



**Special Olympics**

**Europe/Eurasia**

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15<sup>th</sup> April 2010



Dear colleagues,

Yesterday, on behalf of the athletes, volunteers and staff of the entire Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia movement, I met with the Polish Ambassador to Ireland Dr Tadeusz Szumowski to convey our deepest condolences to the people of Poland for the loss of the President of Poland Mr Lech Kaczynski, the First Lady Mrs Maria Kaczynska and 95 others who died in that tragic plane crash last Saturday.

President Kaczynski and in particular First Lady Maria Kaczynska were committed and passionate supporters of the Special Olympics movement in Poland and both were intrinsically involved in ongoing preparations to host the 2010 Special Olympics European Games in Warsaw. Indeed members of the Games Organising Committee were due to meet with Mrs Kaczynska earlier this week as she had kindly committed to write personal invitation letters to all the First Ladies of Europe to attend the Warsaw Games.

The President and First Lady's joint efforts in promoting respect, acceptance, and inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities helped change thousands of lives in Poland.

We join in solidarity with the entire world in mourning such a tragic loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Kaczynski family, the loved ones of those killed in this tragic plane crash and the Polish nation.

I would like to also offer every support and sympathy to the athletes, volunteers and staff of Special Olympics Poland and to members of the Games Organising Committee of the 2010 Special Olympics European Games as they continue their preparations through this difficult time. I know that they can count on all of our support.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Davis  
Managing Director  
Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia