

Turkey and Olympism

"I beg our great brothers of the IOC to consider the responsibilities and burdens taken by the NOCs in their work and to consider them not as young brothers to be led by the hand, but rather as equals in the Olympic movement and solidarity, since to see men and things in their true perspective, you must not get too far above them or else the higher you are, the smaller those beneath you appear."

Burhan Felek, Varna 1973

TURKEY

301,300 square miles (780,576 square kilometres).

35,670,000 inhabitants (at last census).



TURKISH NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (TMOK)

Founded in 1908, then again in 1923.

Recognised by the IOC in 1911.

President in office: Mr. Burhan Felek*.

Secretary General in office: Mr. Turgut Atakol*.

Address: P.O. Box 90, Tesvikiye, Istanbul, Turkey.

Telephone: 47 67 30.

Cable: Olimptürk Istanbul.

* See biographical notes.

Role of the TMOK

- to develop and strengthen Olympic and amateur sport, while at the same time respecting the IOC's Rules and Regulations;
- to be responsible for the national participation in the Olympic Games, the Mediterranean Games and others;
- to maintain contact between the national sports federations, the IOC and the NOCs;
- to settle Olympic disputes arising among the national federations.

Creation

Participation in the modern Olympic Games, foundation of the NOC and spreading of the Olympic ideas, are all included in the most important events of Turkish sports history. Although known since its origin, the renovated Olympism was not really established in Turkey until after the founding of the Republic.

Olympism in Turkey during the Ottoman Empire (1896-1923)

In 1896, the wrestler Koç Mehmet who came from Istanbul contacted the organisers of the first Olympic Games in the modern era. His application was turned down as it did not conform with the rules. In his "Mémoires Olympiques", Coubertin recalls the strange presence of several Turkish athletes at



Selim Sirri Tarcan

the semi-official events held in St. Louis during the celebration of the IIIrd Olympiad. At last in 1906, a Turkish delegation took part in the first and only "intermediate Games" at Athens. However, it wasn't until 1907 that the beginnings of a national Olympic movement could be detected. When passing through Istanbul, Pierre de Coubertin visited one of his school friends, Mr. Gouvery, at that time Professor of French Literature at the Galatasaray Lycée, who advised him to get in touch with Selim Sirri Tarcan*, an ardent follower of sport. They met at the Tokatliyan Hotel, and in his book *Ancient and Modern Olympics*, published in 1911, Tarcan* recounts this first meeting as follows: *"He suggested that I become a member of the IOC and organise the National Olympic Committee. His proposal was very touching, but I had to explain the conditions in which we were living. It was impossible for more than two people to sit and talk together. Coubertin was persuaded, but added: 'Be my representative and let's keep hoping'."*

A year later, a new constitution gave the country independence. Immediately, Selim Sirri Tarcan * kept his promise and sent the Renovator of the Games the composition of the first Ottoman National Olympic Committee Board.

Members of the first Board (1908-1918)

Selim Sirri Tarcan*, Ahmet Ihsan Toksöz, editor of "Servet-i Fünun" magazine, Hasip Bey, Asaf Rüstü Bey and Cevat Rüstü Bey.

Selim Sirri Tarcan*, IOC member, attended his first Session in 1909, five Turkish delegates collaborated at the 1913 Olympic Congress, the Ottoman NOC was officially mentioned by the IOC during its Session in 1911 and two athletes took part in the Olympic Games in Stockholm.

The TMOK founded with the Republic (1923)

The First World War and then the War of Independence interrupted the NOC's activities. In a letter of 20th June 1921, Coubertin wrote to Selim Sirri Tarcan*: *"During its recent meeting, the IOC decided to confirm your duties as member for Turkey... The war has unfortunately separated us for a long time; nevertheless we treasure the warm memories of our friendship."* Following the declaration of a Republic, Tarcan* decided to set up a Turkish NOC on a new basis.

Founder members of the TMOK (1923-1926)

Selim Sirri Tarcan*, IOC member for Turkey, Ali Sami Yen, President of the Turkish Sports Association Union (TSAU), Burhan Felek*, President of the Athletics Federation and the only one still a member, Hasip Bey, Director of Agriculture, Taip Servet Bey, Treasurer of the TSAU, Refik İsmail Bey, lawyer, Sudi Bey, Istanbul Area President of the TSAU, Yusuf Ziya Onis, President of the Football Federation and Muvaffak Menemencioglu, President of the Cycling Federation.

From then on, the TMOK took control of Turkish Olympic life. Only one dispute arose with the IOC, in 1956 when the latter inquired into the role taken by State officials in the management of the NOC. Under the impetus of Messrs. Suat Erler*, IOC member for Turkey since 1955, and Burhan Felek*, a renovated NOC came to life supported by new statutes.

* See biographical notes.



1965 - Suat Erler (left) and Burhan Felek (right).

Successive Presidents of the TMOK

- 1908-1918: Ahmet Ihsan Toksöz.
- 1921-1924: Hasip Bey.
- 1924-1928: Selim Sirri Tarcan*.
- 1928-1931: Ali Sami Yen.
- 1931-1932: Ali Rana Tarhan.
- 1932-1938: Aziz Akyürek.
- 1936 : Ali Hikmet Ayerdem.
- 1936-1937: Halit Bayrak.
- 1937-1938: Adnan Menderes.
- 1938-1943: Cemil Cahit Taner.
- 1943-1950: Vildan Asir Savasir.
- 1950-1952: Danyel Akbel.
- 1952-1955: Celmal Alpman.
- 1955-1956: Faik Binal.
- 1956-1957: Nizamettin Kirsan.
- 1957-1959: Sinasi Ataman.
- 1959-1960: Mehmet Arkan.
- 1960-1964: Burhan Felek*.
- 1964-1965: Dr. Rasit Serdengeçti.
- Since 1965: Burhan Felek*.

Members of the IOC for Turkey

1. Selim Sirri Tarcan*, from 1908 until his resignation in 1930.

* See biographical notes,

2. General Kemalettin Sami, from 1930 until his resignation in 1933.
3. Resit Saffet Atabinen*, from 1933 until his resignation in 1952.
4. Suat Erler*, since 1955.

TURKEY AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

● Date of first participation: 1908

During his 1907 stay in Turkey, Coubertin had as a guide, Aleko Mulas, a young gymnast who was studying at the Galatasaray lycée, at that time called "School of Sultans". To thank him for his great assistance, the Baron invited him to attend the Olympic Games. Aleko did more than that by entering the gymnastic competitions and thus became the first Turkish Olympic athlete.

TURKISH PARTICIPATION IN THE WINTER GAMES

Turkish delegations to the Winter Games were entirely male and made up by skiers: 1936 - 9, 1948 - 6, 1956 - 6, 1960 - 2, 1964 - 5, 1968 - 12, 1972 - 0.

1924 - The Turkish delegation



Representation of Turkey at the Olympic Games from 1896 to 1972¹

	Athletics	Rowing	Basketball	Boxing	Canoeing	Cycling	Equestrian Events	Fencing	Football	Gymnastics	Weightlifting
1896		x	●	●	●		x		●		
1900			●	●	●				0 ²		●
1904			0 ²		●		●		●		
1908			●		●		●			1	●
1912	2		●	●	●						●
1920			●		●						
1924	10		●		●	3		1	19		2
1928	5		●		●	4		4	20		1
1932			●		●						
1936			9			5	4	7(2)	19		
1948	13(1)					4	9	6	20		
1952	14		12						16		
1956							9				
1960	15(3)						5		16		
1964	4										1
1968	4			6							
1972	4			7		6		4(1)			4

¹ The figures in brackets represent the number of women included in the first figure.
x Sport included in the programme but in which no event was contested.



	Handball	Hockey	Judo	Wrestling	Swimming	Modern Pentathlon	Shooting	Archery	Volleyball	Yachting	Total
1896	●	●	●			●		●	●	X	
1900	●	●	●	●		●			●		
1904	●	●	●			●	●		●	●	
1908	●		●			●			●		1
1912	●	●	●					●	●		2
1920	●		●						●		
1924	●	●	●	5				●	●		40
1928	●		●	6			●	●	●		40
1932	●		●					●	●		
1936	0 ²		●	11				●	●	4	59(2)
1948	●		●	16				●	●		68(1)
1952	●		●	19				●	●		61
1956	●		●	15				●	●		24
1960	●		●	16	2			●	●	1	55(3)
1964	●			17				●		3	25
1968	●		●	20			3	●			33
1972				16	2		7				50(1)

² Demonstration sport.

● Not included on the programme.

Titles obtained at the Olympic Games



H. Gemici

Name	Christian Name	Sport	Event
Erkan	Yasar	G.-R. wrestling ¹	62 kg
Oktav	Mehmet	—	62 kg
Kireççi	Ahmet Mersinli	—	Heavy-weight
Akar	Nasuh	F. wrestling ²	57 kg
Bilge	Gazanfer	—	62 kg
Atik	Celal	—	67 kg
Dogu	Yasar	—	73 kg
Gemici	Hasan	—	52 kg
Sit	Bayram	—	62 kg
<i>Bayrak</i>	<i>Mitat</i>	G.-R. wrestling ¹	73 kg
<i>Dagistanli</i>	<i>Mustafa</i>	F. wrestling ²	57 kg
Kaplan	Hamit	—	Heavy-weight
Sille	Müzahir	G.-R. wrestling ¹	62 kg
Bayrak	Mitat	—	73 kg
Kis	Tevfik	—	87 kg
Bilek	Ahmet	F. wrestling ²	52 kg
Dagistanli	Mustafa	—	62 kg
Güngör	Hasan	—	79 kg
Atli	Ismet	—	87 kg
Ayvaz	Kazim	G.-R. wrestling ¹	70 kg
Ogan	Ismail	F. wrestling ²	78 kg
Atalay	Mahmut	—	78 kg
Ayik	Ahmet	—	97 kg

¹ G. R.: Greco-Roman; ² F.: Freestyle.

* The names in italics indicate that the champion in question will be mentioned again later on.



A. Kirecci



M. Bayrak



Y. Erkan

Year	Birth	Death	Notes
1936	1912	—	
1948	1917	—	
1948	1914	—	3rd in freestyle (79 kg) in 1936
1948	1925	—	
1948	1925	—	
1948	1918	—	
1948	1914	1963	
1952	1927	—	
1952	1930	—	
1956	1930	—	
1956	1932	—	
1956	1933	—	2nd in 1960, 3rd in 1964
1960	1931	—	
1960	1930	—	
1960	1935	—	
1960	1932	1971	
1960	1932	—	
1960	1935	—	2nd in 1964 (87 kg)
1960	1931	—	
1964	1941	—	
1964	1937	—	2nd in 1960 (73 kg)
1968	1934	—	
1968	1938	—	2nd in 1964



From left to right: G. Bilge, Y. Dogu, Boytorun, C. Atik and N. Akar.



M. Atalay

* We Would like to thank in advance all readers able to help us complete this table, and give us news of all the champions.

- **Turkish cities which have applied to organise the Olympic Games**

Although no candidature to stage the Olympic Games has been presented to date, we would mention the enormous success of the 6th Mediterranean Games held at Izmir in October 1971.

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE TMOK

- **Composition**

The members are divided into three categories: private members, chosen from the best known defenders of the cause of amateur Olympic sport, representatives elected by the national sports federations affiliated to the Inter-

national Federations whose sport appears on the Olympic programme, and honorary members. The federation delegates make up the Council's voting majority.

- *The general assembly* meets every two years. It elects the other management bodies and private members. The budget, as are all reports, is submitted to it for approval. It decides what action is to be taken.

- *The Executive Board* comprises seven members (President, Vice-President, Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General, Treasurer, Accountant and a member). Seven reserve members are also elected. The IOC members for Turkey and the Director General of Physical Education are de jure members.

Council members of the TMOK: Erdogan Aripinar, Nedim Özgen, Aclan Buharali, Esat Kazanci, Fikret Yalçın, Sava Hezinecioglu, İsmail Hakkı Güngör, Türkay Peker, Seyyit Misirli, Burhan Felek, Sadi Gülcelik, Turgut Atakol, Suat Erler, Vahit Colakoglu, Kemal Erkmen, Mustafa Vefa, Nurhan Aydın; (crouching) Aldo Elagöz, Süheyl Cihaner, Halük San, Ali Erol, Rusen Pelisen, İlhan Hattatoglu.



- *The Supervisory Commission*, accountable to the general assembly, is responsible for controlling all the Executive Board's activities. It consists of three private members elected by the assembly.

- *The Council*, elected for four years at the meeting of the assembly after the close of the Games, assembles the Executive Board members and its reserve members, five private members, a representative of each of the national Olympic federations, the IOC member for Turkey and the Director General of Physical Education. A meeting is held every four months, when the work of the Executive Board is prepared and controlled.

- *Members of the Executive Board*
PT: Mr. Burhan Felek*; *VPT:* Mr. Jerfi Firatli; *SG:* Mr. Turgut Atakol*; *Asst. SG:* Mr. Güner Frik; *Acct:* Mr. Mustafa Vefa; *T:* Mr. Haluk San; *Ms:* Mr. Vahit Colakoglu, Mr. Ismail Hakki Güngör, Director General of Physical Education, and Mr. Suat Erler, IOC member for Turkey.

In addition, *the Council* is made up of the following: *Reserve Ms-Sava* Hezen-cioglu, Seyyit Misirli, Açlan Buharali, Munip Tarhan, Nedim Özgen, Fikret Yalçın, Aldo Mami Elagöz, Rebi Gorbun, Prof. Dr. Ali Uras, Sadi Gülçelik, Türkay Peker, Aziz Versan; *representatives of the sports federations* - Rusen Pelisin (shooting); Remzi Türkeri (athletics); Mehmet Jeba Berkok (basketball); Hayri Aybar (equestrian); Ali Erol (cycling); Ertugrul Türker (boxing); İlhan Arıkoglu (gymnastics); Merih Sezen (fencing); Saim Kaur (football); Kazim Gedik (wrestling); Esat Kazancı (weightlifting); Feridun Yenisey (judo); Vedat Mirel (winter sports); Oktay Tuncer (rowing); İlhan Hattatoglu (archery); Nurhan Aydin (volleyball); Orhan Ergüder (yachting); Kayra Akialp (swimming, diving, water polo).

- **Financing of the TMOK**

This is assured by the fees of the members and affiliated federations, a government grant, profits from the sale of publications and stamps, and various kinds of private assistance.

THE TMOK AND OLYMPISM

- **Olympic Awards obtained**

Olympic Diploma

- By Burhan Felek*, 42nd holder in 1964, for his outstanding career in the service of Olympism and amateur sport.

Olympic Cup

1972 - By the Turkish National Olympic Committee, for the successful organisation of the 6th Mediterranean Games at Izmir the previous year.

Sir Thomas Fearnley Cup

1958 - By the Istanbul Swimming Club ("Istanbul Yüzme İhtisas Kulübü"), founded and presided by Mr. Suat Erler, IOC member for Turkey.

- **Olympic Day**

Since 1949, this day has been celebrated periodically. However, from time to time the TMOK organises events to promote Olympism. Its 50th anniversary commemoration (see *Olympic Review* No. 85-86, page 638) was highly valued.

- **International Olympic Academy**

Until 1971, the TMOK replied but occasionally to the IOA's invitations, but since then about a dozen teachers, students and Turkish officials have each year attended the Session's discussions.



1964 - Burhan Felek (right) meeting the President of the Japanese NOC, Mr. Takasima (left) during the Olympic flame's journey through Turkey.

● Protection of the Olympic emblems

As yet, there is no law guaranteeing such protection. The TMOK Council is trying to take the necessary action to prevent all uses which are against the Olympic rules.

● Publications of the TMOK

The TMOK has been publishing a review, entitled "*Türkiye Millî Olimpiyat Komitesi Dergisi*", regularly since 1971. Some of the articles are written in English.

● Turkish Olympic Bibliography

1911: *Ancient and Modern Olympics*, by Selim Sirri Tarcan*.

1924: *The Olympiad and its Statutes*, by the TMOK.

1936: *The Olympic Games*, by Vildan Asir Savasir.

FEDERATIONS AFFILIATED TO THE TMOK

18 Olympic federations...	Year of Creation	Year of Affiliation to the IF	1948	Members in 1960	1973
Archery	1944	1955	98	150	282
Athletics	1922	1923	10 480	30 950	91 522
Basketball	1934	1935	3 980	19 480	60 428
Boxing	1924	1947	953	1 050	1 781
Cycling	1923	1923	370	481	678
Equestrian	1926	1930	55	86	195
Fencing	1923	1923	485	971	1 051
Football	1922	1923	19 500	46 712	85 908
Gymnastics	1940	1960	402	517	975
Judo	1962	1964	—	118	1 705
Rowing	1924	1950	815	978	1018
Shooting	1926	1953	401	518	970
Swimming	1924	1931	518	1418	6 979
Volleyball	1934	1950	1 685	9 875	18 283
Weightlifting	1923	1923	182	261	752
Wrestling	1922	1923	12 401	18 512	25 672
Yachting	1924	1931	124	412	895
Winter sports	1934	1935	201	384	771

... the Mountaineering, Table Tennis and Tennis Federations are also 'members of the TMOK, but are not represented at the General Assembly as their sports are not included in the Olympic programme.

- 1936: *The Olympic Games in Berlin*, by Talat Mithat Hemseri.
- 1948: *Olympiads 1896-1948*, by Cem Atabeyoglu.
- 1949: *The Olympic Games*, by Ruhi Sel.
- 1949: *Memories of Five Olympic Games*, by Paul Martin (translated by İzzet Mühürdaroglu).
- 1967: *The Olympic Diploma of Merit*, by the TMOK.
- 1967: *The Turkish National Olympic Committee*, by the TMOK.
- 1967: *Recommendations to Organising Committees for the Olympic Games*, by the General Directorate of Physical Education (BTGM).
- 1968: *Report on the Olympic Games in Mexico*, by Orhan Bilgin.
- 1972: *Handbook of the 1972 Olympic Games*, by the BTGM.
- 1972: *The Olympic Games in Munich*, by Kâmuran Tekil.
- 1974: *Commemoration of the 50th Olympic Anniversary*, by the TMOK.

SPORT IN TURKEY

● Other sports governing bodies

The Turkish Sports Association Union ("Türkiye İdman Cemiyetleri İttifakı"), which was for a long time the most important national sports organisation, was founded in 1922 by the representatives or sports clubs. It was replaced in 1936 by the Turkish Sports Board, under government control. Two years later, the General Directorate of Physical Education, initially attached to the Prime Minister and then to the Minister of Education, took charge of sports activities. In 1969, the newly formed Ministry for Youth and Sport took over the General Directorate. Regional offices operate in the 67 provinces of the country.

● Stade aid for the sports movement

Since the founding of the Republic, successive governments have been

involved in promoting sport. They gave financial assistance to the Turkish Sports Association Union and the Turkish Sports Board in their activities. Since 1938, the General Directorate of Physical Education has met the financial requirements of the federations.

● Sport at school

Sport is included in school and university programmes. The Galatasaray lycée and Robert College, pioneers in introducing sport, laid the foundations for the development of sport in school, and competition between the two establishments was a great factor in the progress of national sport.

● Sports installations in Turkey

Statistics:

13 Olympic swimming pools (50 m.), 2 of which are indoor.

79 stadia for more than 10,000 spectators.

55 sports halls for more than 1,000 spectators.

374 school gymnasias.

The introduction of football pools in 1960 contributed to the increase of sports grounds, velodromes, athletics tracks, shooting ranges, swimming pools...

● Sports which draw the biggest crowds

Football.

● Sports experiencing the greatest developments

Basketball.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Resit Saffet ATABINEN

IOC member for Turkey from 1933 until his resignation in 1952.

Born in Istanbul in 1884, he completed his studies at the School of Political Sciences in Paris. On his return to his

country in 1906, he became the editor-in-chief of the "Levant Herald" before serving as a diplomat with various responsibilities in Bucharest, Washington, Madrid and Tehran. He founded the Turkish Automobile and Touring Club. After retiring, he was elected as a deputy to the National Assembly. He died in 1965.

Turgut ATAKOL

Secretary General of the TMOK since 1973.

Born in Istanbul in 1919, he studied at the German School. Attracted to sport (basketball and rowing), he devoted himself at an early age to sports administration and refereeing. Founder President of the Turkish Basketball Federation, he became one of the first international referees of his country. Member of the FIBA Technical Commission, he wrote a book on the "Techniques of Basketball Refereeing", which was accepted as a guidebook by the FIBA. A competent administrator, the 1971 Mediterranean Games were one of his greatest successes. He was Vice-President of the TMOK before succeeding Mr. Suat Erler as Secretary General.

Suat ERLER

IOC member for Turkey since 1965.

Born in Istanbul in 1910. A sports enthusiast, he joined the famous Galatasaray Club in 1928. National 100 m. freestyle and diving champion many times, he was a member of the 1934 national team. He continued to practise sport during his studies at the University of Berlin (1934-1938). In 1945, he founded the Istanbul Swimming Club and assured its success since this association was awarded the Sir Thomas Fearnley Cup in 1958. Although a member of the IOC since 1955, Suat Erler continued to work efficiently as Secretary General of the TMOK, which position he held until 1973. He was also Vice-President of the Organising Committee for the 1971 Mediterranean Games.

Burhan FELEK

President of the TMOK from 1960 to 1964 and since 1965. Born in Istanbul in 1889, he started his sports career (athletics and football) at Usküdar, where he founded the "Anadolu" Club. After that, he dedicated his life to sport. The only remaining founder of the TMOK, he also took part in the creation of the Turkish Sports Association Union. He held various positions in these two organisations before taking over the leadership. He also presided the national athletics and wrestling federations, in addition to the Turkish Sports Reporters Association. He attended the 1924, 1928 and 1948 Olympic Games, and all Olympiad celebrations since 1960 as an official, and the 1936 Olympic Games as a journalist. The Olympic Diploma of Merit which he received in 1965 rewarded an outstanding career; since then, he has not ceased to work for the TMOK's renaissance.

Selim Sirri TARCAN

Founder of the Turkish Olympic movement and first IOC member for Turkey from 1908 to 1930. Born in 1874 at Navplion in the Peloponnese where his father served as a Captain in the Ottoman army. A notable athlete, he practised gymnastics and weightlifting during his studies at the Galatasaray lycée. Soon after completing his military studies, he resigned from the army to follow a two-year physical education instructor's course in Sweden. He met Coubertin in 1907, after which he became a fervent supporter of Olympism. As a physical education adviser at the Ministry of Education, he extolled sport in school and initiated physical education as a profession. From 1908 to 1924, he was Secretary General of the Turkish NOC which he presided from 1924 to 1928. He was elected a deputy in 1933, a position he held until 1946. He died in 1957.



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