

Paris, Porte de Versailles  
14<sup>th</sup> of April 2007

## **31<sup>th</sup> Paris Marathon tomorrow: 35 200 starters**

The start of the 31<sup>th</sup> International Paris Marathon will be given at 8:45 PM (8:35 PM for the handisport race) on the Champs-Élysées by Sports Minister, Jean-François Lamour and Mayor of Paris Bertrand Delanoë.

Joël Lainé, event director, deliberately wanted to limit the number of starters to 35 200 for the comfort of all. The inscriptions were closed since mid-november.

Among the participants are 16,4% of women. 90 nationalities are represented by more almost 10 000.

For the 200 000 fans expected in the streets of the capital, 70 festive and musical stands will be organised all along the race course with several podiums set up at the Porte de Charenton, the 12<sup>th</sup> district City-Hall, Boulevard Henri IV, the Trocadéro, Place de Bolivie, Porte d'Auteuil ...

This morning, the Breakfast Race was organised and started in front of the Unesco building. 5 000 runners took off for an enjoyable 5.2 kilometre effort in order to prepare for the big day.

From a purely sporting point of view, an tough battle will be fought out among top-flight runners. The Ethiopian Gashaw Melese, winner in 2006 will try to keep his title against French Driss El Himer (2h06'48) and Spanish Julio Rey (2h06'52).

In the women's race, the French runner Zaia Dahmani, 4<sup>th</sup> in the Paris Marathon in 2001 will be present, competing alongside the usual African, Russian and Romanian athletes.

***Get all the information on the Paris Marathon on the official website:***

**[www.parismarathon.com](http://www.parismarathon.com)**

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