

The Eco-Park Association



Stockholm, March 27, 1996

International  
Olympic Committee  
Château de Vidy  
1007 Lausanne  
Switzerland

To the International Olympic Committee

Regarding Stockholm, Sweden, as candidate for hosting the Olympic Games 2004  
and the city's current lack of environmental ambitions

The Eco-Park Association is an umbrella organisation for 40 environmental, sports and cultural organisations in greater Stockholm. The total number of members in these organisations is about 200.000. The aim of the association is to protect a unique historical landscape for recreation and outdoor sports in close proximity to the city centre of Stockholm. This landscape is with its hunting parks, baroque park and several English landscape gardens an important part of the European cultural heritage. Therefore the Swedish parliament decided in 1994 to give it status and protection as the first National City Park in Sweden and in the world. Indeed, this decision provided a base for a strong environmental profile for Stockholm.

However, the City of Stockholm has a planning monopoly for the area and is currently using this instrument in a fashion that seriously threatens the Eco-park. The plans involve both a highway tunnel project within the so-called Dennis package and exploitation for several new building-complexes. If the projects are realized they would seriously damage critical landscape views as well as historical parks and buildings. Let us give you one example. It concerns the Studio Museum of the sculptor Carl Eldh, who competed in the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1932 and whose classical sculpture "The Runners" is a recent gift from the Swedish Olympic Committee to the IOC sculpture garden in Lausanne.

The Studio Museum is located in a delicate English park, named Bellevue by the king Gustavus III in the 1780s. A six-lane wide high-way tunnel is now being planned to be built in this park. 80 trees have to be cut down in an already weak biological spreading zone. The detonations from the construction work will damage the museum's sculpture collection as well as parts of the mountain in the park. Great risks for even more substantial direct damage to the vegetation, including drainage of the natural water supply, also exist. The project would transform the park into a cover of a technical installation, and is in sharp conflict with the basic idea and cultural value of the English landscape garden – the respect for the authentic landscape.

We will if you so wish describe the problems in detail. Constructive solutions to all the present problems exist, and we therefore hope that the City of Stockholm will change its plans. In such case we will of course inform you. But until then our standpoint is that Stockholm is not, from the point of view of environmental profile, worthy to host the Olympic Games in 2004.

For The Eco-Park Association  
Sincerely yours,

Richard Murray  
Chairman

Peter Schantz  
Vice chairman

Henrik Waldenström  
Member of the Board

Enclosure: 1) List of organisations in the Eco-Park Association  
2) Brochure about the Studio Museum of Carl Eldh