

IOC Evaluation Commission meeting – Milan-Cortina 2026

Closing remarks – Chair Octavian Morariu (CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

Dear Mr Fontana, President of the Region of Lombardy

Dear Mr Zaia, President of the Region of Veneto

Dear Mayor Sala

Dear Mayor Ghedina

Dear Deputy Mayors

Dear IOC Colleagues

Dear President of ASOIF

Dear Friends from the Italian Olympic and Paralympic Committees

Dear Friends from the Italian Sports Federations

Dear Athletes

Dear Candidature team

Ladies and Gentlemen

- First of all and once again, thank you all for a great hospitality
- This week, we were pleased to see how your candidature greatly benefits from Olympic Agenda 2020
- All those involved have fully understood, endorsed and embedded its provisions and recommendations
- The new vision for the Games has allowed you to select venues with strong identities forged through and by sports
- In all the cities we have visited, we met athletes and organisers who know what they do and have a passion for what they do

- We were also impressed by the broad political support from all levels of government for this project
- Everywhere we've been, we were warmly received by local authorities and community representatives
- The presence of all possible stakeholders is proof of the unity that is always necessary to the development and success of a candidature
- The Olympic Games are a catalyst for social and environmental change
- Everything we do, needs to be done thinking about the generation 2026 that we saw here yesterday
- The Games are also a true business opportunity as proven by the different economic studies recently published here
- That's why the IOC invests substantially in the success of the Games, with a contribution of 925 million dollars
- We believe in the power of the Olympic Games
- And we welcome the fact that the local business sector agrees with us
- This power can help you combine city development and environmental sustainability
- In fact, the synergy between urban atmosphere and mountain spirit is one of the positive sides of your project
- The strong local identities united with the skills of a highly motivated team at the Candidature Committee – led by our friend Giovanni Malago – have led to the development of a very competitive proposition
- As we have seen this week, taking advantage of the flexibility afforded by Olympic Agenda 2020 requires creative solutions in areas such as athletes' experience and venue capabilities

- What we have heard so far on these subjects has been positive and based on good premises
- These will now need to be refined as the project develops
- We also look forward to receiving the clarifications on the process for the Olympic Law
- And, if Milan-Cortina are awarded the Games, we will be happy to continue supporting the Italian team in analysing efficiencies for the alpine skiing events
- After our five days here, we can say that the overwhelming popular support demonstrated by the latest IOC poll is not a surprise
 - 83 per cent of Italy is in favour of a candidature
 - In the Region of Lombardy, we have 81 per cent, with 87 per cent in Milan
 - And 80 per cent in the Region of Veneto
- It is clear for us that you can make dreams happen together
- Following our visits to the Candidate Cities, we now feel much more prepared to deliver an accurate and thorough report to my fellow IOC members
- They rely on this to make the best useful decision as they vote at the IOC Session in Lausanne on 24 June
- I would like to thank all of you here who have helped us with accomplishing this task:
 - The representatives of the Italian government as well as the regions and municipalities involved
 - The business environment

- Our friends from the Italian Olympic Committee, the Italian Paralympic Committee and the Milan-Cortina candidature team
- All the athletes that have greeted us during our visit
- And thank you to the media
- I would also like to convey to you a message from IOC President Thomas Bach, who sends the whole team his very best wishes and thanks for the excellent work carried out so far.
- Thank you very much

To close, as a token of our appreciation, we would like to present a small gift to:

- The President of the Region of Lombardy and the President of the Region of Veneto
- The Mayor of Milan and the Mayor of Cortina
- President Malago, representing the Italian Olympic Committee
- President Pancalli, representing the Italian Paralympic Committee
- Representatives of the Candidature team