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E.C.F. Vice-President, Andrew Ferguson-Smith, recently undertook an inspection visit to Kitzbühel, the venue awarded the organization of the European Mixed Curling Championships 2008.

During his visit, the Vice-President took the opportunity to visit the ice facility, the selected hotels, and the locality itself. He was able to meet with the Mayor and Vice-Mayor of Kitzbühel, and with other municipal authorities, with the President and the Secretary-General of the Austrian Curling Association, and with the President and members of the Organizing Committee.

At the conclusion of his visit, Mr. Ferguson-Smith made the following remarks:

"For several years now, I have been an enthusiastic participant at the Austrian Open, held annually in Kitzbühel. For this reason, from the very outset, I had full confidence in Kitzbühel as an ideal venue for the EMCC, which was conceived in part to offer appropriate localities not boasting two full-size ice facilities, the opportunity nevertheless to welcome prestigious international championships. My visit has enabled me to acquaint myself in much greater detail with the preparations being put in place for the Championship's celebration, and to reconfirm in my mind Kitzbühel's eminent suitability for this event.

The Championship will be played at Kitzbühel's recently inaugurated Mercedes-Benz Sportpark, which will offer participants every facility required. The accommodation facilities (players hotel, pensions, apartments) recommended for players and officials, will provide participants with a high degree of comfort during their stay, and are located in close proximity to the ice. The Organizing Committee has been particularly successful in negotiating attractive tariffs. The town of Kitzbühel, situated amid towering Tyrolean peaks, is absolutely charming, and will undoubtedly cater well for curlers' off-ice hours.

My meetings with the local authorities confirmed that the Organizing Committee enjoys full support not only at municipal, but also at regional and at national level. The Austrian Curling Association is, of course, happy to provide any assistance requested of it. Conversations with Mr. Richard Obermoser, Mrs. Traudi Koudelka and Mrs. Veronika Huber of the Organizing Committee, and a most convincing presentation prepared by Ms. Karina Toth on ceremonies and festivities amply demonstrated the attention to detail from which the Championship will benefit.

I am looking forward very much to this event, which I am confident will meet participants' expectations in every way."