

Fédération Internationale de Pétanque et Jeu Provençal

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Madam, Mr. President,

The Executive Committee of the FIPJP, meeting this afternoon, dealt, among other issues, with the organisation of the 50th World Championship for Men in Triplettes.

After having taken into consideration:

- the necessity not to plan in the same budgetary and sporting year two important world events which implied the impossibility to postpone this competition to 2023 in the current conditions because of the programming of world championships in New Caledonia and Thailand;

- the desire of our Beninese friends to organize this event in a particularly festive manner in the National Boulodrome currently under construction and to provide the necessary means;

-the report of the visit made at the end of June with the architect in charge of the realization of the boulodrome;

-the communication from the New Caledonian Federation, confirmed by the Oceania Confederation, indicating that the problems arising from the political situation in the country remained and that it seemed preferable to its leaders not to organize the world championships in singles, doubles and mixed next year but to postpone their candidature;

The Executive Committee unanimously adopted the following position:

-To combine the World Championships in Doubles and Singles - Men's and Women's - and Mixed, with the 50th World Championships in Men's Triplettes and Precision Shooting to be held in Cotonou, Benin in 2023.

According to the commitments made by the Beninese Government under the authority of the President of the Republic, Mr Patrice Talon, who is personally involved in the construction of the boulodrome, special efforts will be made by the organisation, which is directly under the government's control, both to give a special highlight to these 50th World Championships with the inauguration of the national boulodrome and to reduce the accommodation costs of players who come to take part in the singles, doubles and double mixed events.

The competitions will be grouped together in the same week, with the International Congress on Thursday, probably in the first half of September, to take into account the regular sports calendars in the different countries and continents, as well as the climatic conditions which generally give a rainy season during July and August.

As soon as the exact dates are known - probably during weeks 36 or 37 - they will be brought to your attention and put on the FIPJP website.

A follow-up committee will be set up at the FIPJP level in order to keep a permanent link with the Benin Federation and the organising committee, and we will quickly finalise the conditions of reception of the participants to the world championships in singles, doubles and mixed. You will thus be regularly informed of the evolution of this preparation. If the 48 places to participate in the 50th World Championships in men's triples will be reserved for the teams that have obtained their qualification during the continental championships or to their next in the ranking, the other world championships will be, as usual, freely open to the federations. In particular, they will be free to choose, to participate, two gentlemen already selected for the World Championship in triples in order to save on travel costs, or to send two other players.

Like the FIPJP, you have more than a year to prepare this exceptional double event and we will inevitably have to exchange several times on the progress of their preparation. Nevertheless, you can already see that, in several areas, these choices will be a source of lower expenditure for the federations.

In the expectation of a new meeting, which the health conditions now make possible, and in the hope that this will improve even further, I send you, Madam, Mr President, the expression of my most cordial sporting sentiments.

Claude AZEMA, President of FIPJP