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## **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE BEARABLENESS OF THE GAMES**

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Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games is a great event, as regards also to its relation with the Environment: the necessity of having numerous and efficient facilities from a sporting and competitive point of view, and the need of proceeding with their realization and their infrastructural development, means for the territory an evident problem of absorption that is not safe from procuring impacts of different intensity on the natural environment. Starting from this assumption, that has been clear to everybody since the phase of candidature, it was thought suitable to give a particular attention to environmental themes, this being also in consistency with the attitude of the International Olympic Committee (CIO) that, after the Conference of Rio de Janeiro in 1992, has placed the environmental matter among the most important values to be considered for organizing the Olympic event.

In Torino 2006 case, the awareness of the sporting world turned into a decision, taken at a political level, of involving the Games Organization in a process of constant attention to the environmental subject, decision that has led to the introduction in Law 285/2000 (the Law that guaranteed the funding for the realization of facilities and infrastructures and established the Olympic Organizing Committee and Torino 2006 Agency, the contracting agency of the Olympic facilities) of the normative provision of working at the event realization by using the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). It has been an extremely innovative approach, if we consider that the SEA has been approved by the European Policy in June 2001, 8 months after the acknowledgement of such procedure into the National Law.

The first step from which the organizing apparatus of Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games started has to be considered, therefore, positive, because it gave the right attention to the environmental question. This because of the awareness that the impact produced by the realization of such event would have been great. Hence it follows the necessity of contrasting this impact with actions, interventions and programmes established by the SEA procedure, aimed at protecting the environment.

TOROC has become therefore the guarantee of this purpose and has provided, ever since 2001, with its own Environment Direction whose main task is that of carrying out the SEA procedure imposed by Law.

This procedure, managed and controlled at public level by the Minister of Environment and the Piedmont Region, has been carried out through three kinds of activities: the first one concerns the arrangement of strategic tools for the planning, realized through the working out of a series of plans; the second one, refers to constant environmental monitoring of the organization; the third one, regards the identifying and the realization of programmes aimed at guaranteeing an overall environmental harmony on credit, or at worst, balanced.

The plans worked out by TOROC in the initial organizing phase of activity, under the regulations of the Region in pursuance of the SEA procedure, have concerned the prevention of natural risks, moving of the soil, inert materials locating, sustainable transport, water, sites safety and some landscape assessment for those areas subjected to considerable modifications.

To these plans TOROC has autonomously included two other tools, the first one added to the guidelines for sustainability projects relative to the construction and management of Olympic and Media Villages, the second one is a system of eco-compatibility evaluation for the temporary works. All these tools have also allowed the activation of mitigation works as well as environmental compensation works on a huge area.

As regards the environmental monitoring, it must be underlined that it has not to solely end up – as it happened - in a systematic information gathering and elaboration, but it has to guarantee all the corrective actions necessary to avoid environmental damages and to improve its conditions.

In this context TOROC has activated itself, on one side, in collecting data (defined in agreement with Piedmont Region) concerning 16 indicators referred to water cycle, air quality, soil use, energy consumption, waste production, ecosystems, landscape and urban environment: the information produced, associated to social and economic indicators, have allowed the preparation of a

sustainability report, whose final and definitive edition post Games is foreseen for September 2006.

Contextually the monitoring of the Olympic sites, that has involved an intense and continuous activity of audit, has permitted to produce corrective interventions from an environmental point of view, in case problems are found.

As regards the environmental programmes, TOROC has activated a great number of them: among the most significant, the Green Procurement programme, Sponsor and Sustainability programme, Ecolabel programme, for the attribution of the environmental mark to the accommodation facilities and Hector programme (HERitage Climate TORino), that will allow the neutralization of CO<sub>2</sub> produced for the organization and realization of the Games.

To all above mentioned, it has to be added that TOROC has autonomously decided to have an Environmental Management System (EMS), that has consented to obtain the certification UNI EN ISO 14001 and the EMAS registration.