

# ATHENS

C A N D I D A T E

NEWSLETTER OF THE ATHENS 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES BID COMMITTEE



# 2004

C I T Y

No 3, February 1997

## ON THE WAY TO LAUSANNE

The time has come. On March 7, the Selection College of the International Olympic Committee (I.O.C.) will choose in Lausanne four or five candidate cities, among the eleven that are bidding to host the 2004 Olympic Games. The election of the host city will take place in September in Lausanne.

On its way to Lausanne, "Athens 2004" Bid Committee has presented the candidacy of the city for the first Olympic Games of the new millennium on the following occasions:

- First official presentation to the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee, during the 1996 Olympic Games, in Atlanta.
- Submission of the official File, in Lausanne, on August 14, 1996.
- Inspection visit to Athens (from 24 to 28 of October 1996) by the International Olympic Committee Evaluation Commission, chaired by Dr. Thomas Bach.
- Presentation of the candidacy to the General Assembly of the National Olympic Committees in Cancun, Mexico, in November 1996 and to the General Assembly of the Asian National Olympic Committees in Bangkok, Thailand, in December 1996.

The city of Athens is changing fast, preparing itself for the new millennium. The Athens 2004 Bid Committee, representing the will and the wish of Greek people to host the Games, has put all its efforts in making this vision a reality. The Committee, presided over by Mrs. Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, works towards a new approach, harmonising the dynamic development of Greece, in the context of the European Union, the advanced infrastructure, the state of the art sports facilities and the deep respect for the environment with the unique legacy of the ancient Greek civilization. Greece is an open society with pride in its past, confidence in the present and passion for the future.



The Athens 2004 Bid Committee. From left to right : Mr. Kostas Liaskas, Mr. Lucas Papademos, Mrs. Gianna Angelopoulos - Daskalaki(President), Mr. Andreas Potamianos and Mr. Yannis Sgouros.



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### ECONOMIC STABILITY

The stability of the Greek economy is one of the assets of Athens' candidacy for the 2004 Olympic Games.

By the end of January, inflation was running below 7%. Moreover, according to both government officials' and independent economic analysts' predictions, it will be reduced to around 5% by year-end. Quite an accomplishment and a proof of the country's commitment to satisfy the conditions for the Economic and Monetary Union, set down by the Treaty of Maastricht, especially if one considers that inflation was running at a pace of 14,4% in 1993! The consistently downward trend has resulted in the gradual reduction of both borrowing and lending rates.

Because of the declining inflation and interest rates and the recent upgrading of Greece's credit worthiness by Moody's, the Athens Stock Exchange has rallied over 25%, since the beginning of the year. The drachma has remained stable versus other major European currencies, due to the strength of the economy.

The budgetary policy of the government, primarily aimed at cutting down public deficit, and the regulatory intervention of the Central Bank, are two major factors which contribute decisively to economic stability.





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## A LAND OF HOSPITALITY

Athens, a major European capital, in the heart of the Mediterranean, easily accessible from all over the world, can fulfil the expectations of the most demanding visitor. Cosmopolitan, vivid and dynamic, Athens houses the headquarters of hundreds of Greek and foreign industrial and commercial companies. At the same time, Athens attracts, every year, millions of tourists, who come to admire historical sites and monuments of unique interest, and enjoy the friendliness and warmth of traditional Greek hospitality.

Athens provides a wide range of tourism infrastructure, corresponding to every style and budget, and is capable of offering safe and pleasant accommodation. The existing capacity fully covers the needs of the Olympic family and the expected number of visitors.

Moreover, the Greek capital's proximity to resort areas, such as the islands of the Saronic and Argolic Gulfs, Nafplio, Delphi, Arahova and the islands of the Aegean Sea, offers alternative recreational opportunities for visitors during and after the Games.





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### ATHENS: A PLACE FOR TRAINING

The mild climate of Greece and the advanced athletic facilities that the Athens Olympic Sports Complex provides, attract top level athletes from all over the world, for intensive training programmes. Stefka Konstantinova of Bulgaria, who won the Gold Medal in the high jump in the 1996 Olympic Games, is one of them.

For many years, Stefka has been spending several months in Athens, training with her close friend Niki Bakoyianni, the Greek high jump champion. Stefka and Niki never put their friendship aside, not even when they were competing in Atlanta. Stefka won the Gold Medal and Niki the Silver.

They will once again experience great emotions in the 1997 World Athletics Championship that will take place in Athens from 1st to 10th of August.



### THE OLYMPIC WEIGHTLIFTING CENTRE

The Olympic Weightlifting Centre in the Sports Hall at Nikaia is currently under construction and, when completed, will provide a new venue for one of the most popular sports in Greece.

The Centre will have a seating capacity of 5,000 and will provide all necessary facilities for athletes, officials, media representatives, VIPs, guests and spectators. In addition, the Centre will include eight warming-up areas.





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### ROWING AND CANOEING WITH RESPECT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Rowing and canoeing events are proposed to be held in Schinias, close to the historical site of Marathon, just 34km away from the Olympic Village. The area was selected, on the basis of detailed and comprehensive studies, conducted by experts, as the most appropriate with regard to environmental issues. The facilities will be constructed very carefully, aiming at the full preservation and upgrading of the Schinias delicate ecosystem.

The proposed venue will be created on a large flat area of about 255 hectares, a natural amphitheatre, with hills to the north, north-east and east. The competition area will be 2,250 meters long and 162 meters wide.



### YACHTING IN THE SARONIC GULF

The Olympic Yachting Regattas are proposed to take place in the Saronic Gulf, over an area stretching from Faliron Bay to Anavyssos Bay, where Yachting conditions are considered to be ideal.

The Olympic Yachting Centre, which will be completed by 2002, will provide all necessary installations for athletes, officials, media representatives, technical staff, VIPs, guests and spectators.





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### THE ATHENS METRO: A RIDE THROUGH HISTORY

Three main large-scale projects, namely the new Athens International Airport, the new Elefsina-Stavros-Spata Highway and the extension of the Athens Metro, will bring about a spectacular improvement, not only in the quality of transportation, but also in the environmental and living conditions in Athens. These projects are currently under construction and are expected to be completed by the year 2000, irrespective of the Greek capital's candidacy for the 2004 Olympic Games.

The works undertaken for the extension of the Athens Metro have brought to light invaluable archaeological findings which are kept safely under the supervision of specialized research experts of the Ministry for Culture. In fact, the Athens Metro worksites have become probably one of the largest archaeological excavation sites nowadays, covering a total area of 60,000 m. Each of the 21 new stations of the Metro will host a museum, in which the findings excavated from the surrounding area will be exhibited. A ride on the Metro will be as enjoyable as an impressive guided tour and as rewarding as a travel through centuries of history.



51% of the Metro Project is already in place





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### FOLLOWING THE ROUTE OF SPYROS LOUIS

In our proposal, 2004 Marathon runners will have the opportunity to compete on the original route, that was run for the first time in 490 B.C. They will start from the Tomb of Marathon, in the north of Athens, and will finish at the Panathenaic Stadium, located in the Centre of Athens, the place where the first modern Olympic Games were held, in 1896. Spyros Louis was the first Marathon Gold Medalist of the modern Olympic era.

The Panathenaic Stadium, with a seating capacity of 60,000, is made of marble from Mount Penteli, just like the Parthenon and other historical monuments of Athens.

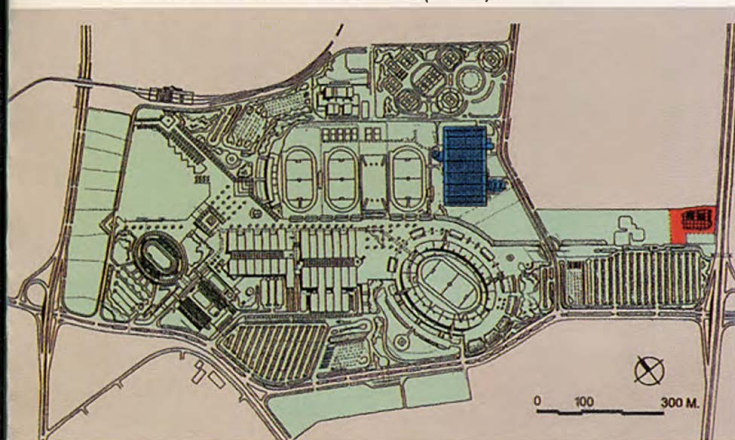


### FOCUSING ON MEDIA NEEDS

The Athens 2004 Bid Committee guarantees that the media representatives will be provided with all facilities, services and other requirements, needed to ensure the most comprehensive news coverage and the highest broadcasting quality under top-level working conditions.

The Main Press Centre (M.P.C.), with a surface area of 42,000 m<sup>2</sup> and the International Broadcasting Centre (I.B.C.), with a surface area of 55,000 m<sup>2</sup>, will be situated in two separate buildings, within the Athens Olympic Sports Complex, where seven of the main sports events of the Olympic Games, as well as the Opening and Closing ceremonies, will be held.

ATHENS OLYMPIC SPORTS COMPLEX (AOSC)





# ATHENS 2004



The Olympic Museum in Lausanne

## AN HONOUR FOR IOANNIS MELISSANIDIS

The T-shirt of Ioannis Melissanidis, the young gold Medalist in Gymnastics in the 1996 Olympic Games, is now on display at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne. What a great honour for the athlete and his country! Ioannis's T-shirt, bearing his hand-written dedication, is exhibited next to memorabilia of athletes who have attained glory in the Olympic Games: Al Oerter, Katarina Witt, Carl Lewis, Michael Johnson, Maria Sanchez Vicario, Alexander Popov and Jeannie Longo, to name just a few.

Also, the "Olympic Magazine", which is published by the International Olympic Committee and the Lausanne Olympic Museum, recently devoted an article to our charismatic and persistent athlete.



### "ATHENS 2004" BID COMMITTEE

The members of the Bid Committee are:  
 Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, President  
 Constantine Liaskas, President of  
 the Technical Chamber of Greece  
 Loukas Papademos, Governor of the Bank of Greece  
 Andreas Potamianos, President of the Hellenic  
 Passenger Shipowners Association  
 Yiannis Sgouros, General Secretary of Sports  
 Loukas Tsilas, Ambassador of Greece in Washington, D.C.

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