



ALL TOGETHER NOW

Thomas Pisan | Golf Week



It's rare to find wholehearted unity in Austria. But as far as the Ryder Cup is concerned, everyone agrees: this major event in the golfing calendar is a way of building bridges between Austria, the European countries and the USA.

The bid to stage the Ryder Cup is enjoying the massive support of the population of Austria at large. The whole country is behind this unique opportunity for Austria to host one of the world's largest sporting events. Since the decision was taken to bid for the event, no opportunity has been lost in becoming actively involved in the support machinery.

The decision by the Council of Ministers at the end of April 2015 signalled the Austrian government's willingness to set aside funds to secure the financing of the project. Various government representatives and ministers have also promised their support to representatives of the golf association. The association has received letters of support from the heads of the major city of Vienna and the provincial government of Lower Austria, as well as from the mayor of the municipality of Oberwaltersdorf – the home of the host golf club, Fontana GC.

The Austrian Sports Association and the Austrian Olympic Committee have also promised to support the Ryder Cup bid and have signed declarations to this effect along with the PGA of Austria which is important for joint cooperation of the future development of the game.

Former sports stars, such as the former world tennis number one and French Open winner Thomas Muster and the downhill

Olympic gold medal winners Franz Klammer and Stefan Eberharter, are also behind the project, as is the former Austrian Head Coach; Swedish golfer Anders Forsband, who was vice-captain in 2004 when the Europeans defeated the Americans.

Furthermore, all the 156 golf clubs in Austria unanimously decided at their general meeting to actively support the bid and took part in the AUSTRIA2022 Supporter Tour tournament: almost 190 tournaments have taken place since May 2015, during which several thousand golfers have signalled their personal support by taking part.

This is indicative of the massive commitment on the part of the domestic golf scene. As golf and business enjoy a close symbiosis in Austria, a number of well-known companies and Austrian world brands have welcomed the Ryder Cup bid and written letters of support.

Austrian media outlets have fully embraced the bidding concept and did not have to be asked twice to support the cause. All the relevant golf media are working closely with the association on promotional projects, such as this magazine, and, just like the rest of the country, want to leave everyone in no doubt that this huge 2022 sporting event could not find a more fitting venue than the Fontana GC and Vienna. ///

Photos: Austrian Golf Association, Gepa pictures, Wolfgang Hueber, Roland Rudolph, pro.media, Valery Voroby, provided



