



## The Flame arrived in Austria – Torch Run started today

After the „Flame of Hope“ was lit in Athens on March 2<sup>nd</sup> it arrived in Zurich by plane on Wednesday. There it was received by Law Enforcement Torch Run® Austrian coordinators Adi Reiter, Markus Glössl and Walter Buchegger.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) officially started this morning in Bregenz, the capital of Austria's most western province, Vorarlberg. From there the flame will be carried by the Final Leg Team, who will embark on two different routes, running the Flame of Hope throughout 50 cities, towns and communities across Austria. A team of 133 Final Leg Team members (which includes 88 law enforcement officers, 10 Special Olympics athletes, and logistics personnel) will serve as Guardians of the Flame, stopping in 50 places. Please follow the journey of the flame at the below site so you can before it arrives in Schladming for the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Winter Games on 18 March.

Follow the journey here: <http://www.austria2017.org/en/sei-dabei/torch-run>

Photos of the Final Leg can be found on <http://letphotos.smugmug.com/2017-Austria/n-z8JrXq>

## Download the official APP

You can now download the official app of the World Winter Games free of charge. You can find them in the various app stores, it is called "Austria 2017". The app provides all essential informations about the Games, of course also timetables and results.





## Three venues and nine kinds of sport

The Special Olympics World Winter Games Austria 2017 (SOWWG 2017) hosts nine sports: Floor Hockey, Floorball and Stick Shooting in Messe Graz, Speed Skating and Figure Skating in Eisstadion Graz, Alpine Skiing and Snowboarding in Schladming, Snowshoeing and Cross Country in Ramsau.

Fact Sheets about the various disciplines can be found unter <http://www.austria2017.org/de/games-2017/die-spiele/sportarten>

Additionally, there are two competitions to be demonstrated during the SOWWG 2017: Dancing und MATP (Motor Activity Training Program).

Information:

<http://www.austria2017.org/en/games-2017/die-spiele/sportarten/dancing-demonstration-contest>  
und

<http://www.austria2017.org/en/games-2017/die-spiele/sportarten/matp-demonstration-contest>

### Dance Competition:

The Dance Competition will kick off on 22 March at the Orpheum Graz from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. This event is completely sold out to the public, but there are limited tickets available to media to attend. The Awards ceremony for this competition will take place on 23 March at the Messe Graz from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Please contact [media@austria2017.org](mailto:media@austria2017.org) if you would like to attend and cover either of these events.

### Motor Activity Program (MATP):

The Special Olympics Motor Activity Training Program is designed for athletes who are unable to participate in official Special Olympics sport competitions because of their skill and/or functional abilities. The Motor Activity Training Program is designed to prepare athletes -- including those with severe or profound intellectual disability and significant physical disabilities -- for sport-specific activities appropriate for their ability levels. The MATP event will begin on 23 March at the Messe Graz, Hall B, Stage at 9:00 a.m. with training. The official demonstration will kick off at 11:00 a.m. Awards will follow at 16:00 p.m.



## Press conference, Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, Graz Opera House

A press conference by SOWWG 2017 for Austrian media will be held on Monday 13 March, 10:30 a. m. on the first floor of Graz Opera House. Your questions will be answered by:

*Athletes competing in SOWWG 2017*

*Hermann Schützenhöfer, Governor of Styria*

*Anton Lang, Member of the Provincial Government of Styria*

*Kurt Hohensinner, City Councilor of Graz*

*Jürgen Winter, President of Special Olympics Austria*

*Ernst Fischbacher, Vice-President of SOWWG 2017*

*Marc Angelini and Markus Pichler, Directors of SOWWG 2017*

Opera Graz via Google Maps:

<https://www.google.at/maps/place/Oper+Graz/@47.06902,15.4434759,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x476e4a802459cb23:0x6699f9f525e37892!8m2!3d47.06902!4d15.4456646>

## Opening Ceremony Press Conference, Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, congress Schladming

On 18 March, Special Olympics International will hold a press conference in the congress Schladming. It will start on 3:00 p.m. in the Media Center. Your questions will be answered by:

- Timothy Shriver (Chairman Special Olympics International)
- Mary Davis (CEO Special Olympics International)
- Juergen Winter (President Special Olympics Austria)
- Special Olympics Athletes and International Global Messengers



## Requests for Interviews

If you are interested in any interviews with Special Olympics Chairman Timothy Shriver, Special Olympics CEO Mary Davis, Special Olympics Global Ambassadors and celebrities and Special Olympics International Global Messengers, please contact Christy Weir, Director of Global Media and Public Relations on [media@specialolympics.org](mailto:media@specialolympics.org). Your request will be answered in a timely fashion.

If you are interested in any interviews with Games Organizing Committee executives including President Juergen Winter, Marc Angelini and Markus Pichler, Directors of SOWWG 2017 please contact Heri Hahn on [media@austria2017.org](mailto:media@austria2017.org).

## Media receptions in Graz and Schladming

For all journalists at the SOWWG 2017 there will be two media receptions:

On Monday, 20 March, 8:00 p. m. there will be a reception in congress Schladming. SOWWG 2017 media team invites all journalists to come together, to network, to eat and drink. During the evening the Dachstein-Tauern-region, where Schladming and Ramsau are situated, will be presented.

On Tuesday, 21 March, 8:00 p. m. there will be a reception in Messe Graz, Stadthalle, first floor, Room 1. We will surprise you with some interesting guests and are looking forward to an enjoyable evening.

You will get an e-mail in the next few days for registration to attend these media receptions.



## Conference of ministers in Graz on the occasion of SOWWG

On the occasion of SOWWG 2017 on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> a conference about „Inclusion“ will be held in Graz. Ministers from 28 countries, invited by Hans Peter Doskozil, Austrian Minister of Defense and Sports and Alois Stöger, Austrian Minister of Social Affairs will participate.

On Saturday the ministers will attend some of the competitions in Messe Graz. If you want to join the group walk please be at Coca-Cola lounge, ground floor of Stadthalle Graz at 09.30 a.m. No registration necessary, just bring your accreditation along.

We want to inform you that this will be the only chance to talk to the ministers during their stay in Graz.

### Participants:

#### Canada:

HE Ms. Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sports and Persons with Disabilities

#### Côte d'Ivoire/Elfenbeinküste:

Ms. Kinimo Fetai Hortense, Director, Sports Federations & High Level Sports, Ministry of Youth Development, Sports and Leisure

#### Cyprus:

Mr. Kleanthis Georgiades, Chairman, Cyprus Sports Organization

#### Czech Republic:

HE Ms. Michaela Marksová, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs  
Mrs. Jana Havlikova, Director of Minister's Cabinet

#### Egypt:

HE Mr. Eng. Khaled Abdel Aziz, Minister of Youth & Sports  
HE Mr. Dr. Ghada Waly, Minister of Social Solidarity  
Ms. Cherine Rahmy, UN Regional representative for the Middle East/ North Africa

#### European Institutions:

HE Ms. Jana Žitňanská, Member of Disability Intergroup  
Mr. Dirk Meusel, CHAFAA  
Ms. Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General for the Directorate General of Democracy





## Media Communiqué 3

March, 9<sup>th</sup>

### Germany:

HE Ms. Gabriele Lösekrug-Möller, State Secretary for Labour and Social Affairs  
Mr. Gerhard Böhm, Head of the Department of Sports, Ministry of the Interior

### Gibraltar:

HE Ms. Samantha Sacramento, Minister of Housing and Equality  
HE Mr. Stephen Linares, Minister of Culture, Media, Youth and Sport

### Greece:

HE Mr. Giorgos Vassiliades, Deputy Minister of Culture and Sports  
Mr. Dionyssios Kodellas, President SO Greece  
Mr. Andreas Potamianos, SO Greece Honorary President  
Mr. Panagiotis Efstathiou, SO Greece Vice President

### Hungary:

Péter Sárfalvi, Deputy Secretary of State, Ministry of Human Capacities

### Iraq:

HE Mr. Abdulhussein Abdulridha Baqer Abtan, Minister of Youth and Sports  
Ahmed Oudah Zamil, Manager, Ministry of Youth  
Mr. Raad Hammoodi Salman Al-Dulaimi, President NOC Iraq

### Japan:

Mr. Tetsuya Kimura, Director General, Japan Sports Agency  
Mr. Daisuke ISHIKAWA, Specialist, Office to Promote Para-Sports, Sports for Health Division

### Jordan:

HRH Prince Merid Bin Ra'ad, Royal Family and President of the Higher Council for affairs of Persons with disabilities  
Mr. Ali Al Shawahin, SO Jordan National Director  
Personal Guard

### Kazakhstan:

Mrs. Zagipa Balieva, MP of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ombudsman for Children in Kazakhstan  
Mrs. Olga Bakhareva, Chairman of the Board of SO Kazakhstan  
Mrs. Elmira Suleimanova, Executive Director SO Kazakhstan

### Kenya:

Mr. Anne Musalia, Ministry of Education, Quality Assurance Officer



## Media Communiqué 3

March, 9<sup>th</sup>

### Liechtenstein:

HE Ms. Marlies Amann-Marxer, Minister of Infrastructure, Environment and Sport  
Mr. Johann Pingitzer, Ministry of Infrastructure, Environment and Sport

### Luxembourg:

HE Mr. Romain Schneider, Minister of Sports

### Macao SAR Government:

HE Dr. Mr. Chon Weng Alexis Tam, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture  
Mr. Rafael Duarte Branca da Gama, Adviser to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture  
Mr. Mr. Pun Chi Meng, President, Special Olympics  
Ms. Veng Hang Leong, Adviser to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture

### Malta:

HE Ms. Dr. Justyne Caruana, Junior Minister for Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Active Ageing

### Morocco:

HE Khalid Berjaoui, Minister of Youth and Sports  
Mr. Rachid El Guenouni, Director of the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disability, Ministry of Solidarity, Women's Affairs and Social Development

### Namibia:

Dr. Vetumbuavi Siegfried Vei, Chairperson, The African Union Sports Council Region 5

### Poland:

HE Mr. Witold Bańka, Minister of Sports and Tourism  
Mr. Przemysław Zawistowski, Head of the Political Cabinet, Ministry of Sports

### Russia:

HE Ms. Marina Tomilova, Vice Minister of Sports  
Mr. Yuri Smirnov, Deputy Leader of the Russian Duma and President, Special Olympics Russia

### Slovakia:

Mr. Ján Richter, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

### Slovenia:

HE Ms. Maja Makovec Brenčič, Minister of Education, Science and Sport  
Mr. Dr. Boro Štrumbelj, Director General for Sport, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

### Spain:

Mr. Ricardo Navacerrada, Supreme Council of Sports



## Media Communiqué 3

March, 9<sup>th</sup>

### South Africa:

HE Mr. Gert C. Oosthuizen, Deputy Minister of Sport and Recreation

Ms. Ancilla Smith, CEO SO South Africa

Ms Manthipi Molamu, Director Services to People with Disabilities

### South Korea:

Hyoungcho Lee, Deputy Minister for Sports Policy, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Chungnam Ju, Deputy Director, Sports for the Disabled Division, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

### United Arab Emirates:

HE Najla Al Awar, Minister of Community Development

HE Shamma Al Mazrouei, Minister of State for Youth Affairs

HE Aref Al Awani, General Secretary, Abu Dhabi Sports Council

## Your accreditation for the Games

During the accreditation application process, you decided WHERE you would pick up your accreditation: in Graz or in Schladming.

You can pick up your accreditation **as of March 14<sup>th</sup> (starting at 9 a.m., respectively):**

– in Graz at the media center in the Stadthalle Graz, first floor

– in Schladming at the media center in the congress Schladming, first floor

Addresses:

Stadthalle Graz, Messeplatz 1, 8010 Graz

congress Schladming, Europaplatz 800, 8970 Schladming

Please note that it's no longer possible to change your pick up location.

The media centers in Graz and Schladming are opened daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m





## Important addresses

- Homepage: [www.austria2017.org](http://www.austria2017.org) (Special Olympics World Winter Games 2017)  
[www.specialolympics.at](http://www.specialolympics.at) (Special Olympics Austria)  
[www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org) (Special Olympics International)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/austria2017](http://www.facebook.com/austria2017)  
[www.facebook.com/specialolympics](http://www.facebook.com/specialolympics) (Special Olympics International)  
[www.facebook.com/soeuropeeurasia](http://www.facebook.com/soeuropeeurasia) (Special Olympics Europe)
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/sowwg2017](http://www.twitter.com/sowwg2017) & [www.twitter.com/2017austria](http://www.twitter.com/2017austria)  
[www.twitter.com/specialolympics](http://www.twitter.com/specialolympics) (Special Olympics International)  
[www.twitter.com/SpecOlympicsEU](http://www.twitter.com/SpecOlympicsEU) (Special Olympics Europe)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/austria2017](http://www.instagram.com/austria2017)  
[www.instagram.com/specialolympics](http://www.instagram.com/specialolympics) (Special Olympics International)  
[www.instagram.com/special\\_olympics\\_eu](http://www.instagram.com/special_olympics_eu) (Special Olympics Europe)
- Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/sowwg2017/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/sowwg2017/) & [www.flickr.com/photos/hosttownprogramm](http://www.flickr.com/photos/hosttownprogramm)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/soi-photo-stream/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/soi-photo-stream/albums) (Special Olympics International)
- YouTube: [www.youtube.com/c/SpecialOlympicsWorldWinterGames2017](http://www.youtube.com/c/SpecialOlympicsWorldWinterGames2017)  
[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIHbm7j-AXsVBNxBfN81bFtm20Idf\\_67](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIHbm7j-AXsVBNxBfN81bFtm20Idf_67) (SOI)

### Active Hashtags for the Games are:

- #HeartbeatForTheWorld
- #Austria2017
- #SpecialOlympics
- #ChangeTheGame
- #PlayUnified



## Calendar

- March, 9<sup>th</sup> Law Enforcement Torch Run in Austria starts in Bregenz ([www.let-r-finalleg.org](http://www.let-r-finalleg.org))  
*Start des Fackellaufs in Österreich (Bregenz)*
- March, 13<sup>th</sup> Press Conference for Austrian Media in Graz  
*Pressekonferenz für österreichische Medien in Graz*
- March, 14<sup>th</sup> Delegation arrivals in Austria and Host Town Program begins  
*Ankunft der Delegationen in Österreich und Beginn des Host Town Programms*
- March, 16<sup>th</sup> Delegation arrivals in Graz, Schladming and Ramsau am Dachstein  
*Ankunft der Delegationen in Graz, Schladming und Ramsau am Dachstein*
- March, 17<sup>th</sup> First day of sports competitions (Divisionings)  
*Erste sportliche Bewerbe (Divisionings = Einteilungen in Leistungsstufen)*
- March, 18<sup>th</sup> Opening Ceremony Press Conference in Schladming (3:00 p.m.)  
*Eröffnungspressekonferenz in Schladming (15:00 Uhr)*
- March, 18<sup>th</sup> Pre-Opening Reception with Honored Guests, Sponsors and Partners in Schladming (congress, 4:30 p.m.)  
*Pre-Opening Empfang mit Ehrengästen, Sponsoren und Partnern in Schladming (congress, 16:30 Uhr)*
- March, 18<sup>th</sup> Opening Ceremony in Schladming (7:00 p.m.)  
*Eröffnungsfeier in Schladming (19:00 Uhr)*
- March, 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Sports competitions, Award Ceremonies and Side Events  
*Sportwettkämpfe, Siegerehrungen und Rahmenprogramm*
- March, 24<sup>th</sup> Closing Ceremony in Graz (7:00 p.m.)  
*Schlussfeier in Graz (19:00 Uhr)*
- March, 25<sup>th</sup> Delegation departures  
*Abreise der Delegationen*