A New Era - The European Olympic Committees 46th annual General Assembly (24-25 November) marked a new era for the association as the new Executive Committee (EC) for the 2017-2021 quadrennial was elected in the Croatian capital of Zagreb. The newly elected EC, which will be led by President Janez Kocijančič, will guide the EOC for the next two Olympic Games in PyeongChang in 2018 and in Tokyo in 2020. The new EC will also lead the EOC at two Youth Olympic Games, in Buenos Aires in 2018 and in Lausanne in 2020.

On a continental level, 2018 means for the EOC the Mediterranean Games in Tarragona and above all preparations in view of a busy 2019, which includes the Winter European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) in Sarajevo & East Sarajevo, the Summer EYOF in Baku and of course the second edition of the European Games in Minsk!

After his election in Zagreb, EOC President Kocijančič said: “I am honoured to be elected to lead the European Olympic Committees over the next four years. The EOC has the opportunity to achieve great things in the near future, and I will work hard with the newly elected Executive Committee to ensure the EOC reaches its potential. The election of the new Executive Committee marked a great opportunity to reflect on the successes of the past four years, but also gave us the chance to look at how our past successes can help us continue to improve in the future. The second edition of the European Games in Minsk in 2019 will be a very important event for the EOC and I am confident that it will be a demonstration of the amazing things that can be achieved in European sport.”

The new EC has a number of key areas to focus on for the next four years, including supporting its member NOCs in line with the IOC on issues such as sport transparency and autonomy, whilst ensuring continuity from the previous era where the EOC were successful in fostering the unique role of the Olympic family of Europe.

Zagreb welcomed the last meeting of the 2013-2017 Executive Committee - Ahead of the General Assembly, the EOC EC for the 2013-2017 quadrennial met for the final time on 23 November. The meeting took place on the impressive top floor of the Westin Hotel, overlooking the beautiful Croatian capital city. The meeting was dedicated to addressing current issues, refining the General Assembly procedures, and above all sharing congratulations and thanks to all the members who have offered a variety of important contributions over the past four years. It was among others the last participation of Russian member Alexander Kozlowski, vice president and member of the board for a quarter of a century, whose steady and refined presence to the group had been unanimously appreciated.

The EOC Executive Committee 2017-2021 - The new EC for the 2017-2021 quadrennial was elected the following day by the 50 European National Olympic Committees (NOCs) delegations. The President, Secretary General and Treasurer stood unopposed, whilst two names had been submitted as candidates for the post of Vice-President, and 23 contenders for the 12 EC member positions.

The new EOC leading group is as follows: President: Janez Kocijančič (SLO), Vice-President: Niels Nygaard (DEN), Secretary General: Raffaele Pagnozzi (ITA), Treasurer: Kikis Lazarides (CYP).

Members: Hasan Arat (TUR), Alejandro Blanco (ESP), Jean-Michel Brun (FRA), Spyros Capralos, (GRE), Ms. Daina Gudzinevicliutė (LTU), Ms. Liney Rut Halidorsdottir (ISL),
Andrzej Krasnicki (POL), Jozef Liba (SVK), Zlatko Mateša (CRO), Peter Mennel (AUT), Bill Sweeney (GBR), Djordje Visacki (SRB)
The Executive Committee also includes three ex-officio members: ANOC Secretary General Gunilla Lindberg (SWE, Athletics’ Commission Chair Gerd Kanter (EST), NOC 1st Vice-President for Minsk 2019 Andrei Astashevich (BLR).
The EOC Honorary President is IOC Member in Italy Mario Pescante.

46th EOC Zagreb General Assembly - Whilst the highlight of the two-day General Assembly was the election of the Executive Committee for the 2017-2021 quadrennial, there were a number of other important matters that took place over the two days.

For the first time, thanks to the Croatian NOC Sport TV, the General Assembly was available to watch via a livestream.

On the opening day, Croatian NOC President Zlatko Mateša and the Republic of Croatia Secretary of State for Sport Janica Kostelić offered a warm welcome to the delegates of all 50 European NOCs and guest delegations. The more-than 300 participants also received welcome addresses from senior stakeholders in the Olympic Movement, including IOC President Thomas Bach, EOC President Janez Kocijančič and ANOC President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, who reflected on the EOC’s success over the past four years and looked ahead to the important next quadrennial.

After the opening addresses, Kocijančič awarded the 2017 EOC Order of Merit to Zlatko Mateša, praising his instrumental role as the “founding father” of the European Games. Upon awarding Mateša with this prestigious honour, Kocijančič thanked him for his invaluable contribution to the European Olympic Movement and for his leadership in the organisation of this year’s General Assembly.

On the second day, the European Olympic Laurels were awarded to six NOCs’ sports leaders who have distinguished themselves for their outstanding work and commitment to sport: Victor Sanchez (Spain), Tzeno Tzenov (Bulgaria), Roberto Fabbricini (Italy), Igor Lysov (Ukraine), Mieczyslaw Nowicki (Poland), and Rezso Gallov (Hungary).

Over the course of the two days, there were a number of reports from various Commissions and Organising Committees of past and future Olympic and continental Games, including reports from Minsk 2019 European Games Coordination Commission Chair Spyros Capralos and the Chief Executive of the Games George Katulin, who both reported on smoothly progressing preparations. This was reflected a day before the General Assembly opened when the EOC and European Athletics signed a historic agreement to launch the exciting “Dynamic New Athletics” concept in Minsk, in 2019. On the Friday, the Croatian Olympic Committee hosted a Gala Dinner, where Italian cyclist Letizia Paternoster was awarded the 7th Piotr Nurowski “Best Young European Athlete” Prize.

Speaking after the final press conference, President Janez Kocijančič said: “It has been an excellent few days in Zagreb, where we have had the chance to reflect on the excellent work of all of the EOC Commissions and the European National Olympic Committees throughout the year. Over the past two days, we have heard detailed reports on all of the key topics, which has demonstrated the strong position we are in and forms the platform for the EOC to keep on improving next year. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this excellent General Assembly, not least our friends at the Croatian Olympic Committee, who I am sure everyone will agree have been exceptional hosts.

“Next year is a crucial year for the EOC, as the second edition of the European Games grows closer. Preparations for the Games in Minsk are going well, as we heard in the reports from Spyros Capralos and George Katulin, and we are grateful to have the excellent cooperation of the Organising Committee. However, it is crucial that we continue to work hard together next year to ensure the European Games product reaches its full potential.”

EOC Secretary General Raffaele Pagnozzi spoke of the EOC’s gratitude for the high-quality organisation of this year’s General Assembly: “I would like to congratulate Croatian Olympic Committee President Zlatko Mateša and Secretary General Josip Ćop for their exceptional work leading the outstanding preparation and staging of this year’s General Assembly. The Croatian Olympic Committee has an excellent team and great leadership and we are very grateful for the cooperation we have shared to organise this event.”

Next year’s General Assembly will take place in Marbella, Spain.
7th Summer Piotr Nurowski Prize - Italian cyclist Letizia Paternoster, one of the most talented youth athletes in Italian sport, was voted the Best European Young Athlete on 25 November at the EOC General Assembly Gala Dinner in Zagreb. European NOCs are asked to submit candidates for the award prior to the General Assembly, and then asked to vote for the winner. Paternoster was one of the five athletes shortlisted ahead of the Gala Dinner in Zagreb from the initial list of 20 candidates. In the last two years, she has won a number of medals at both European and world level, including gold at the 2017 Junior Track Cycling World Championships, where she helped set a world record in the Women Junior Team Pursuit. European NOCs in Zagreb also voted the following athletes in the top five: 2nd - Reka Nagy (swimming, Hungary) - Nagy was the most successful athlete of Team Hungary at the Gyor 2017 European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF). She won gold in the 200m and 400m individual medley. Nagy also won silver in the 800m freestyle and the 4x100m relay medley.

3rd - Dimitrios Papadimitriou (sailing, Greece) - Papadimitriou has had a very successful year, winning the gold medal at the Laser Radial Youth World Championships and the Laser Radial Hellenic Championships, and silver at the Laser Radial Youth European Championships and the Laser Radial Youth Europa Cup. In 2016, he won gold at the Laser 4.7 Youth World Championships, Laser 4.7 Youth European Championships and Laser 4.7 Eurolymp.

3rd - Mihrar Akkus (judo, Turkey) - the three gold medals that Akkus won in world and European events this year makes him the most successful U18 judoka in the world in 2017. His best results were his 1st place finish at the World Championship Cadets & Teams, EYOF and Cadet European Championships.

5th - Filip Nepejchal (shooting, Czech Republic) - Nepejchal set a world junior record this year in the 50m rifle 3x40 at the 2017 Junior World Championships in Munich and secured 1st place in the 50m rifle 3x40 at the Junior European Championships in Baku. He also participated at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

This year the monetary prize fund was increased, with all five shortlisted athletes being rewarded to ensure the young champions have the full support of the EOC to further develop their skills and improve their performances.

EOC 2017 Order of Merit - During the opening of the 46th EOC General Assembly in Zagreb, Croatian Olympic Committee President Zlatko Mateša was awarded the prestigious Order of Merit from EOC President Janez Kocijančič. The award is the highest distinction of the EOC. The award was the EOC’s recognition of Mateša’s instrumental role as the “founding father” of the European Games, as well his long-lasting contribution, and the skills in sport, business and politics he has provided to the EOC. On behalf of the whole EOC, Kocijančič thanked him for his invaluable contribution to the European Olympic Movement and for his leadership in the organisation of this year’s General Assembly.

NOC of Croatia becomes partner of the EOC EU Office - On 24 November 2017, the NOC of Croatia officially signed a bilateral agreement to become a partner of the EOC EU Office as of 1 January 2018. The agreement was signed at the General Assembly in Zagreb by EOC President Janez Kocijančič and Croatian Olympic Committee (COC) Secretary General Josip Čop. The partnership between the COC and the EOC EU Office marks an important next step in the long-standing, fruitful relationship between the EOC and COC. In 2012, the COC was one of the core partners of the EU-funded “Sport 4 Good Governance” Project of the EOC EU Office. After the conclusion of this project, the COC and the EOC EU Office worked together on a number of other occasions, notably the establishment of the framework of the COC’s SUCCESS Project.

EOC President Janez Kocijančič expressed his pleasure with the partnership by stating that this new agreement demonstrates the European-wide approach of the EOC EU Office. He added that Croatia, having joined the European Union only in 2013, shows the willingness of the European NOCs to cooperate closely with the European institutions in various fields: “This cooperation has great significance not only for the COC, but for the entire sport in Croatia.” Although the EOC is the umbrella organisation of 50 NOCs, President Kocijančič expressed his satisfaction with the recent openness of the EU institutions towards non-EU countries and NOCs, for instance in the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme and the European Week of Sport.
COC Secretary General Josip Čop added the following: “The COC has recognised the importance of cooperation with the EOC EU Office. This agreement will improve our cooperation on European projects and in relation to the formulation of European policies in the field of sport.”

Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, welcomed the partnership and stressed the pre-existing friendly relationship with the COC. One concrete field of cooperation between the COC and the EOC EU Office will be the new “Single Points of Contact for Sports Integrity” (POINTS) Project of the EOC EU Office, which will start in January 2018. The COC will be one of the partners together with 10 other NOCs. The COC is the 12th NOC to become an official bilateral partner of the EOC EU Office and the 26th partner organisation overall.

2018 EOC Seminar (11-12 May 2018) - As agreed in May this year at the 38th EOC Seminar in Skopje, the Serbia National Olympic Committee will host the 39th EOC Seminar in Belgrade. Stakeholders can now save the dates of 11-12 May 2018. The Serbia NOC is an active member of the EOC, with three Serbian leaders currently directly involved in EOC activities. Djordje Perisic is a member of the EOC Audit Committee, Vlade Divac has been elected as a European representative to the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) and Serbia NOC Secretary General Djordje Visacki after participating in the EYOF Commission, was elected as a member of the EOC Executive Committee in Zagreb. Over the past few years, delegations from the EOC member NOCs have had the pleasure of visiting the Serbian capital of Belgrade on several occasions: the EOC Seminar in 2004, the IX Summer EYOF in 2007 and the 39th EOC General Assembly in 2010. Next May, the 50 European NOCs will again have the opportunity to visit Belgrade, a city known for its rich culture.

**COMMISSIONS**

**The European Union Commission** - The EOC Commission in charge of European items, organised its annual meeting in Brussels on 8 November at the new headquarters of the EOC EU Office. It was the final meeting of the 2014-2017 Commission, with the composition of the EOC Commissions to be reviewed in the coming months, following the election of the new EOC Executive Committee.

The meeting was attended by six members of the Commission: Chair Juri Tamms (Estonia), EOC Executive Committee Liaison Officer Niels Nygaard (Denmark), Rusudan Aptsiauri (Georgia), Larus Blondal (Iceland), Jean Michel Brun (France) and Olga Piperidou (Cyprus). The agenda of the meeting included an overview of EU topics related to activities of the European NOCs. The members of the Commission discussed matters such as EU competition policy and the impact it has on sport, VAT policy, and the implementation of the new EU Work Plan for Sport 2017-2020. The members paid close attention to how NOCs coming from non-EU countries could benefit from the activities of the EOC EU Commission. The activities of the EU in terms of sports diplomacy, as well as the possibilities offered through the Erasmus+ Sports Programme are particularly significant in this regard.

The meeting was also an excellent opportunity to look back on the achievements of the Commission over the past four years and to discuss recommendations for the new EOC EU Commission for 2018-2021.

**ENOCs**

**ALBANIA** - The Albanian NOC, in cooperation with the International Committee of Mediterranean Games (ICMG), organised the 4th ICMG Sports Management Seminar on "Strategically Managing the Sports Organisation - the Way to Success" on 10-11 November in the city of Durres. The seminar was attended by representatives of 10 Mediterranean countries: Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Macedonia, Montenegro, Lebanon, Malta, Tunisia, Kosovo and Albania.

The seminar was opened by the President of the Albanian NOC Viron Bezhani and Chairman of the Committee for Co-operation and Development at ICMG Tullio Paratore (Italy).
As well as Tullio Paratore, speakers at the seminar included Ivan Sandanski, Professor of Sports Management at the National Sports Academy; Luc Vandeputte, a trainer and founder of Sport Interface; and Albanian NOC Secretary General Stavri Bello.

The main topics addressed during the two days of the seminar were: “Heritage of the Mediterranean Games”, “Conceptual Foundations of Strategic Thinking and Management of National Sports Bodies”, “Strategic Thinking, Practical Challenges and Prospects”, “Strategic Management Helps Good Governance”. The seminar was highly interactive, with participants able to engage in group work, which included identifying some of the current strategic problems of sporting organisations. The seminar concluded with an awards ceremony, where certificates were presented to participants.

ARMENIA - Olympic silver medallist, and world and European champion Arsen Julfalakyan participated in the IOC International Athletes’ Forum from 11 to 13 November. IOC President Thomas Bach attended on the first day. A total of 80 athletes from around the world, with 95 Olympic medals between them, gathered for a number of meetings and discussions at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne. The main topics on the agenda were anti-doping, athletes’ rights and the future of athletes after leaving sport, and Julfalakyan spoke specifically about his new ideas in a conversation with the Armenia NOC news agency.

BELARUS - On his 70th birthday, honorary member of the NOC of the Republic of Belarus Leonid Yakovlevich Khromenkov, who is also a revered coach and Master of Sports in Belarus, was awarded two medals by the NOC for his significant contribution to the development of the Olympic Movement, providing widespread sporting opportunities in Belarus and supporting elite sporting achievement. The first medal was awarded to him by the NOC “For outstanding services” and “For merits in the development of the Olympic Movement in the Republic of Belarus”, whilst the second medal, presented by the State Committee of Sport and the Ministry of Sport and Tourism of the Republic of Belarus, was given to him “For the development of physical culture and sports”.

Khromenkov, who has spent his life in the world of sport and public administration, worked at the NOC as the Marketing Director from 1996 to 2015. In 2015, he was appointed First Deputy Chairman of the NGO “Veterans of Physical Culture and Sports”.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - The first Sports Medicine Seminar “SSM 2017” was organised this month at the headquarters of the NOC. The seminar benefited from the participation of 19 experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the wider region. The seminar, supported by the IOC and Olympic Solidarity, was opened by the President of the NOC Marijan Kvesić, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Canton Sarajevo and former top sportsman Elvedin Konaković.

The topics of the two-day seminar focused on the prevention of sports injuries and sports supplements, sports injuries, rehabilitation and psychotherapy. Over 200 doctors, health and sports workers from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina and all sports professional associations followed the seminar.

Dr Orb Delić, President of the Bosnia and Herzegovina NOC Health Commission concluded: “The seminar was an opportunity to exchange experiences and follow the trends of modern medicine, and to provide the best health care for all athletes. The multidisciplinary approach of physicians of all specialties, physiotherapists and psychologists is the only correct way of preventing, treating diseases and injuries of top athletes.”

Secretary General of the NOC Said Fazlagić said: “Members of the Health Commission unanimously decided that the Seminar will become a traditional one. This is another contribution of our Olympic Committee to all athletes who are our priority and concrete contribution to the overall BiH community.”

All the participants of the Seminar received IOC certificates signed by President Thomas Bach.

HUNGARY - On 28 November, the Hungarian Olympic Committee organised a one-day information and training seminar in Budapest entitled “Sporting career”. The seminar was held with representatives of the IOC, representatives of the NOC Sports Committee and the ADECCO career counselling and employment agency. The seminar and training were led by German three-time Olympic champion Claudia Bokel.

The main areas discussed at the seminar were: the challenges and goals facing athletes at the end of their career, defining their personal goals and developing a career strategy.
ITALY - On 15 November at the CONI Salon of Honour, President Giovanni Malagò introduced the new biography by IOC Member in Italy Franco Carraro entitled “Never after 11 pm.” The book, written together with sports journalist and writer Emanuela Audisio, is not intended to be merely a chronological reconstruction of the “many lives of a reformist,” as the subtitle says, but also an accurate picture of the unknown intricacies of the Italian sporting landscapes, which are exclusive to a small, privileged audience. Anecdotes, backdrops and previously unpublished stories, the biography tells the tale of the IOC Member, former President of CONI, Italian sports manager, politician and Mayor of Rome. Secretary General Roberto Fabbricini and numerous federal presidents, executives, sportsmen and representatives from the political and film communities attended the introductory event. Franco Carraro said: “I chose Emanuela Audisio because we are two different people. I was able and lucky in her choice and lucky and able to identify the people I worked with, with whom I was very pressing but always honest. My family is my strength, but among the things I’ve done in the first place was the sport and for me the symbol is Pietro Mennea. “The witty title was chosen by a person from Rizzoli (the Italian publishing company) who has caught one of the features I have.”

KOSOVO - The conference “Gender Equality and Diversity” was held on 21 November, organised by the Kosovo Olympic Committee (KOK) and the Permanent Committee of the NOC - “Women and Sport”. Participants included representatives of clubs, national federations, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, former athletes and deputies, and representatives of art and culture. The conference heard from around 15 expert panellists. Questions, comments and suggestions from the participants made the conference very interactive. The conference aimed to identify gender equality in sports through clubs, national federations, NOC committees, and other sporting and educational institutions. The Opening Ceremony was conducted by the Chairperson of the Women and Sport Commission Shqipe Zogiani, who is also a member of the NOC Executive Board. Zogiani then presented statistics on women’s participation in the EU, including the allocation of Olympic scholarships and medals earned by women. The conference was chaired by another member of this commission, Vjolica Krasniqi. The President of the NOC Besim Hasani spoke about the importance of gender equality both at the NOC and in other institutions, whilst panellists presented the various challenges women face in sport. The conference ended with 15 recommendations, which strongly support the advancement of the role of women in sport. The attendees praised the conference highly, requesting that conferences on similar topics be held in the future as well.

ROMANIA - On 22 November, TV commentator Cristian Topescu was awarded the “Golden Column” award of the Romanian Olympic and Sporting Committee (COSR) by COSR President Mihai Covaliu. The award was presented at the gala organised by the Romanian Sports Press Association (APS) on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of its foundation. The event was hosted at the Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest, in collaboration with the country’s leading sports journalists. A number of notable Romanian sports personalities participated, including IOC Member and Vice-President of COSR Octavian Morarui, Minister of Youth and Sport Marius Alexandru Dunca, members of COSR, Ion Tiriac, Ivan Patzaichin, Ilie Nastase, Elisabeta Lipa, Gabriela Szabo, Liliana Gafencu, Horia Tecau and Simona Halep. COSR President Mihai Covaliu said: “It is a special moment and a great honour to award a distinction to a special person. As President of the Romanian Olympic and Sporting Committee, I offer the highest distinction ‘Golden Column’ to sports commentator Cristian Topescu.” The Minister of Youth and Sport Marius Dunca, former sports journalists, as well as the Romanian TV, Radio Romania Actualitati and Gazeta Sporturilor, also received awards.
SLOVAKIA - At the fourth meeting of the year of the Slovak NOC Executive Committee, four important Slovakian personalities within the Olympic Movement were honoured for their recently celebrated jubilees.

All four awardees were invited to the Slovak Olympic Committee, where they were congratulated by President Anton Siekel, Executive Director Gábor Asványiho and the entire Executive Committee. The four awardees were:

- **Ludovit Komadel** - Komadel competed in the 200m breaststroke at the Helsinki 1952 Olympic Games. After retiring, he became a swimming trainer and, later, a member of the International Federation of Sports Medicine (FIMS) and the International University Sports Federation (FISU). He was head of the FISU Medical Committee and a long-standing Chairman of the NOC Medical Commission.

- **Vladimir Miller** - Miller has served as a member of the NOC Executive Committee for 24 years and as Chairman of the Federal and Slovak Union of the Modern Pentathlon, head of the Slovak NOC and a holder of the EOC Laurel Award.


- **Jozef Jurášek** - the former triathlete is the President of the Slovak Triathlon Union and is also a member of the NOC Executive Committee.

**EOC**

2019 Winter EYOF Sarajevo & East Sarajevo - The EOC Coordination Commission (CoCom) for the 2019 Winter EYOF, which will take place from 10-15 February 2019, paid a site visit to Sarajevo & East Sarajevo from 13-15 November.

Chair Jozef Liba, member Peter Brull, and EYOF Manager Katerina Nycova carried out inspections and held several meetings, including receiving an update on preparations from the Organising Committee. The CoCom also met the new Mayor of East Sarajevo and Deputy Mayor of Sarajevo, as well as NOC representatives.

There has been significant progress in the preparations under the leadership of the new CEO Senahid Godinjak. The structure of the Organising Committee has been set up, and the leadership and heads of the different functional areas are in place.

Plans for the Athletes' Village and EOC family accommodation in the Hollywood and Hills hotels have been approved, whilst work on sports infrastructure is progressing in a satisfactory way in the majority of sports venues. Several test events are planned for January-March next year.

The Organising Committee has started the promotional campaign with the recently chosen mascot Groodvy (who is a snowball). The website is set to be launched soon, whilst the Facebook page is already live. Invitations to the 2019 Winter EYOF will be sent to all NOCs in December 2017 and the first information package will be distributed in January 2018.

A delegation from the Organising Committee attended the Gýor EYOF 2017 debriefing session in Zagreb, where it made its first presentation to the General Assembly.

**MEDITERRANEAN GAMES**

Tarragona 2018 - “The seminar “The Future of the Mediterranean Games”, was organised by Cyprus Olympic Committee, in cooperation with the International Committee of Mediterranean Games and its Co-operation and Development Committee during last weekend in November.

The Seminar, which was attended by Presidents and Officers from 23 NOCs whose teams will participate at the 2018 Tarragona Games, took at the Olympic Palace, and was attended by ICMG President **Amar Addadi (ALG)**. Member of the Executive Board of the European Olympic Committee **Spyros Capralos**
(GRE), and the Chairman of the Co-operation and Development Committee Tullio Paratore (ITA).

President Amar Addadi opened the conference addressing the theme ‘Mediterranean Games: Evolution and Challenges for Maintaining the Games’, and Spyros Capralos followed with, “The Experiences of the National Olympic Committees and their views”.

There was an address by Director of the Italian Olympic Committee Sports School Rossana Ciuffetti on “The Value and Importance of the Mediterranean Games”, and one by Tullio Paratore on “The Heritage of the Mediterranean Games”. The first day of the conference continued with discussions in two parallel Working Committees, which both proposed recommendations.

On the second day, participants heard NOC of Cyprus President Dino Michailides, on ‘Motivation for the participation of top athletes’, then Member of the ICMG Executive Board Marwan Maghur (LIB) on “Future Actions for Better Mediterranean Games”, followed by former Cypriot ‘Fair Play’ ambassador Chrystalleni Trikomi on ‘Fair Play’.

The proceedings of the conference were closed with a round table discussion attended by Amar Addadi, Spyros Capralos, Marwan Maghur, Rossana Ciuffetti and Chrystalleni Trikomi, from which conclusions were drawn.

*On 21 November, a technical meeting for the Tarragona 2018 Mediterranean Games was held at the headquarters of the Spanish Olympic Committee (COE).*

President of the Spanish Olympic Committee Alejandro Blanco welcomed around 45 attendees, before addresses were given by the Sports Director of Tarragona 2018 Ramón Cuadrat and the Director of International Relations and Protocol of Tarragona 2018 Cayetano Cornet.

Both leaders presented on the state of the sports facilities, the headquarters and sub-offices, the Mediterranean Village and the transport services. COE Director of Sports Ricardo Leiva spoke about Spanish participation at the Games, the sports programme, accreditations and sports registration, key dates and the technical manuals.

The Games will be held from 22 June - 1 July 2018 in 16 municipalities of the area. The Games include 33 different sports disciplines and will welcome 4,000 athletes from 26 different nationalities, over 1,000 judges and international representatives, over 1,000 journalists, 3,500 volunteers and more than 150,000 spectators to see Tarragona make history!

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**Youth Olympic Games**

**Buenos Aires 2018 Young Reporters Programme** - The IOC has launched its 3rd Young Reporters Programme - the sports journalism training programme that will be run during the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018. The Young Reporters Programme initiative will bring 30 young reporters from five continents to the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires (Argentina) from 6-18 October 2018, with the programme running from 30 September to 19 October 2018. Young Reporters will be accredited as “E” press and will have access to all the sports, and will work and train in the main press centre with all other accredited media, and receive specialised and intensive media training from senior Olympic journalists.

Each continent can nominate two male and two female reporters from a selected list, submitted by their member NOCs. They will be joined by four young reporters from Argentina (the host nation for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games), two from Switzerland (the host nation for the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne) and two from the host nation of the 2023 Youth Olympic Games (which may be decided at the 132nd IOC Session in PyeongChang, South Korea in February 2018).

The EOC received 21 candidatures (11 girls and 11 boys) from 19 European NOCs. After careful consideration, two girls - Berta Ballesteros Casado (Spain) and Emma Holmsen (Sweden) and two boys Filip Ožbolt (Croatia) and Andreas C. Paphitis (Cyprus) - were proposed to the IOC.

Following a one-on-one interview in English and a vetting process with all the candidates, the IOC will announce the successful list of candidates in December.

**Medals Design Competition** - The Organising Committee has now launched the competition for the medals design for the Games. The deadline for submission of entries is 12 January 2018.

The winner of the competition and the two finalists will be selected by a jury composed of representatives of the Young Change Makers and young reporters associated with the YOG since the first edition of the event in Singapore in 2010, as well as by IOC Members.

In addition to the honour of entering Olympic history, the winner will also win a trip to Buenos Aires for the Games, where they will participate in the Opening Ceremony and a medal ceremony.
The XXII Association of National Olympic Committees General Assembly and related meetings were held in the Czech capital of Prague from 31 October to 4 November, bringing together over 1,300 delegates from across the Olympic Movement, including 205 NOCs, and representatives from the IOC, IFS and OCOGs.

The EOC was represented by President Janez Kocjančič, Secretary General Raffaele Pagnozzi and elected members Roger Talermo, Vlade Divac and Nese Gündogan. Kocjančič reported to his colleagues throughout the Olympic Movement about the EOC’s activities in 2017. The two-day General Assembly was opened by ANOC President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah in the presence of IOC President Thomas Bach, Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Ivo Šrámek and Czech Olympic Committee President Jiri Kejval. A gala dinner was held on the evening of the first day of the General Assembly where, once again, the ANOC Awards were the highlight. The best female and best male athletes of all five continents were honoured for their exceptional sporting achievements throughout the year, whilst three individual accolades - Outstanding Performance, Contribution to the Olympic Movement and Outstanding Lifetime Achievement were also awarded.

Swimmer Sarah Sjöström (Sweden) and Alpine ski racer Marcel Hirscher (Austria) received awards for the Best Female and Best Male Athletes from Europe 2017, while iconic gymnast Nadia Comaneci (Romania) received the individual Outstanding Performance honour.

The General Assembly closed by agreeing on 13 resolutions, with the priorities including protecting clean athletes, implementing the highest standards of good governance, supporting the IOC’s Olympic Agenda 2020, supporting the outcome of the Olympic Summit, and providing a toolkit for the Olympic Movement to safeguard athletes from harassment and abuse in sport. There was also recognition of and applause for the excellent progress made on the exciting ANOC World Beach Games, set to take place for the first time in San Diego in 2019.

WADA Foundation Board - On 16 November, a World Anti-Doping Agency’s (WADA) Foundation Board meeting was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The 38-member Board, which is composed equally of representatives from the sports movement and governments of the world, was hosted by South Korea’s Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, with the support of the Korean Anti-Doping Agency. WADA’s 12-member Executive Committee meeting was held the previous day.

The key decisions taken by the WADA Foundation Board included upholding the non-compliance status of RUSADA, approving the International Standard for WADA Code Compliance by Signatories, declaring three Signatories non-compliant with the WADA Code, approving the 8% budget increase for 2018 and extending WADA’s headquarters in Montreal.

2017 IOC Women and Sport Awards - Introduced in 2000, the IOC Women and Sport Awards are given to women, men and organisations who have made remarkable contributions to the development, encouragement and reinforcement of women’s participation in sport. One World Trophy and five Continental Trophies are awarded every year. Two Europeans, Birgitta Kervinen from Finland and Androulla Vassiliou from Cyprus were honoured at this year’s awards. Influential advocate of grassroots sports and gender equality, Kervinen was awarded the World Trophy for her tireless and long-standing efforts to promote gender equality in sport and society. Former EU Commissioner responsible for sport, Vassiliou was a Continental Trophy winner at a stunning gala event in Lausanne on 9 November. The two awardees are closely connected as Kervinen was one of the driving forces who pushed the European Commission to prioritise gender equality as a sports policy topic. This work paid off with concrete actions as the then Commissioner Vassiliou set up an Expert Group to draft the EU’s strategic document on gender equality in sport.
Four other Continental Trophies were awarded to the following people:

- **Winner for Africa: Lidé Anne Ouoba Zoma (Burkina Faso)**
  As one of the first women in her country to compete in long-distance running at an international level, Zoma has worked towards removing the barriers that prevent girls from participating in sport.

- **Winner for the Americas: Dr Patricia Sangenis (Argentina)**
  A medical doctor and former athlete, Dr Sangenis has worked towards raising awareness of female athlete health, helping to debunk myths about women’s sporting performance.

- **Winner for Asia: Japan Ladies Tennis Federation (Japan)**
  The Japan Ladies Tennis Federation has actively promoted women’s participation in tennis in a variety of ways, producing world-class Japanese players along the way and increasing women’s participation.

- **Winner for Oceania: Judy Otto (Palau)**
  The President of the Palau Swimming Association has played a key role in encouraging women’s sport participation in the country, and enhancing commitment to health and active living.

IOC Women in Sport Commision Chair *Lydia Nsekera* congratulated the winners on their achievements, saying: “I am delighted that the IOC is honouring so many inspiring role models with this year’s IOC Women and Sport Awards. Each winner has shown what can be achieved by those who are committed to empowering women and girls through sport – giving them the opportunity to break free of barriers and negative stereotypes, and demonstrate what they are truly capable of.”

**IOC Golden Rings awarded to Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany and Great Britain broadcasters**

This month in Lausanne, the IOC announced the winners of the Golden Rings Awards for the best broadcast coverage of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. The Golden Rings Awards is a prestigious international competition organised by the IOC to promote and award excellence in the broadcasting of the Olympic Games. Awards were presented across six categories: Best Olympic Sports Production; Best Olympic Feature; Best Athlete Profile; Best On-Air Promotion; Best Olympic Digital Service; and Best Olympic Programme.

The winners were selected by an international jury headed by IOC Member *Anant Singh* (South Africa), who is a leading professional in the film and media industries, and a member of the IOC's Olympic Channel Commission.

Most of the awards went to official Olympic Games broadcaster NBC and Brazilian TV Globo.

In Europe, awards went to:

- **BBC Sport** won a gold in Category 4 (Best On-Air Promotion) for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games - The Greatest Show On Earth.
  (Producers: Ryan Goodwin Smith (Passion) / Keeley Pratt (Y&R). Directors: Derek Picken & Niklas Rissler (againstallodds)
  - Passion Pictures)

- **BBC Sport** also won a bronze in Category 6 (The Best Olympic Programme) for Olympics 2016 - Review of the Games.
  (Producer: Alastair McIntyre, Director: Sally Richardson)

- **ZDF-German TV** won silver in Category 5 (The Best Olympic Digital Service) for Rio 2016 - 3D perspective.
  (Producers: Anke Scholten, Christian Hoffrichter, Director: Studio 71, Ansgar Pohle)

- **RTBF Radio Télévision de la Communauté Française de Belgique** won bronze in Category 3 (The Best Athlete Profile) for the Portrait of Nafi Thiam, Athletics, Heptathlon.
  (Producer: Mathieu Istace. Cameraman: Cedric Hamiet. Editor: Billy Moens)

  (Producer: Metodi Mantchenko. Director: Georgi Panayotov Tornov)

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There will be no December issue of the EOC Newsletter. We will be back in January

The EOC and the Editorial Staff wish all readers and Internet surfers
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018