





**INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY**

**REPORT ON  
THE FORTY SECOND  
INTERNATIONAL SESSION  
FOR YOUNG PARTICIPANTS**

**24 JULY – 8 AUGUST 2002**

**ANCIENT OLYMPIA**

Published and edited jointly by the International Olympic Academy  
and the Hellenic Olympic Committee  
52, Dimitrios Vikelas Avenue, 152 33, Halandri - Athens,  
GREECE 2003

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**INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY  
FORTY SECOND SESSION**

**SPECIAL SUBJECT:**

**THE CULTURAL OLYMPIADS AND  
THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT**

**24 JULY – 8 AUGUST 2002  
ANCIENT OLYMPIA**



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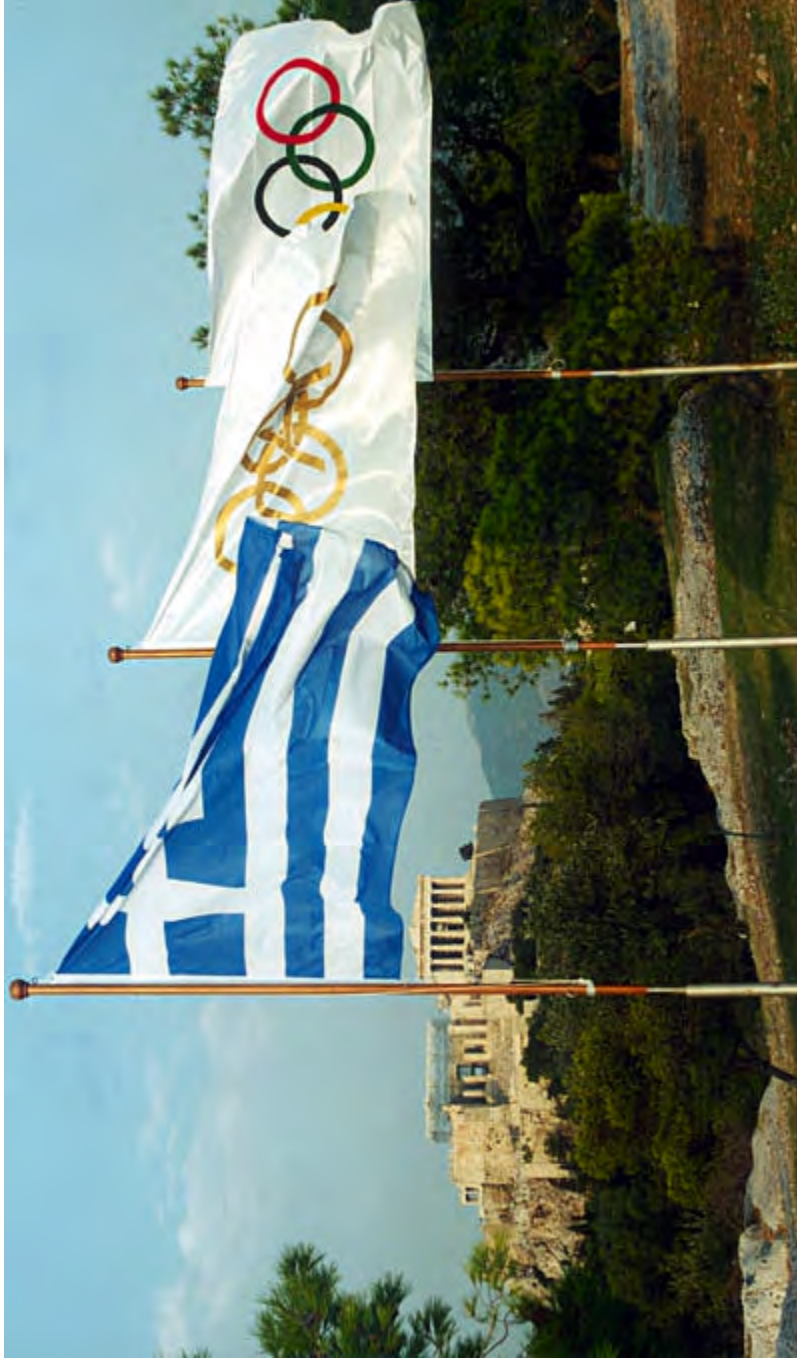
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**“DEFENDING AND PROMOTING THE OLYMPIC IDEAL,  
FROM BOTH THE SPORTING AND CULTURAL POINT OF  
VIEW, MUST BE A TASK THAT WE ALL SHARE.”**

**Quotation from the address  
by the IOC President Dr. Jacques ROGGE  
at the Opening Ceremony of the 42<sup>th</sup> International Session  
for young participants of the International Olympic Academy.**

**Pnyx, 25 July 2002**



*The Hill of the Pnyx during the Opening Ceremony of the Session. The Acropolis and the flags.*

## FOREWORD

The 42<sup>th</sup> International Session for Young Participants was held at the IOA premises in Ancient Olympia from 24<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> August on the special subject: "*the cultural Olympiads and the Olympic Movement*".

170 participants (85 women and 85 men) from 90 countries (24<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> August), 13 lecturers (11 men and 2 women), 10 guests (6 men and 4 women) and 30 coordinators (13 men and 17 women) have attended the Session. Among the participants there were four who attended the Session thanks to the scholarship offered by the IOA annually in honour of Mr Nicolaos NISSIOTIS, Mr Otto SZYMICZEK, and Mr Cleanthis PALEOLOGOS. Countries such as Libya and Tajikistan have been represented for the first time.

The official Opening Ceremony of the Session was held on the evening of 25<sup>th</sup> July at the Hill of Pnyx in the presence of representatives from the domain of Politics, Athletics and Culture. The President of the National Olympic Academy, Dr. Nikos FILARETOS, the Under-Secretary of State for Sports , Mr. Yannis KOURAKIS and on behalf of the lecturers the General Secretary of the Ministry of Culture for the Olympic Games Dr.Konstantinos KARTALIS addressed dignitaries and participants. The President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee and Member of the IOC Executive Committee, Mr. Lambis NIKOLAOU, declared the works of the Session opened. Messages were also communicated by the IOC President , Dr. Jacques ROGGE and the IOC President, Mr. Juan Antonio SAMARANCH.

The following day the participants departed to Olympia via Delphi where they were shown round the Museum and the evocative archaeological site.

At the Opening Ceremony of the Session in Olympia the IOA President , Dr. Nikos FILARETOS addressed the participants. The Ministry of Culture, Mr. Evangelos Venizelos, the President of IOC, Dr. Jacques Rogge who addressed the participants and the President of the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games Athens 2004, Mrs. Gianna Angelopoulou- Daskalaki graced the ceremony with their presence.

The lecturers discussed some of the aspects and parameters of the Olympic Movement giving emphasis on its cultural dimension. The works started with the speech of the Minister of Culture, Mr. Evangelos VENIZELOS who presented the main ideological bases and the purpose of the Cultural Olympiad 2001-2004, in his extremely interesting speech.

Mrs. Gianna Angelopoulou-Daskalaki presented the work of the Organizing Committee Athens 2004 and extolled Athens 2004 and IOA vision.

Special mention on the events of the Cultural Olympiad and the overall course of the Olympic preparation was given by Dr.Konstantinos KARTALIS.

The IOA Dean Dr.Costas GEORGIADIS presented in brief the work of IOA giving special emphasis on the substance and values of Olympism and the Olympic Education programmes at world level.

Eminent members of the International Olympic Committee such as Mr. Gilbert FELLI, Mr. Denis OSWALD and Mrs Nicole Girard-SAVOY treated in their papers subjects such as the Winter Olympic Games of the Salt Lake City, the International Olympic Athletic Federations and the Olympic solidarity. The distinguished Professors Stephen MILLER and John MacALOON have presented their proposals concerning the Cultural Olympiad, dealing with issues such as the revival of Nemea Olympic Games and the Olympic Torch-relay. Finally, Dr. Konstantinos PAPAIOANNOU, Chief of "Doctors Without Borders", offered a different approach to the Olympic Movement giving an account of the principles of the Volunteerism Movement and projecting the work done by the "Doctors Without Borders" of Greece.

Equally successful were the events of the Academy during the Session the aim of which was to reconcile the different cultures through artistic (workshops of painting, literature, poetry), athletic (basket ball, track, soccer, volley, ping pong, tennis, swimming) and social activities (sketch, games, traditional dances).

Also an Internet workshop for beginners has been set up in which young people especially from Africa and Asia were involved under the guidance of the coordinators of group discussions.

The Session has been broadcasted through the Internet for the third time. Many students from all over the world watched it and in collaboration with the Internet workshop coordinator had the possibility to comment directly on it and to put questions to the lecturers of the Session. Several old participants of IOA from many parts of the world keep up watching the works of the Session in this way.

The conclusions drawn from the discussion groups were once more very significant and were sent to all members of IOC and the IOC Committee for Culture and Olympic Education.

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Post-graduate Seminar on Olympic Studies was held from 10<sup>th</sup> May to 20<sup>th</sup> June. in which 20 women and 15 men from 25 countries have participated. For the first time we had the participation of students from Aruba, Vietnam and Tunisia. Furthermore, a coordinator and a participant of the International Olympic Committee were involved and 15 teachers from 9 countries gave lectures. The participants in the Seminar totalled 53.

Pioneer was considered the world broadcasting of the Seminar on Internet for 40 days. It is encouraging the fact that the propagation of the Olympic Education is feasible thanks to the technological achievements and thus all the world can be aware of the scientific works of the Seminar which is of such an important effort.

In the 6<sup>th</sup> International Session for Presidents or Directors of National Olympic Academies and Members of National Olympic Committees (30 June – 7 July 2002) 97 participants were involved (19 women, 78 men) from 71 countries. The participants represented 58 NOAs and 24 NOCs. The specific topic of the Session "Dopping in Sport" was successfully presented by the following 13 lecturers : Dr. Nikos FILARETOS, Prof. Gianni MOURATIDIS, Dr. Strati STRATIGIS, Mrs. Françoise ZWEIFEL (who sent her speech but was not present), M. François CARRARD, M. Sinan ERDEM, Dr. Robin MITCHELL, Dr. Patrick SCHAMASCH, Prof. Vassilis MOUGIOS, Prof. Dimitri PANAGIOTOPOULOS, Ambassador Stavro LAMBRINIDIS, M. Richard W. PALMER and Mrs. Katerina PANAGOPOULOU. The participants showed great interest in attending the discussion groups the conclusions of which are of a very high level. We point out that this Session that has been broadcasted through the Internet was one of the most successful Sessions we have ever had in the past few years as far as the NOCs and the NOA are concerned.

Last year thanks to the important initiative taken by Mr. Costas KARTALIS, General Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, for the Olympic Games an outlay of 1,460,000 Euros (or 500 million drachmas, VAT included) has been approved for important works to be made at the premises of IOA such as : installation of perimetrical lighting, replacement of all tiles, replacement of wood doors of the rooms and cabins by aluminium doors, installation of biological cleaning, restoration of the access road at the rear of the Conference Center , replacement of ceramic floor tiles and paintings and other maintenance minor works.

Thanks to Andreas FOURAS and Georgios FLORIDIS' understanding – former Under-Secretaries of State for Sport in the last few years – and Dr. Costas KARTALIS' contribution, the passing of the law concerning the conversion of IOA in Legal Entity of Private Law became feasible. What remains is, by enforcement of the law, the issuing of the presidential decree specifying the full details of IOA administration.

Special emphasis should also be placed on the honorary distinctions Mr. Nikos FILARETOS, President of the IOA, holds. After the title of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur awarded in 2001 by the President of the French Republic, Mr. Jacques CHIRAC, the Order of Merit awarded in 2002 by the International Association of National Olympic Committees. On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2002 the University of Loughborough, Great Britain, with which IOA collaborates harmoniously the last few years, awarded to Mr. FILARETOS the title of Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in a special ceremony held at the big conference room of Loughborough University on the occasion of the annual certificate awards to 650 graduates. These honorary distinctions awarded to the President of IOA are due to his remarkable action regarding the Olympic Movement and the propagation of the Olympic Education worldwide.

It is now widely accepted that the activities of the International Olympic Academy for the growth, maintenance and promulgation of the Olympic Idea are crowned with success every year thanks to the continuous efforts of those contributing to this purpose. It is important to note that it is the complete organization of the several different Sessions attract the attention of people worldwide.

The Hellenic Olympic Committee and its President, Mr. Lambis NIKOLAOU support incessantly this work morally and financially and this way continue the Hellenic Committee long-standing tradition for the diffusion of the Olympic Principles and the formation of a more human society. The IOC and its President, Jacques ROGGE back this effort, through the Olympic Solidarity, in order to have as many participants as possible from all over the world.

The permanent and seasonal staff of the Hellenic Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Academy worked efficiently and with great zeal to carry out the works in an impeccable way.

Dr. Kostas GEORGIADIS  
Dean of the IOA

## **IN MEMORY OF GEORGE MOISSIDIS**

At an early age he took a great interest in sports and particularly in athletics, rowing, winter sports and alpinism. He was a National Federation of Alpinism and Ski executive from 1953 to 1985: Deputy Secretary (1964-1974), Secretary General (1974-1982) and President of the National Federation of Ski, after its foundation, from 1987 to 1988 and from 1992 to 1998. He represented Greece, efficiently, in various International Congresses and Colloquiums as well as in numerous General Assemblies of the International Federation of Ski (FIS) and the International Union of Alpinism Associations (UIAA). He was Vice President of the UIAA (1991-1993), as well as President of the Security Commission of UIAA (1978-1984). In 1985, he was nominated Honorary Member of the UIAA. He was member of the Olympic Torch relay Commission, in the Hellenic Olympic Committee: since 1968, member of the Eligibility Commission (1974-1977), member of the International Olympic Academy "Ephoria" (1974-1977) and Vice President of the International Olympic Academy (1977-2000). He was Chef de Mission in the Winter Olympic Games in Nagano (1998), and a member of the International Olympic Academy "Ephoria". He was member of the IOC Commission for the International Olympic Academy and Olympic Education (1999), as well as member of the IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Education until his death.



## IOA ACTIVITIES– 2002

		<b>Participants</b>
<b>April</b>		
25 – 27/4	AIPS International Congress	190
<b>May</b>		
10/5 – 20/6	<b>10<sup>th</sup> International Postgraduate Seminar on Olympic Studies</b>	40
12/5	Congress of the Prefectural Authorities of Elis	200
17 – 18/5	Polydrosos High School	28
19 – 24/5	University of Gottingen	36
24 – 25/5	International Club of Long Distances Competition	75
31/5 – 3/6	Arsakeio Primary School of Thessaloniki	75
<b>June</b>		
7 – 9/6	Hellenic Federation of Employees of the Ministry of Culture	230
14 – 16/6	KETHEA Therapy Centre for Dependent Individuals «Diavasi» Non-residential program (evening section)	40
16-17/6	Sponsor Advisory Group (IOC)	50
17 – 21/6	Sports Organisation of the Municipality of Pallini	109

22 – 28/6	Pupil’s seminar from the Elis Prefecture	112
22 – 25/6	2 <sup>nd</sup> Papagou High School	46
27/6	Greek Olympians Association	250
29 – 30/6	«APOLLON» Sports- Cultural Club	50
<b>30/6 – 7/7</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> International Session for Presidents or Directors of NOAs and Officials of NOCs</b>	120
<b>July</b>		
7/7 – 26/7	Harvard University	15
12 – 17/7	Symposium: «Ancient Greece and the Modern World» - University of Patras	130
18 – 23/7	2nd Panhellenic Symposium of Literature – Poetry	200
<b>24/7 – 8/8</b>	<b>42<sup>nd</sup> International Session for Young Participants</b>	250
<b>August</b>		
7/8	13 <sup>th</sup> Congress «International Symposium of Philosophy»	80
7 – 14/8	KETHEA Therapy Centre for Dependent Individuals «Diavasi» Non-residential program (morning section)	65
8 – 10/8	3rd International Congress of the Prefecture of Elis	300
14 – 18/8	National Olympic Committee of Hungary	24
20 – 24/8	National Olympic Committee of Albania	40
20		

30/8 – 2/9	Programme of Enviromental Education	47
<b>September</b>		
7 – 8/9	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dental Congress of Peloponnese	300
7 – 16/9	Human Rights Defense Center	36
10 – 14/9	Joint Seminar of National Olympic Academies of Finland and Estonia	32
15 – 21/9	National Olympic Academy of Germany	91
22/9	DELTA-Sponsor of ATHOC 2004	200
23 – 27/9	National Olympic Academy of Latvia	28
30/9	Ministry of Internal Affairs National Center of Public Administration	300
<b>October</b>		
3 – 6/10	ALPHA BANK-Sponsor of ATHOC 2004	100



*View of the Session's Opening Ceremony on the Pnyx.*

**OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 42<sup>ND</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
SESSION FOR YOUNG PARTICIPANTS  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY**

**HILL OF THE PNYX  
25 JULY 2002**



*Dr. Nikos FILARETOS, President of the IOA,  
addressing the audience at the Opening Ceremony, at the Hill of Pnyx.*

**Address**  
**by Mr. Nikos FILARETOS (GRE)**  
President of the International Olympic Academy  
and Member of the International Olympic Committee

The date of the opening ceremony of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session was fixed at the IOC's President request during his visit in Athens last November. At the beginning of 2002 a relevant invitation was also sent to the honorary President of the I.O.C, Mr. J.A. Samaranch. He accepted the invitation assuring positively of his attendance. In April 2002, the local authorities of the autonomous region of Catalonia decided to organize a celebration in honour of Mr. J.A. Samaranch exactly on the same date of the opening of our works. Mr. J.A. Samaranch, not taking into account that the two dates coincided, confirmed his attendance to the aforementioned event. Of course, Mr. J. Rogge, being the President of the I.O.C. had to attend the Barcelona's event in honour of Mr. J.A. Samaranch and thus cancelled his visit to Athens. Both Mr. J. Rogge and Mr. J.A. Samaranch have addressed to the participants in this Session their messages, which are included in your files. Nevertheless, President J. Rogge will join us in Olympia the day after tomorrow.

Dear young friends, participants in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session,

I welcome you to Greece and to Athens and tomorrow I shall welcome you again in our facilities at Olympia. During the next 12 days that we shall be spending together, we will be working, discussing, criticizing and enjoying ourselves. More than anything else, though, we shall help you to understand that the Olympic movement does not have as its sole purpose the Olympic Games – contrary to what many people wrongly believe – but that it is in fact a way of life aiming at the parallel development of the body and the mind, at mutual respect among people, friendship and peaceful coexistence. Olympism means the worldwide pursuit of “well-being” at individual and collective level and the search for the physical and moral equilibrium of each individual. The Olympic Games are the instrument that leads to the attainment of this ideal with the gathering and noble competition of young people from all over the world.

You are gathered here 206 participants from 98 countries. Black, white, yellow, from different countries, religions and political systems. But you will see how easily you can live together in happiness and love. In my opinion, this is the IOA's greatest teaching and contribution to the Olympic Movement, more than any study, research or debate.

Dear discussion group coordinators,

I welcome you too and I thank you for your valuable voluntary – I wish to emphasize this – contribution to the work of the IOA. In the years gone by, you came for the first time as simple participants on the recommendation of your respective National Olympic Committees. After that, having appreciated your skills and dedication, to the Olympic Movement, the IOA asked you to offer your services as discussion group coordinators. In this way, the Academy is training and providing to your NOCs, qualified volunteer administrators while you, for your part, are contributing to the successful staging of the sessions for young participants. I thank you with all my heart for your contribution.

Distinguished lecturers,

You too are extremely important volunteers who assist the IOA in its task. I do not know how to thank you. Prominent scholars in your respective countries, you respond with a touching eagerness and remarkable generosity, to the IOA's invitation. It is to you that we owe a major part of the tremendous development not only of the IOA, but also of the National Olympic Academies, which from 16, 1986, have now reached the number of 98. I extend to all of you a warm welcome and heartfelt thanks for your contribution to our work.

Dear friends,

I am convinced that your stay in Greece will be a very pleasant one, especially in Olympia where we shall combine work with pleasure, physical activity with entertainment.

I welcome you and wish you useful and fruitful days of work.



*Officials present at the Opening Ceremony (from left to right): Dr. Konstantinos KARTALIS, Secretary General to the Ministry of Culture for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, Mr. Lambis NIKOLAOU, President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, Member of the International Olympic Committee, Dr. Nikos FILARETOS, President of the International Olympic Academy, Member of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Yannis KOURAKIS, Deputy Minister of Culture with responsibilities for Sport, Mrs. Fani PETRALIA, Deputy of the Greek Parliament.*



*Mr. Yannis KOURAKIS, Deputy Minister of Culture with responsibilities for Sport, during his address at the Opening Ceremony.*

**Address**  
**by Mr. Yannis KOURAKIS (GRE)**  
The Under-Secretary of State for Culture

Greece, during its historic course through the centuries, has achieved a remarkable level of civilization, which was often an object of admiration and a source of inspiration for the civilizations of other peoples.

The cultural wealth and identity, which result from such a process and become the reference and distinct feature of each individual people, should not be an obstacle to the coexistence and collaboration between different cultures.

The specificity and superiority of a people's cultural expression should not be used as a "weapon" in order to impose one culture on groups of individuals or people with a different cultural physiognomy.

Because we know that confrontation and violence that are produced by such conflicts of cultures will hamper our quest for the Culture of Civilizations, a culture that furthers peaceful and creative coexistence between different cultures for the benefit of the world community.

The civilization of civilization is the fundamental message of the Cultural Olympiad 2001-2004, the Olympiad that will lead the way to the Olympic Games, which our country will be hosting in 2004 and which reaffirms, in the most expressive way, the indivisible link and cohesion that exist between culture and sport.

The Cultural Olympiad is an international institution with events that will be staged not only in Greece, but also all over the world, in response to the universal demand for intercultural exchanges.

Theatrical performances, music concerts, opera, exhibitions and other cultural events, will be the mark of the Cultural Olympiad that will enhance and complete the Olympic Games, spreading the message of peace, friendship, fraternity of the Culture of Civilizations.

**Address**  
**by Mr. Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS (GRE)**  
the Mayor of Athens

It gives me great pleasure to address such a distinguished audience, which has contributed so much to sport and to the Olympic Ideal in particular. I am even more sensitive to this fact when I stand in front of young people, like you who take part in the 42<sup>nd</sup> International Session of the International Olympic Academy.

I had the pleasure of meeting you, the young participants, before and to share your concerns, your plans and your visions about tomorrow's world. I did not hide from you how much I believe in the contribution of young people and in particular those who have made the decision at some point to become actively involved in the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and take matters into their hands.

You are the people who see things more clearly, it is from you that new ideas will emerge and the world of tomorrow belongs to you. I am happy that the theme of this year's Session was wisely chosen to be one connected with the Olympic Games And their cultural impact.

When the city of Athens made its bid for the organization of the Games, it promised to the world community that it would stage Olympic Games that would be different from the others. It promised to give to the Games the cultural elements with which they were identified during antiquity, the most important being of course the message of peace and friendship among people and noble competition without any profit considerations.

The Olympic Games have returned to their birthplace and the first step is to link them to history. The promotion of the historic heritage, the enhancing of archaeological sites and monuments in Athens and the other historic places of our country, represent the most important cultural task that should be part of the preparations for the Games. Indeed, a lot has been and is being done in Athens for that purpose. The unification of archaeological sites that will create an integrated archaeological landscape from the Panathinaikon Stadium to Kerameikos, is a very ambitious project that will change many things in Athens. Visitors and residents will soon have at their disposal a vast space in the city's center where they will be

able to stroll undisturbed and enjoy the historic environment and relive the atmosphere of ancient Athens.

The Olympic Games of 2004 will be an Olympiad of culture. We are working in order to give the opportunity to visitors not only to follow the Games, but also to come closer to the history of the city, to see the ancient monuments, to visit other archaeological sites in Greece, whilst also enjoying of course the city of today.

Athens has a very old past, as well as a very important great present.

Athens is the capital city of a European country that has contributed a lot to the propagation of Europe's ideals to the wider geographic region and to bringing within Europe countries that one day will be members of the Union, making our region an area of peace and cooperation, free from tension and useless confrontation.

Athens is also a city that is alive and active, with people who work hard but also know how to live and have fun. The people of Athens are waiting for foreign visitors in 2004 in order to show them how they live, their theatre, their music, their places and their arts. The Olympic Games are a gathering of people, an opportunity to build friendship and cooperation. This is the culture of the Olympic Games, past and present, peace and exchange of experiences, lifestyles, ideas and proposals.

The Olympic Games are a festival of the mind and culture.

Dear participants,

Dear friends,

I am convinced that this historic place will inspire you to formulate proposals and ideas about the Olympic Games of 2004 and the Games that will follow. Athens stands by you and is waiting with interest to hear your views.

I wish you the best of success.



*Dr. Konstantinos KARTALIS, Secretary General to the Ministry of Culture for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, addressing the audience at the Opening Ceremony on behalf of the lecturers of the Session.*

**Address**  
**by Prof. Konstantinos KARTALIS (GRE)**  
Secretary General for the Olympic Games at the Ministry of Culture  
on behalf of the lecturers of the Session

I would like to welcome the young participants of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the International Olympic Academy.

During the Session, young people from all over the world will have the opportunity to become acquainted with the principles and ideals of the Olympic movement. The theme of this Session, “Cultural Olympiads and the Olympic Movement” will highlight the close relation, which exists between sport and culture.

I am very pleased, and I believe that I am expressing the feelings of all lecturers, that the first Olympic Games of the 21st century, the Athens Games of 2004, will be linking the historic past to the future, as the Olympic Games in 2004 rediscover their authentic roots in the living memories of places, landscapes and ideas.

For the other host cities and countries, the cultural dimension of the Olympic Games was a very important but complementary aspect. For Athens, the Cultural Olympiad will not just be a complementary component of Olympic preparations, but its very essence. It is an international institution, a potent message, a creative arena, a bridge of peace and reconciliation for all people around the globe. It is the effective answer that sport is culture, that it is indeed possible to harmoniously blend sport with culture.

What is, however, more important than anything else is to promote the message of the Cultural Olympiad, the need “FOR A CULTURE OF CIVILIZATIONS”. A message that is more timely and essential than ever before, a message of response to those who foster the conflict between civilizations.

It is also important to safeguard the dynamic impetus of the Cultural Olympiad and its messages in order to ensure that culture will enjoy the prominent position it deserves during future Olympic Games. I therefore welcome the IOC’s efforts to make sure that the necessary emphasis is

given to the cultural aspect in the bids of candidate cities for the next Olympic Games.

Dear young participants,

During this 42<sup>nd</sup> Session, you will be given the opportunity to listen to presentations and lectures by distinguished scientists and eminent members of the Olympic Movement. Above all, however, you will enjoy the unique opportunity of spending a few days in the place where the Olympic Games were born, in the enchanting and historic environment of Ancient Olympia. In itself, this will be an important chapter of your life, a chapter that I am sure you will always remember with nostalgia.

In conclusion, on behalf of all of us, I would like to express our deep and sincere gratitude to the President of the International Olympic Academy, Mr. Nikos Filaretos, the Dean of the IOA, Mr. Kostas Georgiadis and all the people who have worked for the organization of this Session, for their outstanding contribution, their inspiration and professionalism.

May the aims of this Session be fully attained. I wish you all a very special stay in Ancient Olympia and in Greece. Finally, I hope that you will all join us in the summer of 2004 for the Athens Olympic and Paralympic Games.



*(from left to right): Dr. Nikos FILARETOS, President of the International Olympic Academy, Member of the International Olympic Committee, Dr. Jacques ROGGE, President of the International Olympic Committee, Mrs. Gianna ANGELOPOULOS-DASKALAKI (GRE), President of the Organizing Committee of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, Mr. Kostas GEORGIADIS Dean of the International Olympic Academy.*



*Address and opening of the 42<sup>nd</sup> International Session of the International Olympic Academy by Mr. Lambis NIKOLAOU, President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, Member of the International Olympic Committee.*

**Address**  
**by Mr. Lambis NIKOLAOU (GRE)**  
President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee  
Member of the International Olympic Committee

The Hellenic Olympic Committee, which I have the honor and pleasure to represent, extends a warm welcome to the participants of the 42<sup>nd</sup> International Session of the International Olympic Academy.

The special theme of this Session, under the general title “The Cultural Olympiads and the Olympic Movement”, is a subject of particular interest. To consider it, we shall have to go back to the history of Greece and the ancient Olympic Games, where art and culture were predominant, which shows the old indivisible link that united sport to culture.

The ancient Olympic Games had been a source of inspiration for many poets, writers, philosophers and historians. For these pillars of civilization, the Games were a wonderful opportunity for creative encounters and exchanges in Ancient Olympia.

Olympism, which has spread throughout the world, thanks to the Olympic Games, is a movement that has never ceased to extol the two main activities of mankind: sport and culture. Sport in fact is the mirror of society and civilization, not to say that it is totally identified with the cultural destiny of individual countries. This brings us to the essential feature of Olympism, which is that sport practiced without rules and ethics will betray its educational mission for youth.

We know that the Olympic Games are a marvelous opportunity for large-scale cultural events in host countries. Despite the difficulties, which the task of combining sport with culture involves, the Olympic Movement continues its relentless efforts to achieve this objective. The major difficulty being of course that, speaking about culture, we are referring to a concept that is defined by expressions, behavior patterns, a perception of morality belonging to many different ethnic groups.

According to Pierre de Coubertin, the Olympic Games should not be restricted to sports competitions, but become a true instrument of cultural and artistic education. He had in fact predicted that this institution, in the course of its evolution, would integrate the original element, which had

distinguished it in Antiquity, i.e. the blending of sport and culture. Wishing, moreover, to enhance this link, he had proposed the inclusion of art contests in the program of the Olympic Games, on an equal footing with sports competitions.

Art contests were thus organized from the Stockholm Games in 1912 until the London Olympics in 1948 and then abandoned. The abolition of art contest was not able, however, to break the links that united sport to culture. These links simply evolved in a different direction with the organization of Cultural Olympiads more and more splendid, whose program extends over the whole four-year period before the opening of the Games.

The opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games, the outcome of creative endeavors, which combine culture and national traditions with the Olympic symbols and customs, constitute one of the best examples of this evolution.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, sport's rapid development towards highly undesirable directions for that matter, as a result of excessive commercialization, necessitates the adoption of radical measures. It is therefore clear that the deficit of intercultural education the world over should be eliminated at all costs. However, it is just as important for Coubertin's present successors to realize what the inspired reviver of the Olympic Games knew from the beginning, i.e. that the moral reward which the crown of victory represents is more valuable than anything else.

After these few words and with the wish that your stay in our country may be creative, I declare the opening of the 42<sup>nd</sup> International Session for Young Participants of the International Olympic Academy.



*(from left to right): Dr. Nikos FILARETOS, President of the International Olympic Academy, Member of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Evangelos VENIZELOS (GRE), Minister of Culture, Mrs. Gianna ANGELOPOULOS -DASKALAKI (GRE), President of the Organizing Committee of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games Dr. Jacques ROGGE, President of the International Olympic Committee, Dr. Kostas GEORGIADIS, Dean of the IOA.*

**Message**  
**from Dr. Jacques ROGGE (BEL)**  
President of the International Olympic Committee

On the occasion of this traditional opening ceremony of the International Olympic Academy Session, I wish to greet first and foremost all the young participants, and to thank them for traveling to Greece to enrich their knowledge of Olympism and discover the cultural wealth of this country, the very birthplace of Olympism.

Greece is, moreover, preparing to share every aspect of its rich culture with us when it welcomes the whole world's athletes in 2004 to celebrate the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad here in Athens, the city which hosted the first Olympic Games of the modern era in 1896.

The Olympic Movement is an educational movement whose activities are orientated towards the youth of the world, and as President of the International Olympic Committee, it is my duty to encourage, promote and ensure the development of the educational aspects of Olympism, which seeks to be a harmonious blend of sport and culture.

You who are the young participants of today will be the leaders of tomorrow, and I sincerely hope that the experience and knowledge you acquire during this Session will become the reference point for your future commitment. Defending and promoting the Olympic ideal, from both the sporting and cultural point of view, must be a task that we all share.

I wish you a fruitful time of study and an excellent stay in the delightful setting of the International Olympic Academy.

**Message**  
**from Mr. Juan Antonio SAMARANCH (ESP)**  
**Marqués de Samaranch**

Honorary President for Life of the International Olympic Committee

The President of the International Olympic Academy, my friend Nikos Filaretos, wished to invite me to this opening ceremony of the annual Session for Young Participants in order to maintain the tradition with the man who is now Honorary President for Life of the International Olympic Committee.

It is true that I have always been pleased to come here, each year, to this historic site on the Hill of the pnyx for this gathering of young people from all continents on their way to Olympia, cradle of Olympism, to immerse themselves in a philosophy whose roots lie in Antiquity.

The Olympic Movement is one with a pedagogical vocation, which invests in Olympic, sporting and cultural education for young people. The city of Athens which is welcoming you today, and organised the first Olympic Games of the modern era in 1896, is preparing to host the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in 2004. The Greek people have spared no effort to ensure the success of this global event, which links the country directly with its rich cultural history.

I hope that, once you return home after your stay in Olympia, you will defend the Olympic ideal within your communities, schools and clubs, and that you will support the activities of your National Olympic Committees.

Choosing to serve the community at local, national and international level is certainly the greatest contribution of which a person may be proud, and is rightly a source of moral satisfaction.

Please accept my best wishes for success.

**OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 42<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
SESSION FOR YOUNG PARTICIPANTS  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY  
AT ANCIENT OLYMPIA**

**27 JULY 2002**

**Address**  
**by Mr. Nikos Filaretos (GRE)**  
Member of the International Olympic Committee  
President of the International Olympic Academy  
Secretary General of the ICMG

Vice Chairman of the Commission for Culture  
and Olympic Education of the IOC

Dear friends,

I welcome you once again, this time though at our premises in Olympia where we shall be spending nearly two weeks together.

The International Olympic Academy, this unique cultural institution of the Olympic Movement worldwide, which benefits of the exclusive patronage of the International Olympic Committee, has as its principal aim to spread Olympic education throughout the world, while providing, at the same time, comprehensive training and education to the future administrators of your Olympic Committees. It is the materialization of an idea, which Baron Pierre de Coubertin conceived about 90 years ago, certainly not by accident, and which could finally be implemented after his death, 41 years ago, thanks to the dedication of the Academy's founders, the Greek John Ketseas and the German Carl Diem.

The need to combine physical education with intellectual pursuits in order to attain the Olympic ideal, led Coubertin to study antiquity and the educational systems of his times. He traveled for that purpose to America and across Europe. His journeys convinced him that it was only through the simultaneous cultivation of the body and the mind that human personality and each individual's skills could be freely developed.

The five Olympic rings, which bring people together all over the world, the emblem which has prevailed more than any other worldwide, shows us how vital the Olympic ideal continues to be, the only ideal that has survived to this day.

It seems, however, that we, the people, are set on destroying this wonderful pure ideal. Already since 1972 but especially during the last Winter Games, we have realized with sadness and despair that from now on the Olympic Games will no longer be what we have known before. Olympic Games staged under the protection of radar systems, helicopters and machine guns – something that would have belonged to the world of science fiction a few decades ago – has become unfortunately the harsh reality we shall have to face from now on.

I appeal to you, my dear friends, who are attending this session. To you who thirst for something more pure and more honest than what my generation is leaving to you as its legacy. But also to you who, sometimes, with the ardor and passion of your youth can destroy everything good that we are trying to build. Join hands, take back to your countries the message of love and mutual respect that irradiates from this place that welcomes you today, fight hard in order to be able to create for you and your children a quiet, peaceful world, free from hatred and fanaticism.

We believe in you and we rely on you. We must join forces and dream. We can most certainly dream and guide many more people to the great vision and dream of Olympism, as we must also fight for the Olympic Movement and succeed. For if we fail, we shall have to look at ourselves, with sad questions about the reasons for such failure and decline.

This appeal to enthusiasm and determination is of course addressed to all, but primarily to ourselves. To be able to motivate and draw people to our righteous cause, we have to be driven by a strong desire for the success of our mission, which is a humble mission in itself, but with vast implications as to its content because, if it succeeds according to the mandate entrusted to us by the Olympic Movement, it shall light the future of world youth.

As I do every year at the end of my introductory speech here in Olympia, I will quote from the message, which Coubertin sent out from this very place in Ancient Olympia, on 17 April 1927, during the unveiling of the monument dedicated to the revival of the Olympic Games. I do not believe there are words more appropriate than those, which Pierre de Coubertin addressed to world youth at the time:

I quote: "We have not worked -my friends and I -for the purpose of bringing back the Olympic Games so that you could turn them into museum or film objects or to see them taken away from our hands by commercial or political interests. By reviving a twenty-five-century-old institution we wanted to initiate you to the religion of sport, as it had been conceived by our great ancestors. In our modern world, with its tremendous potential, but still threatened by destructive compromise, Olympism can be a school of chivalry and purity, of physical endurance and energy. On the condition, however, that you will constantly elevate your perception of sporting honour and disinterestedness to the same level as your muscular strength. The future depends on you."



*Address by the President of the International Olympic Committee,  
Dr. Jacques ROGGE.*

**Address**  
**by Dr Jacques ROGGE (BEL)**  
President of the International Olympic Committee

On the occasion of this Session of the International Olympic Academy, I wish to greet first and foremost all the young participants, and to thank them for traveling to Greece to enrich their knowledge of Olympism and discover the cultural wealth of this country, the very birthplace of Olympism. Greece is, moreover, preparing to share every aspect of its rich culture with us when it welcomes the whole world's athletes in 2004 to celebrate the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens, the city which hosted the first Olympic Games of the modern era in 1896.

I would also like to thank all the educators and lecturers for their devotion and active participation in the dissemination of the Olympic ideal year after year.

The Olympic Movement is an educational movement whose activities are orientated towards the youth of the whole world, and as President of the International Olympic Committee, it is my duty to encourage, promote and ensure the development of the educational aspects of Olympism.

You who are present here today are the potential leaders of tomorrow, and it will also be your duty to encourage Olympic values and ensure they are respected in the framework of your activities. You must teach athletes, of whatever level, the respect for their opponents, fair play, the rules of sports ethics and the fight against doping, which is their worst enemy. To try to eradicate the menace that doping represents, a World Anti-Doping Agency has been set up, whose mission is to coordinate the augmentation of drug testing, research, promotion of preventative and educational activities and the harmonisation of the norms and scientific and technical procedures used for testing.

The whole of the Olympic Movement. governments and non-governmental organisations are involved in this fight. But it is at the source. the very beginning of a person's sporting life, that education and the promotion of values must be guaranteed. It is here, within the framework of your potential functions, that you must act, with the determination and perseverance needed, to accomplish such difficult

endeavours. I know that this is a heavy responsibility but this is what it will take for us, all working together to defeat this curse.

I sincerely hope that your experiences during this Session and the things you learn will be solid reference points for your future commitment.

The defence and promotion of the Olympic ideal, as much from a sporting point of view as from a cultural one, must be everyone's concern and we need you to ensure that this ideal endures.

I wish you a fruitful time of study and an excellent stay in the delightful setting of the International Olympic Academy.

**Address**  
**by Mr. Panagiotis DIMITROULOPOULOS (GRE)**  
Prefect of Elis

Olympia, a hospitable place, welcomes the works of your Session in certainty that you are friends and allies to our vision, which is to highlight the Olympic Values as a principal component for the formation of the upcoming unified world.

The Olympic Games of 2004 constitute the actual starting point towards the achievement of this goal. Elis, the natural successor of the Ancient Olympia region, never ceased stating its proposals and offering its selfless contribution to the national effort of reviving the Olympic Games. All cultural and institutional activities of ours during the last years have been committed in this exact framework.

But this is not enough.

The consolidation of the region of Olympia as a main pole and reference point of upcoming activities in the framework of 2004 constitutes an area of initiative of the Olympic Family and the Greek state.

The Cultural Olympiad is to us the dearest and the most constructive field of action, precisely because of the non-negotiable and effortlessly accepted at a universal level, huge cultural reserve of the Olympic land.

Elis, being an Olympic land, is in the position – and for reasons of national and general Olympic interest it is imperative – to constitute the cultural crossroads of 2004 as well as of the Olympiads to come.

For here, where the values of Olympism were born, culture acquires context and increased value which is hard to find in other places.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Olympic land is quite confidently set, of its own will, to the disposition of the Greek state and the Olympic family, so that the national effort of 2004 is fruitful.

What remains to you, who manage the perspectives of the Olympic Movement, is to make the most of this possibility. Provided this condition is fulfilled, a new period for the Olympic Culture is about to begin.

**Address**  
**by Mr. Georgios AIDONIS (GRE)**  
Mayor of Ancient Olympia

We are very happy to welcome you in Ancient Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic Games. It is an honour to welcome you in the place where the Olympic Values were forged.

The great moment of the 2004 organisation is drawing close. The Olympic Games have returned to their homeland. Ancient Olympia is once again called to propagate its diachronic and ecumenical messages.

All the Greeks are asked to present the most streamlined Games in modern history. We hope that we will achieve this and we have to do so, through cooperation towards a common goal, setting aside all self-interested aims, interests and tendency to engage in petty politics. We have a very powerful ally on our side: the authenticity of the Games.

We certainly have to proceed with consistency and in a substantial way, in order to achieve the desired effect, as the deadlines are quite pressing. The organisation of the movement of volunteerism constitutes a very significant factor of success. The case of Sidney constitutes a most obvious illustration of this. Therefore, we also ought to invest in the unselfish offer of the friends of Olympism.

However, we should not forget that the basic selection criterion for our country has been the triptych ‘SPORT – CULTURE – HISTORY’. The chariot in which this is going to be realised are the three new universal Olympic Institutions, the Truce, the Olympic Youth Festival and most of all, the Cultural Olympiad. Our vision is the Cultural Olympiad, in the way that our times dictate it, as a permanent universal institution; otherwise, history will condemn all mistakes and will impute responsibilities.

However, we are in need of a Cultural Olympiad, which will give Olympia the attention that it merits *de jure*. Everyone must realise that Olympia does not have to constantly beseech for what is self-evident; nor be content with mites offered from time to time.

The Cultural Olympiad can highlight in the most official way probably the only advantage of our country – culture – not only for the year 2004, but also for the future Olympic Games, as a trustee of emulation and peace.

We feel that Ancient Olympia is in a position to offer, since it is the place where, for thousands of years, the interest of the entire world has been focused, as a reference point in the diachronic and always opportune spirit of the ancient and ecumenical Values which constitute the Olympic Ideal.

This is proven by the numerous meetings which take place here every year. It is also manifestly proven by your presence in this place today.

To conclude, we would like to wish every success to the works of the 42<sup>nd</sup> International Session for Young Participants, hoping that it is going to lead to fertile speculation and constructive conclusions, to the advantage of the Olympic Movement, beyond endless theories and discussions. What is required is coordination in order to arrive to action.

Ancient Olympia applauds such remarkable efforts which are driven by healthy motives and will continue to support actions which promote the Values of Olympism. Moreover, you may rest assured that Ancient Olympia shall remain, as it should, a crossroads for the exchange of ideals, a meeting point for people who work persistently for Culture and “Fair Play” at all levels, but also that it will fight vigorously to guarantee the declaration of the Holy Truce in our place; this is what we desire and strive for.



*The typical commemorative photo at the Main Stairs of the IOA.*

**PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE 42<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL SESSION  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY**

**ANCIENT OLYMPIA  
27 JULY 2002**

The opinions of the lecturers do not necessarily reflect those of the International Olympic Academy.

Authorization is given to reproduce articles published. We would appreciate it if the source of such articles were mentioned.



## **THE 2001-2004 CULTURAL OLYMPIAD AND THE SEARCH FOR A CULTURE OF CIVILIZATIONS**

**by Mr. Evangelos VENIZELOS  
(GRE)**

Greek Minister of Culture

I should like first of all to thank the International Olympic Academy and its President, Nikos Filaretos, for their kind invitation, and to express the pleasure I feel to be welcoming here, in Ancient Olympia, the President of the International Olympic Committee, Dr. J. Rogge. His presence here is of particular significance to us, first because of his previous service as the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee for the Athens Olympic Games, and second because he has always been a true and sincere friend to Greece and to Greek Civilization.

I am also delighted that this International Conference of the International Olympic Academy for young participants brings to ancient Olympia the President of the Organizing Committee for the Athens Olympics, Mrs. Yianna Angelopoulou, the Chairman of the IOC Coordinating Committee, Mr. Denis Oswald, and many others associated with the same great enterprise.

But most of all I am delighted to have this opportunity to speak to an audience composed of people making such an active and significant contribution to the International Olympic Movement.

Sports, both as an individual and a collective activity, are a fundamental cultural phenomenon. It is related to the views and mentalities of each era and, above all, the organisation and economy of leisure.

This becomes evident during major sporting and athletic events, and especially during the Olympic Games, which are not mere athletic events, but also symbolic, economic, communicative, and tourist events, namely major cultural events.

In the athletic contests of antiquity, the formal organisation of this relation between culture and sports was more evident, since quite often the contests were not only athletic, but also cultural.

There have been many efforts to bring this entire historical background to the surface during the modern Olympic Games. Moreover, the intense debate concerning the commercialisation of the Games, the need to renew the Olympic Ideals, the obligation of the entire Olympic family and all the countries to safeguard the "purity" of the games, is a debate that ultimately concerns the games as a social, i.e. cultural phenomenon.

The return of the Olympic Games to their birthplace in the year 2004 lends greater urgency to the issue of their cultural dimension. The Athens' Olympic Games are the games of human measure and historical authenticity. The authenticity of the very places and landscapes. Ancient Olympia, Elis, the Panathenaean Stadium, Marathon, Delphi, Vergina, the Parthenon and the new Museum of the Acropolis will welcome the Olympic Family, athletes and spectators under conditions that do not exist anywhere else; in no other country of the world.

This historical and ideological renovation of the Olympic Games is a contribution to the International Olympic Movement that only Greece can make. I am confident that the International Olympic Committee realises that the organisation of the 2004 Olympics does not represent a common event, but also a unique opportunity for the International Olympic Movement.

In my capacity as Minister of Culture, responsible not only for the Cultural Olympiad but also for the coordination of the whole process of preparation for the Olympics, I feel it is necessary, and of vital importance, that I make the following observation:

Greece is preparing for the 2004 Olympics in the most rigorous and professional manner. Our objective is not only to fulfill our Olympic obligations and meet the technical specifications set by the IOC, but also, as other countries have done before us, to create a whole new infrastructure for our country.

The process of preparation for the Olympics is nothing less than a comprehensive and ambitious project for the genuine modernization of the country. Not only of Athens and Attica, but of all the regions of Greece in which we are implementing the 'Greece 2004' plan.

The whole process coincides, of course, with the implementation of the 3rd Community Support Framework, which runs till the year 2006 and will be releasing funds roughly ten times larger than those available specifically for the work of Olympic preparation.

The whole face of our public space will be transformed by new sporting and cultural infrastructures, new buildings, new roads, new systems of transport.

The Games will leave Greece with an impressive legacy: the post-Olympic use of all these new infrastructures will be a challenge and an opportunity for the model of the post-industrial development of Greece, a country with a whole range of post-industrial strengths and advantages - especially in the fields of culture, sport and tourism.

All of this will have a direct, positive impact on the national economy, on growth in GDP (increasing by roughly 0.5% each year thanks to investment in Olympic projects) and on the creation of new jobs (about 40,000 jobs a year are being created thanks to the Olympic projects).

But the major underlying issue of the 2004 Olympics will be the issue of culture. Culture is not a secondary and complementary dimension of the 2004 Olympics, but the central axis of the Olympic preparation process. This cultural dimension extends beyond the artistic events that will be held for athletes, escorts and visitors during the Games, or the magnificent opening and closing Ceremonies of the Games.

The cultural dimension of the 2004 Olympics has assumed a much more structured and methodical form, which is the **2001-2004 Cultural Olympiad**.

First and foremost, the Cultural Olympiad is an International initiative we envision becoming permanent, continuing in Beijing in 2008 and by at subsequent Games. The International Foundation for the Cultural Olympiad, which is based in Ancient Olympia and was founded in 1998 by Juan Antonio Samaranch, Federico Mayor and myself, provides a very useful and reliable vehicle towards this direction.

The Cultural Olympiad also comprises a set of rather important events and programmes that are already being developed since 2001 and will continue to develop until 2004, in Greece, as well as in all Continents. These initiatives have already been prepared and agreed upon with the International Olympic Committee. The relevant material is available to you in both printed and digital form.

Grand exhibitions, musical events, conferences, theatrical plays and opera performances, transmit the international message of the Cultural Olympiad, which is the search for a "Culture of Civilizations."

This message was intensified and its meaning rendered urgent after the terrorist attacks committed against the US on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Against all theories presuming that the "Clash of Civilizations" is unavoidable or destined, the Cultural Olympiad, as well as the entire International Olympic Movement, must highlight the need for a "Culture of Civilizations."

In September 2001 we held in Athens and Ancient Olympia a conference titled "Rethinking Culture." This conference resulted in the formulation of the Charter of Olympia on Culture, which, I am sure, reflects accurately the ideas of both the IOC, and the entire International Olympic Movement on this issue.

Let me summarize the views that I had the opportunity to expound in Ancient Olympia:

**The Culture of Civilizations** is based on the fundamental and archetypal elements of human creativity: speech, time and place.

**The Culture of Civilizations is the only Culture of peace and social cohesion.** A culture that respects and incorporates the traditional, modern and post-modern elements. A culture that moves within the limitless fields of the information society and the digital era.

But, first and foremost, the Culture of Civilizations is based on pluralism, **on the principle of cultural equity**. The term cultural equity does not denote that all cultures exert the same influence, or have the same historical durability and duration. It denotes, however, that they have the same capability to exist and to express themselves, mainly through the various collective identities.

The Culture of Civilizations resists the cultural homogeneity of globalisation with the limitless diversity and the profound unity of human universality.

### **The perils of a «Clash of Civilizations»**

However, all the above require **an understanding of the complexity and contradictions of the cultural phenomena**. Culture is not the noble aggregate of cultural heritage and Fine Arts. It is the collective memory,

conscience and identity, the mentalities, the ideological adoption and use of history.

In this sense, although we want Culture to become a bridge of Peace, a forum for dialogue and a vehicle for interaction, it often becomes the cause of war and conflict.

Although we want Culture to act as a catalyst for social cohesion, it also acts as a symbol of social differentiation and, therefore, antagonism.

Although we want Culture to act as a continuum between tradition and renovation, quite often it acts as rejection for everything new and as a vehicle of extreme conservatism.

Although we want Culture to be a public good, accessible to everyone, it remains connected to the immense entertainment industry, the audio-visual products, to major investments and markets. Thus, the field of culture does not only become suitable for the creation of new jobs, but also becomes a rather vital factor for the formation of a new "economy of time" based on the claim for more leisure, with a corresponding reduction in working hours.

**What is needed, therefore, is a universal cultural policy, which will oppose the search for a "Culture of Civilizations" to the "clash of civilizations" theories.**

I believe that this is what we should debate, if we want to be at the very heart of the political problem that arises from the ongoing discussion of cultures, because whatever is being said now has direct political consequences. All discussions on culture have ceased being theoretical, neutral, pedagogical, but has started assuming an almost "military" importance.

On the other hand, civilization, in the sense of technical civilisation, in the sense of the average technological and aesthetic level of an certain time and place, brings us face to face with the **major global problems**: the problem of famine and children's' mortality, the problem of third world debt and many more. That is, it brings us face to face with culture as a level of social development and as a main criterion for the evaluation of the quality of life.

If technical civilisation is a collective human condition, which has to be diffused as equally as possible to all countries, all societies and all humans, culture is, eventually, a collective, as well as individual identity. The differences in regard to economic, social and institutional development

lead to great inequality and differences as regards collective situations, and this, in turn, causes profound disputes and tensions regarding collective identities (national, ethnic, religious, regional, etc.) In this sense, the information society and the Internet culture may provide an opportunity for the convergence of societies characterised by huge disparities in development, hence disparities in the level of their technical civilisation. However, these disparities must also be reduced in regard to vital indicators, on their true basis.

From this perspective, the Culture of Civilizations places **the culture of survival and sustainability** at its very core. These concepts may assume a different meaning in accordance to the needs of each society and each region of the planet, but their core remains unchanged and brings humans face to face with themselves, their fellow humans and nature. **The culture of survival is a precondition for the survival of culture.**

Global developments of recent years have confronted us with a profound concern about the future of Culture. Every civilised society must unconditionally raise the banner of unqualified condemnation of, and effective fight against, terrorism. Nevertheless, the fight against terrorism must not drift towards a clash of civilizations, either explicit, or implicit. If -as many claim- the opponents in this battle are on the one hand the "civilised world," and on the other hand the fanaticism that generates violence and terrorism, then we must explicitly state two things.

First, **the "civilised world" should not be identified with the West and Western culture:** this is verified by the recent contacts of the US government with countries such as Russia, China and Pakistan, in order to effectively deal with terrorism attest to the above -mentioned idea. The larger the ideological, cultural, and political front against fanaticism and terrorism, the better for Democracy and Culture.

Second, **phenomena of violent fanaticism can also be found within the so called "Western world:"** religious disputes, as those in Northern Ireland, sects and religious fanaticism, as those expressed from time to time in the form of mass suicides, minority or ethnic disputes, as the problem of the Basques or Corsica, are only a few of the examples that we must always bear in mind.

**Therefore, the term "civilised world" must denote the "world of cultures" that recognises human life and the respect of human decency as supreme values.**

**Thinking on Culture** is not a luxurious and theoretical occupation, but a vital social and political necessity. Re-thinking on culture compels us to deal with the most politically vital concepts, such as ideology, mentalities, stereotypes, collective identities, social status, quality of life, peace and war, social cohesion, and future memory.

This is the context, the design and the **aspirations of the Cultural Olympiad**. Of course, for the time being the largest part of the debate concerns the Olympic infrastructure, the Olympic works, and the other preparation programmes for the Olympic Games. With the assistance of theIOC and with hard and methodical work **we will be prepared**. Nevertheless, the added value of the 2004 Olympics will result from this unique relationship with Culture. Let's support and protect it.