

## **Transcript press conference with the IOC President on 29 August 2002**

Participants : - Dr. J. Rogge, IOC President  
- Mr François Carrard, Director General  
- Ms Giselle Davies, Director of Communications

### **Jacques Rogge**

"We had good meetings with Sports Federations and we are very pleased with the presentations of the organising committees, we noted very good progress : Athens had a very good first test event, Torino and Beijing are going well also.

We have discussed a big number of issues."

### **WADA**

"What comes out of the EB is thoughts on the meeting (joint meetings with the Winter and Summer Sports Federations) we had with the chairman of WADA, Richard Pound. EB discussed the codes proposed and the EB Members had a number of observations that are absolutely in line with the observations by the International Federations. I believe now WADA knows exactly how they have to adapt. We are waiting for a substantial change in the second version of the draft. We are confident that the whole Olympic family and the governments will come to an agreement before the world conference in Copenhagen.

We are still discussing to finalise the list (of banned substances) for next year but that is a matter of a couple of weeks. Also we reviewed the budget where we noticed that governments have to catch up a little bit in comparison with the payments of the Olympic movement. But we are optimistic they will do so."

### **Code of Conduct**

"We had also a very good discussion and an approval on the code of conduct for Members. We had presented a first draft during the Salt Lake City Session There was some proposals for amendments at the Session. These are decisions which can be taken by the EB and we agreed that these amendments could be made. The EB has approved today the final text. This closes the chapter."

### **IOC Programme Commission Report**

"A number of decisions have been taken yesterday regarding winter sports. The Executive Board today discussed the Olympic programme for future Games of the Olympiad, specifically the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008 in Beijing. A total of 18 sports for the programme of the Summer Games have been submitted to the Olympic Programme Commission by their relevant International Federations for inclusion in future Games. I will ask Maître Carrard to read the list."

### **François Carrard**

"The Executive Board decided not to admit the following sports, which had made a request for inclusion into the Olympic Programme of the Games of the Olympiad:

Roller sports (FIRS)  
Polo (FIP)  
Surfing (ISA)  
Bridge (WBF)  
Chess (FIDE)  
Air sports (FAI)  
Billiards (WCBS)  
Boules (CMSB)  
Dance sport (IDSF)  
Bowling (FIQ)  
Racquetball (IRF)  
Water ski (IWSF)  
Squash (WSF)  
Underwater sports (CMAS)

It was decided that the request from the International Wushu Federation (IWUF) will be further studied.

Decisions on inclusion/exclusion of sports will be made during the 114<sup>th</sup> IOC Session in Mexico in November. Changes regarding disciplines and events will be further discussed during future Executive Board meetings.”

### **Fencing**

“Decision on Fencing : the proposal of the IF has been admitted and the decision is the following : For Athens 2004 there will be, and this is within the limits of the max number of 200 athletes :

- 6 individual events (foil, epee and sabre for men and women)
- 4 team events (epee women ; foil, epee and sabre men)”

### **Jacques Rogge**

#### **2000 Reform Follow-up Commission**

“We finalised the proposals to the Session on the IOC 2000 Reform Follow-up Commission and we have a list of proposed amendments to the Charter that will be communicated to the Members.”

### **Audit**

“We had also a good report on the progress of the audit of the IOC. A full report will be made to the EB and IOC Session in Mexico.”

#### **Olympic Games Study Commission :**

“We had a report from Mr Pound, chairman of the OGSC.”

The four major items of the November Session in Mexico have been finalised by the EB, with the exception of the finalisation of the proposal on the Programme. We took decisions for winter sports and summer sports, we also decided which sports could not participate.

We will face the further discussions on the programme, because this phase is needed. We will study the proposal to delete three sports and include two sports during the EB of November in Mexico. The decision by the Executive Board will be put forward to the session who will decide on that.

We will also discuss and decide, in November during the EB in Mexico, on a number of decisions regarding disciplines. We will have to wait for the decision of the Session in Mexico to go further and then decide on some disciplines and the events and the quota of the athletes because we cannot define a quota number or events without a whole picture. So this is the phase we are going to follow. We hope to finalise everything by the Session in Prague next year in July. It will be 5 years before the Olympic Games, this will give enough time to our Chinese friends to work on.

I would like to stress that proposals that have been communicated to you by the Programme Commission are **proposals**. The Programme Commission is a technical commission : it is composed of various experienced people. They know sport well and they only have to give a technical proposal without any - what I would call - political consideration. It will be the task of the Executive Board to see what it would take or eventually not take from the Programme Commission and propose it to the Session. This is the next work that we are going to do. I would like to pay tribute to the members of the programme commission and to Mr Franco Carraro who have done a difficult job, and a job that is very well documented. I believe their recommendation are very interesting and very strong."

#### **Questions / answers :**

*Ed Hula, Around The Rings : What happens next with those three sports which will be excluded : what kind of campaign, lobbying could they do ?*

J. Rogge : "The EB is not taking decision on the programme commission on other sports than the ones that have been read by Me Carrard. We have said very clearly in the meeting with IFs that of course we will first discuss with them. They are our partners. I will have long series of meetings with federations where we will discuss together, they will be able to explain their case, I will report to the EB, the EB will then, in November, make a decision on that . And that decision will be put forward to the Session. Nothing has been decided on that, other than what Me Carrard has said (reported)."

*Ed Hula : In regards to the sports that you read out, is this list for Beijing only or is it is for other Games ?*

J. Rogge : "They are sports considered by their nature not able to participate in the Olympic Games. Others could be considered for 2012."

F. Carrard : "Of course, the formal decision concerns Beijing. In this list you have three types of sports that were ineligible. Some of them because they are not sufficiently widely practised, that would be roller sports, polo and surfing, you have those considered as mind sports (bridge and chess) and then the other that the

EB succeeded to have the statistics of the federations, affiliations, nations, broadcast, press coverage, etc and these statistics did not indicate a high level of global participation and these are the sports remaining in the list."

*There is still some room for one sport if you exclude three sports and include two : would it mean that there is still some space for wushu to be included in the programme ?*

J. Rogge : "We are working on the premise of the report of the Olympic Programme Commission which is indicating two sports. We are studying the situation of wushu, more I cannot say at this stage."

*Adrian Warner, Reuters : you say you will not discuss the disciplines until you decide whether you want to include two sports or exclude three sports. So the disciplines won't be on the agenda until Prague ?*

J. Rogge : "No, I never said that : in Mexico we will discuss the three sports that are proposed to be excluded and the two sports proposed to be included. However, I would like to say very clearly that there is no link between the two decisions. It is not because one sport disappears that automatically another will come in. You might have one sport that goes out and no sport that comes in, but you will not have one sport coming in and no sport going out because there is a max of 28 sports. In regard to the disciplines, the situation is quite simple : if you want to have a balance in the Olympic programme, you have to start from the full picture. How many sports do you have and which sports do you have. How many athletes do you have in these sports ? We first want to decide on that, and definitely it is a decision that the EB can take alone, we can propose and we will propose a decision, I don't know which one today. The Session will decide and then we will know exactly which sports will belong to the 28 Olympic sports, and that will decide then on further down the line. Disciplines and events can be decided by the Executive board alone. We might easily start discussing on disciplines in the next EB meetings following November, and when the disciplines are decided by the EB, we can go further to events, which is also the prerogative of the EB. So we start the works with consultation of the Session in November. The EB will continue to work on in subsequent meetings and we will finalise everything by Prague.

We will have decision by the Session in Mexico on eventual exclusion and inclusion and that will be decision by the Session. We might have partial decision on disciplines or no decision on disciplines, depending on the files we will find. Definitely this is not a process for which we have to go in front of the Session."

*Jim Byers, Toronto Star : the exclusion of a sport requires a simple majority of the members in the Session. Inclusion would require a two third majority. Is that correct ?*

"The Charter is quite clear on this : it says that exclusion or inclusion of **Olympic Federations** is two thirds majority. But exclusion or inclusion of the **programme** is simple majority."

*Wakako Yuki, Yomiuri Shimbun : It seems that the report suggests the possibility to consider an open slot as, for example, 26 permanent sports and lead some as vacancies to be considered at each Olympiad. Would this solution seem appealing to you ?*

J. Rogge : "We have many proposal of various natures, we are working on the number of 28 sports in the programme, no more, maybe less if decisions are taken to exclude some sports, but we have taken the decision to have a maximum of 10'500 athletes, 28 sports and around 300 events. We are not taking the decision to have two categories of sports : the ones being in the Olympic programme and others rotating."