

From: Andrew Jennings <andrew-jennings@btconnect.com>

Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 02:24:07 +0000

To: Philip Wilkinson BOA

Conversation: The Lukashenko Affair

Subject: The Lukashenko Affair

Hello Philip:

I'm disappointed that your colleague Miriam Wilkens appears to have been refused permission by the BOA leadership to respond, as promised, to my questions last week about the European Olympic Committees and President Hickey's astonishing award to Alexander Lukashenko.

I expect to publish on this topic again this weekend, and may note the arrests in Minsk today by Lukashenko's police of citizens handing out copies of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

I repeat my questions below. I think that, if there is no response by teatime on Friday it will be reasonable for readers to assume that the BOA is not troubled by the award to President Lukashenko. But how nice it would be to have answers. I doubt this story is *ever* going to go away. I think you will understand why it will become embedded in Olympic history.

So . . .

Last month at the EOC meeting in Istanbul Belarus President (and NOC president) Alexander Lukashenko was given a special award for "his outstanding contribution to the Olympic movement."

The questions, again:

Was the BOA consulted?

If not, who dreamed up this "special award"?

Can you say what Lukashenko has done to deserve this award from the

EOC?

Does the BOA support this honour?

Do you have confidence in Patrick Hickey to lead the EOC?

Best wishes,

Andrew Jennings