A month of quiet hard work - June has been a month of quiet hard work for the European Olympic Committees’ (EOC) leadership, who have continued their hard work to strengthen ties and increase cooperation across Europe. Acting President Janez Kocijančič, Secretary General Raffaele Pagnozzi and other key EOC officials focused much of their attention this month on creating the structure necessary to support the Minsk 2019 European Games. The priority was to set up the Coordination Commission (CoCom), chaired by Hellenic NOC President and Baku 2015 CoCom leader Spyros Capralos. Capralos will lead a team of experienced experts from across Europe, who will work in close cooperation with Belarus to ensure that Minsk 2019 is another highly successful edition of Europe’s continental Games.

As is an annual tradition, the European Evening of Sport took place in June. The event is organised by the EOC EU Office in Brussels every summer, where key players from the Olympic Movement and the EU come together to discuss topics of common interest. Acting President Kocijančič attended together with numerous members of the EOC Executive Committee (EC), and then chaired a meeting of the EOC EU Office Foundation Council the following morning. There was also plenty of work for the EOC to do in preparation for the Győr 2017 European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) 2017, which takes place from 22 to 30 July. The EOC also began preparations for the organisation of the October European Athletes’ Forum in Monte Carlo.

Olympic Day - This month, like every year, the Olympic Movement celebrated its birthday. On 23 June, close to six million people across the globe, young and old alike, were reversing the trend away from sport and were moving, jumping, stretching and sweating to promote a healthy and active lifestyle, and celebrate the birth of the modern Olympic Games and its values. The IOC’s call to action has so far resulted in some 108 NOCs across all five continents setting up celebrations. By the end of the year, this figure should rise to 142 NOCs. Europe is proud to be in the frontline. From Albania to Ukraine, from Portugal to Russia from Iceland to Greece, the NOCs from the Old Continent have been actively planning all kinds of activities, to take place from spring to autumn. The many proposed gatherings, mini marathons and games, such as in Georgia, where events have considerably increased in over ten cities countrywide with active involvement of thousands of persons of various age categories, will encourage everyone to be more active. And there is an interesting novelty in Spain, where the NOC has organised the Santiago Pilgrims’ Run to the famous basilica. And many more initiatives have been put in place. Visit our website www.eurolympic.org and link up with the websites of the 50 NOCs of Europe and their social networks to discover their programmes.

COMMISSIONS

The EOC’s Gender Equality in Sport Commission was established in 2013 and focuses on encouraging women to participate in the activities of sports organisations, while not deterring men. The Commission, which includes a small group of eminent women as well as male representation from the Polish NOC President Andrzej Krasnicki and former Finnish NOC President Risto Nieminen, is chaired by the President of the NOC of Lithuania Daina Gudzineviciute.
Among other activities, the Commission publishes a regular newsletter. In the foreword of the most recent edition, Gudzinevičiūtė wrote: “Joint activities, cooperation and representation of both genders always lead to more productive work and better results.”

The current newsletter reports on European experiences in the field of gender equality, with a particular focus on news from Denmark and Poland. It also reports on the result of an enquiry on Olympic Agenda 2020, with 13 European NOCs sharing information on how they are following its recommendations. The Commission also offers recommendations concerning the EOC election procedure for better gender balance.

A “Save the Date” concludes the newsletter with an invitation to gather in Vilnius next October, for a forum providing a platform for leaders to discuss ideas on gender equality in sport, organised by the NOC of Lithuania and the IOC, with the support of the EOC.

**ALBANIA** - On 13 June, the NOC of Albania organised a “Thank-you Ceremony” for its 2017 Olympic Day partners who have contributed to the provision of various sporting activities all over the country in the weeks building up to Olympic Day.

The period of March through to June marked the development of the “Olympic Education in the school” project, with Olympic Day activities being organised over a period of a week in primary and secondary schools throughout Albania. The week of activities organised in 13 Regional Education Directorates, covering 312 schools, whilst the Olympic Day activities were organised in 20 cities with the participation of 250 schools and more than 5,000 students. Approximately 9,000 pupils and 1,300 teachers took part in the activities aimed at spreading the Olympic values, which included popular games and various sporting competitions. There was a different themes every day, including respect, fair play, gender equality, inclusion, and respect for the environment.

The “Thank You Ceremony” was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education and Sports, heads of the Regional Educational Directorates and Educational Offices in the country, organisers of the extended Olympic Day activities, working groups, physical education teachers, and representatives of the national sports federations.

The President of the Albanian NOC, Viron Bezhani praised the organisation of the events and affirmed that this was the third successive year of growth of the “Olympic Education in School” project. Project Coordinator Eda Caushi emphasised the importance of the agreement between the Albanian NOC and the Ministry of Education and Sports in the implementation of the project in schools as part of school curricula.

**azerbaijan** - The second season of the “Olympic Moves” programme in Azerbaijan culminated on 5 June with a closing ceremony at the Sarhadchi Olympic Sports Centre. “Olympic Moves Azerbaijan 2017” had been carried out by the NOC and Worldwide Olympic Partner Coca-Cola together with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan.

The NOC Vice-President Chingiz Huseynzade, Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan Azad Rahimov and Coca Cola’s Regional President Erdinc Guzel attended the ceremony.

The implementation of the programme was supported by respective national sports federations. The programme started with school competitions, followed by regional competitions and ended with a national championship and sport festival.

The overall goal of the programme is to promote active and healthy lifestyles, as well as educate children about the Olympic values. More than 100,000 children from approximately 400 schools took part.

**Belgium** - Pierre-Olivier Beckers was elected President of the NOC for the fourth time at the Belgian Olympic Committee General Assembly, which was held at the Belfius Congress Centre in Brussels on 2 June. All 15 members of the Executive Board were also elected and, of the seven women who ran, five were elected. With five members of the previous board having reached the end of their mandate (Anne d'Ieteren, Philip Berben, Cyriel Coomans, Jan Verstuyft and Thierry Zintz) and two deciding to step down (Philippe Rogge and André Stein), the board has experienced a fairly significant change.

After the elections, President Beckers said: “I am looking forward to working with this new Board of Directors which - as you have seen - has been significantly modified tonight... As I said at the meeting I am also happy to be able to offer some stability to the COIB and to be able to share my experience with the new members... As far as I am concerned, as you know, this mandate will be the last for me because I have proposed limiting the number of terms for the President of the COIB to four.”
The new board comprises seven French-speaking members (including Jean-Michel Saive, currently Chair of the EOC Athletes’ Commission and Executive Committee member), seven Dutch-speaking members and one German-speaking member.

ESTONIA - Two-time Olympic medallist Toomas Tõniste was appointed as Finance Minister of the Republic of Estonia this month. A former 470-class (double-handed monohull) dinghy sailor, Tõniste won the silver medal at the Seoul 1988 Olympic Games and bronze at the Barcelona 1992 Games. Tõniste was born in Tallinn on 26 April 1967 and is a graduate of Tallinn University. Following his sailing career, he became a successful entrepreneur and later went into politics. He was a member of Tallinn City Council from 2002 - 2003 and 2006 - 2007. From 2007 - 2015, Tõniste was a member of the Parliament of Estonia, and also served as Chair of the parliamentary Economic Affairs Committee. He is a member of the Pro Patria and Res Publica Union. In 2001 Tõniste was awarded the Order of the Estonian Red Cross by the President of Estonia.

GREECE - A successful first meeting of women sport executives, entitled “Women in Action”, was held mid-June at the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) headquarters in Athens. The HOC Women and Sport Commission Chair Xenia Argeitaki invited a group of women involved in sport to express their views and personal experiences in order to enhance the position of women in sport. HOC President Spyros Capralos and Secretary General Manolis Kolymbas greeted the participants, including commission members, Olympic medallists and champions, and members of the national sports federations. Welcoming the participants, Capralos said: “Today the building of the Greek Olympic Committee is as vibrant as never before, in the presence of so many women in this auditorium. And it will stay so in the beauty, the passion and love for sports of all of you who have served or continue to serve it, either as athletes or in other positions. I am confident that today’s event will be the starting point for more active and effective participation and involvement of women at every level of sport in our country.” Chair Xenia Argeitaki added: “We have met here to persuade, encourage and inspire women, especially young women, to open a new cycle in life and take part in sports events. With you as a core group and all the speaking members and one German, the locomotive will begin its journey to attract women, especially in management positions but also in other areas of sport. And engaging more women will benefit everyone, and Greek sport in particular.”

ITALY - For the first time in the 103-year history of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), on 11 June the Italian Head of State visited the CONI headquarters. CONI President Giovanni Malagò welcomed President of the Republic Sergio Mattarella together with Sports Minister Luca Lotti, the Italian Paralympic Committee President Luca Pancalli, CONI Secretary General Roberto Fabbbricini, presidents of many of the various national sports and Paralympic federations, associated sports disciplines, regional committees and other sports related bodies.

The event took place at the Stadio dei Marmi, a place Malagò described as “open to everyone.” The 1930s stadium is famous for the 59 huge marble statues of athletes surrounding its perimeter, which make it an iconic landmark of the Olympic Park in the heart of the Italian capital.

President Mattarella said: “Sport represents the true flourishing image of the country” and praised CONI’s commitment towards elite sport, sport for all and grassroots sport. Participants included numerous present and past Olympians, whose memorable achievements have gained them a place in the Walk of Fame.

President Mattarella then toured the CONI headquarters, showing a special interest in the Hall of Flames and its rich collection of Olympic torches, in particular Torino 2006. CONI President Malagò said: “Unfortunately, Rome 1960 will be for many years ahead the sole edition of the Games organised in our country...”

POLAND - In June the “Olympic Picnic” took place in Warsaw for the 19th time and was considered by participants as the best one ever. The sun was shining and there were multiple Polish Olympic medallists in attendance at the event, where tens of thousands of people spent Saturday 3 June playing 30 different sports. The Polish Olympic Committee, in cooperation with the Office of the Capital City District Żoliborz Warsaw and the Ministry of Sport and Tourism, organised the event, which is the largest celebration of sport in Poland. As is the case every year, the list of visitors who were medallists and Olympians was impressive. Famous names included Tomasz Majewski, Andrzej Wroński, Robert Sycz, Wojciech Fortuna, Dariusz Goździk Adam Krasieński Marian Sypniewski, Iwona Marcinkiewicz, Konrad Niedźwiedzki, Ryszard Szurkowski and Ireną Szewińską.
More than 30 sports and competitions in multiple Olympic and non-Olympic disciplines were on offer to visitors. In view of next year’s Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, part of the picnic area was turned into a zone dedicated to winter sports. There was a ski jump, an ice rink, and many other games and activities available in the “Hello PyeongChang” kids zone.

The most interesting stands for visitors every year are the ones directly related to the Olympic Movement, for example Fair Play, which was full of competitions and games in the spirit of fair play. There were stations with Olympic sports such as rock climbing and skateboarding (new to the Olympic programme for Tokyo 2020), badminton, boxing, gymnastics, kayaking, athletics, archery, soccer, rugby, sledging, shooting, fencing, taekwondo, tennis and table-tennis, wrestling and yachting.

SPAIN - On 7 June, the final event of the two-year academic EU project ESTPORT (“Development of an innovative European Sport Tutorship model for the dual career of athletes”) was celebrated during the XIX Sports Gala of the Catholic University of Murcia (UCAM).

President of the Spanish Olympic Committee Alejandro Blanco opened the event together with the President of UCAM and Spanish Olympic Committee member José Luis Mendoza, President of the Superior Council of Sports José Ramón Lete and the coordinator of the project at UCAM Antonio Sánchez. More than 500 participants, including students, government representatives, athletes and other stakeholders from the world of sport attended the event at the Monastery of Los Jerónimos at UCAM.

ESTPORT was born in the heart of the European Union, with the participation of European universities, from Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain, to carry out the dual career modelling project, which responds to one of the three general objectives of the EU Erasmus+ programme: to promote and support good governance in sport and the dual career of athletes.

The objective in the last two academic years has been to establish a European model that allows universities to help elite athletes so that they can combine their studies with training, travel and competitions.

The results of these two years of work are to be found in an official manual presenting the main guidelines for developing a system based on the work of dual career tutors of athletes.

TURKEY - Olympic gold medal wrestler Taha Akgül was appointed Chair of the Athletes’ Commission by the Turkish Olympic Committee this month. The Rio 2016 Olympic and two-time world champion wrestler, 26-year-old Akgül, who competes in the 125kg category, will now also serve as Executive Board member during his four-year term from 2017 to 2021.

The TOC’s Athletes’ Commission is a body of 70 current athletes who have been nominated by their respective National Federations. The TOC is one of the National Olympic Committees leading the way in emphasising gender equality, reflected by the even split of 35 male and 35 female members on the Commission.

The purpose of the Athletes’ Commission is to provide Turkish athletes with a platform for dialogue with the TOC, as well as acting as role models to promote the Olympic values among Turkey’s youth and the wider population. It serves as a way for athletes to express their needs, opinions and suggestions to the TOC, and helps them develop and fulfil their potential in sport.

Taha Akgül was born on 22 November 1990 in Sivas, Turkey. He is an Olympic, world and European champion freestyle wrestler competing in the 125kg division. In 2014 and 2015 he won the World Championship title in the 125kg division, and in 2014 he was selected as Best Wrestler of the Year by the Turkish Wrestling Federation. He won a gold medal at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games defeating Iranian wrestler Komeil Ghasemi in the final. He is also a student of physical education and sports at the Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University in Karaman.

Like all of his colleagues on European NOC Athletes’ Commissions, he will be invited to the Athletes’ Forum and the elective assembly of the EOC Athletes’ Commission in Monte Carlo on 20 October.

UKRAINE - The Olympic Day event in Kiev on Saturday 3 June was the formal Opening Ceremony for the nationwide celebrations to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games on 23 June 1894 in Paris. After this event, every big city and 90% of small towns and villages in Ukraine were set to hold their own Olympic Day celebrations, organised by NOC local departments.

The country’s main sports arena, NSC Olimpiyskiy, hosted more than 4,500 sports fans, as well as star Olympic athletes, celebrities and governmental representatives. #OlympicDay on the way to PyeongChang 2018 was the motto of the celebration, with most activities dedicated to the upcoming Winter Games in the South Korean city.
Vice Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kyrylenko and Deputy Head of Sport and Youth Parliamentary Committee Mykola Velychkovych took part in the Opening Ceremony along with Sport Minister Ihor Zhdanov and NOC Vice President, IOC Member, and Olympic champion Valery Borzov. Mr Lee Yang-goo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Ukraine, also participated with a welcome speech and promotional activities for his country and PyeongChang 2018.

Over 20 of Ukraine’s Olympic and Paralympic medallists and national teams’ athletes featured in various activities on site. PyeongChang 2018 Olympic team athletes, including Sochi 2014 biathlon champions Olena Pidhrushna and Yulia Dzhima received warm welcomes at the celebration.

More than 30 national sports federations were represented at the Olympic Day celebration, supplying children and their parents with information about various sports and providing options for them to try them for themselves. The sports on display included biathlon, cross country skiing, basketball, trampoline jumping, handball, IAAF Kids Athletics and taekwondo, as well as the three of the five new additions to the Olympic programme for 2020 - karate, skateboarding and sports climbing.

The organisers - Ukraine’s National Olympic Committee, Ministry of Sport and Youth and Kyiv State Administration - involved showbiz celebrities to support the event in Kiev. A dozen teams, including one from the Artek Kids’ Centre and another from the National Police Academy, took part in an Olympic-themed flash mob and karaoke contest. The day ended with an “Olympic” run hosted by NSC Olimpiyskiy. The venue, which hosted the 1980 Olympic Games football matches and the UEFA 2012 Euro final game, will also host the 2018 UEFA Champions League final.

**EYOF**

Győr 2017 EYOF - 23 June marked one month to go to the Opening Ceremony of the Győr 2017 EYOF. As is always the case with only 30 days left to the start of a large-scale sporting event, it is a very busy time for the organisers in Győr, who are currently fine-tuning the last details to ensure the young athletes enjoy a memorable experience.

The athletes’ entry list is closing, guests are buying tickets and some 20 observers from the Organising Committees of future EYOFs - Sarajevo & East Sarajevo 2019, and Kosice 2021, as well as potential bidders (Slovenia and France) for the 2020 EYOF are preparing to travel to Győr to improve their understanding of how best to host the event.

The EYOF sports ambassadors group is currently working on logistical matters for the young athletes during the Festival. The group is monitoring closely the Fun Zone area, which includes an 800 square metre tent, and some smaller tents where there will be activities for the athletes and volunteers to try out, and where the ambassadors (who will wear special tee-shirts) will welcome the athletes.

The EOC and its Olympic Culture and Legacy Committee have created a special leaflet for the ambassadors to present to the Győr 2017 participants. Their role will be to get to know the athletes, to bring them close to athletes from other countries and to help all of them to have fun and enjoyment while making new friends and learning about Olympism and its values of friendship, respect and excellence.

In Győr, participants will also receive the updated EOC Olympic Guidebook - an easy way for youngsters and their entourage to learn about the history of the Olympic Movement.

The organisers have promised that the Opening Ceremony will be the start of a week of spectacular and unforgettable moments. Győr Mayor Zsolt Borkai, who is Chairman of the Organising Committee, said: “During the Olympic Games, broadcasts of the Opening Ceremony receive special attention and we are confident that this will not be different for Győr, because we are preparing a catchy, unique and beautiful display.”

With one month to the Opening Ceremony, Fábián László, the acting Secretary General of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, discussed the final stages of preparation for the Festival in an interview with M1 Hungarian Television. There is a significant list of accredited international journalists coming to Győr to cover the event. They will have much to report on between 22 and 30 July when 2,500 athletes between 14 and 18 years old, and 1,100 coaches and assistants from 50 European countries come together to compete in Győr.
OLYMPIC GAMES

PYEONGCHANG 2018 - Construction work on the building shell is now complete at the International Broadcast Centre (IBC), the home of the broadcast operation for the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. The PyeongChang 2018 Organising Committee (POCOG) officially handed over the facility to Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS) on 5 June 2017. On 7 June, the organisers also announced the ticket prices for the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games, which are set to go on sale in South Korea on 21 August. The Paralympic Winter Games will take place from 9 - 18 March next year, and will see around 650 athletes compete across 80 events in six different disciplines. After the recent split between the IOC and long-time TOP Partner McDonald’s, participants and spectators in PyeongChang will be the last ones to enjoy the company’s products at an Olympic Games. McDonald’s have announced that despite the partnership ending with immediate effect, they will still sponsor the Games in PyeongChang, but with domestic marketing rights in South Korea only. McDonald’s will provide restaurants in the Olympic Park and the Olympic Village.

TOKYO 2020 - At the beginning of June, the IOC Executive Board (EB) made several key decisions on the future of the Olympic Games at its Board meeting in Lausanne. The event programme for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games was approved and will see the inclusion of BMX freestyle and 3x3 basketball, making the Games more appealing to a younger audience. The programme will also see greater female participation than ever before, with the 48.8% figure set to be the highest representation of female athletes in Olympic history.

2024 CANDIDATE CITIES - In the same Lausanne meeting, the IOC EB approved the inclusion of the 28 sports that were on the programme for the Rio 2016 Games for the 2024 Games (confirming golf and rugby). Finally, after months of speculation in the media, the EB also decided to put forward a proposal to IOC Members to award the 2024 and 2028 Olympic Games at the same time. As a result of this, the EB called for an Extraordinary Session in Lausanne from 11 - 12 July to present this proposal. The EB has emphasised that having two great candidatures in Los Angeles and Paris is a unique opportunity.

FUTURE OLYMPIC GAMES - The IOC EB has also agreed on a set of principles to guide the evolution of the candidature process even further in the future. For the 2026 process, the IOC will take a more proactive role in assisting and supporting cities considering a candidature. The IOC will customise its approach to the needs of the cities in order for them to develop the best value proposition. These measures will lead to a simplified process for the cities, with reduced costs. This new approach will also be discussed at the IOC Session in July.

EUROPEAN UNION

The fifth European Evening of Sports organised by the EU EOC Office in Brussels gathered on 19 June high representatives from the Olympic Movement and EU organisation to address common topical issues. EOC Acting President Janez Kocijanic and a good number of Executive Committee Members actively participated in the various panels, among which EU sport policy: quo vadis? conducted by European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Tibor Navracsics and EU Head of the Sport Unit Yves Le Lostecque. IOC President Thomas Bach gave the key note speech by addressing challenges and opportunities for sport in Europe. Former Belgian IOC President Jacques Rogge also was in attendance in Brussels where he met with the European Family, his home from 1989 to 2001 when he was EOC President.
MISCELLANEOUS

The 3rd Conference of the National Olympic Academies (NOA) of Europe entitled “Promoting Olympic values - a challenge of our time” was held at the Albena Black Sea Resort in Bulgaria from 7 - 10 June. At the end of the final day, participants and guests described the conference as “very productive”.

The conference was organised by the Bulgarian Olympic Committee with the objective of facilitating closer cooperation between the NOAs of Europe. The conference also focused on increasing the exchange of information on the activities of NOAs and programmes for Olympic education.

After two days of engaging presentations and productive discussions, delegates of the 20 European NOAs in attendance (Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Turkey and Ukraine) agreed on the foundation of European National Olympic Academies (ENOAs).

Guests of the conference were International Olympic Academy (IOA) President Michael Fysentzidis and Vice-President Athanassios Strigas. Ms. Ömür Dukan, who is a member of the EOC Olympic Culture and Legacy Commission, was an active participant in the conference.

ENOAs will serve the purpose of promoting the Olympic ideals, as well as assisting the preservation of the ethical, educational, social and cultural values of sport, as set out in the Olympic Charter.

ENOAs will work with the IOA, European National Olympic Committees, the European Olympic Committees (EOC), the European International Sports Federations and other organisations and institutions.

Participants at the conference agreed on the formation of an Initiative Committee to take care of all necessary due diligence to develop the Statutes of the Association, which will be passed at the next conference.

The European Paralympic Committee (EPC) held its bi-annual Conference and General Assembly in Katowice, Poland from 15 - 17 June.

The EOC, whose cooperation with the EPC is based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two organisations in 2013 at the EOC Dublin Assembly, was represented by Polish NOC President and EOC EC member Andrzej Krasnicki.

During his welcome speech, President Krasnicki addressed the EPC representatives on behalf of the EOC Acting President Janez Kocijančič. He passed on Kocijančič’s best wishes for a successful meeting and hope for the continued improvement of relations between the two European organisations. At the end of the speech, Krasnicki handed over a dedicated EOC plaque to the EPC President, commemorating the meeting in Katowice.

Voting members of the EPC elected their Executive Board members, with Ratko Kovacic to begin his four-year term as president. Kovacic, who is President of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Croatia, will succeed John Petersson of Denmark. The Assembly approved reports of the outgoing Executive Board and warmly thanked John Petersson, the outgoing Board members and all the Commissions for their outstanding performance during the last four-year period. Petersson leaves the EPC after eight successful years of service; he will now continue his activity in at the IPC, being a candidate for the IPC presidency in September’s election.

The EPC currently has 56 members, made up of 49 National Paralympic Committees and seven other organisations within Paralympic sport.

The Conference and General Assembly were enriched by the attendance of the President of the International Paralympic Committee Sir Philip Craven.

IN MEMORIAM

Hein Verbruggen, IOC Honorary Member in the Netherlands, sadly passed away this month at the age of 75.

A true sports fan, Hein Verbruggen was President of the International Cycling Union (UCI) from 1991 - 2005. He also headed SportAccord Convention from 2003 - 2013. He joined the IOC in 1996 and became an Honorary Member in 2008. He
led the Evaluation Commission for the 2008 Olympic Games and became Chairman of the Coordination Commission for Beijing 2008.
He was also a member, as a representative of an International Federation, of the Evaluation Commission for the 2004 Games and consequently sat on the Coordination Commission for Athens 2004. Throughout his career at the IOC he was a member of the following Commissions: Marketing, “IOC 2000”, Olympic Truce and IOC 2000 Reform Follow-up, and was also Chair of the Board of Directors of Olympic Broadcasting Services S.A.

Hector Cardona, President of the Central American and Caribbean Sports Organization (CACSO), one of the EOC’s sister organisations, died in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on 16 June aged 81.
Cardona was an amateur baseball player in the Double-A league as well as an amateur and later professional boxing referee. In the 1970s and 1980s, he was President of the Puerto Rico Boxing Federation and in the 1980s he became a first Vice President of the International Boxing Association.
In the Olympic Movement, Hector Cardona served as Secretary General of the Puerto Rico Olympic Committee (COPUR), and from 1991 - 2008 he served as its president. From 2003 until his death he also presided over CACSO.
Other international sport governance positions he held include being a member of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Sports Organisation (PASO) and the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC).

The EOC expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of Hein Verbruggen and Hector Cardona and to the sports organisations with which they were so closely affiliated.

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