

Fondée le 19 janvier 1975

Association inscrite au Tribunal
d'Instance de Strasbourg
Volume 89 Folio 262

Agrément ministériel national
n° NOR:MJSK0670136A

Reconnue de mission d'utilité publique
par arrêté N° 012156 du 2 août 2001.

C.C.P. Strasbourg 1854-78 S

Crédit Mutuel Ammerschwihr

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Fédération Française des Sports Populaires

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Strasbourg, den 16th May 2016

To

Internationalen Volkssport Verband e.V. (IVV)

Fabrikstrasse 8

D-84503 ALTOETING

Deutschland

Object: *IVV-Olympiad 2019*

Dear Mister President of the IVV,

The French Federation of Popular Sports (FFSP Fédération Française des Sports Populaires) and the Tourist Office of Aix-en-Provence hereby present a candidature for the organisation of the sixteenth edition of the Olympiads IVV in 2019.

The host city will be Aix-en-Provence, in the French region Provence, in the department Bouches-du-Rhône. Aix-en-Provence is situated at 20 minutes from Marseille, European port, European Capital of Sport in 2017, European Capital of Culture in 2013. The global territory of this metropole accommodates 1 700 000 citizens.

Aix-en-Provence and its surrounding area the 'Pays d'Aix' are the most southern IVV destination in Europe. Since 2012 they put in place an annual calendar of popular marches, spread over 12 months and representing a network of 15 permanent tracks. The Pays d'Aix is a world-wide known cultural and tourist destination, with the International Lyrical Arts Festival, the International Piano Festival, the artists Cézanne, Picasso, Vasarely,... The department Bouches-du-Rhône adds to these treasures the coves of Cassis, the Camargue, the Alpilles, the Luberon or the Roman city of Arles.

Aix-en-Provence, with its 142 000 citizens, city of universities, city of water, city of art, also accommodates on its territory the most important challenge of humanity: ITER, the power of the energy of the stars.

Its protected environment and the ever present sun enhance a nature and a local culture, enable the development of outdoor recreational activities, health, the vineyards, the culture of olives and lavender.

All of these qualities make of this “piece of Europe” a region of excellence. Aix-en-Provence and the Pays d'Aix will be the heart of the event. Nevertheless, an extended offer will be proposed to the delegations before and after the main event: the discovery of a touristic itinerary IVV-FFSP starting from Nice and going from one railway station to another, following the track of the little train “Des Pignes” between the sea and the mountains. Thus could arise a new global IVV destination: the Provence. A bridge towards future member states could be created this way: Spain and Portugal.

Aix-en-Provence has an admirable position. “Dream destination”, gateway of Europe, this city is connected with all the important European destinations by the “Autoroute du soleil” (A7), with Italy and other mediterranean countries by the road through the mountains (A51). On top of that, Aix-en-Provence is connected to the high-speed rail network (TGV Rhin-Rhône) and with the entire world thanks to the International Marseille-Provence Airport! Furthermore there is the possibility to come to Marseille by boat! Aix-en-Provence is linked to the world.

The Aix-en-Provence Tourist Office is the biggest in France (3200 m²), it was the first to respond to the quality standards. Its team with 70 agents operates in all the main international destinations. Consequently it can respond professionally to all expectations.

Aix-en-Provence with its capacity in tourist reception and the Pays d'Aix will be the heart of the event in 2019. A stadium with 8000 seats will welcome the opening of the Olympiads. Furthermore, 320 kilometres of walking trails from the coves of Cassis to the mountain Sainte Victoire that the artist Cézanne loved will be proposed to the hikers, and another 120 kilometres to the cyclists (cycling or mountain bike). In addition the watersports will profit from indoor or outdoor swimming pools.

The Pays d'Aix is already experienced in the organisation of big sports events: Iron-man or Mud day. The sport direction of the Pays d'Aix-Metropole is already associated with the organisation of the Olympiads.

The host city and the French Federation of Popular Sports declare that the 2019 IVV Olympiads will take place under the IVV rules and directives and that all the requirements and conditions will be respected.

The host city and the French Federation of Popular Sports will take the financial guarantee for the event.

The Organisation Committee will be defined at a later date.

Please accept, Mister President, dear delegates, the expression of my highest consideration,

Guy BORSENERGER



President
of the French Federation
of Popular Sports