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STORY HEADLINE: IOC President visits Ukraine and meets athletes before talks with President Zelensky

LOCATION: Kyiv, Ukraine
DATE: 4 July 2022
LANGUAGE: English & Ukrainian

STORY SCRIPT: International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach visited Ukraine on Sunday to meet with athletes and President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv, discussing further sports aid and support to the country and its athletes from the IOC.

President Bach met with around 100 athletes from the Ukrainian team at the Olympic Training Centre and listened to their first-hand accounts of training and competing in extremely difficult conditions.

“We want to show the solidarity of the Olympic Movement with our friends here in the Ukrainian Olympic community,” President Bach told the athletes, “We know you are living very difficult moments and we want not only to tell you, we want to show you, we want to reassure you that you are never alone with the Olympic community. We are with you with our hearts and thoughts every day.”

On the visit to the Centre, President Bach was accompanied by IOC Member and President of the Ukrainian National Olympic Committee (NOC) Sergii Bubka, Ukrainian sports minister Vadym Guttsait and double Olympic sprint champion and IOC member Valeriy Borzov.

Earlier, the IOC President, Bubka and Guttsait visited a badly damaged sports facility in Kyiv, the Avanhard basketball hall, which was hit by a missile attack on the city. Later, President Bach held hour-long talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

The IOC President told President Zelensky: “I want to thank you for holding such a meeting addressing sport at such a difficult time for your country. This is further confirmation of your commitment to sport and the Olympic values. We want to show solidarity in particular to the Ukrainian Olympic Community and to demonstrate to the athletes and coaches that they are not alone and that we stand by their side.”

During a media conference, President Zelensky welcomed the new strengthened initiatives from the IOC, which go beyond coordinating the support for more than 3,000 Ukrainian athletes at home and abroad.
President Bach has committed to continuing and strengthening the IOC’s support for Ukrainian athletes, with a view to Olympic Games Paris 2024 and Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026. As a result, the aid fund to athletes will be tripled to USD 7.5 million.

As the fund coordinator, Sergii Bubka will continue to rally the support of the entire Olympic Movement beyond this IOC fund. President Bach also committed to convening in Lausanne, together with the NOC of Ukraine and its Sports Minister, a Ukrainian Sport Recovery Conference of the Olympic Movement.

President Zelensky said to the IOC President: “I am grateful to Mr. Thomas Bach and to the International Olympic Committee for supporting the athletes of our country in these extraordinary, extremely cruel conditions. Today Mr. President announced the allocation of a new package of support for our Ukrainian Olympians. We appreciate it very much.”

SHOT LOG:
00:02 Train arriving at station in Kyiv.
00:06 IOC President Thomas Bach and Sergii Bubka greeting Ukrainian Minister Guttsait as they alight train
00:10 IOC President Bach greeting athletes at Olympic Training Centre
00:16 IOC President Bach talking to athletes at Olympic centre
00:24 Cutaway of athletes and coaches
00:30 IOC President Thomas Bach presenting gift to young Ukrainian athletes
00:36 IOC President Bach photoshoot with individual athletes and coaches
00:40 Small group photo with some athletes and coaches
00:42 Wide group photo in front of Olympic centre
00:48 Exterior Olympic centre entrance
00:52 Exterior Olympic centre sports facilities
00:55 IOC President Bach and delegation greeting Valeriy Borzov at Olympic centre
01:01 IOC President Bach, Minister Guttsait and Sergii Bubka inspect facilities
01:05 Exterior fenced football pitch
01:09 Running track lanes
01:13 Throwing event cages

01:17 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
(addressing Ukrainian athletes and staff)
“We wanted to show the solidarity of the Olympic Movement with our friends here in the Ukrainian Olympic community because we know that they are living very very difficult moments and we wanted to not only tell them, we wanted to show them, we wanted to experience them - that they are never alone in the Olympic community. We are with them with our hearts, with our thoughts every day, and that we want to support them to continue to make their Olympic dream come true.”

01:56 IOC President Thomas Bach looking out to athletes

02:00 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
(addressing Ukrainian athletes and staff)
“When you look into the eyes of some of the athletes it’s not only smiles. You can feel, and if you listen carefully you get the feeling about the pain they have in their heart. Yes, from time to time we may smile, we want to look to the future in an optimistic way and in a confident way, but we also always have to be aware of this difficult moment for these young athletes. It’s not easy and this is why I must say I’m admiring them so much: at this
young age to stand this situation of the war in your country knowing about all this tragedy, experiencing this tragedy and at the same time being so strong to make your Olympic dream come true and to make your people proud with all the good results they are achieving, and with the determination they show and with the confidence they show, in to a bright future.”

03:32 Wide shot of Avanhard basketball hall, severely damaged by missiles
03:36 IOC President Bach talks to Ukrainian delegation
03:41 Wide interior shot of the destroyed basketball hall
03:45 Mid shot of IOC President Bach entering basketball hall
03:51 Wide panning shot hall
03:54 Close shot under basketball hoop
03:57 IOC President Bach looks out through broken hall wall
04:04 Close shot of IOC President Bach
04:10 Broken glass debris on the floor
04:13 Broken door
04:17 Wide shot of IOC President Bach and delegation in hall
04:22 Overhead IOC President Bach and delegation leave hall
04:25 IOC delegation walking towards Presidential meeting location
04:31 Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky with officials
04:36 IOC President Thomas Bach and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky greet each other.
04:47 IOC President Bach and Ukraine President Zelensky take seats at meeting table
04:54 Mid shot IOC President Thomas Bach at table
04:56 Wide shot of Ukraine President Zelensky talking in meeting to IOC President Bach
05:02 Midshot IOC President Thomas Bach listening
05:05 Front on wide shot Ukraine President Zelensky addressing the meeting delegates

05:10 SOUNDBITE: Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine President (Ukrainian Language/English translation)
“I am grateful to Mr. Thomas Bach and to the International Olympic Committee for supporting our athletes of our country, in these extraordinary, extremely cruel conditions. Today President Bach announced the allocation of a new package of support for our Ukrainian Olympians, we appreciate it very much.”

05:22 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“Thank you President Zelensky, first of all for giving us the honour and opportunity to have such a meeting about the sporting situation of your country, this is another confirmation of the Ukraine’s commitment to the values of sport, which I could already experience during my last visit, nine months ago, which I am still treasuring and extremely grateful to you for the support you are giving to sport and for supporting the values of sport in your country and beyond.
This afternoon I got to speak with the athletes to tell the athletes and coaches and their entourage that they are not alone. In this worldwide Olympic community we are standing at their side, that they are in our thoughts, they are in our hearts and that with our deeds we are supporting them, and we are supporting them in a way that we can then see at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 and at the Olympic Winter Games 2026 Milan-Cortina a strong, proud and successful team of the NOC of Ukraine and that the Ukrainian flag will fly high at these Olympic games, and in the qualifications leading up to these Olympic games.
For this purpose the IOC will triple the fund we have been establishing since the very beginning of the Russian invasion in Ukraine from a $2.5 million US dollars to $7.5 million dollars, which is just the contribution of the International Olympic Committee, our friend Sergii Bubka will continue to coordinate all the efforts of the worldwide Olympic Movement in solidarity with Ukraine.”

08:04 IOC President Bach and Ukraine President Zelensky shake hands in front of IOC and Ukraine flags
08:08 Close below of the Olympic Flag and Ukraine Flag

-- ENDS --

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