



SAN MARINO
2017

XVII GAMES OF THE SMALL
STATES OF EUROPE

NEWS LETTER
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SAN MARINO 2017: The Games are getting closer



■ We are less than one year from the Games of the Small States of Europe which will be organised by the Republic of San Marino for the third time from 29 May to 3 June 2017. Two important events took place last May that will lead us to the Games: the GSSE General Assembly, with the Meeting of the Technical Committee, and the Countdown Relay, the event with which San Marino celebrated the 365 days to the Games.



GSSE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On the 6th and 7th of May 2016 San Marino was pleased to host the delegations of the Small States of Europe who met on Mount Titano for the proceedings of the GSSE General Assembly. The assembly was preceded, on Friday morning, by the proceedings of the Technical Committee of the Games, which were held at the Grand Hotel Primavera in Borgo Maggiore. During the meeting, the Organising Committee presented the Games for next year with some videos. The presentation was particularly appreciated by the participants as, one year from the event, almost all the details were covered extensively.

After the meeting, the participants visited the hotels and accommodation facilities of the Republic and went on a tour of the sports facilities, starting from Acquaviva and a visit to the shooting range and to the gym for the judo matches and ending in Borgo Maggiore, where the delegations were able to see the federal Bocciodromo (the Bocce alley), and Montecchio with the Casa del Calcio (the Football House) and the tennis courts. Afterwards, the tour continued down to Serravalle, with a visit to the San Marino Stadium and the services tower, the Casadei gym, the Multieventi arena (multi-functional sports centre) and its swimming pool. From here, the participants went to



the skeet shooting range, in La Ciarulla to end with a visit of the paths for the cycling races. The morning of Saturday, 8th May was dedicated to the General Assembly, during which a number of changes to the rules of the Games were discussed and a Programmatic Document was presented, laying down the guidelines to be assessed and discussed by a Working Group and later approved at the next General Assembly.

There was also time for a presentation of the 2019 edition by the Montenegro Olympic Committee, to introduce "Sammy" - the mascot for this edition of the games- to the delegates, and present

the official logo, the competition venues, the programme, the first draft of the technical manual, the website www.sanmarino2017.sm and social networks.

The assembly was followed by a press conference, during which the President of CONS Gian Primo Giardi and the Secretary of State for Sports Teodoro Lonferini, co-chairs of the Organising Committee, together with the coordinator Angelo Vicini, presented a progress report, emphasising the great importance of this event for the Republic of San Marino, calling for the involvement of the country as a whole.

COUNTDOWN RELAY

On Sunday, May 29th the Republic located on Mount Titano woke up early in the morning to celebrate an important date: 365 days to the Games of the Small States of Europe 2017. An occasion which the GSSE Organising Committee decided to turn into an event with a relay race ending with the switch-on of the digital clock that will count down the days, hours, minutes and seconds leading up to the event. Around 200 people participated, all wearing the celebrative T-shirt “-365 Days”.

The torchbearers arrived from the 9 Castles of San Marino (9 as the number of Countries competing in the Games) waiving the flags of the 9 competing nations, instead of the Olympic torch. The first relay was that of Chiesanuova with the Andorra flag, followed by Montegiardino with the flag of Cyprus, Faetano with the flag of Iceland, Fiorentino with the flag of Monaco, Acquaviva with the flag of Luxembourg, the City of San Marino Città with the flag of the Republic of San Marino, Borgo Maggiore with the flag of Malta, Serravalle with the flag of Mon-



tenegro and Domagnano with that of Liechtenstein. The 9 flags, followed by numerous relay runners arrived all together at the Serravalle roundabout, at the entrance of the Serravalle Sports Centre, where, before the clock switch-on, the usual greetings were held.



President Giardi thanked the Organising Committee, chaired by the coordinator Angelo Vicini, for the work done so far and for the work ahead. He also thanked





the citizens, who attended the initiative with great enthusiasm, showing that the whole country believes in the Games and is looking forward to them. Many presidents of Sports Federations were also present at the event. Finally, the mascot of the Games "Sammy" could not but be there, making people smiling and taking photos. The countdown has started, San Marino cannot wait for May 29th 2017 to arrive!

the many relay runners, old and young, who contributed to making the event unique. Secretary Lonfernini, in his welcoming speech to the participants, pointed out that San Marino has already organised two memorable editions of the Games and the 2017 edition will be just as successful. The political institutions showed close participation, with the presence of Secretary Lonfernini, as well as of the Secretaries Francesco Mussoni (Healthcare) and Marco Arzilli (Industry, Arts and Crafts and Trade), who actively took part in the relay race, as runners. Also present, were the 9 Castle Captains, the institutional level closest to

