

Klaus LUGER
Mayor
City of Linz
Austria

Letter sent as email attachment

Lausanne, 17 July 2019

Dear Mayor Luger,

I am writing to give European Athletics' full endorsement of efforts to preserve the Gugl Stadium in Linz for athletics events and to enlist your support for this important project.

European Athletics and our Member Federation in Austria, the *Österreichischer Leichtathletik-Verband*, are passionate in the belief that the sport of athletics has the ability to reach millions and, in line with our "Your Sport for Life" slogan, to add quality to the lives of people of all ages through health enhancing physical activity, entertainment, inspiration, personal development, social integration, economic impact and more.

As I am sure you know, Linz has a long and distinguished history of hosting top-class athletics meetings, both outdoors and indoors, as well as a city marathon that engages up to 20,000 competitive and recreation/health-oriented runners. In many ways it is a model for other European cities.

The role of the Gugl stadium is critical to elite, grassroots and children's athletics in Linz. It is just as important for the rest of Austria as it is the country's only IAAF Class 1 stadium and therefore the only one capable of staging international events under IAAF and European Athletics rules.

We are aware that throughout Europe there is pressure on stadia like the Gugl to focus on one sport, but we have seen many cases where athletics happily co-exists with others. The most outstanding example is Berlin, where the Olympic Stadium has hosted both the national cup finals in football and last summer's highly-successful European Athletics Championships, where the atmosphere was phenomenal.

It would be my pleasure to discuss with you the possibility of Linz hosting a future European Athletics event and any other issues related to stadium.

In the meantime, I would appreciate any assistance you can offer to ensure the Gugl stadium continues to serve the athletics community of Linz and beyond.

Kind regards,



Svein Arne HANSEN
President

cc: Mag. Sonja Spendelhofer – President, *Österreichischer Leichtathletik-Verband*
Mag. Helmut Baudis – General Secretary, *Österreichischer Leichtathletik-Verband*
Dr Roland Werthner – *Bundessportakademie Linz*
Olaf Brockmann - IAAF Media and Press Operations Advisor