

Liberec to Host the European Youth Olympic Winter Festival 2011

(LIBEREC, December 11th, 2006) – the City of Liberec won the bidding procedure to organise the European Youth Olympic Winter Festival (EYOWF) 2011. On its weekend meeting held in Brussels, the Association of European Olympic Committees decided the location of the top competition for fourteen to eighteen-year-old athletes.

The Association of European Olympic Committees held its meeting in Brussels on the occasion of celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the Belgium Olympic Committee. The President of the International Olympic Committee, Jacques Rogge, attended the meeting, too. Liberec was here introduced as a candidate nominated to host the European Youth Olympic Winter Festival by the Lord Mayor of the City of Liberec, Mr. Jiří Kittner, and by representatives of the bid committee of EYOWF Liberec 2011 Roman Kumpošt and Kateřina Nyčová.

Especially thanks to the successful diplomacy of the Czech Olympic Committee Liberec in the end remained the sole candidate applying for organising this sports event, even though for the Summer Festival 2011 there were five candidates. *"I am very happy Liberec has won the organisation of EYOWF and that within mere two years from the FIS Nordic World Ski Championship Liberec 2009 our city will be able to welcome young Olympic talents of Europe,"* said the Lord Mayor of the City of Liberec, Jiří Kittner, after the selection had been made.

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 festival. Liberec will hold competitions in Ice Hockey, Figure Skating, Ski Jumping, Cross Country Skiing, Nordic Combined, Alpine Skiing, and Snowboarding. Biathlon forms the eighth discipline and it will be based in the Sports Venue Břízky in Jablonec nad Nisou.

In Brussels, the Turkish Trabzon was selected to host the European Youth Olympic Summer Festival 2011.