

# News flash

## The European Olympic Committees

In the framework of the 5th European Youth Olympic Days (EYOD) held in Esbjerg, Denmark, in July, the European Olympic Committees (EOC) organized a seminar for young journalists with the patronage of the IOC.

Fifty journalists from 32 European countries took part in this seminar, where they had the opportunity to meet EOC leaders and collect detailed information about the EYOD, the EOC and the Olympic Movement in general. Among the speakers were, notably, EOC president Jacques Rogge, vice president Patrick Hickey and secre-

tary general Mario Pescante. Also speaking were Togay Bayatli, president of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) and member of the EOC Executive Council; Carl Stenfeldt, sports journalist and AIPS honorary member; and EYOD commission members Erica Terpstra, Arne Myhrvold and Jesper Frigast Larsen. The participants were invited to consider issues including: media relations with sport and with athletes in particular; sport, journalism and ethics; and "How does one become a good sports journalist, or more simply a good journalist?".

A working session of interviews concluded this first media initiative by the EOC. The EOC hopes in future to repeat this experience every

two years by integrating the seminar for young journalists into the regular activities of the European Youth Olympic Days.



*Seminar participants and speakers*

## Sport for all in Georgia

A sport for all summer sports festival, organized by the NOC, the Georgian disabled sports federation and the 'Special Olympics' committee, brought together around 245 disabled adolescents, from eight of the country's regions, accompanied by 40 coaches. The event, which was sponsored by the IOC, enabled these young sportsmen and women to practise mini-football, athletics, basketball, table tennis and tennis like anyone else. Ten families from the capital Tbilisi notably took part in the different activities. The opening

ceremony was attended by a number of personalities including NOC President Jansug Bagrationi and Secretary General Emzar Zenaishvili, the member of the Georgian Parliament Marina Mirianashvili, the head of the Ministry of Education's department for children's rights and special schools, Guram Chumburidze, and the president of the Georgian League for the disabled, Giorgi Dzneladze. Professors and lecturers from the Sports Academy as well as staff from the Academy's medical department were responsible for super-

vising the event and ensuring that medical services were provided. During the three-day festival, all the youngsters and their parents, teachers, etc. experi-

enced intense emotions, in some cases getting a first taste of the "magical" world of sport, where all the competitors were winners in their own right.



*Long jump events.*