

Liberec Bids to Host the European Youth Olympic Winter Festival 2011

(LIBEREC, September 14th, 2006) – the Town of Liberec competes to organise the 10th European Youth Olympic Winter Festival (EYOWF) 2011. At a meeting to be held in Brussels this coming December, the Association of European Olympic Committees will decide the location of the top competition for fourteen to eighteen-year-old athletes.

European Winter and Summer Youth Olympic Festivals alternate in two-year cycles and for young athletes they mean the same as the Olympic Games to seniors. About 1,300 participants from more than forty countries compete in eight sports disciplines during the winter festivals. Liberec would hold competitions in Ice Hockey, Figure Skating, Cross Country Skiing, Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined, Alpine Skiing, Snowboarding, and Biathlon.

“Soon our town could welcome another major international sports event. In connection to the FIS Nordic World Ski Championship Liberec 2009 we will have all necessary infrastructures built by that time. There will be modern venues in Vesec and Ještěd, the Tipsport Arena available, and to accommodate the participants we will have student dormitories ready in Harcov. Only the Biathlon competition would have to take place in the Jablonec Břízky and Snowboarding probably in Rejdice,” says Mr. Jiří Kittner, the Lord Mayor of the city of Liberec.

The European Youth Olympic Festivals were established in 1990 upon the initiative of the present President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Jacques Rogge. So far the winter competitions have been held in the following cities: 1993 Aosta (Italy), 1995 Andorra la Vella (Andorra), 1997 Sundsvall (Sweden), 1999 Poprad (Slovakia), 2001 Vuokatti (Finland), 2003 Bled (Slovenia), and 2005 Monthey (Switzerland). In 2007 they will be organised by the Spanish Pyrenees centre Jaca, and two years later by Szczyrk in the Polish Beskydy Mountains.

“In the past few days, representatives of the Association of European Olympic Committees led by the president of the inspection committee, Mr. Martin Rutishauser, visited Liberec and examined in detail all proposed sports locations and facilities. They were obviously satisfied and especially appreciated the proximity and easy accessibility of the individual venues. Meeting President Václav Klaus was another thing that made a big impression,” says the Lord Mayor Jiří Kittner.

The European Olympic Committees shall announce their resolution at their meeting on December 9th, 2006.