

The International Olympic Committee gives the green light to Pyrenees-Barcelona

08/10/2018

The Catalan Government and the Spanish Olympic Committee (COE) have received a favourable report from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) giving the green light to their plans to organise a Winter Olympics in the Pyrenees and Barcelona in 2030. The Catalan Government and the COE have agreed to continue to work together to assess the viability of the project in accordance with the new sustainability criteria for bids.



During the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, a delegation led by the Catalan Government's secretary general for sport, Gerard Figueras, and the president of the COE, Alejandro Blanco, met in the Argentine capital with the first vice-president of the IOC, Juan Antonio Samaranch and associate CEO, Pere Miró, to receive the technical report from Gilbert Felli, the former executive director of the Olympic Games, about the Catalan facilities and infrastructures made during his visit last September.

Felli's report highlighted the great potential of the Pyrenees and Barcelona to host a Winter Olympics according to new sustainability criteria set out

by the IOC in order to guarantee the viability and a positive legacy in the region hosting the event.

This is the first time the IOC has issued a report recognising that the Pyrenees and Barcelona meet the necessary conditions to host an Olympics based on the above criteria. This is reflected by the fact that, although formal negotiations haven't commenced with the cities and regions interested in presenting their bids for 2030, the IOC has agreed to continue negotiating with the promoters of the Catalan project in order to put together a more detailed technical report that will confirm the good impressions gathered in situ by Felli.

As he left the meeting, Gerard Figueras expressed his satisfaction at the IOC's recommendations and the momentum given by its backing in order to keep working on the technical side of the project. "The potential of our proposal is in line with the new bid requirements, namely that the Games should adapt to the region rather than the region to the Games", Figueras pointed out.

For his part, Alejandro Blanco referred to an ongoing project "which hasn't just been created, but is the result of the collective efforts made since the time of mayors Hereu and Trias", despite the fact that the previous proposals hadn't included the new criteria set out in the IOC's 2020 Agenda.

Juan Antonio Samaranch also reminded us that the IOC "will not accept any proposals that won't be a viable business proposition for the organisers", while pointing out that, when the successful bid is declared, the city or region will receive more than 900 million euros straightaway, as well as the support of many services of the IOC to start preparing for the Games.

Pyrenees Barcelona has now been given the essential green light from the IOC in order to speed up the technical work until the official calendar of bids for the 2030 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games is published.