

The spreading of sports in Italy in the post-war period, the building of structures throughout the country, the great organizational and agonistic successes: the credit for all those things mainly goes to Giulio Onesti, as reminded by CONI in the last year during the celebrations for its centenary.

The Award dedicated to his memory is intended for people who worked in promoting sport and the values it represents.

In 2001 the award went to Juan Antonio Samaranch, in 2006 to Giulio Andreotti, in 2009 to Gianni Letta, in 2012 to Jacques Rogge, in 2013 to Alex Zanardi and to the memory of Pietro Mennea, in 2014, on the centenary of the CONI, to Sara Simeoni and Alberto Tomba, living symbols of the Olympic winners.

The Executive Committee of the Fondazione Onesti has decided to award the 2015 Prize Giulio Onesti to Thomas Bach, up today the only President of the IOC to have won the Olympic gold medal in 1976 in Montreal in the men's foil team. After a sporting career crowned with success at world and olympic level, he graduated in law, has become a lawyer, was elected Chairman of the Athletes Commission of Germany in 1979, founder in 1981 of the IOC Athletes' Commission, which has remained up to 1988. He is member of the IOC since 1991.

He chaired over the IOC Juridical Commission, the Sport and Law for Anti-Doping Disciplinary Commission, he was member of the Marketing Commission and TV Rights and New Media Commission; since 1994 he has chaired the Appeals Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport. For many years was a member of the Executive Committee and Vice President of the IOC, has been a valuable contributor of his predecessors Juan Antonio Samaranch and Jacques Rogge. It was the leader of the German Olympic sports. He was Advisor of the German Minister of Economics during the German reunification. He was the President of the Arab - German Chamber of Commerce and Industry . He has held positions as President or Member of the Board of Directors in several companies in the technology sector, finance, machinery, insurance and private equity.

On September 10, 2013, no one was surprised to see Thomas Bach become President of the IOC.

He immersed himself in his work with passion, enthusiasm, aiming towards a profound renewal while respecting tradition.

He faced problems with knowledge and virtuosity, initiating and implementing the reform of the Olympic Movement. In 2014 in Monte Carlo he convened an extraordinary session to discuss the 2020 agenda.

It took several months of work.

Every sports fan in the world had the opportunity to illustrate their ideas.

There were exchanges of views, contacts, meetings, and sessions with International Federations, Olympic Committees and all the sports and non-sports organizations with concrete proposals.

40 recommendations were presented, discussed and unanimously approved in Monaco: those recommendations involve the structure of the IOC, its governance and all the activities directly or indirectly underlying the Olympic Movement. It was not a revolution, because the IOC and the Olympic Games are still a successful reality, but a real, realistic, concrete reform inspired by the criteria of values, transparency, and protection of the human dignity and of the health of the athlete.

The Board of Directors of the Foundation awarded the Giulio Onesti Award to Thomas Bach seeing what he has achieved to date and the fact that he started his term as President by justifying a very positive forecast for the IOC and for global sports.

The world is going through a delicate phase. Contained but violent and inhuman wars, social tensions, intolerance, economic problems are scourging all humanity.

Sport has to do its part to help the condition of the individual from every point of view, and we all think that Thomas Bach has the qualities to better lead the Olympic Movement.