

## **WE DO NOT WANT THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN ANNECY**

With more than 13,140 names the petition initiated by Annecy Anti-Olympic Committee collects every day a larger amount of people firmly opposed to Annecy 2018.

According to an IOC poll, to be released next May 10th, but whose figures have been communicated to the bid committee, only 51% of Annecy supports the candidacy.

«The candidacy of Annecy was launched without the local population has been neither consulted nor involved. The reality is that much of the population does not want these Games and we are determined to act to make ourselves heard, «said Khaled Dehgan president of an environmental NGO. For several months, the Annecy Anti-Olympic Committee gathers an increasing number of citizens opposed to the Games.

«Those responsible for the nomination are trying to pretend that the entire population supports the project but it is totally wrong. More than 13,140 people signed our petition, which is considerable for a small city of 60,000 inhabitants as Annecy. The number is growing every day and our actions are attracting more and more people.»

The survey conducted by the IOC last December and whose results were communicated to the bid committee during the visit of the Evaluation Commission in February, shows the weakness of popular support: only 51% of city residents are in favour of the project.

This is the lowest score in the history of nominations for the Winter Games since IOC polls are made public.

We denounce a project financially disproportionate to our small city when so many people's daily needs are not met. Moreover, despite official discourse, the project as designed will seriously affect the fragile ecological balance of our territory. All the Green parties are also against the bid, we condemn also accounting opacity and amateurism of its leaders. After Edgar Grospron resignation in December, and in absence of qualified personalities to take over, Charles Beigbeder was nominated: a Parisian, from small finance world without any link with Haute Savoie, without any knowledge in Sports or Olympics.

Conflicts between bid managers are public awareness and spread in the press. Last December, the two French IOC members, Guy Drut and Jean-Claude Killy, had strongly criticized the bid. More recently, in the sport daily newspaper « l'équipe » on March 17th, Guy Drut sharply criticized Charles Beigbeder and his inaction”

Since the visit of the Evaluation Commission it is the sidereal blank. “The next day, in the same newspaper sports minister Chantal Jouanno said: «It seems that nobody in charge of the bid takes its responsibilities (...) Frankly, this campaign would require more energy.”

«Today, thousands Annecy inhabitants have enough of this show and financial mismanagement of this application. We are more than ever determined to oppose this project and have scheduled a number of actions in the coming weeks to be heard by IOC members “said Philippe Métrol Boffod Annecy councillor elected.



*Comité anti olympique Annecy - CAO*