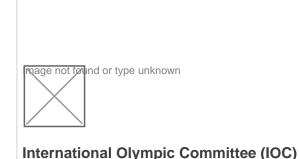
IOC Session to elect new president has begun



Greece, Mar 19 (PL) The 144th Session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) began here today in anticipation of tomorrow's presidential election, where the successor to Germany's Thomas Bach will be chosen.

The expectation is such that the head of the organization joked about the lack of interest of the participants in the rest of the items on the agenda.

"The fact that you do not ask questions will not bring forward the election of the president," warned the head of the IOC after there were hardly any interventions after the presentation of the first reports, approved without debate.

Among the items on the agenda was the farewell of South Korea's Ban Ki-moon, who concludes his mandate as head of the IOC Ethics Commission.

However, uncertainty reigns over Bach's successor, a position to which Feisal al Hussein (Jordan), David Lappartient (France), Johan Eliasch (Great Britain), Juan Antonio Samaranch (Spain), Kirsty Coventry (Zimbabwe), Sebastian Coe (Great Britain), and Morinori Watanabe (Japan) are aspiring.

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