

Issy-Les-Moulineaux,  
Thursday 5th of March 2009

## **2009 INTERNATIONAL PARIS SEMI-MARATHON 27 000 RUNNERS REGISTERED FOR THE START ON SUNDAY THE 8TH OF MARCH**

For the 17th edition of the Paris Semi-Marathon, the 27 000 registered competitors should enjoy themselves as they test their shape on the beautiful course of eastern Paris.

Sunday the 8th of March, the start will be given in the presence of Madame Michèle Blumenthal, mayor of the 12th district of Paris. The participants will take off at 10:00 AM from the avenue Daumesnil while the finish will take place on the esplanade of the Château de Vincennes. The best should cover the 21.1 kilometres in just over an hour.

Like each year, a lot will be expected from the Kenyan armada led by Philémon Kisang, a two-time winner of the Milan Semi-Marathon (2007 et 2008) and John Korir, 6<sup>th</sup> of the Athens Olympics in 2004 (10 000 m) and 5<sup>th</sup> of the Sydney Olympics in 2000 (10 000 m).

In the women's race, a Latvian looks to be the clear favourite: Jelena Prokopchuka, winner of the New-York Marathon in 2005 and 2006, with a personal Semi-Marathon record at 1h08'11'' and second of the 2008 Paris Semi-Marathon. Perninah Arusei, 5th of the 2008 World Championships in Rio will be battling it out for victory. Three French athletes: Hafida Gadi, Margaret Maury and Yamna Oubouhou are also among the field of favourites of the 2009 edition of the Paris Semi-Marathon.

Like each year, the village will open its doors on Friday the 6th and Saturday the 7th of March at the Hall de la Pinède du Parc Floral de Paris. Close to 40 exhibitors will be present in order to welcome freely the crowd in this place dedicated to running.

All the participants will be able to collect their bib numbers at the following dates and times:

Friday the 6th of March from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM  
Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of March from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM  
Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Like each year, the International Paris Semi-Marathon will be the opportunity for the runners and spectators to live Paris in a different way, through a morning punctuated by 27 musical animations all along the course.

[www.semideparis.com](http://www.semideparis.com)

### **Press Contact**

Martine LAURENT / Mobile : +33 (0)6 07 52 49 28 / [mlaurent@aso.fr](mailto:mlaurent@aso.fr)