

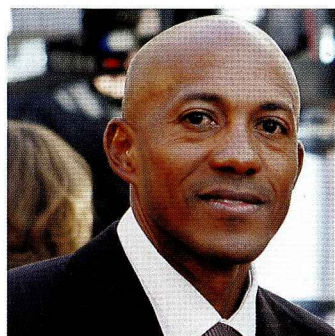


# ATHLETES BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IOC ATHLETES' COMMISSION

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## MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN: **FRANK FREDERICKS**



Today, being an athlete does not stop at an athletics track, a pool or a court... Like any other citizen, athletes have the

right and the duty to voice their concerns and recommendations on the position they occupy within the sports movement and society in general. This is exactly the main purpose of the two-yearly International Athletes' Forum: to offer the athletes a platform for discussion and exchanges on topics of direct concern to them, as well as others which go beyond the confines of the stadium, within society in general. Last May in Marrakech, the 4th edition was no exception to this rule, thanks to the active and energetic contribution of all its participants on issues close to their hearts.

Whether on the relationship between the athletes, the clubs, federations and NOCs, health protection in training and competition, or the logically recurring theme on social and professional life of athletes during and after elite competition, the recommendations and the guidelines formulated in Marrakech are of primary importance for the athletes, the IOC, the NOCs, the IFs and for sport in general. Our recommendations will be presented to the Olympic Congress in Copenhagen which, by devoting one of its themes to the athletes, will be a further stage in promoting their role within the society.

People have to know what athletes think, what they feel and what they want. Athletes have to involve themselves and place their passion, experience and competence at the service of sport and society. Just like nine of your colleagues who have decided to translate words into action by being candidates for election to the IOC Athletes' Commission. They should be congratulated! To all those who will be in Vancouver next year, remember that voting for that person who represents you and defends your interests is very important. One athlete – one voice. That's our right and duty!

## ENCOURAGE ATHLETE PARTICIPATION



After two editions in Lausanne and one in Dubai, the International Athletes' Forum chose Marrakech for its 4th edition, at the invitation of the Moroccan NOC on the initiative of Olympic champion Hicham El Guerrouj, a member of the IOC Athletes' Commission. At the end of May, almost 100 athletes from five continents, representatives of more than 30 International Federations (IFs) and the five Continental Associations of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) shared and exchanged opinions and experiences on the three themes of direct interest to them which go beyond the sports field itself. A series of recommendations, which

will be presented at the Olympic Congress in Copenhagen, were adopted.

1. Concerning the **relationship between the athletes, clubs, federations and NOCs**, the participants unanimously agreed that all the members of the sports movement have an important role and responsibilities vis-à-vis the athletes and vice-versa. The athletes thus have a central role to play in raising the profile of sport and recreation across communities. For their part, the sports organisations must ensure that all athletes can compete on a level playing field. The Forum also encouraged sports organisations to strengthen their

athletes' commissions, or if necessary create one.

2. With regard to **health protection in training and competition**, the IOC was urged to implement educational programmes on health protection and injury prevention at the Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games, and to encourage the NOCs and IFs to do the same. As for the IFs' technical decisions, in particular relating to competition schedules and rule changes, these should be taken in consultation with the IFs' respective Athletes' and Medical Commission representatives.

3. On the key issue of the **social and professional life of athletes during and after elite competition**, the participants reminded the various Olympic Movement constituents – athletes and sports organisations – of the need to understand the importance of combining education and sport ("dual career"), and proposed the introduction of programmes to provide emotional support and management during the transition period.

IOC President Jacques Rogge, who was present for the closing session, recalled that the main priority for the Olympic Movement was always the athletes, and it was important that they made themselves heard and expressed their points of view. This was also the first time that the IOC Athletes' Commission and representatives of the IF and Continental Associations' athletes commissions had had the opportunity to meet and discuss topical issues, such as the athletes whereabouts procedure in connection with the World Anti-Doping Code.

Read the full text of the recommendations on [www.olympic.org](http://www.olympic.org), "Olympic Movement/Athletes' Commission" section.