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PRESS RELEASE

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S 3RD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP

The third edition of the "European Community's Swimming Championship" will take place under the patronage of the European Community on the 29-30 April 1989 at the "Alster Schwimmbad" in Hamburg. The "Hamburger Schwimmverband" will be responsible for the organisation in conjunction with the German Swimming Federation and Federations of other European Community countries.

The sporting event, organised at Community level, puts the best male and female clubs of each of the twelve member countries, ie. 24 teams in all, in direct competition with each other. The clubs are selected by the Swimming Federation of each country during a national championship, should such an event take place, or during an ad hoc trial organised to this end. Each team comprises 9 male or female swimmers.

The Commission considers sport to be one of the privileged means of communication available to it in that it brings the Community's citizens together and also strengthens their common sense of belonging. In the light of this, the Commission decided to sponsor and back a number of sporting events such as the swimming championship which falls in line with recommendations made in the Adonnino report on a Citizens' Europe.

These Community championships were first held in Leeds (UK) in 1987 and were staged last year at the Olympic swimming pool in Luxembourg. Both events were a great success.

The swimming clubs of Rome, Lisbon and Clichy (Paris) are official candidates for the organisation of these championships respectively in Rome in 1990, Lisbon in 1991 and Clichy in 1992.

The "club" formula has been selected by the European Swimming League following consultation with the Commission. The advantages of this formula are twofold:

- it's the first "club" trial at Community level;
- the formula provides the selected teams with a unique opportunity to take part in an international event which motivates the clubs to organise the promotion of high calibre swimming.