

**To: Presidents of
International Summer Sports
Federations
International Olympic Winter Sports
Federations
National Olympic Committees
Recognised International Federations**

ASOIF
AIOWF

Lausanne, 8 March 2004
Ref. no /2003/KGF/ccs

Re: Olympic Programme Commission Meeting, Lausanne, 4-5 March 2004

Dear Presidents,

As you are aware, the Olympic Programme Commission met in Lausanne on 4-5 March 2004, under the Chairmanship of Mr Franco Carraro, IOC Executive Board member.

The Commission progressed in its work in a number of areas notably:

1. Development of specific criteria for the evaluation of sports on the Olympic Programme of Athens 2004.
2. Proposal for a regular and clearly defined process as well as the method and tools to be used in assessment.
3. Proposal for selection of a certain number of recognised International Federations to be included in the review process.
4. Observation programme of summer Olympic and selected Recognised Sports prior to and during the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad, Athens 2004.

These proposals will be submitted to the IOC Executive Board in May 2004.

After validation by the Executive Board, the criteria will be distributed to all stakeholders after the May meeting and the deadline for comments and feedback has been extended to the 28 June 2004. These criteria will form the basis of a questionnaire to be completed by the summer IFs and the selected IFs immediately following the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad, Athens 2004.

In developing the proposed criteria, the Commission has been able to draw upon valuable input from all the stakeholders who, as you are aware, are now represented within the Commission. Rather than focusing on limited elements of a sport, the criteria will be broad-ranging, including but not limited to consideration of a sport's history, popularity, universality, image, presentation, development and cost.

Once collected and evaluated, all of the information coming from the criteria will enable the Commission to prepare a much more in-depth report on each sport similar to the reports developed by the IOC Evaluation Commission for Candidate Cities for the Olympic Games. The Programme Commissions report will provide a broad assessment of each sport, while continuing to focus on the technical aspects. The results of this assessment by the Commission will be made public after Executive Board approval in early 2005 and, as mentioned in our previous communication, all International Federations and NOCs will have an opportunity to comment on this report in April/May 2005.

The Commission believes that this process reflects not only the IOC Session's wish to establish a regular review process of the Olympic Programme, but also a more interactive and collaborative effort vis-à-vis the key constituent groups.

Yours sincerely,

Gilbert FELLI
Olympic Games Executive Director

Kelly FAIRWEATHER
Sports Director