



EYOWF  
2011 | Liberec

# EYOWF 2011 info

10<sup>th</sup> European Youth Olympic Winter Festival 2011



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## Negotiating TV broadcasts with Czech Television Olympic Village in Harcov

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Patrick Hickey, the President of the European Olympic Committees

## Patrick Hickey: You are fired by an indomitable spirit and a great sense of achievement

### INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

EYOWF 2011 in the Liberec Region will be excellent, says the President of the European Olympic Committees Patrick Hickey. As EYOWF 2011 is approaching, a great friend of the Czech Republic and Czech sport gave an exclusive interview for the EYOWF 2011 Newsletter.

#### How has this competition changed since its beginnings in the 90's?

Rather than use the word *changed* I would use the word *improved*. Yes, since the very first event, the EYOFs have not only grown in numbers - in Brussels, we had 2 084 participants (athletes and officials) from our 33 member NOCs at that time, nowadays we are fighting to keep the participants down to a maximum of 3300 from our current 49 member NOCs for the summer event, and 1300 for the winter one (they were 708 in the first winter EYOF launched in 1991).

#### Apart from the number of participants, where has been the most significant shift?

We have greatly improved the way they are organised and run as we have been able to learn with experience and also increase the involvement of all the actors concerned, from the hosting NOC and city to National Olympic Committees of Europe and, of course, the Federations involved. Indeed, I was talking about the Liberec Winter EYOWF to my good friend Jan Železný, your IOC Member and one of the greatest Javelin throwers the world has ever known with his Olympic golds and world records, a sports hero the Czech Republic can truly be proud of, and saying how the EYOF and EYOWF have become thoroughly professionally organized events. Liberec 2011 will be no exception!

I should here add that credit for this must go to the Chair of the EYOF Commission Guido de Bondt and all of his team, who have worked so hard to make the EYOF and EYOWF a premier event at

European level. Their efforts have been abundantly rewarded, so much so that today the EYOFs also benefit from ample TV coverage. The spirit of the Festivals has, however, always remained the same: teach future generations the principles and ideals that inspire Olympism as expressed in the Olympic Charter.

#### Why are these Festivals important for the younger generation and also for international sport?

First and foremost, the Festivals are a moment of encounter through sport for the youth of the nations of the 49 National Olympic Committees from the 49 states that go to compose greater Europe. The event is termed a Festival because the basic intention is to show these youngsters how they can live together in harmony and friendship despite differences in colour, creed, and gender. They meet, they mingle, and they discover that although they come from, say, Iceland, they have the same interests and concerns as, say, fellow kids from Turkey, Georgia or Israel. This is why the EYOFs end with a party rather than a closing ceremony. The legacy that the EYOFs leave in terms of goodwill and openness towards other members of humanity is truly outstanding, and this not just for the athletes themselves but also their companions, spectators and TV audiences. As to the Festivals importance for international sport, they are the only pan-European multi-sport event, and as such are a unique opportunity that these youngsters have of living an 'Olympic' sporting experience.

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#### Jacques Rogge at the opening!

The Opening Ceremony of the 10<sup>th</sup> European Youth Olympic Winter Festival on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2011 in Liberec Tipsport Arena will be personally attended by Jacques Rogge (see photo), the President of the International Olympic Committee. Petr Hrubec, the Secretary General of the Czech Olympic Committee, explains: "Mr. Rogge, who in the 1990s ranked among the founding fathers of Olympic Festivals, has already sent his written confirmation. Apart from attending the Opening Ceremony, he also plans to visit some of the sporting venues."



#### In the name of diplomacy

There are certain diplomatic activities and important meetings that will precede the events of EYOWF 2011 in the Liberec Region. The most significant one is undoubtedly the meeting of the Executive Committee of the European Olympic Committees (EOC), which takes place on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011 in the Clarion Grandhotel Zlatý Lev in Liberec. It will be attended by the complete directorate of the European Olympic movement, presided by the EOC President Patrick Hickey.



#### Condolences to Poland

The EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee wished to express deepest condolences to the Polish Olympic Committee whose President Piotr Nurowski died tragically in a government plane crash at the Smolensk Airport on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010. The Olympic movement has lost not only an executive member of EOC, but also a friend of Czech sport and a great supporter of the Youth Olympic Festivals. We shall honour his memory.



#### Quotation of the Month

"We wish to involve the best athletes from the Czech Republic as patrons of EYOWF 2011. It is role models such as Lukáš Bauer or Šárka Záhrobská that will attract public attention and capture the imaginations of the young."



ROMAN KUMPOŠT,  
the Honorary President  
of the EYOWF 2011  
Organising Committee

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## Patrick Hickey: You are fired by an indomitable spirit and a great sense of achievement



From the right: Patrick Hickey at meeting with Milan Jirásek, the President of the Czech Olympic Committee, and the EYOWF 2011 organisers Kateřina Nyčová and Roman Kumpošt

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**Marit Bjørgen, Jason Lamy Chappuis, Anja Paerson, Yevgeniy Plyushchenko, Peetu Piiroinen, Tora Berger, Kristiina Shmigun and other heroes from Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver 2010 were all winners of medals at previous EYOWFs. Do you think these Festivals have a positive impact on their sporting career?**

The examples you cite clearly point to how the EYOWFs certainly do have a positive impact on the sports careers of young athletes. The EYOWFs give a first taste of that incredible thrill that is the Olympic experience, and that's a taste that lingers with these young athletes and motivates them towards going for Olympic gold. To paraphrase Barack Obama, these youngsters come out of the EYOWFs thinking, "Yes I can!", and from there they never look back. There are countless such success stories as those you mention, even if, clearly, not all participants can win. But even for those who don't win the EYOWFs are a great stimulus to achievement, something that is also a precious gift for their future in general.

**Many Czech athletes have also been successful in EYOWF competitions. What do you think about Czech sport?**

The Czech Olympic Movement is steeped in the tradition of sporting excellence and this has produced elite athletes of an outstanding level generation after generation, as the many Olympic successes that Czech athletes have earned for their colours across time go to show. The Czech Republic is a small country but it is fired by indomitable spirit and is endowed with a great sense of achievement. It is these qualities together with a profound belief in Olympic values that give Czech sport that extra élan that makes Czech athletes stand out so.

**Are there any Czech athletes who you recognise as successful?**

There are truly many Czech representatives I see as outstanding, Pavel Nedvěd, for example, is known worldwide; but the list of outstanding Czech champions is very long, and if you want to know my favourites they are: Jaromír Jágr, who led the Czech Ice Hockey team to so many outstanding successes; Nicole Vaidišová, the tennis player who, at the tender age of 16, broke into the world top 20; and the legendary cross-country skier Kateřina Neumannová, who is currently the Deputy Chair of the EOC Athletes' Commission. Sports personalities are incredibly important to the consciousness of a nation. Even years after retirement they still command the attention of the media and continue to be of example to young and old alike, and these names will certainly live on for quite a while, as is shown by the fact that the legendary Czech runner of the 50's Emil Zátopek is still a household name in his nation.

Having said this, I must remind you that the achievements of your athletes would be impossible without the support of the Czech National Olympic Committee, and also the labours of those very many unnamed people who have over time worked with passion and dedication for the furtherance of Czech Olympism, that sort of people without whom no NOC can hope to succeed in its mission and no athlete can hope to reach the podium. Great credit and the gratitude of the whole Olympic Movement of Europe must also go to these unknown heroes of Olympism.

**What are your expectations for the EYOWF 2011 in the Liberec Region?**

Excellence! And I am confident that this is what the organisers will deliver and the athletes achieve. It will be a great sports event but first and foremost a great life experience for those involved. I very much look forward to being there and sharing that fantastic Olympic sensation that we all know and love.

## EYOWF 2011 info

### Negotiations with Czech Television

The EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee has entered into negotiations with Czech Television on TV coverage and broadcasting over the course of the Festival. After an agreement with Otakar Černý, Chief Editor of the Czech Television Editorial Office for Sport, the Organisers are now preparing a list of the most attractive disciplines and races. Kateřina Nyčová, the Executive Director of the Organising Committee adds: "We have discussed possibilities of live broadcasts, recording or a daily television summary. We would also like to initiate the establishment of a Festival Studio."



### The Olympic Village in Harcov

A crucial contract has been signed recently by Zdeněk Kůs, the Rector of the Technical University in Liberec and Petr Doležal, Chairman of the EYOWF 2011 Administrative Board. According to the agreement, the university will provide its accommodation and dining facilities at the university campus in Harcov to participants of EYOWF 2011. The Olympic village will provide the athletes with modern, recently reconstructed grounds offering adequate comfort and room for free time activities. Medal ceremonies will be held there every day and the press sub-centre will also be located here.



### Europe – Youth - Olympism

Financing European sport, educating young people to be involved in sports, organisation of top sporting events for youth, sports training, security aspects of winter sport – these are some of the topics that are going to be discussed at the specialised conference entitled Europe – Youth – Olympism. The event takes place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011 in Liberec and is organised by the Natural Science-Humanities and the Faculty of Education of the Technical University of Liberec and the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee with the support of the Czech Olympic Committee.



NUMBER  
OF THE MONTH

74

number of sets of medals  
to be awarded during EYOWF 2011



The EYOWF Festivals bring a lot of fair sporting experiences