

The FISA Council's Proposal to the Congress for the Attribution of the 2020 World Rowing Senior, Under 23 and Junior Championships

2 September 2017

The 2020 World Rowing Senior, Under 23 and Junior Championships bid process commenced in August 2016 when FISA issued a call for expressions of interest in two separate Championships: the 2020 World Rowing Senior and Junior Championships, and the 2020 World Rowing Under 23 Championships. Following the success of the 2016 Championships in Rotterdam, Netherlands that combined these two Championships, the possibility of combining them again in 2020 was discussed as an additional item at the 2017 Extraordinary Congress in Tokyo. The proposal was widely supported, with the result that FISA reissued the call for bids, this time for a combined World Rowing Senior, Under 23 and Junior Championships. A large number of National Federations expressed interest in the event, and finally three candidates submitted final bids on 31 May 2017: **Bled (SLO)**, **Plovdiv (BUL)** and **Poznan (POL)**.

Given that all three candidates have hosted a number of World Rowing events, they were familiar with FISA's hosting requirements. Likewise, the candidate venues and organising committees are well-known to FISA's bid inspection team. As such, the bid process was simplified to include a preliminary bid, a conference call with each candidate to discuss their preliminary bids, a final bid and a presentation to the FISA Council. A focus of the process was ensuring that each candidate understood well the additional requirements arising from the scale of the combined event, and also that the candidates were committed and able to meet these requirements.

All three candidates submitted high-quality final bids and delivered excellent presentations to the FISA Council on 10 July in Lucerne, Switzerland. Based on the candidates' bid dossiers as well as their presentations, the Council determined that all three have the technical and logistical resources in place to host an excellent Championships, as well as the necessary financial backing and positive support from their respective city and government authorities. The Council also believes that the three candidates would each offer, in their own way, a positive and enjoyable experience for all participants.

For this reason, and because it sees no distinct differentiating factor or factors that would give it reason to recommend one candidate over the others, the Council has decided that all three bids will be put forward to the delegates of FISA's member federations for their consideration and vote at the 2017 FISA Congress on 2 October in Sarasota-Bradenton, USA.

It should be noted however, that the Council has accepted the bid of Plovdiv on the basis that the course will have a return channel, which is due for completion before the 2018 World Rowing Championships. This return channel is necessary to meet the requirement for the 2020 Championships of having warm up and cool down lanes off the race course. It is understood that the authorisation to commence works on the return channel should be issued in early September. If this authorisation is not received as anticipated, the Council shall withdraw its support for Plovdiv's candidature for the 2020 World Rowing Senior, Under 23 and Junior Championships.

The assessment that follows highlights the key attributes of the three candidates as well as the relevant differences between them.

ASSESSMENT OF THE THREE CANDIDATE BIDS: BLED, PLOVDIV AND POZNAN

The major factors in the Council's assessment of the bids are as follows:

1. Racing conditions and fairness:

All three candidate venues are known for having good racing conditions. All venues will have warm-up and cool-down areas outside of the racing lanes (assuming the return channel is constructed in Plovdiv), this being a prerequisite for hosting the combined Championships. Another prerequisite, met by all three bidders, is that they will install an automatic start system. All three candidates have offered to livestream video footage of the event; in the case that the production includes a side camera, filming will be done from catamarans in Bled and Poznan, and from the side road in Plovdiv. In Poznan and Plovdiv, coaches can follow the racing from the side road.

Weather conditions in Bled during August have an average maximum temperature of 24.6°C and winds speeds of 1.0 – 2.7m/s; the prevailing wind is a cross-tailwind. Plovdiv average temperatures reach 27°C in August, with windspeeds in the region of 1.3 to 2.3m/s from an easterly direction (cross-headwind). In Poznan, the average maximum temperature is 17.8°C with a prevailing cross-tailwind and average windspeeds of 3m/s.

2. Venue infrastructure and course installations:

All three venues currently have existing courses with high quality permanent venue infrastructure that meet FISA's standards for this event. As a combined Championships, a significant factor is space for boat storage as well as team facilities. All three venues are able to provide enough racking space for all team boats. In Bled there is enough space for all boats in the field behind the boathouse. In Poznan, all boats can be placed on racks in front of the athlete grandstands and in the boat hangars as at recent World Rowing events. The space in Plovdiv is currently somewhat limited, however the project to build the return channel should create space for additional boat storage.

3. Accommodation and transport

Bled has a large number of hotels within walking distance of the venue; a shuttle will be provided from the start area to the boat park as at previous events. Accommodation prices (per person in a double room) range from €110 per person in a 3-star hotel to €160 per person sharing in a 4-star hotel. Ljubljana airport is located 30 minutes' drive from Bled.

Plovdiv has a range of hotels within a 6 to 15-minute drive from the venue. Prices (per person in a double room) range from €85 in a 2-star hotel, to €116 and €151 in a 3- and 4-star hotel respectively. There is a low-cost option at €57-62 per person sharing. Sofia airport is located 1h30 minutes from Plovdiv.

The majority of hotels included in the Poznan bid are within 15 minutes' drive to the course with three hotels with a total capacity of 650 people within walking distance. Prices (per person in a double room) are up to €120 in a 2-star to €140-180 in a 3-star and €180 in a 4-

star hotel. There is also a low-cost offer in student accommodation at €100 per person sharing. Poznan airport is located 30 minutes' drive from the venue.

4. Financial support:

The three candidates have a similar position in terms of the financing of the event: all three have a well-developed existing infrastructure and facilities and simple transport requirements, which translates into a relatively low event budget. They are also all well-supported by their local government or city, with the mayors of all three cities underwriting the Championships. This is a strong aspect of all of the candidatures.

5. Organisational experience:

The three candidates are backed by experienced and competent organising committees. Bled, Plovdiv and Poznan have all successfully hosted a number of World Rowing events in the past 10 years. Plovdiv and Poznan are also bidding to host a World Rowing Cup in 2019, which would serve as a test event for the Championships.

6. Promotion of the sport

Promotion of the sport of rowing, particularly to the youth, is a key aspect for all of the bidders. All three bids state the intention to engage youth in rowing through activities before and during the event. For Bled, the event is seen as a key component of the National Federation's development strategy to re-engage and motivate the next generation of rowers and to rebuild the national team. Plovdiv sees the event as a continuation of their annual hosting of events and utilisation of the facility, particularly after the investment by the City in the return channel. For Poznan, the event would support the Mayor's sports strategy for promoting healthy activities for its citizens. Poznan also has strong support from the Polish National Federation in hosting events.

Conclusion

Having examined the detailed aspects of the bids submitted, and taking all relevant factors into account, all three candidates would be able to stage excellent Championships and would promote the sport of rowing. The Council does not see that one candidate is clearly better than the other, as all meet the basic technical requirements and offer small advantages in different areas. It therefore believes that the choice should lie with the delegates of the Congress.