

Dear President of IOC,
Dear President of EOC,
Dear President of ACNO,
Dear Friends and Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Today was very important day for the European Olympic movement.
The presence of 30 IOC Members to whom I'd like to extend my sincere thanks, is a demonstration of how much this event was strongly awaited.

The board has taken on many important issues, electing a new Bureau which will be the guiding force for our organization for the next four exciting years.

To the EOC President, to all members of his team, to those that have been confirmed and to those that were just elected, I'd like to congratulate you and wish you all the best for years ahead of us.

The next four years will be extremely important for the entire European Olympic movement because they will be introducing the first European Games that will be held in Baku in 2015, an event strongly supported by the EOC and its President.

Along with all of friends from Baku, I'd like to take this opportunity to greet with particular affection all the representatives of the various Organizing Committees, that gave us the honor to be here with all of us, from Sochi 2014, Rio 2016, PyeongChang 2018, Tokyo 2020 in addition to Lillehammer 2016 and Buenos Aires 2018 for the Youth Olympic Games.

This evening, it is not my intention to exhaust you with an endless speech and countless words but rather to direct your attention to this magnificent location where we have decided to invite you to attend this important Gala Dinner.

This is one of the incredible architectural structures constructed at the beginning of the past century for the spread sports. It is called "Academia of Fencing", also known as a "House of Army".

I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you some very exciting and pleasant news. We couldn't have chosen a better location to host the first visit in Italy for the IOC President, one of the greatest Olympic Champions in Fencing, Mr. Thomas Bach.

This magnificent location has magical feel to it, with an extensive history and a scent of sport. Here we are inside of the biggest Sport Complex in Italy with an extension of more than twenty thousand square meters.

For many years, thanks to the hard work of the Italian Olympic Committee, this area has become a heartbeat of an important International Sport Event of the Country.

In addition to weekly thrilling football matches, we annually host the ATP World Tour Masters 1000 and Wta Tournament, the Diamond League of Athletics, The Swimming

International Settecolli Trophy of Swimming, the World tour of Beach Volleyball, the SIX Nations of Rugby and the final of the Italian Football Cup.

The street that leads you to this incredible complex, reached by bus or car represents a real symbol of Olympics, called "Viale delle Olimpiadi"

Practically "you will be welcomed always here, you should always feel at home, your second home".

Therefore, as you can see, here we can breathe the real and strong true Olympic atmosphere. With the five rings inspiring our basic values of our movement, I'd like to personally thank you for your participation and would also like to wish you a wonderful evening and a happy staying in Rome.

Thank you again, all of you, and to your families on behalf of myself and the Italian Olympic Committee.