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**Lukáš Bauer to be the Patron of Young Cross Country Skiers
Czech Talents are the Faces of the Festival**



Roman Kumpošt, the Honorary President of the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee

Roman Kumpošt: President of the IOC arrive at the Festival Opening

Roman Kumpošt, the Honorary President of the 10th European Youth Olympic Winter Festival (EYOWF) 2011 in the Liberec Region knows that the preparations have entered the last and crucial phase. Despite the rush of meetings and activities, finalising campaigns and signing contracts, he has several reasons to feel satisfied.

The work of the Organisers of the 2011 Festival has recently been acknowledged by the President of the International Olympic Committee. Jacques Rogge, who was in the 90's one of the founding fathers of this youth sporting event, has confirmed his personal participation in Liberec. He will attend the Opening Ceremony in the TipSport arena and will watch some of the initial races. This is convincing evidence that the event we are hosting is of the utmost prestige.

An event like EYOWF offers not only fights for medals but it also presents an opportunity for diplomatic activities and meetings. Are you planning any of those?

Of course we are. The most important one is the meeting of the Executive Committee of the European Olympic Committee, which will take place on the 12th and 13th of February 2011 in Liberec. It will be attended by the top officials of the European Olympic movement and presided over by the President, Patrick Hickey. What is more, between the 10th and 12th of February, the Technical University of Liberec and the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee, supported by the Czech Olympic Committee, will host an international conference on the topic, Europe – Youth – Olympism.

Winter Festivals are non-profit events in their

character and cannot do without the support of public budgets. Despite this, are you successful in finding sponsors from among companies in the Czech Republic?

I think we are. For example, the automobile brand Škoda Auto has become a partner of the 2011 Festival and will provide fifty cars for the Festival's needs. There are also several more negotiations with other major companies in progress.

How is the Festival 2011 for youth under 18 years of age supported by their older models – top athletes from the Czech Republic?

In previous days we have addressed the best Czech athletes in winter disciplines and asked them to support the Festival. We were not refused once. Each of the eight disciplines of the EYOWF 2011 has a patron – the cross country skier Lukáš Bauer, the downhill skier Šárka Záhrobská, the nordic combiner Pavel Churavý, the biathlon racer Veronika Vítková, the snowboarder Šárka Pančochová, the ski jumper Roman Koudelka, the figure skater Tomáš Verner and the ice hockey player Marek Schwarz. There is also a deal with Martina Sáblíková shaping up, even though speed skating is not on the programme. All the other personalities will offer their names to be connected with the event that will affect the future of Czech and world sport.

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Škoda Auto Becomes EYOWF Partner

The car manufacturer Škoda Auto has become the official supplier of the EYOWF 2011. On the 8th of May, representatives of the company, in Mladá Boleslav, handed over the first two of the fifty cars of this brand to the Organisers. The ceremonial act was also attended by the President of the Czech Olympic Committee Milan Jirásek. Martin Ditrich, Director of the Public Benefit Corporation EYOWF 2011, commented: *"This cooperation with Škoda Auto means great recognition for us and shows the significance the Winter Festival has. The automobiles will be used, not only by the Organising Committee for its current needs, but also to transport guests, small groups and other participants of the Festival."*



Organisers with ISO Certificate

In May, the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee passed an important environmental audit. The activities that have an effect on the environment have been assessed by the renowned Swiss certification company SGS as acceptable and within days it should propose the awarding of the highest certificate ISO 14001:2004. Vladimír Klatovský, the Environmental Manager, explained: *"The environmental laws are constantly being strengthened; therefore we consider the awarding of the certificate as a great success."*



Brno Wants the 2015 Festival!

The city of Brno will stand for the organisation of the summer edition of the European Youth Olympic Festival in 2015. The Moravian metropolis stood as a candidate last year, but the organisation was eventually granted to the Dutch city of Utrecht by only two votes. Brno, a city of 400.000 inhabitants, offers quality sport venues and a large accommodation capacity. In recent years it has successfully hosted several top junior competitions – the FIBA World Championship for Women and the European Track Cycling Championships, basketball, handball tournaments and athletic team races.



QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

"I have personally witnessed on several occasions that this is an event organised with special care, devotion and love."



MILAN JIRÁSEK,
the President of the
Czech Olympic Committee

Lukáš Bauer is the Patron of Young Skiers

Lukáš Bauer – the best Czech cross country skier, three-time Winter Olympic medallist, 2009 World Championships runner-up and 2008 World Cup winner – has become one of the EYOWF 2011 patrons. He didn't need to think for long before offering his patronage.

„I fully support the Winter Festival in the Liberec Region. I have taken part in the Olympic Games twice and I know what a fantastic sporting and social event it is. For young athletes, it will be the greatest event in their lives and at the same time a momentous motivation for their future careers. Skiing needs new role models and I believe that EYOWF 2011 will produce respectable successors of our generation with Northug, Cologna, Piller Cotter and other fabulous competitors.“

„In addition to this, the Liberec Region offers excellent conditions for such international races of such significance and it has also yielded many Czech national athletes. The EYOWF 2011 will definitely attract interest. I would be glad if the outer regions of the Czech Republic joined the Liberec Region in providing quality facilities for young skiers as



well as for the public. One of them might be the Karlovy Vary Region, where I live. This region has already stood for hosting the Games of the V. Olympic Days for Children and Youth of the Czech Republic in 2012 and I support the campaign as well. It means not only a great advertisement for skiing, but also a starting point for future participation at the EYOWF.“

NOC Relations & Services: Knows All and Will Advise



One of the newest departments by which the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee expanded is the one which will take care of all the communication with National Olympic Committees and at the same time provide them with full service. Marie Sokolová, NOC Relations & Services Manager explains its role.

It is very important that all the National Olympic Committees have one common contact in the host country, where they can get all the information they need. Our department presents an operative link between the Organising Committee and the National Olympic Committees and makes mutual communication much easier. A few days ago, the first set of practical information left for all NOCs and more will follow soon.

How can people from abroad contact you?

They can contact us by phone or e-mail. In addition to that, the webpage www.eyowf2011.cz contains a special section for NOCs. Information here is continuously updated and will offer all important

details about for example, ways of accreditation, key deadlines, sport programme, participation quota, but also information for Chefs de Mission, about accommodation and facilities in the Olympic Village, transportation and other areas of the Festival's organisation.

What is your main task at the moment?

Our task is to follow the preparation for EYOWF 2011 closely and inform all NOCs about major news and events. Apart from that, we are already preparing the meeting of Chefs de Mission in Liberec in November and we are planning the role of the NOC Service Centre that will be in operation during the Festival. We must also provide 49 quality assistants to NOCs! We are looking for candidates who have an excellent command of foreign languages and good knowledge of the structure and logistics of the EYOWF 2011.

Where did you acquire the experience for such a demanding position?

I've been always interested in sports – and primarily about the activities connected with the organization of a particular event. In the past I was active in the tourist industry and gained experience with organizing larger groups and trips. I was in a similar position in last year's FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Liberec and was in charge of coordinating 80 attachés of all the national delegations from all over the world. It is a real challenge for me to take part in the organization of EYOWF. I consider it to be a great advantage that during the Festival we will be working with Valérie Enault from France – a respected person, experienced in caring for international guests.

BEHIND THE SCENES

EYOWF 2011 info

Volunteers add up



The 2011 Festival's organisers need about four hundred volunteers for the EYOWF Team. At the beginning of May, an intensive recruitment campaign was launched in the regional press of the Liberec Region and at universities throughout the Czech Republic. Vanda Šulcová, the Volunteers Coordinator, summarised the result: *“During two weeks, we had about fifty applications a day and others still keep signing up.”* At present, there are about 200 volunteers in the EYOWF Team, including three applicants from Spain, Hungary and France.

There will be doping tests



The participants of the 2011 Festival have also to take into account that there will be tests performed focused on the possible abuse of forbidden performance enhancing drugs. The Czech Anti-doping Agency will carry out random tests during the competitions in a specialised laboratory. Lenka Halamová, the Medical service Manager, commented: *“I believe that this time will prove once again the young athletes have no problems with doping.”*

Fun-zone to entertain during rest



During the EYOWF 2011, all the athletes and their accredited accompaniment will find a home in the university campus in Liberec-Harcov. To give them the opportunity to spend their spare time between training and races actively, a specially designed Fun-zone is being prepared by the organisers. One of the sport halls on the campus will house the Festival's accompanying programme and will offer an internet cafe as well as further space for fun and relaxation.

NUMBER OF THE MONTH

1567

total number of start bibs assigned to all individual races at the EYOWF 2011