encourages young athletes to pursue a career in elite level sport, as well as inspiring future generations to adopt a healthy lifestyle based on Olympic values and principles. In 2016, it was decided to award a winter prize at the EOC Seminar in the spring; the summer prize takes place during the annual EOC General Assembly. The awards ceremony for the 2nd edition will take place at the EOC Seminar in Skopje, in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, from 19-20 May. The winner of the winter prize will receive a trophy and a training scholarship of 12,000 euros. Entries for the Summer Piotr Nurowski Prize will open in September and will be presented in Zagreb, Croatia at the EOC General Assembly.

Olympic Solidarity Europe attends global meeting - The 9th meeting of the seven Olympic Solidarity Offices, which includes the International Olympic Solidarity Office in Lausanne, ANOC and the five continental associations, took place on 20 and 21 March at the ANOC Headquarters in Lausanne. The two-day meeting included Olympic Solidarity presentations about various programmes for the Olympiad 2017-2020, the 2017 Olympic Solidarity Forums, the Programme of Mentoring and the new OS platform, as well as the financial control policy of all funds allocated by OS to the NOCs. Representatives from the five continents and ANOC reported on their activities and programmes during the last year and discussed their different activities. The OS continental offices have been asked to promote the new online IOC self-evaluation tool on good governance - all NOCs are expected to do their self-evaluations before the end of 2017.

Electoral time at European NOCs - Several elections have taken place this month:

AUSTRIA - NOC President Karl Stoss was re-elected for a third term and Peter Mennel was re-elected as the NOC's Secretary General.

BULGARIA - Stefka Kostadinova was re-elected unopposed as President of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee. She has held the position since 2005. New Secretary General Belcho Goranov was unanimously elected to his position.

KOSOVO - Shasivar Haxhiqaj was unanimously elected Secretary General of the Kosovo Olympic Committee by its Executive Committee, replacing Mehmet Bogujevci.

LUXEMBOURG - André Hoffmann was re-elected as President of the NOC and Daniel Dax was re-elected as Secretary General.

SAN MARINO - President Gian Primo Giardi and Secretary General Eros Bologna were re-elected unopposed at the NOC General Assembly held on 9 March.

TURKEY - IOC Vice President and World Archery President Uğur Erdener, who has led the NOC since 2011, was re-elected this month. EOC Executive Committee member Hasan Arat was also re-elected as Vice President of the TOC. Nese Gündoğan, Secretary General since 2003, and a very active delegate within the EOC and European sports bodies, was also confirmed in her position.

The EOC offers its warmest congratulations to one and all.

COMMISSIONS

* The EOC Olympic Games Commission - The EOC Olympic Games Commission was chaired by George Katulin, the ex-Secretary General of the Belarus NOC. The Commission met at the ANOC HQ on 23 March to discuss preparations for the upcoming Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang. The Commission also discussed the various challenges NOCs are facing in preparing for the growing number of Games. The meeting was attended by the following members: Martin Doktor (CZE), Sabine Krapf (GER), Bjørn Sigurd Sommerfeldt (NOR), Adam Krzesinski (POL), Victor Fonseca Da Mota, (POR), Victor Khotochkin, (RUS), Peter Reinebo (SWE) and EOC Athletes’ Commission representative, windsurfer Alessandra Sensini (ITA).

They were welcomed by ANOC Secretary General Gunilla Lindberg and IOC Head of NOC Games Services Toshio Tsurunaga, who gave an update on the follow up from the Chef de Mission meeting in PyeongChang in February 2017. They also informed members
about preparations for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires and the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing.

The delegates had an open and constructive discussion about the pressure on NOCs in preparing for a growing number of Games, as well as the growing costs for the NOCs for their participation. Lindberg and Tsurunaga agreed to raise the concerns with the IOC.

* Other EOC Commissions are preparing for their 2017 annual meetings. The Olympic Culture and Legacy Commission, chaired by Susanna Rahkamo (FIN), will be meeting in Helsinki next 24 April. The EOC Athletes Commission, headed by Jean Michel Saive (BEL), will meet in Rome on 5 May.

**ENOCs**

**AZERBAIJAN** - This year, Azerbaijan’s National Olympic Committee will mark the 25th anniversary since it was established. The Republic's President Ilham Aliyev, who is also the NOC President, has called for celebrations to mark the event. The NOC was established in 1992, and in the same year was accepted as a member of the European Olympic Committees and the International Olympic Committee. Azerbaijan took part in the Olympic Games as an independent state in 1996 and has since sent athletes to all Olympic Games. In 2015, the Azeri capital city, Baku, successfully organised the inaugural European Games.

The next big event to be hosted in the Republic will be the 2017 Islamic Solidarity Games, which are set to be held in Baku from 12-22 May. EOC Acting President Kocijančič is due to attend. Today, modern sporting complexes are in operation not only in Baku but in almost all regions of the country. Each of these have played a significant role in the development of sports at a regional level, where over 40 Olympic Centres have been opened, with several more on the way. Baku will also host the 2019 European Youth Olympic Festival. They have taken over the organisation from Minsk, Belarus, who were unable to host the event after being awarded the 2nd edition of the European Games.

**ITALY** - After being the only candidate to bid, Milan will host the 132nd IOC Session in 2019. This month, Italian Olympic Committee President Giovanni Malagò, together with Secretary General Roberto Fabbricini, presented the Milan 2019 application file. They were joined in Milan by Mayor Giuseppe Sala and the President of the Lombardy Region, Roberto Maroni. Also in attendance were the Project Leader Diana Bianchedi and Lombardy Region Sports Councillor Antonio Rossi, who is a former Chair of the EOC Athletes’ Commission and Executive Committee member. While some other big cities had expressed interest in hosting the 2019 event, in the end only the Milan bid reached the IOC by its 15 March deadline.

The official decision on the host city will be made at the IOC Session on 17 September.

**LITHUANIA** - This month the first phase of Lithuania’s Small Games started throughout the country, with 250 pre-school institutions participating from all over Lithuania. The event, which is the “younger brother” of the Lithuania School Games, is organised by the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee. It is jointly chaired by the NOC President Daina Gudzinevičiūtė and the Pre-school Physical Education Teachers Association. It aims to attract pre-school children to engage in various different sports, promote an active lifestyle, and teach basic communication skills through sport. The final of the Lithuania Small Games Festival will take place on 24-26 May, when all participants will receive commemorative medals for their participation. Research shows that 41.4 percent of Lithuanian pre-schoolers engage in an insufficient level of physical activity. Children tend to spend most of their time watching TV or playing on their computers. Lithuania’s Small Games are a great tool for promoting a positive attitude towards physical education and sport amongst children.
MONACO - The 5th IOC World Conference on Prevention of Injury and Illness in Sport took place in Monaco from March 16-18. HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco attended the official opening of the event. As has been the case with previous editions, the Conference presented well-researched information on the prevention of injuries, illness and other health problems associated with sports participation. The programme included guest speakers, panel discussions, symposia and workshops.

POLAND - On 22 March, a delegation from the Korean Cultural Centre, led by director Hyunjum Kim, visited the headquarters of the NOC of Poland - the Olympic Centre. The Polish Olympic Committee was represented by the Director for Olympics and International Relations Marzena Koszewska and Director for the Education Department Katarzyna Deberny. The reason for the meeting was due to next year's PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games. Both parties were keen to establish stronger ties between the two organisations, especially with regard to education and culture. During the meeting, the two organisations also discussed the 19th Sports for All Festival that will be celebrated on 3 June 2017 in Warsaw. During the short tour of the Museum of Sport and Tourism, the Polish Olympic Committee's guests were educated about Polish sport and the Olympic Movement and its icons, including retired sprinter Irina Szewińska and champions from the past - Halina Konopacka and Janusz Kusociński.

SLOVAKIA - The NOC’s Environmental Committee, as has been the case in previous years, participated in encouraging people to engage in environmental activities for World Water Day, which is celebrated every year on 22 March. NOC President Anton Siekel noted the increasing number of activities and events that are undertaken in Slovakia every year. World Water Day is dedicated to the precious liquid without which life is impossible. In 1992, the United Nations declared 22 March as World Water Day. Water is an essential component of life on our planet and without water there is no life. While three-quarters of the surface of our planet is covered with water, more than one billion of the world population suffer from a lack of drinking water. Visit: www.milujemsport.olympic.sk/multimedia/environmentalne-aktivity-- to find out about this year’s activities in schools and training sites.

SPAIN - Barcelona is preparing to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1992 Olympic Games with a special programme of cultural and sporting events designed to reflect the hugely important role the Games played in the city’s resurgence. Speaking at an event held to launch the anniversary celebrations, Ada Colau, the city’s mayor, said the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games had left an indelible legacy, of which the city could be proud: “Barcelona opened up to the world and, above all, to its citizens, becoming a collective project that looked both inwards and outwards.” Alejandro Blanco, the President of the Spanish Olympic Committee, described Barcelona 1992 as an unforgettable occasion for world sport: “Twenty-five years on, the whole world is speaking with pride and passion about what happened.” The 25th anniversary programme features school activities, official acts, sporting events and the “City and Olympism” conferences, which will address topics such as the role of women and their treatment in the media, volunteering, the Paralympic Games and the role of host cities. Barcelona will also host a meeting of the IOC’s Olympic Solidarity Commission on 10-11 April, while the 8th Barcelona FICTS Film Festival (8-12 May) will use the 1992 Games as its central theme. On 11 July, a free city-wide sporting and cultural festival will be held to commemorate what was a landmark occasion in Barcelona’s history.

TURKEY - This month, the Turkish Olympic Committee (TOC) and Gaziantep Municipality - a city in the western part of Turkey’s South eastern Anatolia Region - launched the “Support Through Sport Project”, which aims to contribute to Syrian children’s physical and social development through greater accessibility to sport. The project, which is financed through the IOC Emergency Fund for Refugees, is carried out for the children of the families who are living in Turkey due to the war in Syria and are in need of assistance. It aims to make the children forget the bad experiences they have lived through, and help them adapt to the country and socialise through sporting activities.
So far, a hall belonging to the Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality Community Centre has been restored and transformed into a fully equipped sports hall, and the TOC has hired trainers, translators and technical officers to support the project and has covered all expenses. At the opening ceremony of the project on 8 March, TOC Board member Seyit Bilal Porsun, TOC Secretary General Neşe Gündoğan and Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality Secretary General Deniz Köken distributed sports shoes, tracksuits and t-shirts to approximately 300 children aged between 6 and 12. The TOC has long been committed to making sport more accessible to children in Turkey. Over the past few years, projects such as the Sports Culture and Olympic Education Project, Free Sports Schools Project and the Active Kids Project have integrated the core Olympic values to help local and national authorities work towards creating a better future for the country’s youth. The TOC will continue to pursue this commitment with the Support Through Sport Project.

UKRAINE - Upon invitation from Ukraine NOC President Sergey Bubka, on 30 and 31 March, EOC Acting President Janez Kocijančič paid a two-day visit to the National Olympic Committee in Kiev. His visit coincided with the 2016 Ukraine Olympic Heroes Gala, organised annually since 2006 by the NOC and Ukraine’s Ministry of Sport and Youth. Kocijančič and Bubka met with the Minister of Youth and Sports Ihor Zhdanov. This was followed by a visit to the NOC headquarters, where Kocijančič met staff from a number of different departments, including several famous Ukrainian athletes who work there. He was informed about the NOC’s future plans and projects, and praised the high level of their organisation.

On the second day, Kocijančič paid a visit to the Olympic Studies Centre, the headquarters of the Ukraine’s Olympic Academy. The Academy is headed by Maria Bulatova, a good friend of the European Olympic Committees, and author of the first educational EOC guidebook, which is currently distributed to all EYOF participants. In the evening, Kocijančič joined Bubka, as well as Kiev mayor and boxing legend Vitali Klitschko, for the 2016 Ukraine Olympic Heroes Gala at NSC “Olimpiysky” in Kiev. The country’s best Olympic, Paralympic, and non-Olympic athletes and coaches received their awards in the presence of hundreds of prominent athletes, coaches and sport administrators. The 2016 Sport Heroes of the Year winners are selected by Ukraine’s Academy of Sports. The winners were as follows:


EYOF

Győr 2017 EYOF - Young Ambassadors Wanted - In the wake of the success of the EOC Young Ambassador pilot project at the Winter EYOF in Erzurum, the same project has now been launched for the fast approaching Summer EYOF in Győr. European NOCs are encouraged to name a Young Athlete Ambassador who can assist their young teams in getting ready for Gyor 2017 in July. The ideal candidate is a young person aged 18 to 25 who is inspired by sport and Olympic values, and wishes to contribute to building a strong value-based foundation for the international sporting community. The deadline for the NOCs to apply is 21 April 2017. Each Ambassador will introduce his young colleagues to what it means to participate at a first Olympic style multi-sport event, and provide them with a deeper understanding of the values that underpin the EYOF and the Olympic Movement in general, and so consolidate the concept that Olympic sport goes well beyond mere competition.

The mission of the Young Athlete Ambassadors is to promote Olympic values, respect, friendship and excellence, and the EOC’s own values of integrity, solidarity and innovation, and encourage participating athletes to interact with their peers, share happy moments and make long-lasting friendships.
**EUROPEAN GAMES**

**Minsk 2019** - This month, the Belarusian Prime Minister Andrei Kobyakov inspected the facilities that will be used in the European Games in Minsk, in 2019. “Belarus will prepare properly for the European Games in 2019,” Kobyakov told journalists at the end of his visit on 22 March.

The Prime Minister said: “Preparations for the European Games are on schedule. There is no extra burden on the country’s financial system. We were going to complete the sports venues regardless of the European Games. But fortunately, the works are scheduled to be completed by the sporting event. I believe that we have every opportunity to prepare for the European Games in the best possible way.”

The Prime Minister visited the Marshal Timoshenko sports-shooting facility to review the progress of its reconstruction. He said: “The amount of financial assistance has been set. The contractor organization has a wealth of expertise and enough workforce. I think the works will be finished by the deadline (by the end of 2018) and with appropriate quality.”

The Prime Minister also visited the construction site of the Olympic rhythmic gymnastics training centre in Pobeditelei Avenue. He commented: “I think that this centre will be one of the most beautiful buildings in Minsk and a really good facility for training our gymnasts. The President gave instructions to commission the centre in December 2017.”

Kobyakov also evaluated the process of the reconstruction of the Dinamo Stadium, and said: “It will be the main venue of the European Games. The stadium will host the opening ceremony. The reconstruction works proceed on schedule. At the moment, we see no complications that could have an impact on the quality and duration of works.”

Two days after his visit, the Belarusian Council of Ministers approved the plan of action for the 2019 European Games presented by the National Organising Committee for the Minsk 2019 European Games, which is chaired by the Prime Minister. The Council discussed the draft contracts on the European Games, the European Games sports programme, the status of construction and reconstruction of sports facilities, and potential venues for the media centre.

**GSSE**

**San Marino 2017** - The San Marino NOC, President Gian Primo Giardi and Secretary General Eros Bologna, welcomed the Chefs de mission of the delegations taking part in the Games of the Small States of Europe. The Games will take place on the Titan Rock from 29 May - 3 June 2017.

On 24 March, representatives of the eight other competing countries, as well as guests and members of the Organising Committee of the Games were invited to visit the competition sites and lodging facilities. A meeting of the Games’ Technical Commission also took place. Delegates from Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco and Montenegro, as well as the San Marino NOC, had the opportunity to meet Italian high jumper Gianmarco Tamberi and hear about his sporting history.

To conclude the special evening, guests of the San Marino NOC, as well as the whole San Marino population, were invited to watch Miracle, the famous 2004 film about the American hockey team winning Olympic gold at the 1980 Olympic Games.

**EUROPEAN UNION**

**2017 EU Sport Forum** - European institutions and high-level sports stakeholders met in Malta for the 14th Sport Forum, organised by the DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture European Commission.

The event began on 8 March in Valletta, where the EU Forum welcomed EOC Acting President Janez Kocjančič, who recalled the long-standing relationship and the commitment of the European Association towards the EU, thanks to the EOC EU commission, chaired by Juri Tamm (EST) and EU EOC Office in Brussels, represented in Malta by director Folker Hellmund.

The European Commissioner for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, Tibor Navracsics, took part in the EU Sport Forum High-level panel debate on the promotion of grassroots sport within the EU.

Throughout the Forum, sessions focused on various topics of interest for European sport, including: grassroots sport, good governance, volunteering, doping, innovation and contribution to growth and jobs.
Most of the sessions were streamed at [http://ec.europa.eu/sport/events/201700127-eu-sport-forum_en](http://ec.europa.eu/sport/events/201700127-eu-sport-forum_en) and presentations and speeches from the event were uploaded after the event.

One week after the Forum, the meeting of Directors General for Sport was also held in Malta, focusing on social inclusion and volunteering.

**Rome European Treaties 60 years celebrations** - The Treaties of Rome established a common market where people, goods, services and capital can move freely, and created the conditions for prosperity and stability for European citizens. The 60th anniversary of the signatures of the founding six member countries: Benelux (Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands), France, Germany and Italy was celebrated in Rome on 25 March.

At the end of the event, the heads of state from the current 27 EU member states signed the Rome Declaration setting out a joint vision for the years to come.

In the Declaration, they stressed that the EU is unique in the existence of its common institutions and strong values, that it is a community of peace, freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and a major economic power with unparalleled levels of social protection and welfare.

In particular, reference was made to A Social Europe promoting equality, equal opportunities, while fighting discrimination, social exclusion and poverty. The very same aims Sport helps to realize.

**OLYMPIC GAMES**

**PyeongChang 2018** - Gunilla Lindberg led the IOC Coordination Commission’s three-day visit to check the progress of PyeongChang’s venues for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. The 13 members of the commission - including four representatives from Europe: Ottavio Cinquanta, Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark, René Fasel and Gian-Franco Kasper - together with the President of the Games’ Organising Committee Lee Hee-beom, visited the sites and addressed topics such as transport, accommodation and the final budget.

IOC President Thomas Bach was a special attendee in Korea, where a two-day IOC Executive Board meeting also took place on 16-17 March. On 30 March, the Organising Committee released a Sustainability Report for the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games to show their latest efforts and achievements to deliver a Games with a “New Horizons for Sustainability” vision. The report covers the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. POCOG has put five sustainability themes into action: Low Carbon Green Olympics; Stewardship of Nature; Good Life; Proud People with Tradition and Culture; and Globalizing PyeongChang: Opening to the World.

**Tokyo 2020** - This month, organisers welcomed the IOC Executive Board’s approval of the Fukushima Azuma Baseball Stadium in Fukushima Prefecture as an additional venue for baseball and softball events at the 2020 Olympic Games. A Tokyo 2020 press release, quoting the Organising Committee’s President Yoshiro Mori, said: “Tokyo 2020, together with the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC), believes that the hosting of events in Fukushima will support recovery efforts in the overall Tohoku region”, which was hit in the 2011 Great East Japan earthquake.

“By hosting Olympic baseball and softball events, Fukushima will have a great platform to show the world the extent of its recovery in the 10 years since the disaster. It will also be a wonderful chance for us to show our gratitude towards those who assisted in the region’s reconstruction.”

**YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES**

**Buenos Aires 2018** - The dates for the 3rd summer edition of the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires have changed. The Games will now take place from 6-18 October 2018 - one week later than previously scheduled. The request to change the dates in order to optimise weekend days, by including one additional weekend, was agreed upon by the IOC Executive Committee during its first meeting of the year in PyeongChang. The Executive Committee also approved the proposed addition of roller speed to the programme. Boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 18, from 206 countries, are expected in Buenos Aires, to compete in 31 sporting disciplines.
The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) launches Speak Up! - A new, secure digital platform was launched by WADA this month. It is intended for athletes and others to report alleged Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) under the World Anti-Doping Code (Code), non-compliance violations under the Code, or any act or omission that could undermine the fight against doping in sport.

Anyone who detects, identifies, witnesses, knows of or has reasonable grounds to suspect that cheating has occurred, is encouraged to Speak Up!

In its press release, WADA stated: “It is however important to note the distinction between an informant and a whistleblower as these statuses do trigger different rights and responsibilities. Any person reporting misconduct to WADA will be considered an informant. The informant may decide not to pursue further cooperation with the Agency once they have provided information. An informant can however become a whistleblower if they wish to further cooperate with WADA. In this case, a whistleblower agreement is signed between WADA and the informant, which offers additional rights as outlined within WADA’s Whistleblower Programme and Policy (PDF).”

The Speak Up! platform includes a secure app for iPhone and Android phones, currently available in beta version on the App Store and Google Play.

International Francophonie Day 2017 - International Francophonie Day is celebrated within the International Organisation of La Francophonie’s (OIF) 80 member states every year on 20 March to honour the French language and Francophone culture.

The OIF is the organisation that represents countries where French is the first language. Members share more than just a common language - they also share the humanist values promoted by the French language. The OIF was created in 1970. Its mission is to embody the active solidarity between its 80 member states and governments (57 members and 23 observers), which together represent over one-third of the United Nation’s member states and account for a population of over 890 million people, including 220 million French speakers.

While the Olympic and Paralympic bid of Paris 2024 naturally embodies la Francophonie, the Los Angeles 2024 bid will also appeal to the French-speaking world. The presence of Francophone volunteers in the volunteer programme will be encouraged, and a tribute to Francophone influences on American culture will be organised during the 2024 Games, should they be awarded the honour of hosting.

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