



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE

# FACTSHEET

## XIII OLYMPIC CONGRESS

UPDATED – JANUARY 2010

### 1. WHAT IS AN OLYMPIC CONGRESS?

An Olympic Congress is a large gathering of representatives from the various stakeholders of the Olympic Movement, organised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

As detailed in Chapter 1, Rule 4 of the Olympic Charter, the IOC President is responsible for convening a Congress, presiding over its proceedings and for determining its procedures.<sup>1</sup>

The role of an Olympic Congress is consultative, and all its recommendations must be submitted to the IOC Session for formal adoption.

A Congress is not a regular event in the IOC's calendar, and is organised "at intervals determined by the IOC."<sup>2</sup>

### 2. ELECTING THE HOST CITY FOR THE XIII OLYMPIC CONGRESS

There were nine candidate cities in the running to host the XIII Olympic Congress in 2009: Athens (Greece), Busan (South Korea), Cairo (Egypt), Copenhagen (Denmark), Lausanne (Switzerland), Mexico City (Mexico), Riga (Latvia), Taipei (Chinese Taipei) and Singapore (Singapore).

<sup>1</sup> See Chapter 1, the bye-law to Rule 4 of the Olympic Charter, <http://www.olympic.org>

<sup>2</sup> See Chapter 1, Rule 4 of the Olympic Charter, <http://www.olympic.org>

The Danish capital of Copenhagen was chosen on 8 February 2006 at the 118<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in Turin, Italy.

### 3. THEMES OF THE XIII OLYMPIC CONGRESS

At its first meeting on 21 June 2006, the Congress Commission noted that the Olympic Movement was then, more than ever, part of a complex social environment. It did not exist in a vacuum. Moreover, it was no longer possible to talk about the future without considering the interrelationship between the Olympic Movement and society at large.

For this reason the Commission chose "The Olympic Movement in Society" as the overarching title of the Congress.

The Commission decided to focus the discussion on five broad themes and 15 related sub-themes:

#### Theme 1: The Athletes

- 1.1 Relationship between the athletes, the clubs, federations and the NOCs
- 1.2 Health protection in training and competition
- 1.3 The social and professional life of athletes during and after elite competition

#### Theme 2: Olympic Games

- 2.1 How to keep the Games as a premier event
- 2.2 Olympic values



## 2.3 Universality and developing countries

### **Theme 3: The Structure of the Olympic Movement**

- 3.1 The autonomy of the Olympic Movement
- 3.2 Good governance and ethics
- 3.3 The relationships between the Olympic Movement and its stakeholders

### **Theme 4: Olympism and Youth**

- 4.1 Moving towards an active society
- 4.2 Is competitive sport still appealing?
- 4.3 Youth sport events

### **Theme 5: The Digital Revolution**

- 5.1 A new management of sports rights
- 5.2 How to increase the size of the sports audience
- 5.3 Communication with stakeholders in the digital age

## **4. THE STRUCTURE OF THE OLYMPIC CONGRESS**

The 2009 Congress Commission was responsible for the overall coordination of the entire Congress and comprised members of the Executive Board and other individuals nominated by the President.

The 2009 Editorial Committee was responsible primarily for the content and presentations at the Congress, while the 2009 Congress Secretariat provided the administrative support for all content-related matters.

The Danish Organising Committee was responsible for all the logistical and organisational aspects of the Congress and IOC Session.

## **5. THE VIRTUAL OLYMPIC CONGRESS**

Preparations for the XIII Olympic Congress began in 2007. The Executive Board approved the Congress Regulations at its meeting in Beijing on 26 April 2007.

Then in July 2007, President Jacques Rogge made an official “Call for Contributions” to all members of the Olympic family at the IOC Session in Guatemala. He also announced that – for the first time in the history of Olympic Congresses – the general public would be invited to express their opinions on the discussion themes.

In order to facilitate this process, the IOC launched the *Virtual Olympic Congress* – a website dedicated to online submissions on the themes and sub-themes of the Congress from members of the Olympic family, the public and the IOC administration.

The “collection phase” of the *Virtual Olympic Congress* was originally scheduled to end on 31 December 2008. However, due to the overwhelming response in the weeks leading up to the deadline, the decision was made to keep the *Virtual Olympic Congress* open until 28 February 2009.

The “review phase” began in early 2009, and the first results were presented to the Editorial Committee in May.

In all there were 453 Olympic family contributions and 1,319 contributions from the general public. The IOC administration submitted 32 contributions to the *Virtual Olympic Congress*, which took several forms such as commission reports, outputs from forums and/or meetings – such as *The Autonomy of Sport* (Lausanne, February 2008) and the 6<sup>th</sup> *World Forum on Sport, Education and Culture* (Busan, September



2008) – as well as expert reports from the IOC administration.

All the ideas and proposals put forward by Olympic Family contributors were compiled in a single document, which formed the basis of the Final Document of the Congress, and assisted the speakers, moderators and rapporteurs with their preparations.

## 6. THE XIII OLYMPIC CONGRESS

The XIII Olympic Congress was held in conjunction with the 121<sup>st</sup> IOC Session.

Altogether there were 1,249 people who participated in the Congress, comprising the IOC members, representatives of National Olympic Committee (NOCs), International Federations (IFs), the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (OCOGs), athletes, coaches, media and sponsors.

In all there were 95 speakers at the Congress representing these various constituents of the Olympic family. All efforts were made to ensure gender and geographical distribution in the choice of speakers for the plenary and breakout sessions.

A half day was devoted to each of the five themes. The morning and afternoon plenary sessions were followed by three simultaneous breakout sessions on the respective sub-themes.

The breakout session on each of the sub-themes began with presentations from a panel of speakers. The moderators of each panel were then responsible for the ensuing discussion period, and for giving all participants the opportunity to voice their opinions on the issues.

The main points from each breakout session were carefully recorded by specially assigned rapporteurs who informed the

Editorial Committee of the discussions at the end of each day.

The final document reflects the main ideas coming out of the discussions in Copenhagen in addition to the information gathered through the *Virtual Olympic Congress* during the preparatory phase.

The Final Document was approved by the Congress Commission and the IOC Executive Board on 5 October 2009.

The document was approved by acclamation during the final plenary session of the Congress. IOC members took note of this when the IOC Session reconvened on 7 October 2009.

## 7. TO FIND OUT MORE

- Norbert Müller, *100 Years of Olympic Congresses*, International Olympic Committee, 1994.
- For further information on past Congresses and the XIII Olympic Congress, see Olympic Review, *Bright Ideas: Olympic Congress*, July-August-September 2009, Issue 72.

### ***Publications of the XIII Olympic Congress***

- “XIII Olympic Congress: Contributions”, International Olympic Committee, September 2009.
- *A further publication containing all the speeches from the XIII Olympic Congress will be released in 2010.*

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#### IMPRINT

OLYMPIC CONGRESSES

January 2010

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A publication of  
the

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