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### The enthusiasm of the Monegasque delegation

As pressure mounts slowly but surely in the Chinese capital, the entire “red and white” delegation is now on site. The fifth and last athlete, Sébastien Gattuso (athletics) has joined the rest of the Monegasque team in the Olympic village.

H.S.H. Prince Albert II arrived in Beijing on Sunday. A member of the IOC, he is taking part in the IOC working session which is held usually before the official opening of the Games.

Already familiar with the Olympics (he took part in Athens 2004), the sprinter Sébastien Gattuso (37 years old) feels a certain emotion: “*These are my last Summer Olympics...*” and goes on to explain what his first impressions of Asia are: “*We didn't have to wait at the airport, everything is really extremely well organised*”. Satisfaction acknowledged and appreciated by Fabienne Pasetti (who is experiencing her 6<sup>th</sup> Summer Olympics): “*The Chinese are exceptionally rigorous and precise. For example, when we use the bus to travel to and from the shooting range, a 30-minute journey from the village, there is not one minute delay. That's saying something!*”



Sébastien Gattuso, the last Monegasque athlete to arrive in Beijing yesterday.

### “It’s as big as Monaco!”

A newcomer, Yann Siccardi (judo) says that “*the Olympic village fills him with wonder. It's as big as Monaco!*” he says, his eyes open in awe.

“*You have to see it to believe it...*” confirm Romain Marchessou (weightlifting) and Mathias Raymond (rowing), who returned to the Shunyi site yesterday to check it out again. For the physiotherapist, Jean-Philippe Ringwald (also a regular of the Games), “*as far as the organising is concerned, there is really nothing to be said, it's superb.*” The same story for Sylvie Bertrand, the head of mission: “*The Chinese have pulled out all the stops. A huge number of volunteers and others are always there to help you and lend you a hand.*”

A unique Olympic experience, very far from the Principality, that the two young Monegasques Angélique Trinquier and Benjamin Boisson are also going to enjoy, having arrived and settled in the Olympic Youth Camp today.

In addition to increasing Olympic fever, enthusiasm reigns within the Monegasque delegation. And the best is undoubtedly yet to come just two days away from the opening ceremony.



Angélique Trinquier and Benjamin Boisson (youth camp) welcomed on their arrival by the head of mission, Sylvie Bertrand.