

14 June 2005  
Lausanne, Switzerland

**Explanation of the Council Decision on  
the 2009 World Rowing Championship (Senior and Junior) and  
2008 World Rowing Under 23 Championship Regattas**

**Poznan, Gainesville and Brandenburg to be Presented to the Congress**



**1. 2009 World Championships Bids**

Two Federations presented bids to the FISA Council for the 2009 World Rowing Championships: The Netherlands with Amsterdam and Poland with Poznan. These two venues were visited by the FISA Inspection Team in early May and final bids were received on 15<sup>th</sup> May. The Council then met the representatives of the various bids in London on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2005 to hear their presentations and to ask questions.

The Council then considered these two excellent bids. They both offered very good conditions for the rowers as well as for the spectators. The main difference is that Poznan has, over the past few years, staged many major international events in rowing and canoeing showing the fairness of the course and the quality of the organising committee. In particular, they successfully staged two major events in 2004: A stage of the Rowing World Cup and the World Under 23 Regatta.

The Amsterdam "Bosbaan" course has been widened by 32 metres and all land infrastructure has been renovated, bringing it to the full standard required for staging a World Championship. However, the last major international event with centralised accommodation, transport and full television host broadcast was in 1977 with the "old" Bosbaan course and a different OC. The Dutch Federation will have several opportunities over the next few years to stage top international events (2005 Under 23 Championships and the 2006 World Junior Championships) and will be able to show the fairness of the course and the quality of the organising committee. Based mainly on this reasoning, the Council considers that Poznan should be awarded the 2009 World Rowing Championships.

**2. 2009 World Rowing Junior Championship Bids**

Two Federations presented bids to the FISA Council for the 2009 World Rowing Junior Championships: The French Federation with Brive and the United States Federation with Gainesville. These two venues were visited by the FISA Inspection Team and, as stated above, the Council then met the representatives of the bids in London.

Both bids offered excellent conditions for the rowers. The main difference is that Gainesville, which had staged the 1996 Olympic regatta, is much better equipped with the necessary infrastructure for a World level regatta. Their organising committee has also recently staged a major international event; the 2003 World Canoe/Kayak Championships which tested the whole infrastructure and operations. The Council was also satisfied that requirements for entry to the US by all federations for the Championships had been well tested by the organising committee's experience with the 2003 World Canoe/Kayak Championships and the bid committee provided assurances in this respect.

Brive is an excellent body of water but there are some fairly major infrastructure modifications to take place. Brive has the strong support of the local and regional governments and it is hoped that some of the main projects to upgrade the course will start in the next 12 months to provide the required improvements to the venue.

The Council agreed that, between the two, the stronger venue and organising committee for the staging of the 2009 World Junior Championship in terms of infrastructure and organisation was Gainesville.

### **3. 2008 World Rowing Under 23 Championships**

Again two Federations presented bids to the FISA Council for the 2008 World Rowing Under 23 Championships: The German Federation with Brandenburg and the Polish Federation with Poznan. These two venues were visited by the FISA Inspection Team and, as stated above, the Council then met the representatives of the bids in London.

Both bids offered excellent conditions for the rowers. The Council also considered that Poznan is bidding for other events in 2008 and, if confirmed for the 2009 World Championships by the Congress, would have to stage a Rowing World Cup regatta in 2008 as a test event. The Masters Commission will take a position on the 2008 Masters regatta before the Congress which will influence this decision as well. For this reason as well as the huge renovations that have taken place in Brandenburg, the Council decided to select Brandenburg and forward that for confirmation at the Congress.

The bid committees are encouraged to provide information to the national federations, coaches and athletes between now and the date of the Congress. The contact between the bid committees and the rowing world should be informational and should not include gifts or souvenirs.

The FISA Council