

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

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Oberhofen, 25th May 2021

Summary / Minutes of the FIS Council Conference Call Meeting 25th May 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 25 May 2021.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Congress preparations update
3. Report of Future of FIS working Group
4. NSA representation and number of votes
5. Any other business
6. Closure of the meeting

1. Opening of the Meeting / President's Report

Gian Franco Kasper opened the Council Meeting welcoming the Council Members saying he anticipates today's meeting will be very short with a focus on the report from the FIS Future Working Group, made up of Patrick Smith, Hank Tauber, Sverre Seeberg, Carl Eric Stålberg and Dr Sung-Won Lee.

2. Members present

The following elected Council Members were present at the online meeting on Tuesday 25th May 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: Elena Vaelbe (RUS) representing Andrey Bokarev, Hank Tauber (Guest), Sverre Seeberg (Guest), Carl Eric Stålberg (Guest)

Director: Philippe Gueisbuhler

3. Preparations for the 52nd International Ski Congress - online

FIS Director Philippe Gueisbuhler updated the Council on the latest Congress preparations. All National Ski Associations are currently being sent their login details for the Congress day and have been invited to take part in a rehearsal to test the voting system. Council members may also take place in a technical rehearsal on 3rd June, the day before the Congress.

Sceno Tech and Lumi are the two primary providers for the Congress services. Both have a wealth of experience with other International Federation Congresses and IOC Assemblies.

The stakeholders will be placed into various online groups during the Congress depending on their role (ie. NSA voting member, non-voting member, Council member, Candidate, etc...) Additionally, the Congress will be streamed live on the FIS You Tube channel.

Delegates will only be granted access to the Lumi platform based on their number of votes. For example, if a nation has two votes, two individuals will have access to the Lumi platform and the rest of the delegates will be in a separate Congress channel. Every delegate will have the opportunity to speak and ask questions regardless of which channel they are placed in.

Gian Franco Kasper added that the various World Championship and Olympic reports will be submitted before the Congress via video to help to manage the duration of the Congress.

The Council agreed that the World Championship and Olympic reports can be submitted via video, instead of as part of the working Agenda.

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

Hank Tauber reported on behalf of the Future of FIS Working Group with a focus on four main areas:

- 1) The mandate of the Future of FIS Working Group
- 2) Recommended characteristics of a new FIS leader
- 3) Comments on the Presidential campaigns
- 4) Background checks of the Presidential candidates

The Mandate of the Future of FIS Working Group: Originally, in anticipation of the June 2020 Congress, the FIS Future Working Group was appointed as an advisory group consisting of honorary and senior members of the FIS Council. It advises on governance, oversight of elections and procedures. Additionally, the oversight of candidate conduct falls under the mandate, ensuring all rules and regulations as written in the statutes and code of ethics are followed.

Patrick Smith added that providing checks and balances of election integrity was of the utmost importance from a neutral, unbiased group. Oversight committees must be independent, and must have access to all information necessary to undertake a review and need to be able to publish their findings and they cannot have any personal interest in the outcome. The oversight group is there to protect the integrity of the election. The FIS Future Working Group aims to promote accountability and transparency, ensuring a smooth fair and democratic election.

Patrick Smith asked that the Council grant the FIS Future Working group the jurisdiction to carry out their mandate as outlined above and in the written summary provided by the Working Group.

The Council agreed to give the FIS Future Working Group the jurisdiction to carry out its mandate.

Recommended Characteristics of the new FIS Leader: The Working Group does not feel it is in its mandate to endorse any one candidate, but rather lay out some of the attributes that it hopes the future FIS leadership has. They include:

- Have a strong track record of leading with honesty and integrity
- Work with good governance and transparency
- Understand structure and systems of an International Federation
- Understand and respects the history of FIS
- Understand FIS and the athletes that it serves
- Appreciate the need to promote athletes' safety
- Have a complete understanding of all FIS sports
- Be able to increase the financial success of FIS
- Have strong leadership skills working with all members
- Understands diversity and needs of big and small nations alike
- Be a good communicator
- Have good delegation skills and ability to collaborate
- Be confident and be an active listener
- Enhance the promotion of snow sports
- Empower and inspire FIS stake holders to work together

Comments on the Current Campaigns: The Working Group has concerns about some of the rumored promises currently being made by some of the candidates and wants that people to be made aware of the FIS Statutes which defines the decision-making process within FIS. Namely that the Council is the primary decision-making body within FIS and that the President cannot singularly make changes to the FIS Statutes. The Working Group would like the Candidates and all National Ski Associations to be reminded of the FIS Statutes and the decision-making structure within FIS and to highly respect this procedure.

Carl Eric Stålberg underlined that the voting by the NSAs should be made on the attributes under point two of the Working Group, and not based on any campaign promises.

Background checks of the Presidential candidates: The Working Group said that after receiving the background reports on the four candidates, that there was little adverse commentary flagged for any of the candidates. Since the reports were just received they have not have the time to go through every detail, but the initial reports did not raise any concerns.

There was a full discussion among the Council members about the legality and benefits or downfalls of providing the background checks to the Council directly, or the National Ski Associations and whether this would be helpful, or harmful to the integrity of the election.

The Council agreed that the Working Group will fully review and summarize the various background checks in time for the next Council meeting on 1st June. Until that time no one will receive a copy of the background checks. The Working Group will also get legal advice on how to disseminate the reports at the 1st June meeting and if the Council should make a formal recommendation as to the future candidate.

5. NSA representation and number of votes

FIS Director Philippe Gueisbuhler underlined that the number of votes could evolve until right before the election, but at the current time, the situation is stable, with one possible exception that should be flagged. Northern Macedonia currently has a challenge after its presidential election and who the rightful winner was, which could affect its voting representative.

The Council agreed that if no clear determination is made before the Congress Day, then Northern Macedonia will not have the right to vote at the Congress.

6. Any other business

The Council agreed that next Marc Hodler Foundation meeting later this week will be chaired by FIS Treasurer Mats Arjes.

Patrick Smith asked about the term limit for the elected officials at the upcoming Congress. Gian Franco Kasper clarified that the term is for one year as previously discussed.

7. Next Meeting

President Gian Franco Kasper proposed the two next Council Meetings for 1st June at 13:00, and 2nd June at 13:00, before the 52nd International Ski Congress.

FOR THE MINUTES

Jenny Wiedeke
FIS Communications Director