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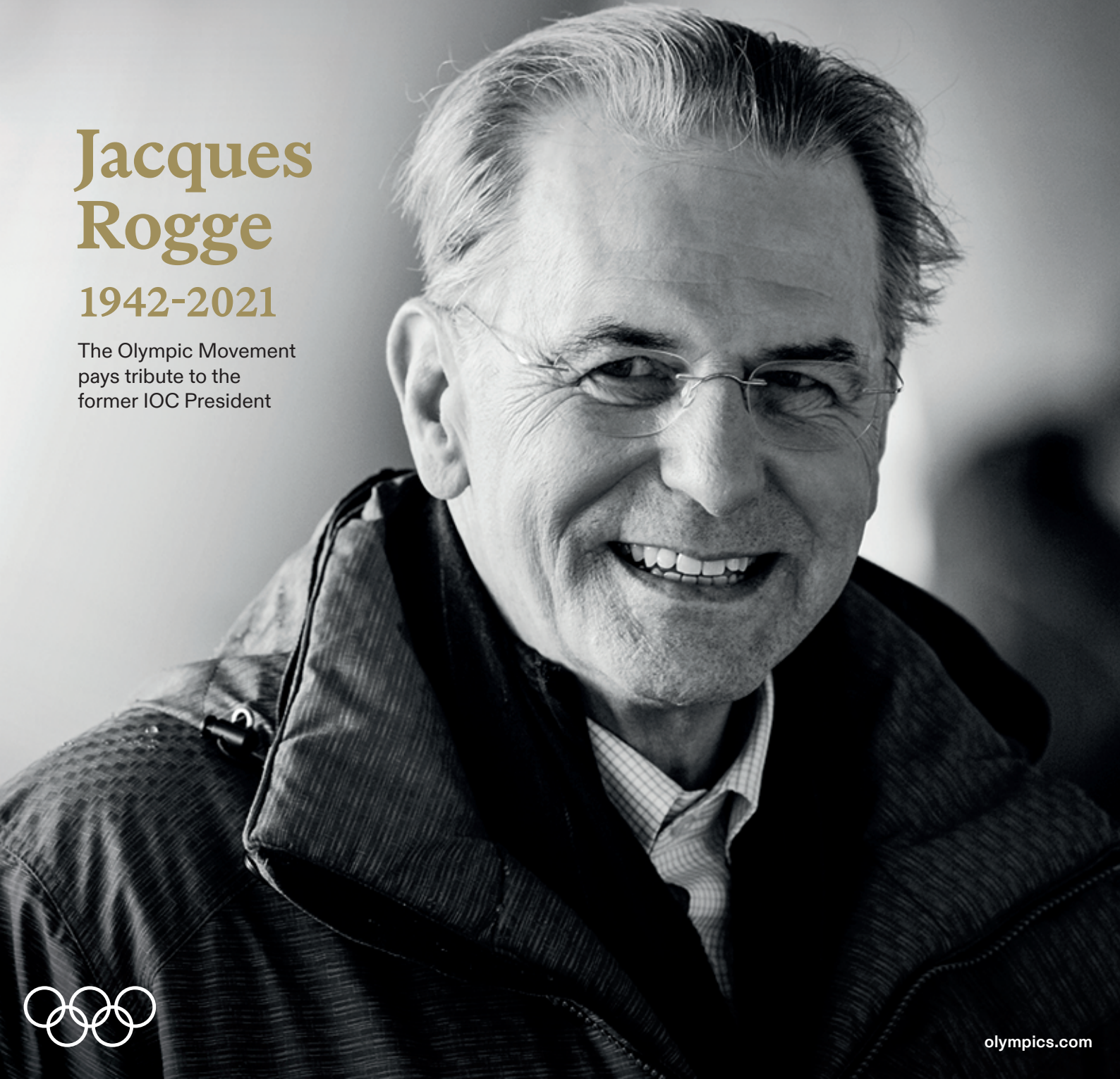
REVIEW

October 2021
Special tribute

Jacques Rogge

1942-2021

The Olympic Movement
pays tribute to the
former IOC President





FOREWORD BY THOMAS BACH

Jacques Rogge, the eighth IOC President, led a true Olympic life. Since we were elected as IOC Members together, we shared a wonderful bond of friendship, and this continued until his last days. Although he could not join us in person at the recent Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, he followed the IOC Session and the competitions online and on television. In the last message that I received from him immediately after the Closing Ceremony, he sent his utmost congratulations for exceptional Olympic Games, saying how much he enjoyed them from the beginning until the end.

This is how I remember Jacques – a true gentleman fan of sport and always totally dedicated to the Olympic Movement. I am grateful that he lived to see the successful conclusion of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. For him, Tokyo represented the closing of a circle in his Olympic life, as these were the last Olympic Games awarded during his presidency.

With Jacques, the Olympic Movement has lost its Honorary President, and above all else, for so many of us, a dear and close friend. We will always remember him, for his love of sport, which was infectious. He was an

accomplished President, helping to modernise and transform the IOC. He will be remembered particularly for championing youth sport and for inaugurating the Youth Olympic Games. He was a fierce proponent of clean sport and fought tirelessly against the evils of doping.

Speaking shortly before stepping down as IOC President, Jacques was asked how he hoped his term in office would be seen. His answer was: “I think I will be regarded as a President who has done his work. My goal was always to transfer to my successor a solid and effective IOC.”

As his successor, I can say that the legacy Jacques Rogge leaves behind goes far beyond his humble answer. As the many contributions for this special edition of *Olympic Review* illustrate, Jacques touched the lives of countless people. The world is a better place thanks to his dedication and passion for sport. He continues to live on in the hearts of all of us. ■



Thomas Bach, IOC President



‘A passionate fan of sport’

FOLLOWING THE PASSING OF **JACQUES ROGGE**, WHO SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE FROM 2001 TO 2013, *OLYMPIC REVIEW* PAYS TRIBUTE TO A MAN DESCRIBED BY HIS SUCCESSOR, THOMAS BACH, AS “A GREAT FRIEND AND A PASSIONATE FAN OF SPORT”.

Sport played a prominent role in Jacques Rogge’s life from an early age. His grandfather, Jules, had been a professional cyclist at the start of the 20th century, while his father, Charles, was a Belgian champion in athletics and rowing and an accomplished hockey player. Born in Ghent, Belgium, on 2 May 1942, Rogge was soon encouraged by his father to lead an active life and began sailing dinghies on the River Lys from a young age, while each weekend his parents would take the entire family – including his brother and two sisters – on sailing trips to the North Sea resorts of Nieuwpoort and Zeebrugge.

From those early experiences, Rogge developed a keen love of sailing and was soon honing his skills on the water, before joining the Belgian national team and becoming a junior world champion at the age of 17 by winning the Yachting World Cadet Trophy. Rogge continued to sail while studying to

become an orthopaedic surgeon at the University of Ghent and was crowned Belgian national champion on 16 occasions, as well as finishing as the runner-up in the ¾ Ton Cup. The crowning achievements of his sailing career came, however, when he was chosen to represent Belgium in the Finn class at three editions of the Olympic Games.

In 1960, an 18-year-old Rogge had watched the Games in Rome on television and been captivated by the performances of athletes such as the Australian Herb Elliott, who won gold in the 1,500m after a stunning sprint finish, and Denmark’s Paul Elvstrøm, who won his fourth consecutive sailing gold medal.

Recalling watching the Games he said: “Paul Elvstrøm was arguably the best sailor ever. He won four consecutive gold medals in the Olympic Games from 1948 to 1960 and he was also a 15-time world champion. I had the privilege to sail against him at the beginning ►



of my career and he left me with a lasting impression of an outstanding athlete with a great personality.

“My other hero was the Australian Herb Elliott, who won the 1,500m in track and field during the Rome 1960 Games. During the last 500m, before the finish line, he accelerated with a majestic pace and finished with a huge lead.”

When attending his first Games as an athlete in Mexico City in 1968, the Olympic experience made an even greater impression on Rogge, and would go on to shape his life for the next 45 years.

While Rogge finished 25th overall in the Finn class in Mexico, it was the ceremonies, traditions and values of the Games that left an indelible mark on his psyche.

“I remember entering the stadium during the Opening Ceremony and being completely overwhelmed by 100,000 people who were dancing and chanting. I will never forget that. It was my first experience of being in front of a crowd and an atmosphere like that.”

A sporting diplomat

Rogge took his first steps into sports administration while he was still competing in sailing, having been approached by Raoul Mollet, the President of the Belgian Olympic Committee. After the Olympic Games Munich 1972, Mollet invited him to join the Board of the Belgian Olympic Committee as an athlete representative.



Rogge embraced his new role and was soon named Chef de Mission of the Belgian Olympic team, leading the country's athletes to the Olympic Winter Games in 1976 and 1988, as well as the Olympic Games of 1980, 1984 and 1988.

It was during this time that Rogge's dedication to the Olympic Movement became clear when, in 1980, he was faced with the prospect of his country withdrawing its athletes from the Moscow Games, following the American-led boycott. As a NATO ally of the USA, Belgium had intended to comply with US President Jimmy Carter's wishes and withdraw its team from the upcoming Games.

Rogge, however, was determined to demonstrate his belief that politics should be kept separate from sport. In a meeting with then-Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens and his government, he refused to follow the boycott and insisted that the country's athletes should still be able to compete in the then-Soviet Union. Despite the removal of public funding, Rogge led the team to Moscow.

Looking back several years later he commented: “This was a milestone in my

- 1 A keen sailor from a young age, Jacques Rogge made his Olympic debut at Mexico City in 1968.
- 2 Running in the Olympic Torch Relay ahead of the Olympic Games Athens 2004.
- 3 On 16 July 2001, he was elected as the eighth IOC President.



life. We thought it was our duty to participate in the Olympic Games. I still feel sorry for those athletes who were denied the Games they deserved. It gave me the resolve that, while we have to work closely with governments to develop sport, we have to preserve our independence.” This ethos still remains a strong part of the Olympic Movement and the IOC to this day.

By 1987, Rogge had ascended to Vice-President of the Belgian Olympic Committee and, two years later, was chosen to succeed Mollet as President. In 1989, he was also elected President of the European Olympic Committees (EOC).

In recognition of his work with the Belgian Olympic Committee and the EOC, which included the establishment of the European Youth Olympic Festival, Rogge was elected as an IOC Member in 1991, following the 97th IOC Session in Birmingham, Great Britain. He soon became an active member of the organisation, joining the Olympic Movement Commission, the Olympic Programme Commission and the IOC Medical Commission.

Rogge stepped down as President of the Belgian Olympic Committee in 1992, but continued in his role as President of the EOC.



By 1998, he had also been elected to the IOC Executive Board. When Sydney was named as the host city for the 2000 Olympic Games in 1993, Rogge was chosen to chair the IOC Coordination Commission for the Games, helping to deliver what then-IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch described as the “greatest” Games ever.

Following the success of Sydney 2000, Rogge emerged as one of the leading contenders to succeed Samaranch as IOC President when he stepped down the following year.

IOC presidency

Rogge announced his candidacy for the IOC presidency in March 2001. He based his election campaign on defending the “essential values of sport” and promised to address issues such as doping, corruption and the increasing size of the Olympic Games,

“The Olympic Village has a wonderful atmosphere and I wanted to go back”

JACQUES ROGGE

but the decision to put his name forward for the presidency was not an easy one.

It came after careful consideration, particularly with his family. He explained: “This represented a major change in my life: I had to give up my work as a surgeon, become a volunteer, leave my house in Deinze and move to Lausanne, and agree to become a semi-public figure.”

On 16 July 2001, at the 112th IOC Session in Moscow, Russia, IOC Members voted to elect Rogge as the eighth President in the IOC’s history.

Commenting after his election he said: “It is an important moment in my life and it is a great responsibility, not only to lead the IOC but to succeed Juan Antonio Samaranch, who has led the Olympic Movement to a position of strength. I will dedicate the next eight years to the promotion of the Olympic Movement and the IOC. It is not to be an easy task, but I believe there is such strength that the IOC and the Olympic Movement will remain strong in the future.”

Less than seven months later, Rogge took to the stage in Salt Lake City to open the 2002 Olympic Winter Games – the first Games of his presidency. It was during these Games that Rogge made headlines by deciding to

stay in the Olympic Village, rather than a local hotel. Of his decision he said: “I think it’s the best place to be in the Olympic Games; I’ve always loved the atmosphere of the Village. I stayed eight times in the Village, three times as a competitor and five times as a Chef de Mission. It’s a wonderful atmosphere and I wanted to go back.”

Staying in the Olympic Village became a tradition for Rogge at each Games during his presidency, enabling him to interact with the athletes on a more informal level and discover what issues were most important to them. One of these issues was the fight against doping.

This would become a key issue throughout Rogge’s presidency. One of the most significant factors in the battle was the creation of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in 1999, in which Rogge was heavily involved. The idea for the creation of WADA came from his predecessor, President Samaranch; however, Rogge was instrumental on the delivery and operations side.

Commenting at the time, he noted: “The vast majority of athletes do not use doping. It comes down to convincing those who do that high performance is possible without cheating. But informing people is ►



not enough; I also believe in prevention. We have to test in and out of competition and sanction athletes if they test positive. Finally, we need the help of scientific research to detect and track down new drugs quickly. The tests are definitely becoming more efficient and the scientific method is better.”

This legacy lives on today in the increased efforts to combat doping before and during the Games and the strong reanalysis programme that is in place following every edition of the Olympic Games.

In addition to doping, Rogge led the fight against other issues. He was firmly convinced that illegal betting, along with doping, was a major scourge of sport. Under his watch the sports world and governments increasingly joined together to address this.

Rogge was also concerned about the rise of obesity, especially among young people, noting that it was a combination of poor diet and lack of exercise. He truly believed that the support of parents, schools, sports clubs and governments was needed to counter this. In short, a total change of mindset on the part of young people themselves.

It was this determination to address apathy among young people and engage them with sport from an early age that led him to present plans for the establishment of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG), a sporting event for athletes aged between 15 and 18, which would combine high-level sport with cultural and educational initiatives.

- 1 Rogge drove the creation of the Youth Olympic Games, with the inaugural edition at Singapore 2010.
- 2 With Jean-Claude Killy, Chair of the IOC Coordination Commission for Turin 2006 and Sochi 2014.



In 2007, at the 119th IOC Session in Guatemala City, Guatemala, the IOC Members approved the creation of the YOG, and the inaugural edition was held in Singapore three years later.

Under Rogge's presidency, the IOC also focused on its commitment to the promotion of sport as a tool for development, working closely with the United Nations (UN) and its agencies. The status of Permanent Observer to the UN, granted to the IOC in 2009, provided a broader framework for the Olympic Movement's own human development objectives.

Rogge also oversaw the modernisation of the Olympic programme, with events such as BMX cycling and ski slopestyle ensuring that the Games remained relevant to young people. Meanwhile, more opportunities were created for women, with new events – such as women's boxing and ski jumping – helping to increase gender equality at the Games. For the first time, at the Olympic Games London 2012, women competed in all sports on the Olympic programme while, in another milestone, all National Olympic Committees sent a female athlete to the Games, with

“Sport is a great social movement and made up of great people”

JACQUES ROGGE

Brunei, Qatar and Saudi Arabia each sending a woman for the first time.

Rogge explained: “We were delighted to have reached that milestone. Gender equality is a human right.”

The YOG have been another effective tool for promoting gender equality, helping to break down traditional barriers by pairing boys and girls as team-mates in mixed gender events.

When he stepped down from the IOC presidency in 2013, Rogge left behind some impressive achievements. Among them, under his presidency and in the years that followed, the Olympic Games have been very well organised with their scope, costs and legacy reviewed, while the YOG have been a great success. At the same time, he fought against doping and illegal betting. He also left behind an organisation with a strong financial revenue stream and reserves that would enable the IOC to continue to function in the event that circumstances should lead to a cancellation of the Games.

Other achievements were the six successful Olympic Games – Winter editions in Salt Lake City, Torino and Vancouver, and Summer Games in Athens, Beijing and London.

But possibly the greatest legacy he left is an intangible one: he handed over to his successor, Thomas Bach, an organisation whose credibility and governance had been re-established, ►

A LIFE DEDICATED TO SPORT

Born in Ghent, Belgium

1942



Competed in the Olympic Games Munich 1972

1972

Chef de Mission for the Belgian Olympic team

1976-1988

President of the European Olympic Committees

1989-2001



Joined the IOC Executive Board

1998



Re-elected for an additional four-year term as IOC President

2009

Appointed as Special Envoy for Youth Refugees and Sport by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

2014

1968

Competed in the Olympic Games Mexico City 1968



1976

Competed in the Olympic Games Montreal 1976



1989-1992

President of the Belgian Olympic Committee

1991

Became an IOC Member



2001

Elected as the eighth President of the IOC, succeeding Juan Antonio Samaranch

2013

Awarded the Olympic Order and made Honorary President of the IOC, following the end of his presidency

2017

Awarded the Paralympic Order by the International Paralympic Committee



and in which the main stakeholders – the athletes, but also the Olympic Movement at large, the commercial partners and governments – had a renewed trust.

Reflecting on his presidency he commented: “To be able to say that the Games were truly magnificent and unforgettable is very rewarding. This is proof to me that the IOC has done a very good job.

“All the Olympic Games I have overseen, from Salt Lake City to London, have been of the highest quality but that is down to a team effort.

“It is a privilege when you love sport like I do. It gives you the means to fulfil the dreams and aspirations of sports. I’ve always been passionate about sport and I believe in its healing power. Sport has an educational value, it helps social integration – of minorities, for example – and contributes to good health. It is a great social movement made up of great people.”

Those great people include Rogge himself, whose dedication to sport and the Olympic Movement was unquestionable.

Remembering his life, President Bach recalled: “First and foremost, Rogge loved sport and being with athletes – and he transmitted this passion to everyone who knew him. His joy in sport was infectious.

“He was an accomplished President, helping to modernise and transform the IOC. He will be remembered particularly for championing youth sport and for inaugurating the Youth Olympic Games. He was also a fierce proponent of clean sport and fought tirelessly against the evils of doping.

“Since we were elected as IOC Members together, we shared a wonderful bond of friendship, and this continued until his last days, when the entire Olympic Movement and I could still benefit from his contribution, in particular on the Board of the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage.

“The entire Olympic Movement will deeply mourn the loss of a great friend and a passionate fan of sport.” ■

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SPORTING SUCCESS

Growing up in a sporting family, it was perhaps inevitable that Rogge would lead an active lifestyle, but few could have imagined the success he would enjoy. From weekend sailing trips with his brother and sisters, Rogge rose to become a junior world champion by the age of 17, winning the Yachting World Cadet Trophy in Burnham, Great Britain.

“Encouraged by this success, I even considered dropping my studies to take up sailing full time,” he once recalled. “But at that time, being a professional athlete was a very



1 From weekend sailing trips with the family...

2 ... to junior world champion at the age of 17.

3 A multi-talented sportsman, Rogge also represented the Belgian national team in rugby.

4 At the Olympic Games Munich 1972, he was Belgium’s flagbearer at the Opening Ceremony.



risky business. And it did not seem sensible to sacrifice my social future in order to practise a sport, however beautiful it might be.”

While combining sailing with his studies at the University of Ghent, Rogge would still enjoy a “beautiful” sporting career, going on to be crowned Belgian champion in the Finn class 16 times from 1965 to 1980. His prowess in the Finn also saw him compete in three editions of the Olympic Games, finishing 25th in 1968, 14th in 1972 and 22nd in 1976, with Rogge revealing that he learned many lessons from his experiences on the water.

“The sea is a school of humility and endurance,” he said. “It taught me wisdom and modesty. It is unpredictable like the wind and teaches man his true dimension.”

Away from sailing, Rogge also discovered a passion for rugby, initially taking up the sport as a way to keep fit during the winter. Playing as a flanker, he discovered a natural talent for the game and was soon selected for the Belgian national team, winning 10 international caps, as well as founding the Ghent Rugby Club, which still exists today.

Looking back on his rugby career he reflected: “I was hooked immediately. To my mind, it is one of the greatest team sports. It is a sport requiring both contact and control. It exalts the sense of sacrifice and abnegation. And there is a real strategy behind every play.”



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A CHAMPION OF YOUTH SPORT

The promotion of youth sport was one of the most significant features of Rogge's career as a sports leader – and one of which he was particularly proud, having spoken of his “strong belief in the importance of sports events for younger generations”.

It was under Rogge's initiative as president of the EOC that the organisation launched the European Youth Olympic Days – a multi-sport event for young European athletes. The inaugural edition, held in Brussels, Belgium, in 1991, attracted more than 2,000 young athletes, aged between 14 and 18, from all 33 of the EOC's member nations at that time. Two years later, the first winter edition was held in Aosta, Italy, with more than 700 participants. Since then, the event – now known as the European Youth Olympic Festival – has gone from strength to strength.

Upon ascending to the presidency of the IOC, Rogge was keen to replicate the event on a more global scale and so presented plans for the establishment of the YOG, for athletes aged 15 to 18, combining high-level sport with cultural and educational programmes and activities.

“The Youth Olympic Games [were] a project I had at the back of my mind since being elected IOC President in 2001,” he said.

“I saw an opportunity to develop an international event coupling sport with education that could act as a catalyst to engage young people around the world.”

The YOG have since become one of Rogge's greatest legacies, providing an invaluable stepping stone for athletes on their sporting journeys and acting as a catalyst for innovation on the Olympic programme.

1 Announcing Singapore as the first host city of the YOG.

2 Meeting YOG gold medallist Nicola Philippaerts.

3 Young athletes build strong friendships at the YOG.

4 At the inaugural Winter YOG in Innsbruck in 2012.

5 Sport climbing was introduced to the Olympic programme at the 2018 YOG.

PROMOTING THE POWER OF SPORT

After stepping down from the presidency of the IOC in 2013, Rogge served as a Special Envoy for Youth Refugees and Sport to the UN. In this role, he aimed to help raise awareness of the conditions of youth refugees and promote the positive impact that sport can have on their well-being.

"I am really honoured to have been appointed to this role and grateful to the UN Secretary-General for the trust he put in me," he said at the time. "Refugee populations are largely composed of young people and children and there is no doubt that leisure and physical activities can have a positive impact on their lives."

As Special Envoy, Rogge made personal visits to projects such as those in the Azraq Refugee Camp in Jordan, where IOC funding enabled the construction of a multi-purpose youth sports complex.

"Sport is ideal for young people. It will improve their health, but also their psychological welfare," he said during his visit. "It teaches them to respect the rules, it integrates them into the mainstream society, it brings health, and it brings hope."

- 1 Meeting young refugees at the Tierkidi Camp in Ethiopia.
- 2 With then-UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2008.
- 3 Welcoming the Refugee Olympic Team to the Olympic Village at Rio 2016.
- 4 IOC funding helped build a youth sports complex at the Azraq Camp in Jordan.





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In memory of Jacques Rogge

John Coates

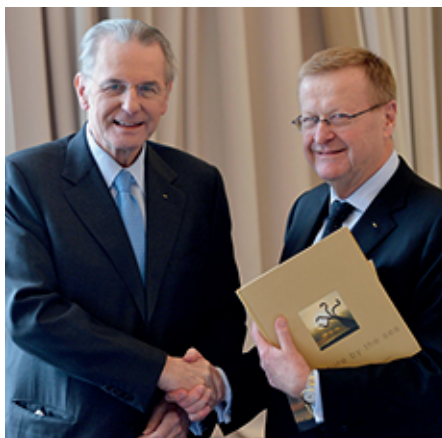
IOC Vice-President

The late IOC Honorary President, Count Jacques Rogge, had a particular affection for Australia, and Australians for him.

The origins for Jacques' affection were with the Australian sailors with whom he competed in his three Olympic Games and the many Australian rugby players with whom he formed close friendships as a Belgian national team player and through his love of rugby over the years.

Australia's affection for Jacques derives from our appreciation for his considerable contribution to the success of the Olympic Games Sydney 2000 as Chair of the IOC Coordination Commission. Jacques' focus on the athletes as an Olympian himself and experience as a Chef de Mission and President of the Belgian Olympic Committee, then European Olympic Committees, was invaluable. He had a steady hand on the tiller as we navigated many challenges.

I enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Jacques through those Sydney days and then as an IOC Member, being elected at the same



meeting as he was elected IOC President. I had the very great privilege to serve under him on the IOC Executive Board.

It was with Jacques' encouragement that the Australian Olympic Committee established its Olympic Youth Festivals modelled on the Belgian and European Youth Games he initiated and which led to the highly successful Youth Olympic Games and Winter Youth Olympic Games, which are among Jacques' many great legacies.

Filippo Grandi

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Jacques Rogge was a staunch believer in the potential of sport to improve the lives of young people.

As United Nations (UN) Special Envoy for Youth Refugees and Sport, he was a powerful spokesperson and advocate for refugee youth and worked hard to ensure their access to sport around the world, including in places such as Ethiopia and Jordan.

When visiting refugee camps, the UN Special Envoy and member of the Olympic Refuge Foundation always made sure that bringing sport to refugees meant more than just delivering footballs. Jacques saw sport as a tool for social inclusion and pushed to establish meaningful and lasting sport programmes.

He will always be remembered for his lasting contributions that have made a difference in the lives of so many refugee children, youth and families.





Sebastian Coe

IOC Member

I have very fond memories of Jacques Rogge. They are memories of courtesy, of civility, of humanity, and of his absolute passion for sport. When Jacques was at his most emotionally committed, it was always watching sport. I always think of him with great warmth and affection.

Jacques was one of the first IOC Presidents to make it to the top of sports administration having come from an overtly sporting background as a formidable sailor and an extremely good rugby player. His journey has given others from sporting backgrounds, especially younger people, the confidence to reach for the upper echelons of sports administration.

I'll always be grateful to Jacques for two things during my time as Chairman of the London 2012 Organising Committee: his sound and level-headed counsel, and his resolute belief that the most important relationship in the delivery of the Games was between the Organising Committee and the IOC. He would always sit shoulder-to-shoulder with you, and never allowed even the smallest crevice of daylight to break between the two of you.

On three key indicators – reputation, financial solidity, and the creation of the Youth Olympic Games – I think he will go down as one of the great Presidents of our time.

Chad le Clos

Olympian

It was an honour to have known Mr Rogge during his time as IOC President. The opportunity that he gave so many, including myself, was phenomenal. He believed in the youth and gave thousands the chance to compete at the Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

My first international gold medal was at the YOG and that gave me the boost I needed in my career, and I'm sure the same can be said for many other athletes. His legacy will live on and inspire for generations to come.

On behalf of the YOG around the world, we are forever grateful. May he rest in peace. God bless.



HSH the Sovereign

Prince Albert II

IOC Member

It was with sadness and emotion that I learnt of the death of Count Jacques Rogge, a particularly painful loss for the world of sport.

Jacques had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Olympic Movement. After excelling as a competitor in sailing, he successfully held multiple high-level positions of responsibility in national and international sport, which naturally led him to become President of the International Olympic Committee.

He was an esteemed and attentive President, who worked untiringly to defend the interests of the Olympic institution and

the athletes. He successfully modernised the Olympic Games and implemented the reforms needed to maintain and strengthen their development in a controlled and sustainable way.

He fully understood the importance of young people in our societies, launching the Youth Olympic Games in order to better promote the Olympic values among them.

This competition is a source of happy memories for Monaco, as the Monegasque two-man bobsleigh team won a bronze medal at the first edition of the Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2012 in Innsbruck.

At this time of sadness and recollection, I send my sincerest condolences to his widow and family.



Nawal El Moutawakel

IOC Executive Board member

Words cannot express the pain I felt upon learning of the death of our dear friend and exceptional President.

It was a tremendous opportunity and a great honour to have known the late Jacques Rogge, and to have worked at his side for so many years. He was a man who was passionate about sport, an accomplished athlete and an attentive President.

I first met him as the Chef de Mission for the Belgian team at the Olympic Games in 1984, when I was an athlete representing Morocco. After I joined the IOC, our friendship was strong, and subsequently he always supported me.

It was under his presidency that, in 2004, I was appointed Chair of the Evaluation

Commission for the Olympic Games in 2012 and 2016 – the first woman ever to hold that position in the annals of the Olympic Movement.

He always supported, trusted and encouraged me to undertake all the duties that he assigned to me. He showed me the way forward in times of difficulty and doubt.

Today, I am extremely grateful to him, and I treasure these magnificent memories.

I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the man he was, who served sport and Olympism with devotion, abnegation and competence; a man who always gave without counting the cost, a man open to dialogue, compromise, diplomacy and consensus.

He will remain forever in our memories, and may his soul rest in peace.

Ban Ki-moon

8th Secretary General of the United Nations

President Jacques Rogge was a man of peace. He had a vision of using the power of sport for promoting peace and development of the world.

In 2009, the United Nations (UN) granted Permanent Observer Status to the IOC. In 2013, the UN designated 6 April as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

I have a fond memory of participating in the Olympic Torch Relay four times. It started at the Olympic Games London 2012.

The UN and IOC jointly demonstrated to the world a shared belief that sport can transcend all the political, social and ethnic differences.

President Rogge was also a great humanitarian. After his retirement, I appointed him as UN Special Envoy for Youth Refugees and Sport in 2014. In that capacity, he showed strong leadership with compassion.

The whole world will remember his indelible legacies to promote peace and humanity through the power of sport.



Baron Pierre Olivier Beckers-Vieujant

IOC Member



The news of the death of Jacques Rogge on 29 August filled us with sadness. When it came, we were stunned by the announcement.

But at the same time, the impact that his actions and his personality had on each of us has made us stronger. In one way or another, he touched, encouraged and guided us all.

Jacques was first of all an accomplished athlete, a true Olympian. He was also a great sports leader.

A tenacious visionary, his numerous talents enabled him to transform and strengthen the Olympic institution and high-level sport whilst

taking the realities and sensitivities of everyone into account.

For he was above all a great personality, a lovely person.

Jacques Rogge's noblest quality was his humanity. Despite the enormous responsibilities he had to bear over the years, he maintained a great awareness of other people. His discretion and kindness were appreciated by everyone. His great sense of ethics and unshakeable determination to uphold the Olympic values inspired confidence. He maintained his passion for sport and the athletes right to the end. A giant of a man has left us, but his legacy is permanent.



Ser Miang Ng

IOC Vice-President

It was a windy day when I went out to sea to say a prayer to bid Dr Jacques Rogge farewell. We last enjoyed a sail together during the inaugural Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Singapore in 2010. We headed out to sea on *Magic Dragon* to watch the sailing competition together with his wife Anne and the then-deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Teo Chee Hean.

The YOG meant a lot to both of us. It was Jacques' dream to create an Olympic event for the youth, one which places equal emphasis on competition and education. To witness it come to fruition was indeed very memorable.

Jacques said to me at the conclusion of the Games that if we saw smiles on the faces of the athletes and sparkles in their eyes, that would be an indicator of the success of the Games – and we both did.

We worked very closely together to co-create and organise the YOG. I was serving on the IOC Executive Board and was subsequently elected Vice-President during his presidency. Our friendship strengthened over the years as we worked together to carry out his vision for the IOC and the Olympic Movement. In his quiet and unassuming ways, he presided over successful Summer and Winter Olympic Games from 2002 to 2012.

The finances and institution of the IOC strengthened further under his watch. His foresight and prudence left the IOC as an organisation with a foundation strong enough to weather any storm.

Bon voyage, my dear friend. Rest in peace.

Professor Paul Van Cauwenberge

Honorary Rector, Ghent University

Looking at what Dr Jacques Rogge achieved as IOC President and how he did it, it is no surprise to discover that he obtained a medical degree, became an orthopaedic surgeon and played an important role in the science of sports medicine.

During his active sports career, Jacques Rogge studied medicine at Ghent University (Belgium), where he became a Doctor of Medicine in 1967. At the same university he became an orthopaedic surgeon in 1971 and also obtained a degree in sports medicine in 1972.

After specialising as an orthopaedic surgeon he started his practice in a private hospital in Ghent and taught at Ghent University and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. From that time on he became more and more involved in sports administration at the level of the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee, and he continued his practice as an orthopaedic surgeon. He treated a lot of athletes with orthopaedic problems who knew he would talk to them and treat them not only as a doctor to a patient but as a doctor to a colleague-athlete-patient.

As a medical doctor he was especially focused on ethics, sports medicine and the fight against doping. He was called "Mister Clean" but it would have been better to call him "Doctor Clean".

He became, in 2002, doctor honoris causa at Ghent University. During the ceremony it was officially stated that he received this

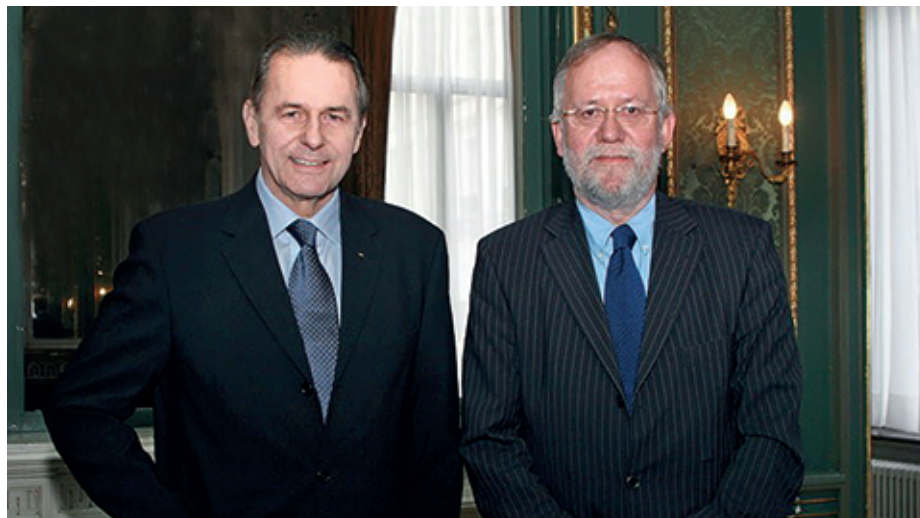
honorary doctorate because of "the unique combination of being a scientifically grounded doctor, a remarkable sportsman and an international manager".

The Department of Movement and Sports Science of Ghent University confirmed that: "Even after he finished his research on muscle function during sailing as part of his thesis for the Sports Medicine programme in 1972, sports-related research remained close to his heart. He fully recognised the health benefits of physical activity. Dr Jacques Rogge was an advocate for the organisation of physical education and sports for all."

In 2015 a new, state-of-the-art research lab, The Sports Science Laboratory – Jacques Rogge, was opened at Ghent University. In this lab, both fundamental and applied sports science research is conducted at the top international level. I am extremely happy that I could give the impulse for the creation of this laboratory during my term as rector (vice-chancellor) of Ghent University.

Together with the Université catholique de Louvain, Ghent University also created the Olympic Chair "Henri de Baillet Latour – Jacques Rogge", which initiated a successful line of research into ethics in sports.

I was always so amazed at how he could combine all these things, while remaining a friendly and humble man. What I also know is that he worked extremely hard! May this exceptional man rest in peace.





Olegario Vázquez Raña

IOC Honorary Member

I met Dr Jacques Rogge when we were athletes at the Olympic Games Mexico City 1968, then again at the 1972 and 1976 Games. In 1998, we were both candidates for the IOC Executive Board. Jacques won and, since then, we became friends.

As leaders, we established a tradition: at every Olympics, we had a special dinner with our families. Conversation flowed for hours while he enjoyed time with my grandchildren, who made him laugh. He supported my sport and attended our competitions during the Olympics. As IOC President, he attended our Championships, Assemblies, and the ISSF Centennial celebration.

In 2005, I invited Jacques, his wife Anne, and Christophe De Kepper to Mexico for a visit to the Red Cross, the Mexican Olympic Committee and Acapulco. We shared a few fantastic days. I'd joke, "Let's have lunch. Don't worry, just us and a few

journalists." Jacques and Christophe thought I was serious. "No media, Olegario."

After a couple of days, they realised I was joking. "This photo is for the media, right?" And we all laughed. Jacques honoured me by writing the prologue to my Olympic memoirs, which he closed with: "To my good friend Olegario." I will never forget my friend Jacques Rogge.



Eddy Merckx

Olympian

A great man, a great gentleman and a great President: Jacques Rogge has left us.

A man who left his mark on Belgian sport and the world of Olympism in the best possible way.

Personally, I had the honour of being presented with the Olympic Order by Count Jacques Rogge, and that was a memorable moment for me.

When we were colleagues at the meetings of the jury for the Belgian National Sports Merit Award, his voice, charisma, personality and simplicity made an impact on everyone. At each jury meeting, the weight of his words and the pertinence of his suggestions won everybody over to his point of view.

He was close to the athletes and true to his convictions, and he steered the Olympic Movement towards new horizons, opening the way for the young generations.

Over the years, I had the privilege of being able to develop with him a relationship built on respect, sharing a common passion for sport, and our friendship will leave me with unforgettable memories.

He was a man of his word, and his life's work will leave an indelible mark on world sport.

Thank you President!

Tomas Sithole

Director of the IOC's International Cooperation and Development Department (2003-2014)

What I remember most about Jacques Rogge was his compassion. In my role at the IOC, I dealt with developing countries, and particularly with young and poor people living in ghettos and favelas. Jacques was very interested in ensuring that sport, and the wider Olympic Movement, made a difference for the better in their lives.

He was not a President who sat in his office and just expected reports. He was there. He understood the situation. When we spoke to him about what was happening in the refugee camps, he visited refugees in Kenya and Palestine. He was very much a hands-on President.

Jacques taught me the importance of being level-headed. Maybe it's because he was an orthopaedic surgeon but, when you explained things to him, he listened, spoke to you, and calculated. Never did you go to Jacques and expect a decision at the drop of a dime. You had to give him all the facts and be prepared to sit there and analyse the situation, before finally reaching an agreement.

His most important legacies are: getting the IOC to work with society in general through the United Nations; helping young people in developing countries; and working to keep sport clean.





Denis Oswald

IOC Executive Board member

A great servant of the Olympic Movement has left us and, at the same time, I personally have lost a very dear friend. We were both elected as IOC Members in 1991 and quickly established strong bonds of friendship.

We shared the same sporting values.

I was fortunate to be on the IOC Executive Board between 2000 and 2012, almost the whole of his presidency. I had great respect for his humanity and competences. I always regarded it as a privilege to work with a personality like his. His intelligence, erudition and passion for sport were impressive. He could talk to us as easily about Greek mythology as about the achievements of a particular athlete. I was also fortunate to enjoy his trust and be part of what he called his "inner circle". As a result, he entrusted difficult but gratifying tasks to me, such as chairing the Coordination Commissions for the Olympic Games in Athens and London.

In 2014, when I stood down as President of the World Rowing Federation, Jacques surprised me by coming to Lucerne from Belgium, with his wife Anne, to attend the ceremony. When the television interviewer asked him to say something about me, he ended with the phrase: "... and I call him a friend." That was the biggest compliment he could have paid me.

Yes, we have lost an extraordinary personality and a great servant of sport, but I have above all lost a very dear friend.



Gilbert Felli

Former IOC Olympic Games Executive Director

We first met and got to know one another in early 1988, when Lausanne was a candidate for the Olympic Winter Games in 1994. Jacques Rogge was representing the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) on the Evaluation Commission, and I was in charge of the technical aspects of the Lausanne bid.

I saw in front of me a man who was profoundly good, humane, respectful and trustworthy. This first impression was reinforced throughout our relationship.

Our Olympic adventure began at the start of the 1990s – first with Jacques as President of the European Olympic Committees, when he helped me learn about the Olympic

Movement, especially the IOC's relations with the NOCs and International Federations.

In 1994 when the IOC's Centennial Congress was held in Paris, President Samaranch appointed Jacques as Chair of the Coordination Commission for the Olympic Games in Sydney, and asked me to work with him on restructuring the relationship between the Organising Committees and the Olympic Movement. Our relationship developed further during this project, as our mutual respect grew and we established a strong, true friendship.

For me, President Rogge was a great connoisseur and lover of sport. He was aware of the strengths of sport, but was not naive and also recognised its weaknesses.

We have lost a profoundly human man who respected others – in particular, all the members of his administration.



Gerhard Heiberg

IOC Honorary Member

My working relationship and friendship with Jacques Rogge started during the Olympic Winter Games in Albertville in 1992.

In his time as President, I had the pleasure of working very closely with him in different

positions. One of his key ways to gain good results was his enormous capacity to listen to other people with an open mind and respect.

Jacques Rogge was a person who had all the qualities of a true sportsman integrated in his personality, which characterised his leadership. His great sense of humour was an icebreaker in difficult situations. This made people perform at their best.

When I had challenges in my work, he was always available and gave me not only pieces of good advice, but also different and positive perspectives. Often, it felt like an injection of vitamins!

In his leadership he combined his great intellect with humour and integrity. And not to forget, his wife Anne was always at his side, supporting him. The two of them made a fantastic team!

I will always look upon the time with Jacques as one of the richest in my life.



Sam Ramsamy

IOC Honorary Member

Jacques and I had been friends long before we could address each other as the proverbial “Dear Friend and Colleague”.

Our initial discussions focused on ensuring that the apartheid regime’s disinformation campaign did not receive any credibility in Belgium. Our government honoured Jacques with the highest award for his timely interventions and commitment. Jacques’

down-to-earth synergy embraced members who treated him more as a friend but with the respect and regard that he was the captain.

I had the privilege of serving on the IOC Executive Board under his presidency for six years. Most of the time, it was relatively easy-going. But, at times, challenging and demanding decisions needed to be made. He always managed to steer the appropriate course so that consensus was reached. Because of our long association,



my friendship with Jacques and Anne was close. And we enjoyed some precious, glorious and indelible moments together.

Mario Pescante

IOC Honorary Member

For more than 40 years, President Rogge and I were companions, in life, sport and especially the Olympic Games. But above all, throughout this time, Jacques and I were friends.

A great athlete, a great President, a great man. Allow me to mention just two things.

For my 80th birthday, Jacques gave me an album of photos showing us both over the years, the cover and title of which, *Liber Amicorum (the Book of Friends)*, I wanted to share with you. In a wonderful gesture, the final photo shows our two wives, Anne and Susanna, who have shared our lives, and what lives!

And then the time when, diplomatic but firm as always, he got us Europeans to Moscow in 1980, when we seemed destined to pass under the American thumb. That edition of the Olympic Games was saved by one man, my friend Jacques.

Rest in peace, President Rogge.

Gunilla Lindberg

IOC Member

February 1986 was the first time I met Dr Jacques Rogge. The occasion was the Chef de Mission meeting in Calgary before the Olympic Winter Games in 1988. Dr Rogge had been appointed Chef de Mission for the Belgian Olympic Team. I immediately realised I had found a friend who was as passionate about Olympic preparations as I was. He was really enriching to listen to when sharing his thoughts and it was very clear that he was a natural leader, no matter the size of the challenge ahead.

Once elected IOC President in 2001, he proved his skills to the world. He was a former Olympic sailor, spoke five languages and his profession as an orthopaedic surgeon made him extra knowledgeable in how to treat his patients but also all other people around him. He had an incredible working capacity, amazing knowledge about sports but also society as a whole, and was a fantastic human being caring about people.

He gave me fantastic support when I was elected as an IOC Member in 1996 and later a member of the IOC Executive Board in 2000.

I will always remember him for the great person he was and for being a close friend ever since that Chef de Mission meeting in Calgary.



Richard Carrión

IOC Member

With the passing of Jacques Rogge, I lost a mentor and a friend. I remember after his election we met in Lausanne for breakfast in December 2001. Two weeks later he appointed me to head the IOC Finance Commission. A few months after that, he called me to say that he was forming a Commission on Television Rights, which he would preside over, and asked me to be a part of it. Towards the end of the first meeting of that Commission, he surprised me by announcing my appointment to head the 2010-2012 TV rights negotiations for the US broadcast rights.

It was an honour and a pleasure to work for him. He loved sport and always thought of the athletes first. I learned much from Jacques. He knew the politics of sport and was a great administrator of its institutions. As a leader, he knew the line between attention to detail and micromanagement. I will always cherish the feeling of pride I felt when, after presenting him with an issue on finance or TV rights, he would turn to me and say, “Do what you think is best; you have carte blanche.”

We have lost a great leader and, more importantly, a great human being. His legacy lives on.





Octavian Morariu

IOC Member

How to summarise this vast career of service to the Olympic and sports movement, how to accurately describe the man who was our worthy and exemplary President for 12 years?

First of all, he was an exceptional, indefatigable man, a great builder of the Olympic Movement, which he made the leader of world sport.

Far-sighted, always positive in his actions, an expert on the whole Olympic and sports movement, he will be remembered for his generosity, but also his rigour in building a modern IOC, at the service of the athletes.

Secondly, as an accomplished and wise captain, he always steered the Olympic boat into the right harbour, sheltered from storms, but always ready to set a bold course for new horizons.

And thirdly, he was steadfast, tenacious and determined, but also appreciated and admired by all his crewmates.

We all miss him greatly already. But I am certain that his infectious passion for sport, his special, almost paternal concern for the athletes, his unflinching determination to achieve clean sport without cheaters, his constant encouragement to move forward and, quite simply, the example he set, will remain forever in our memories.

Thank you President, thank you Jacques!



HRH the Grand Duke of Luxembourg

IOC Member

I shall always remember Count Jacques Rogge as an upright and courteous man, who was highly competent in his role as President of the International Olympic Committee. His sporting and intellectual achievements made him a President who led the Olympic Movement towards new horizons, in particular by creating the Youth

Robin E. Mitchell

IOC Executive Board member

President Rogge and I became members of the ANOC Executive Council in 1989 in the year he was elected President of the European Olympic Committees and I was elected Vice-President of the Oceania National Olympic Committees. We both continued in this role until he was elected President of the International Olympic Committee in 2001, whilst I have remained with the ANOC Executive Council.

Our mutual background was in medicine and this meant that we were both involved in the IOC Medical Commission. Jacques became an IOC Member in 1991, three years before I was elected in 1994. He was Chair of the Coordination Commission for the Olympic Games in Sydney, which I joined in 1999 as an NOC representative.

Given our medical backgrounds, our sporting interests (he played in a rugby Test match against Fiji) and the fact that our wives were both doctors, we all had similar interests and became good friends. I looked up to him as a mentor and his influence on my IOC career has been invaluable but, more importantly, he was a true friend and will be missed by the sporting family in Oceania.



Olympic Games, but also by including new sports on the Olympic programme.

Ethics in all its aspects was one of his priorities. As well as the Olympic values, youth and education were given new impetus under his leadership.

Nor will I forget his dear wife, Anne, who supported him throughout his career.

In addition to the sincere friendship between him and my father, Grand Duke Jean, the Grand Duchess and I received Count Rogge in a private capacity on several



Francesco Ricci Bitti

ASOIF President

I still remember the first time I had the opportunity to exchange ideas with Jacques during a pioneering conference on governance in 2001, co-organised by the European Olympic Committees (EOC) in Brussels (Belgium). Back then, Jacques was still EOC President, and I learnt quickly to appreciate him as a strong defender of clean sport and good governance. This meeting was the start of a close collaboration and friendship, which became even stronger when I was elected as an IOC Member in 2006.

Sport, athletes and the Olympic values were always at the centre of everything Jacques did. He firmly believed that if competition is based on fair play, then the governance of sport should also comply with the highest standards in terms of transparency, democracy and accountability – a premise for sports organisations to “deserve” their autonomy. Likewise, I will always cherish his efforts to involve and consult all key stakeholders of the Olympic Movement, which also led him to create the Olympic Summit in 2011.

Jacques was always credible, measured, supportive, kind... and humorous – a genuine and very wise man, fully committed to serving the Olympic Movement.

Jacques, my memories of you are nothing but fond, and you are dearly missed!



occasions in Luxembourg. Our exchanges were always a source of joy and enrichment.

