



**XX ANOC General Assembly**  
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**REPORT BY**  
**ANOC VICE PRESIDENT FOR EUROPE AND EOC PRESIDENT**  
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Dear President,  
Dear Colleagues and Distinguished Guests,  
Dear Friends,

The roadmap that the EOC has set itself for this quadrennial hinges upon promoting the Olympic values in Europe and beyond, and ensuring alignment with Olympic Agenda 2020.

Today I would like to share with you our “mid-term” results and show you how we continue to translate our objectives into real and meaningful achievements for our Members, the most important of which I shall now list.

**Athletes**

Our athletes are at the centre of our focus, and the current European Athletes’ Commission have shown themselves to be very hard working in addressing their mission with initiatives aimed at encouraging dual careers, anti-doping and athletes’ relationships with their NOC. Our Commission is now also focusing on how to get National Athletes Commissions to engage with athletes in their country and vice-versa.

**Good governance**

We continue to address good governance with the utmost commitment as, for us, good governance is a way of doing our job - a constant in our daily lives. We strongly believe that good governance is a cornerstone of the Olympic Movement, without which there can be no true dialogue with the world of politics and there can be no serious dialogue with sponsors.

Our work in this area is mirrored in the resolutions contained in Olympic Agenda 2020.

**Autonomy**

One of the Olympic Movement’s most prized values is its autonomy, and we need to defend it with all our strength at whatever level and whenever it is challenged. Regularly there are governments that attempt to influence our Members. We have always risen to the challenge in these cases and, so far, have carried the day, sometimes in very difficult conditions.

I think this is something we can definitely count as a positive result.

## **European Youth Olympic Festivals**

The EYOFs, Europe's major multisport event for junior athletes, take place every two years, with a winter and a summer edition. In 2015 the Winter EYOF was jointly organised by the NOCs of Austria and Liechtenstein with close on 1,600 athletes, whilst the summer EYOF was organised in Tbilisi, in Georgia, with some 3,500 athletes. Both events were very well organised and a great success.

The EYOFs are very important as they give the young athletes of Europe a first taste of what it's like to be in an Olympic Games style environment, and encourage them to go on to become Olympic champions.

## **Games of the Small States of Europe**

The Games of the Small States of Europe bring together almost 1,000 athletes from the nine smallest states in Europe, each with less than a million inhabitants. It is a hugely successful event that is highly regarded by the countries concerned, with each taking a turn to host them. The 2015 event was held in Iceland, and was again a great success.

## **Gender equality**

The IOC is quite rightly pressing the whole of the Olympic Movement to improve gender balance, particularly at the decision making level. Our Gender Equality in Sport Commission – a very talented group – are very active, and I am confident they will produce some good results on this front.

## **Olympic Agenda 2020**

Olympic Agenda 2020 is at the forefront of our thinking and guides our activities in all other areas. President Bach's 40 resolutions are a roadmap for the EOC, which influences and supports our strategic planning. It's important to bear in mind that the resolutions were drafted following feedback from the entire Olympic Movement, including ourselves. We were involved in its creation and we are invested in its success as well.

## **Anti-doping and the fight against the manipulation of sports competitions**

On the subject of anti-doping, I want to reiterate that the EOC and its members fully and actively support WADA and its Code, which was implemented at the European Games.

We consider doping a menace to the Olympic Movement and will do do everything in our power to block it.

Another threat to the integrity of sport is the manipulation of sports competitions. This is on the increase due to the relatively new trend of 'in-play' betting, which has grown in popularity as mobile technology and social media have advanced. The EOC is ready to play its part in a global crackdown.

Integrity is one of sport's most fundamental assets and we are doing all we can to protect it.

## **European Games**

With the Baku 2015 inaugural European Games, the Olympic Movement of Europe made sporting history. Indeed, I would count the European Games - through which we have created a symbolic bridge that spans the length and breadth of Europe - as perhaps the EOC's greatest achievement yet.

The Games took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, in June 2015, where 6,000 top European athletes from all 50 NOCs of Europe competed in 20 different sports, 16 of which were Olympic and 4 non-Olympic. Of the Olympic sports, 12 provided qualification opportunities for Rio 2016.

Impressively, Baku 2015 was broadcast in 145 countries around the world securing a cumulative global audience of 1.7 billion viewers across 17 days of Games.

And last, but by no means least, I must express the Olympic Movement of Europe's deepest gratitude to the leaders and the people of Azerbaijan for their immense commitment to Baku 2015 - the inaugural European Games could never have been such a success without them. And this event has shown how the nation and its capital are second to none in Europe.

At the end of my report I will play a short video to give you a snapshot of what an amazing event Baku 2015 was.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, these are our main goals and achievements. For all our activities we are progressively implementing Olympic Agenda 2020 and its guiding principles.

And I must add here that none of what we have achieved would have been possible without the strong and excellent relationships we have with all our different partners and stakeholders.

Lastly, I want to close by thanking IOC President Bach once again for his vision and his determination in bringing such positive and momentous change to the Olympic Movement through Olympic Agenda 2020, and to thank ANOC President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Sabah for having embraced renewal at ANOC. The EOC welcomes, and strongly supports, this evolution.

It is thanks to the vision of these two extraordinary men that the Olympic Movement can look forward to a truly bright future.

Thank you all for your attention. I will now play the video of Baku 2015

[video plays]