

To the  
- Members of the FIS Council  
- National Ski Associations  
- Committee Chairs

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION**  
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Oberhofen, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## **Summary / Minutes of the FIS Council Conference Call Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

Dear Council Members,  
Dear President,  
Dear Members and Friends,

In accordance with article 32.2 of the FIS Statutes we have pleasure in sending you the Summary and Minutes of the FIS Council Conference Call Meeting which took place on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

### **Agenda**

- 1) Opening of the Meeting / President's Report
- 1.1) Minutes Council Conference Call Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021
- 2) Members present
- 3) The 52<sup>nd</sup> International Ski Congress "2020" in Portoroz (SLO)
- 4) Proposal of the "Future of FIS Working Group"
- 5) FIS Injury Surveillance & Prevention Programme (ISPP) – Update
- 6) Fluorinated Wax Ban Working Group Update
- 7) FIS Ski Flying World Championships 2024
- 8) FIS Freestyle, Snowboard and Freeski World Championships 2025
- 9) National Ski Association of Slovakia
- 10) Any other business
- 11) Next meeting with the FIS Council

## 1. Opening of the Meeting / President's Report

Gian Franco Kasper opened the Council Meeting welcoming the Council Members. He said the 2020/21 season was like none other we have experienced, but FIS weathered the challenges very well, all things considered. This was thanks to the teamwork to all stakeholders and the intensive planning in the lead-up to the season. He thanked everyone for their flexibility during the unprecedented season. FIS needs to be prepared for the long-term consequences from the Covid-19 pandemic, but working together we can support one another.

He highlighted the agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the last meeting.

### 1.1 Minutes Council Conference Call Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

The Council approved today's agenda and the minutes of last Council Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

## 2. Members present

The following elected Council Members were present at the online meeting on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021:

President: Gian Franco Kasper

Vice-Presidents: Mats Årjes, Roman Kumpost, Aki Murasato, Patrick Smith

Members: Steve Dong Yang, Dean Gosper, Alfons Hörmann, Hannah Kearney, Dexter Paine, Flavio Roda, Erik Roeste, Konstantin Schad, Peter Schröcksnadel, Martti Uusitalo, Eduardo Valenzuela, Michel Vion

Non-voting: Enzo Smrekar (SLO), Elena Vaelbe (RUS) representing Andrey Bokarev, Hank Tauber (Guest), Sverre Seeberg (Guest), Carl Eric Stålberg (Guest)

Director: Philippe Gueisbuhler

## 3. The 52<sup>nd</sup> International Ski Congress "2020" in Portoroz (SLO)

Enzo Smrekar provided an update on the status of Covid-19 related restrictions in Slovenia. The protocol for holding the Congress in person is in place, however, the third wave of the pandemic is underway in Slovenia with a hard lockdown in place through April 12<sup>th</sup>. It is uncertain if the lockdown will be extended after April 12<sup>th</sup>. This has changed the situation entirely in getting any kind of guarantee for delegates of the Congress to travel to Slovenia.

Vice-President Patrick Smith underlined that the situation is also not looking positive in other parts of the world and that the strict regulations are not limited to Slovenia.

After receiving this latest data and information in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic in Slovenia, the FIS Council agreed to hold the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Ski Congress online to ensure the safety and health of all FIS stakeholders.

Since the Congress has already been postponed by one year, the FIS Council agreed that the General Assembly day will be held online on 4<sup>th</sup> June with an abbreviated agenda. Included on the agenda will be the election of the FIS President and FIS Council for the term 2021-2022. All items that will require a detailed discussion from Congress delegates should be postponed until 2022.

The Council will table its proposals for this Congress until 2022. However, it is noted that the Council still fully supports all its proposals. The National Ski Associations will be asked to similarly table their proposals. This includes proposals related to the FIS Statutes and not the 'daily business' such as reports from Organisers, financial matters, etc.

It was agreed that only new Council candidates will be able to give presentations to the Congress. Additionally, each Presidential Candidate will have 10 minutes for a presentation to the Congress.

The FIS Committee Meetings, which are traditionally held in the days leading up to the FIS Congress will also be held online in the upcoming weeks.

#### **4. Proposals of the “Future of FIS Working Group”**

A Working Group of select individuals, Hank Tauber, Sverre Seeberg, Carl Eric Stålberg and Patrick Smith, presented proposals for regarding several operational and governance aspects related to the upcoming online Congress.

The first proposal was that the absolute majority needed in the presidential election be defined according to Swiss law, with the winner receiving 50% of the vote plus one vote.

The second proposal was that all upcoming terms, Council and Presidential will be through the next Congress in 2022. Council Member Michel Vion questioned that the FIS President would change only after one year of service. It was explained that to change this term length would require a FIS Statute change.

The third proposal is to delay the election of gender balanced Council candidates until 2022. The proposal to add gender diversity to the Council is fully supported, but for the reasons outlined above regarding the complications of the online Congress, an online election would be too complex with this additional new element.

It was further proposed that term and age limits should be discussed and defined by the future Council when it is elected.

It was also proposed that all FIS presidential and Council applicants need to follow the FIS Code of Ethics and should undergo a full screening and background check, by a neutral firm. Additionally, all candidates need to fill out the required Conflict of Interest, Declaration of Interests and Eligibility Questionnaire forms.

The Council agreed to the proposals from the Future of FIS Working Group.

## 5. FIS Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program (ISPP) Update

The Council received an update on the proposed structure and mandate of the FIS Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program (ISPP) with the objective to have the safest possible high-performance sport, with a significant reduction of severe injuries for all disciplines and levels.

The new ISPP structure would consist of NSA working groups, science to practice partners and the FIS staff for management. It would include all disciplines. The project would be split into three groups, athlete, equipment and framework.

Long term funding of the ISPP management will be necessary, funding details must be explored and finalized in cooperation with the FIS Finance Commission.

FIS Treasurer Mats Arjes agreed it is too early to agree on the financial details, but underlined it will need to be an investment from FIS for the future of the sport.

Council Member Peter Schröcksnadel said it is good to start somewhere and perhaps the starting point could be Alpine-focused. He stated that currently the project was too big to start, which could create inefficiencies. Michel Vion agreed with these statements.

The Council agreed, that the working group should continue with its ISPP work. The financial details and investment level will be discussed in the spring once the scope and details are clearly defined.

## 6. Fluorinated Wax Ban Working Group Update

The Council received an update from Working Group Chairman Roman Kumpost on the progress of implementing the fluorinated wax ban. After conducting nearly 6'500 tests in the last three months, the field tracking device will be calibrated and then verified by an independent lab survey. This process is expected to be completed by May 21<sup>st</sup> in time for the next Council meeting. Based on these results, the Working Group will provide a recommendation to the Council in regards to the timeline for fluorinated wax ban for the 2021/22 season.

Council Member Martti Uusitalo commented that it will be very difficult to have success with the implementation with a zero-tolerance level. Roman Kumpost warned that without the goal of zero tolerance some teams may still try to find ways around the ban with advanced techniques.

It was underlined that the procedure of developing the device is very complicated because it is an entirely new technology and the goal must be to have no cases of false positive results recorded. This could be solved by adjusting the threshold of fluorinated waxes that the device detects.

The Council agreed that it will decide on the timeline for full implementation of the fluorinated wax ban following after it receives the results from the independent lab.

**7. FIS Ski Flying World Championship 2024**

The Council unanimously appointed Kulm Tauplitz-Bad Mitterndorf (AUT) as the host of the FIS Ski Flying World Championships 2024. Kulm submitted its application after Harrachov (CZE) could not host the 2024 edition due to technical problems with the facility.

**8. FIS Freestyle, Snowboard and Freeski World Championships 2025**

The Council unanimously appointed the region of Engadine (SUI) as the host of the FIS Freestyle, Snowboard and Freeski World Championships 2025. Engadine submitted its application after Krasnoyarsk (RUS) was ineligible to host the 2025 edition as a result of the WADA-RUSADA decision earlier this year, which does not allow Russia to host any major World Championships through 2025.

**9. National Ski Association of Slovakia**

FIS was informed by the Ministry of Sports of Slovakia that the current Member is no longer the recognised National Federation for snow sports in Slovakia. FIS has also received a request for Membership from a new organisation in Slovakia. As long as the dispute is ongoing, the National Olympic Committee is serving as the responsible party.

It was proposed that FIS maintains the temporary suspension of the Slovak Ski Association as a member of the FIS and accepts that the National Olympic Committee of Slovakia (NOCS) will continue to act as commissarial National Ski Association until FIS receives a final and binding decision from the competent Slovak authorities, which definitely determines the sole competent national federation for Skiing and Snowboarding. This solution will protect the athletes, who can still be registered for competitions by the NOCS.

The Council agreed to continue to work with the National Olympic Committee of Slovakia until the sole competent authority is defined by the Slovak authorities.

**10. Any other business**

No additional business.

**11. Next Meeting**

President Gian Franco Kasper proposed a next Council Meeting 1-2 day before the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Ski Congress. The exact date and time will be announced later.

**FOR THE MINUTES**

Jenny Wiedeke  
FIS Communications Director