

## **Statements by Government Ministers/other leaders on whether they plan to attend the Olympics Opening Ceremony.**

### Confirmed will be Attending

Gordon Brown  
Zatlers, Latvian President  
Godmanis, Latvian Prime Minister  
Javier Solana, EU  
President Bush  
Carlos Arthur Nuzman, president of the Brazilian Olympic Committee,

### Not Attending/Considering not attending/Other

European Parliament's chair  
Sarkozy (once said he planned to attend, is now saying he's considering)  
Vaclav Klaus, Czech Pres  
Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Estonian president  
Donald Tusk, Polish PM  
Frank-Walter Steinmeier, German Foreign Minister  
Angela Merkel  
German Sports Minister  
Robert Fico, Slovak PM  
Gerhard Heiberg, Norwegian IOC Exec. Member - "not against a boycott of the opening ceremony"  
Trond Gisk, Norwegian Cultural Minister is considering a boycott of the opening ceremony  
HRW will support call for leaders to stay away  
Canadians - no one has confirmed attendance  
Belgian Vice Premier Didier Reynders said officials in his government had not excluded the possibility of staying away from the Games. The sports minister of the northern Dutch-speaking region of Flanders already has said he will not attend the opening ceremony, arguing it is used to promote Chinese propaganda.

### Politicians/celebrities:

- \* Thai Torchbearer-Narisa Chakrabongse (KEW wrote thank you)
- \* Polish Prime Minister-Donald Tusk (KEW wrote thank you)
- \* Speaker of the US House of Representatives-Nancy Pelosi
- \* Czech President-Vaclav Klaus
- \* German Chancellor-Angela Merkel
- \* German Foreign Minister-Frank-Walter Steinmeier (said he is not attending opening ceremony)
- \* German Interior Minister Responsible for Sport-Wolfgang Sch '8auble (not attending along with Angela Merkel and Steinmeier, all have said they never intended to attend in the first place and that this was not a political act.)

- \* President of the EU Parliament-Hans-Gert Poettering
- \* French President-Nicolas Sarkozy (will also be President of the EU as of July 1st, 2008)
- \* French Foreign Minister-Bernard Kouchner
- \* Steven Spielberg
- \* Prince Charles
- \* Bjork
- \* Luciano Barra (a longtime Italian Olympic official who spoke out against IOC silence on Tibet)
- \* Dutch actor-comedian Erik van Muiswinkel (calling for all Dutch athletes to boycott Olympics and produced song "Nie Na China 'd0 Don't go to China").

In the news:

Czech President Vaclav Klaus and his Estonian counterpart Toomas Hendrik Ilves, along with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, have said they will not attend.

Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk on Thursday pledged to stay away from the games opening ceremony on August 8.

"I do not intend to take part in the Olympic Games opening ceremony in Beijing," Tusk told Poland's Dziennik daily on Thursday.

"Poland is a medium-sized country and is not looking to be the first but my evaluation is very clear: the presence of politicians at the inauguration of the Olympics seems inappropriate," Tusk said.

Czech President Vaclav Klaus also announced a personal boycott Wednesday, but said his decision was unlikely to weigh heavily on the Chinese government. "I am not sure that the absence of a politician from the Olympic Games opening ceremony will serve as a warning. This applies even more so for a politician from a country that has 130 times fewer inhabitants," he said.

"German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Friday neither he nor Chancellor Angela Merkel planned to attend the Beijing Olympics opening, but implied this was not linked to Tibet.

"The sports minister does not plan to participate, and I don't think the chancellor or I will," he told reporters as he arrived in Slovenia for two days of talks with his EU counterparts.

He said there had been "no need to scrap anything" as there had never been any plans to attend.

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico's spokeswoman said he also did not intend going to Beijing in August, although she insisted it had "nothing to do with what is going on there at the moment."

NORWEGIAN IOC-EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER GERHARD HEIBERG 'NOT AGAINST OLYMPIC BOYCOTT OF THE OPENING CEREMONY'  
Norwegian Cultural Minister Trond Giske will consider boycott of opening ceremony.

During a Norwegian televised debate on Norwegian National television regarding the Beijing Olympics on March 25th, when asked about his opinion regarding an Olympic boycott of the opening ceremony, IOC executive board member Gerhard Heiberg said he was 'not against an Olympic boycott of the opening ceremony'. Mr. Gerhard Heiberg was re-elected for his second four-year term in the executive committee in 2007, and is the current chairman of the IOC Marketing Committee.

HRW have said they are opposed to a full boycott of the Olympics, but they will support a call to world leaders to stay away (Kenneth Roth, interviewed yesterday)

Lu shrugged off talk that Canadian government officials could boycott the Olympic opening ceremonies as a result of the crackdown, saying no one has yet confirmed their attendance.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy suggested Tuesday he could boycott the opening ceremony.

"Our Chinese friends must understand the worldwide concern that there is about the question of Tibet, and I will adapt my response to the evolutions in the situation that will come, I hope, as rapidly as possible," he told reporters in southwest France.

Belgian Vice Premier Didier Reynders said officials in his government had not excluded the possibility of staying away from the Games. The sports minister of the northern Dutch-speaking region of Flanders already has said he will not attend the opening ceremony, arguing it is used to promote Chinese propaganda.

Polish Games's participants Monika Pyrek declared boycott of Opening Ceremony: "The best solution is boycott of the opening ceremony. It is not sport event, but if stadion track (path - i do not know english sport terminology?) on the stadioon will be empty - everybody will know what is on the matter"