

Beat: Sports

## LAURA FLESSEL OLYMPIC CHAMPION ATTENDED 1ST PRIX WORLD PARA ATHLETICS 2017

### INTERVIEW OF MRS FLESSEL SPORTS MINISTER

Paris, Washington DC, 09.06.2017, 23:07 Time

**USPA NEWS** - Laura Flessel, freshly appointed French Minister of Sports, attended the 1st Grand Prix Para Athletics 2017 in Charlety Stadium. Laura Flessel has an impressive palavers, Quintuple Olympic medalist, Sextuple world champion, European Champion and 18 times champion of France. President Macron freshly elect is strongly supporting the Pais 2024 candidacy and stressed on "Other ministers to give a hand to Minister Laura Flessel, for reaching the objective of gaining Paris candidacy for 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games". I had to ask questions to Flessel Minister of Sports, who is also committed in many causes (Equity for women, fighting against poverty..)

#### PARIS SEEMS READY FOR THE PARALYMPICS GAMES IF PARIS 2024 WINS CANDIDACY

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The IPC Athletics World Championships was held in Lyon in 2013, met a large success and encouraging for organising this big event, at the legendary Charlety Stadium, by the LOC (French Handisport Fédération) in 30-31st May, 2017. The challenge is to gather ore than our hundred athletes coming from thirty countries, of all over the world. The second challenge is to accommodate all theses teams, and their families and set up the logistics for their accessibility transportation and lodging. The entertainment part of the event is the "Citizen & Sport" village that surrounds the stadium, offering special moments for the visitors and sharing autograph signatures of athletes, for the kids and the others, helped by the hundreds of volunteers, giving a hand to everybody. That is a Paralympic Sport's celebration as a preamble of the Paralympics 2024 wished by the Parisians" especially the athletes disabled, offering such high level of performance.

#### A CHALLENGE FOR PARIS CITY HOSTED A ONE OF KIND 1ST PARA CHAMPIONSHIP

The French (Paralympic Committee and the other sports organisers, including the athletes champions themselves have put all their energy to build the success towards the Paris 2024 candidacy.

Ahead of the event, Paris city mobilised the funds and logistics in order to welcome athletes and their staff in Paris the most comfortable way. The LOC for instance, proposed packs all inclusive (airport transfer/accommodation with full board/training/classification/entries). Athletes stayed at the International Residency of Paris, fully wheelchair accessible, where a lot of animations & services are waiting for them. It is also closed to the Stadium.

Although Paris is not well known for being accessible, Jean Yves Bournazel, promised

This operation is in line with a demonstration of handling the risk of challenging Paris in hosting such a big Handisport event with more than 400 athletes participants coming from 30 countries. It is as big of a European Tournament, in terms of participation, and scale of level of performances. The operation was a success, with a stadium half full, in the middle of the week" and the presence of sport personalities and athletics champions.-----

Paris city, under the patronage of the Mayor Anne Hidalgo, and Jean Francois Martens, advisor in charge of sport and tourism at the city hall of paris, gathered many partners and participants around this event of a one of a kind at the Charlety Stadium. They are composed by : The Handisport Regional Committee of Ile de France, the Athletics Ligue of Ile de France, the University Paris Club, the adapted sports and many partners, mainly EDF, Malakoff Mederic, Societe Generale, Association Entr'Aide, Radio Vivre FM, LICRA, officials, clubs, and partners and not to forget the dozens of volunteers and helpers,

PRESS CONFERENCE WITH LAURA FLESSEL EMMANUELLE ASSMAN AND FREDERIC DELPY-----

"I am delighted to be here this is the festival of handisport and it is an appointment that I already knew, and seeing athletes in a handicap situation, come and see them with eyes that sparkle me, Around the sport, all this delights me.

My two missions as Minister of Sports are to lead the Paris2024 bid to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.-----

My second mission is to fight exclusion and work with other ministries to achieve this goal. PARIS 2024, it is our straight line and we are preparing to go to Lausanne in July, for supporting the Pairs 2024's candidacy. This is the promise that it is a Grand Prix that takes place for the disabled in Paris and the government goes beyond it for that. So it's a movement in place that is already on my side and I'm delighted that you're the one to get the messages across.

QUESTIONS TO LAURA FLESSEL MINISTER OF SPORTS-----

QUESTION 1: When the former Minister of Sports Patrick Kanner was transferred to your new ministry of sport, you, Laura Flessel, spoke about your great support and your personal involvement in the PARIS2024 bid, The OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES. So we hope that it has been well noted by the media, as we have noted on our side.

At the last cabinet meeting, Spokesman Castaner explained to us that "President Macron has asked all ministers to mobilize with you for the PARIS 2024 bid. How will this collegial work be organised?-----

ANSWER: As far as Collegiality is concerned, we are on the road and we are indeed going to work in a solidarity between ministries and sport by transversality is taken into account in all fields. There are bridges to be made there are projects that already exist and we will make them integrate and at the European level.-----

QUESTION 2: Personally I am very glad that you are named Minister of Sports because you are a great multi-Olympic champion of fencing, a woman, and you come from the DOM TOM (French West Indies). How is it that one does not communicate enough on the DOM TOM knowing that it is their champions that bring back the majority of the Olympic medals? (17 medals brought just during the RIO 2016 Olympic-----

ANSWER: I do not forget my origins, I come from DOM TOM and it is a nursery and my next trip at the end of June will be done in DOMTOM then Reunion and Guyana to improve the infr--astructures on the spot and encourage the DOM TOM has felt completely integrated in the candidature Paris2024, of the Olympics.

**Article online:**

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-11370/laura-flessel-olympic-champion-attended-1st-prix-world-para-athletics-2017.html>

**Editorial office and responsibility:**

V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDSStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Rahma Sophia Rachdi

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