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**7-9 MARCH 2012**  
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PRESS RELEASE

## **Oscar Pistorius to speak at Global Sports Forum Barcelona 2012**

***"The Blade Runner" joins Eric Cantona and You Tube's Claude Ruibal amongst distinguished line-up of speakers***

***Pistorius speaks exclusively to the GSFB about his chance to qualify for the Olympic Games***

### **18 January, 2012: Barcelona:**

Global Sports Forum Barcelona (GSFB), the world's leading exchange platform for sporting movements, has today announced that London 2012 Paralympic and Olympic Games hopeful, Oscar Pistorius, will take part in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual Forum, 7 – 9 March, 2012.

Double leg amputee Pistorius, who has achieved the "A" qualifying standard for the London 2012 Olympic Games, will join many of the world's leading brands, government institutions, rights holders and governing bodies from sport already signed-up to attend the Forum, which has quickly established itself as one of the industry's most influential thought leadership platforms.

The Paralympic legend, known affectionately as "The Blade Runner" will address the audience to talk about his development within the last year, which includes his remarkable achievement of competing in both the able-bodied and disability categories at the 2011 World Athletics Championships.



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**Lucien Boyer, General Commissioner of the Global Sports Forum Barcelona, said:**

"The past 12 months have clearly been huge for Oscar Pistorius and we are delighted to welcome him back to the GSFB for the second year running, so he can update us on his achievements and inspire our delegates with his incredible personal story."

"Our forum represents a unique opportunity for sporting legends to stand side by side and discuss the events shaping the sports industry, so I look forward to Oscar adding great value to these conversations."

Pistorius joins an inspiring line-up of speakers already confirmed to take part in the Forum, which provides a year-long community for people to debate the latest issues and share opinions on sport. Ex-Footballer turned actor, Eric Cantona, LOCOG Chairman, Sebastian Coe, FC Barcelona President, Sandro Rosell, YouTube's Head of Sports Content, Claude Ruibal, England 2015 CEO, Paul Vaughan and many more are already confirmed to take part.

**Commenting on his role at the Global Sports Forum Barcelona, Oscar Pistorius said:**

"I am very happy to be back in Barcelona for a second year running. With London 2012 nearly upon us, it is incredible to see how far Paralympic sport has come since this time last year, particularly since my appeal to compete alongside able bodied athletes was sanctioned by the IAAF. Competing at the Olympics remains to be my main purpose in life and I look forward to sharing my experiences of the last 12 months with the GSFB community."



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In an exclusive video interview for the GSFBC community, Pistorius also gave his thoughts on qualifying for the Olympic Games in 2012. To view the video, in which he also talks about competing in the London 2012 Paralympic Games, go to the GSFBC You Tube channel at: [www.youtube.com/GSFBCBarcelona](http://www.youtube.com/GSFBCBarcelona)

[Oscar Pistorius talks about his chances to qualify for the Olympic Games](#)

### **Early-bird discount**

The Global Sports Forum Barcelona 2012 will take place at the Palau de Congressos de Catalunya (PCC) in Barcelona from 7 – 9 March. Interested delegates are invited to register online at: <http://globalsportsforum.mediactive.fr> and follow the on-screen instructions. A special early-bird discount of **€450 + VAT** for an individual three-day pass is currently available to anyone registering before **29 January, 2012**. Five person Corporate passes (€1,800 + VAT) and special discounts for NGO representatives and students (€250 + VAT) also available.

Members of the press are invited to attend free of charge.

To view the latest list of speakers confirmed to take part in the Global Sports Forum Barcelona 2012, visit [www.globalsportsforum.org/2012speakers](http://www.globalsportsforum.org/2012speakers)

**- Ends -**

### **Photo Captions:**

#### **GSFB10.03.2011.Pistorius:**

London 2012 Olympic hopeful, Oscar Pistorius, on stage at the Global Sports Forum Barcelona 2011

#### **GSFB90311.Pistorius:**

London 2012 Olympic hopeful, Oscar Pistorius, joins Lucien Boyer, General Commissioner of Global Sports Forum Barcelona, at GSFBC 2011



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### About Global Sports Forum Barcelona 2012

Officially supported by the City of Barcelona, the Global Sports Forum Barcelona is an exchange platform attracting a wide range of personalities from the world of sport. Thanks to its unique emphasis on the position of sport at the heart of modern society, the Forum is a place where

people come together and debate issues, the aim being to highlight sport in all its dimensions: economic, social, political and cultural

Web address: [www.globalsportsforum.org](http://www.globalsportsforum.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/globalsportsforum](http://www.facebook.com/globalsportsforum)

Twitter: [@globalsportsforum](http://@globalsportsforum)

The Global Sports Forum Barcelona was conceived and is organized by Havas Sports & Entertainment: [www.havas-se.com](http://www.havas-se.com)

### Speaker information

#### Oscar Pistorius, 100m, 200m & 400m Paralympic Champion:

Oscar Pistorius is a South African sprinter, born in Johannesburg on 22<sup>nd</sup> November in 1986. He started his sporting life playing rugby at 11 while at school and he also played water polo and tennis. After a serious knee injury while playing rugby he was introduced to athletics in 2004 and since then he has not looked back. He was immediately chosen to represent South Africa and it was at the Paralympic Games in Athens that Pistorius exploded onto the scene taking a bronze in the 100m and gold in the 200m. He built on this success with a triple gold in Beijing taking ownership of each World Record.

Known as the "Blade Runner" because of the special artificial legs he uses to race on, he is aiming for the 2012 Olympics in London and would like to compete as both an able bodied and Paralympic athlete. He has been the subject of much criticism due to his blades and was banned from even attempting to compete with able bodied athletes in the Olympics as it was believed his blades would give him an unfair advantage. Oscar took the case to the high court and won and is now concentrating his training on London 2012.

### Video Links

Pistorius also gave the GSFBC his exclusive thoughts on qualifying for the Olympic Games in 2012. To view the video, go to the GSFBC You Tube channel:-

[Click here to see footage of Oscar Pistorius at the 2011 GSFBC](#)

### Global Sports Forum Barcelona 2012 – Delegate packages:

Register at: <http://globalsportsforum.mediactive.fr>



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**Classic delegate package – individual 3-day pass**

- **Early bird:** €450 + VAT (25% discount if payment received by 29/01/2012)
- **Full price:** €600 + VAT
- **NGOs / associations / students – Individual 3-day pass :** €250 + VAT (\*)
- **Corporate Delegate Package – 5 individual 3-day passes :** €1,800 + VAT
  
- **Press:** Free entry pass under conditions (\*)

(\*): justification required during registration

The Global Sports Forum Barcelona Individual 3-day pass includes:

- Access to all conferences, workshops and special events
- Access to the Networking area
- Access to the MyGSFB device / application
- Welcome drink (March 7<sup>th</sup> – 19:00-21:00)
- Invitation to the Official Party (March 8<sup>th</sup> – 21:00-23:00)
- Lunch and coffee breaks
- Delegate bag including the Official Guide and useful information
- Free wifi and wired internet access on site
- Preferential hotel rates\*

(\* Accommodation and transport are not included in the conference fee)