



## STATEMENTS BY THE COMMUNITIES AND THE MINISTER PRESIDENT

### **Armin Laschet, Minister President of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia:**

"We welcome and are supporting the initiative for a bid by the 'Rhein Ruhr City 2032' for the 2032 Olympic and Para-Olympic Games. The unique metropolitan region in the heart of Europe looks back on a long tradition of sport, immense enthusiasm for sport and a sporting landscape that is unique in its diversity. I am delighted about the pioneering spirit that the cities involved emanated today and I am convinced: With the aid of a transparent application procedure and the early involvement of the municipalities the widespread acceptance of the citizens can be achieved. Holding the Olympic Games in the Rhine Ruhr District will provide the opportunity to stage an innovative and sustainable Games. It will create new dynamics for our state."

### **Marcel Philipp, Mayor of the City of Aachen:**

"We already dispose of a world-class infrastructure for the equestrian sport sector in Aachen. We host over 350,000 visitors in our stadiums annually at the CHIO and also European and World Championships in several disciplines have also already benefited from the good organisational structures in Aachen. It would be a dream for our sports-loving city to become part of the Olympic Games with the sports facilities of the ALRV. We are ready!"

### **Ashok-Alexander Sridharan, Mayor of the City of Bonn:**

"I see the alliance of the cities of the Rhine and Ruhr district for the Olympic Games as a huge opportunity! Not only because we would become even more closely networked on a supra-regional basis, but because Bonn as a city that is enthusiastic about sports would be delighted to be one of the hosts of the Rhein Ruhr City 2032.

The Deutsche Post is our partner for the Bonn Marathon, with this global player as a supporter of the Olympic initiative, we form a strong team in the competition for the 2032 Olympic Games."

### **Ullrich Sierau, Mayor of the City of Dortmund:**

"Dortmund and the entire Ruhr metropolis are more enthusiastic about sports than any other region in Germany. This is demonstrated by the variety of sports that are at home here, which are successful at both popular mass sport and top competition sport level and which are practised with great enthusiasm. Not least the fantastic achievements of the athletes of the Olympic Training Centre in Dortmund at Olympic Games contribute towards a positive prevailing mood for sports in our region. We have an excellent sport infrastructure and as such a clear advantage over others. The only question that remains is if not now, when?"

# PRESS RELEASE



**Sören Link, Mayor of the City of Duisburg:**

“We are supporting the initiative for sustainable Games in the region. Duisburg is a sporting city with outstanding sports facilities. We have proven that we can organise major sporting events among others through our participation in the Universiade in 1989 or the World Games in 2005. And the water world Wedau with its regatta course and the parallel channel definitely live up to Olympic standards. International major events at world-class level are held there regularly. I think the sport-loving people of Duisburg would also like to see the Olympic Games staged in the Ruhr area. The financing issue is of course a different matter, this is where the state and sponsors come into play.”

**Thomas Geisel, Mayor of the City of Düsseldorf:**

“With a share of 85.3 percent of people who actively participate in sports, Düsseldorf is the sportiest major city in Germany. The people from Düsseldorf impressively demonstrated their enthusiasm for sports to the global public at the start of the Tour de France. The Grand Départ Düsseldorf 2017 also proved that major sporting events bring the region together. Düsseldorf offers a very good sports facilities infrastructure for many Olympic sports. The sporting and economic framework conditions in Düsseldorf and the region are ideal for an application bid for the Olympic Games. Düsseldorf is more than happy to play an active role in the application process.”

**Thomas Kufen, Mayor of the City of Essen:**

“The Olympic Games would fascinate both athletes and enthusiastic spectators equally in the Rhine and Ruhr area. There are a wide range of sports in Essen and the city has already produced many successful talents. I am thus pleased to support the desire to stage such an important event in our own country, indeed in our own region. The Ruhr area has demonstrated several times in the past that we can master big projects together and that we are good hosts.”

**Frank Baranowski, Mayor of the City of Gelsenkirchen:**

“We have had plenty of experiences with major sporting events such as the Football World Cup or a Champions League final in Gelsenkirchen – but staging Olympic swimming competitions in our arena, that would be something special even for our sporting city. Which is one of the reasons why I am delighted about the initiative to bring the Olympic Games to NRW and to the Ruhr district, in the city of cities. I am convinced: An Olympic Games in the Rhine and Ruhr district - that is a fantastic perspective, which could set free a great deal of dormant potential in our city region!”

**Frank Meyer, Mayor of the City of Krefeld:**

“The Olympic Games are a fantastic opportunity to present the strengths of our region to the global public and demonstrate our hospitality. As a vibrant sporting city, which recently yielded eight medal winners in Rio de Janeiro, Krefeld is of course participating in the joint application bid. What could be more appropriate here than boxing? We will fight for the Olympics, gladly over several rounds.”

# PRESS RELEASE



**Henriette Reker, Mayor of the City of Cologne:**

“The Olympic Games have always been a festival of international understanding. And in times like these, we should take advantage of every opportunity to unite people beyond the borders. Olympic and Para-Olympic Games are always something very special and are associated with big hopes of all the parties involved. This also applies for the cities and regions that submit a bid to stage the event. I am supporting a bid because I am convinced: As a sporting city of international renown, Cologne would be a superb host for a sustainable, modern and impressive Olympic Games. The prerequisite is that the citizens of the city give this idea their positive vote. During the process of putting this project into practice, the focus has to be on sustainable developments for high-quality living conditions in the region.”

**Uwe Richrath, Mayor of the City of Leverkusen:**

“The people from the Rhine and Ruhr region are sports enthusiasts. At the same time, there are so many sports facilities and hotels here that hardly any new infrastructure would have to be created for an Olympic Games. This speaks in favour of the Rhein Ruhr City 2032 initiative, which Leverkusen as a sporting city is backing. Numerous athletes from a range of different disciplines, which continually celebrate major victories at the Olympics and Para-Olympics, train here. Such ‘home Games’ would be absolutely unique for our athletes.”

**Hans Wilhelm Reiners, Mayor of the City of Mönchengladbach:**

“It goes without saying that with its modern hockey stadium, where among others the Hockey World Championships were held in 2006, Mönchengladbach would make an ideal location for a possible Olympic hockey tournament. During the Tour de France, Mönchengladbach demonstrated just recently that in addition to its Borussia, the sporting city that is at the same time home to the German Hockey Association is capable of organising major sporting events. This is why I am delighted that the city is to be one of the cornerstones of the Rhein Ruhr City 2032 initiative.”

**Daniel Schranz, Mayor of the City of Oberhausen:**

“In spite of all the criticism, also recently, I still consider the Olympic Games as a people-uniting sports festival to be a magnificent idea. The perspective of staging this sports festival on our own territory, definitely gets one dreaming. And it would also be a huge chance for the Ruhr metropolis in terms of our sports facilities, infrastructure and image.”

**Christoph Tesche, Mayor of the City of Recklinghausen:**

“Hosting the Olympic Games would give the Ruhr Festival city Recklinghausen the opportunity to demonstrate our strengths as a sporting city to the international public. The Hoheward Landscape Park would be ideal for mountain bike competitions. And connecting the cities of the Rhine and Ruhr district for the Olympic Games would also be a fantastic chance for the entire region: Together we could set an important signal, even beyond the sport.”