

# ANDORRA WELCOMES THE SMALL COUNTRIES OF EUROPE



*Andorra-La-Vella is getting ready to welcome the 1200 athletes who will take part in the IV Games of the Small European Countries.*

Three new facilities, a 50m Olympic pool, a tennis complex and a shooting range, not to mention a new look for other sports facilities - in Andorra, enthusiasm is mounting at the prospect of the opening of the IV Games of the Small Countries of Europe on 21st May.

**T**he organizing committee, led by Mr Isidre Baro i Cabanes, President of the principality's NOC, is putting the finishing touches to the detailed arrangements for

these Games, which will last five days and bring together delegations from eight European countries (ISL, LIE, LUX, MLT, MON, SMR, CYP and AND) which decided in

## REGIONAL GAMES

1985, at the instigation of the President of the IOC, to launch this event which enables teams with comparable levels of training and achievement to compete in an atmosphere of friendship and enthusiasm. After San Marino, which hosted the first edition of the Games, Monaco had its turn in 1987 and Malta two years ago. This year, it is time for Andorra. Two hundred volunteers have come forward to give the organizing teams a hand and, on the day of the opening, they will have reinforcements - six hundred people, most of them Andorrans. There are eight sports on the programme : track and field, basketball, cycling, judo, swimming, tennis, shooting and volleyball. Andorra has a great sporting tradition, even if there is not much space in the principality which nestles at the heart of the Pyrenees between its two protecting neighbours, Spain and France. And what space there is mainly consists of the skiing area. Skiing is very much the number one sport and doubtless one of the first sources of revenue, with resorts whose ultra-modern facilities attract sports lovers from all over Europe in greater numbers every year.

But the Andorrans' passion for sport is not limited to skiing. Football, basketball, swimming, riding and shooting also count many adherents among them who will henceforth have the benefit of brand-new or renovated facilities. The Games of the Small Countries of Europe - and that is obviously one of their advantages - provide an excellent opportunity for improving and modernizing existing facilities or creating new areas for sports-lovers, as brilliantly attested by the superb multisport pavilion in Escaldes-Engordany in which the basketball matches will be played in front of over two thousand people. The judo competitions and volleyball matches will be watched by two thousand three hundred spectators in the multisport complex in Andorra la Vella, the country's capital.

Andorra is well and truly ready and, as Mr Baro i Cabanes puts it: "These Games will represent a step forward together for youth, sport and Olympism, not only towards May 1991 but towards other meetings in the future".

### IVth GAMES OF THE SMALL COUNTRIES OF EUROPE



*The Olympic pool has been purpose-built for these Games.*