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Paolo Barelli: The World Championships will be amazing

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The FINA Honorary Secretary and LEN President visited the Headquarters of the Budapest 2017 Organising Committee during his one-day trip to the Hungarian capital.

"The FINA World Championships will not only be amazing because a new, exceptional venue is in the make, but also because we will be able to see the very best of the globe in a post-Olympic year right here in our Europe"

- said the Italian Barelli when meeting with Co-president of the OC, Tamas Gyarfás at the Budapest 2017 Headquarters on Thursday.

"The Hungarian team is really powerful, the venues are all great - including the simply legendary Margaret Island -, while the proximity and special role of the River Danube makes the entire event truly unique - added the FINA Honorary Secretary."

Meeting Minister of National Development and president of the Budapest 2017 OC, dr. Miklos Sesztak to sign the host contract of the 2020 LEN European Aquatics Championships served as the initial purpose of Paolo Barelli's current visit to Budapest.

"Europe is a very strong member continent of FINA, we regard the 2020 European Aquatics Championships as an opportunity to show the world how outstanding our athletes are. We are glad that this prestigious event will be hosted by Hungary in particular. We are holding the annual Water Polo Champions' League Final Six in Budapest too next year, so we really count on this great city with realising the various grand aquatic events."

As president of the Italian Swimming Federation, naturally Mr. Barelli has other kinds of great expectations for Budapest 2017, too: *"We have strong results, both of our water polo teams returned home from Rio 2016 with a podium finish, we collected eight medals in the five aquatic disciplines altogether. So, I really am hopeful - we, the Italian Swimming Family is looking forward to next year's World Championships very much!"*