

## THE FINAL SPRINT UP FOR THE EUROGAMES!

Registration for the EuroGames 2004 in Munich ends on 30<sup>th</sup> April. More than 4000 sportswomen and men have already signed up for the lesbian and gay multi-sports championships. In addition to Bristol-Myers Squibb and Webport the games are now also being supported by Aktion Mensch, the AIDS Foundation, Galeria Kaufhof München am Marienplatz, Löwenbräu, Granini, Stadtwerke München and Hotel Deutsche Eiche.

**Munich, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2004** – More than 4000 sportswomen and men have so far registered for the EuroGames 2004, which are taking place in Munich from 29<sup>th</sup> July until 1<sup>st</sup> August (last updated on 1<sup>st</sup> March). The organizers expect that, by the end of the registration in April, a total of 5000 sportswomen and men from 47 European countries will have signed up. The biggest contingents among the participants already registered come from Germany, the Netherlands, Britain, Spain, Switzerland and Denmark. But this summer there will also be Estonians and Russians to be seen in the Olympic Park. For the first time in the history of the EuroGames competitions will be taking place at Olympic venues.

Among the 27 different sports being offered, swimming, badminton, volleyball and track and field are especially favored. Up until now the most participants have signed up for these „classic“ events. Besides these, however, there are fans of less usual disciplines such as bench pressing, cheerleading, golf and chess. Registrations have been received for every one of the different sports. The **cultural week**, which starts on 24<sup>th</sup> July, is also taking shape. The time-table of events is very largely in place, and from March onwards they should be online and bookable via travel agencies. 20,000 visitors can look forward with enthusiasm to the exhibitions, concerts, lesbian/gay cabaret, a shopping evening, city and mountain tours, a steamboat excursion on Lake Starnberg and numerous parties.

Since March, those who want to register for the games at [www.eurogames.info/2004](http://www.eurogames.info/2004) are charged 88 Euros. Members of the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF), who awarded the license for the games, pay 78 Euros. Those visitors who are not taking part in the competitions, but just want to spectate, can obtain the „La Ola“ visitor's ticket for 35 Euros. Included in all these tickets are admission to the sporting events, the opening and closing ceremonies and a pass for the Munich transportation system (MVV). Those who may register for the EuroGames include individual competitors and teams and those accompanying them, and also spectators, helpers, hosts for private accommodation and journalists. Certain hotels are offering accommodation at special rates. Registration ends on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Supporting the EuroGames since the start of this year are several new partners and sponsors. The charity **Aktion Mensch** is contributing 60,000 Euros for the integration of participants with special needs. „We want to enable people with disabilities to be active in sport. The sexual orientation of the athletes is of no importance to us – sport is sport“, says Irene Gemein from Aktion Mensch. Eurogames has appointed a coordinator for those with special needs, to ensure that the available finances are used correctly, and that the athletes are fully integrated into the competitions. Together, EuroGames

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and the Bavarian handicapped sports association have developed a concept for the integration of those with special needs. In certain sports – depending on the number of participants – EuroGames will be running special competitions for disabled people. For example the organizers of the dance competitions are inviting wheelchair users to a dance tournament. A chess tournament is taking place for the blind and visually handicapped. In most other sports, those with special needs are directly integrated in the tournaments. There are events for and with people with special needs in the cultural program as well. The specialist conference „Homosexuality and disabilities“ offers the opportunity of exchanging views and experiences with experts.

The foundation **Deutsche AIDS-Stiftung** in Bonn is supporting the EuroGames indirectly. It will pay the participation fees for German athletes who are HIV-positive and in financial need. „We want to enable those affected to take part in all aspects of life in society“, says Thomas Rüchel, who works in the grants department at the AIDS-foundation.

**Gold for Galeria Kaufhof, Silver for Bristol-Myers Squibb and Löwenbräu, Bronze for Granini, Webport, Stadtwerke München and Deutsche Eiche**

The organizers have been able to sign up the following new sponsors: the department store **Galeria Kaufhof München am Marienplatz**, the brewery **Löwenbräu**, the producers of soft drinks **Granini**, **Stadtwerke München** (municipal utility) and the Hotel **Deutsche Eiche**. Galeria Kaufhof is the gold sponsor: at the opening the store will present sports rucksacks to all the participants and will equip the helpers with T-shirts. Löwenbräu, one of Munich's traditional breweries, offers beer in the Rainbow Village, the central meeting-place in the Olympic Park during the games. The bronze sponsor Granini wants to bring new products on to the market via EuroGames and will deliver fruit juices for the catering. The Hotel Deutsche Eiche, a further bronze sponsor, has one of the longest traditions as a center of the lesbian and gay scene in Munich. Last but not least, Stadtwerke München, municipal utility and bronze sponsor, is supporting the games. As before, the pharmaceuticals company and silver sponsor **Bristol-Myers Squibb** and the IT service company **Webport** as bronze sponsor continue to support the games.

The EuroGames are intended for sportswomen and sportsmen who actively support the integration of homosexuals in sport. Everyone is welcome, regardless of origin, sexual orientation, or religious or political beliefs. Athletes with special needs are specifically encouraged to take part. The organizing body of the EuroGames München is the association „EuroGames München e.V.“ More than 120 volunteer helpers are active in nine project groups - they have largely been recruited from the lesbian and gay sports clubs in Munich. A managing committee of eight persons is responsible for the coordination of the preparations.

**Information and material for the press at [www.eurogames.info/2004](http://www.eurogames.info/2004)**

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