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*All correspondence addressed
to the postal address quoting
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Dear President Rogge,

The Dutch Government warmly supports the bid of the Netherlands Olympic Committee**Netherlands Sports Confederation (NOC*NSF)* and the City of Rotterdam to host the 2018 Youth Olympic Games. I would like to share with you my arguments in favour of this candidature.

Offering adequate and quality sport and physical activity right in the neighbourhood is very important. If we are to deliver on my ambition to create possibilities for each and everyone to stay healthy as long as possible, this is essential. Moreover, being active in a sports club setting promotes social cohesion and community engagement. On top of that amazing achievements of elite athletes are a source of national inspiration and pride too.

For that reason the Dutch sport sector, the local authorities in the Netherlands and myself have joined forces to encourage young people to practice sport. Sport is fun and through sport young people get a better condition, gain all kinds of skills and learn to compete in a sportive and respectful way. With this in mind the 2018 Youth Olympic Games can be a great source of inspiration for young people in The Netherlands - and in the rest of the world. The YOG will motivate them to become or remain active in sport, which perfectly fits within the framework of the long term Olympic ambitions of The Netherlands as well.

Over the years Dutch sport organisations and public authorities have acquired a lot of experience in successfully staging international elite sports events, in particular in Rotterdam. At my initiative this knowledge and experience has been assembled in a tool kit for organising elite sports events, which includes complementary sport for all activities as well. I am therefore convinced that, if Rotterdam is awarded the YOG 2018, the professionalism and commitment of the Organisers will be such that we can ensure successful Games in a hospitable, safe and open atmosphere, to be enjoyed by both participants and visitors, while respecting the Fundamental Principles of Olympism.



Support

I can assure you that, if Rotterdam is awarded the YOG 2018, the Dutch Government will undertake every possible effort within the legal framework to assist the International Olympic Committee, the Organising Committee, the participants and others involved to make these very successful Games.

The Dutch cabinet, of which I am a member, resigned recently and elections took place on September 12th. It has my preference that my successor will decide on what the contribution of the Dutch government will be to the organisation of the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Rotterdam.

On behalf of the Dutch Government I would like to emphasise that I would consider it a great honour if the 2018 Youth Olympic Games would be awarded to the City of Rotterdam.

Yours sincerely,


Edith Schippers
Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport

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