

## FIS COUNCIL MEETING 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

### SUMMARY MINUTES

#### 1. Opening of the Meeting

President Eliasch opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

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#### 2. Members present

Johan Eliasch, President (FIS)  
Danielle Aravich, Athletes' Representative (USA)  
Deidra Dionne (CAN)  
Tove Moe Dyrhaug (NOR)  
Alex Fiva, Athletes' Representative (SUI)  
Anna Harboe Falkenberg (DEN)  
Adam Hall, Athletes' Representative (NZL)  
Michael Huber (AUT)  
Freddy Keirouz (LBN)  
Karin Mattsson (SWE)  
Tzeko Minev (BUL)  
Aki Murasato (JPN)  
Alexander Ospelt (LIE)  
Dexter Paine (USA)  
May Peus (ESP)  
Jean-Philippe Rochat (SUI)  
Flavio Roda (ITA)  
Fabien Saguez (FRA)  
Franz Steinle (GER)  
Fiona Stevens (NZL)  
Verena Stuffer, Athletes' Representative (ITA)  
Martti Uusitalo (FIN)

Michel Vion, Secretary General (FIS)  
Urs Lehmann, CEO (FIS)

Excused:  
Freddy Keirouz (LBN)

Observers:  
Aoife Keane, FIS General Counsel  
Marcus Hausen, Director of Presidential Affairs and Strategic Planning & Deputy Secretary General

### 3. Approval of the Agenda

The Council approved the agenda.

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### 4. Minutes of the Council Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025

The summary minutes approved by the Council were published on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025.

The Council approved the confidential minutes.

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### 5. President's Report

#### **Crans-Montana**

The FIS family is deeply saddened by the tragic events that occurred in Crans-Montana at the start of the new year. Our thoughts are with our friends in Crans-Montana and, above all, with the families of the victims. FIS remains in close contact with the Local Organising Committee regarding the World Cup events scheduled for the end of January and will provide further information in due course.

#### **SPORT**

#### **Tour de Ski: New Format**

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the Tour de Ski has been successfully completed, marking a milestone not only in longevity but also in innovation. This year's event introduced a new race format, the *Heat Mass Start*, which made its debut in Stage 3 in Toblach.

In this new format, which saw American athletes Gus Schumacher and Jessie Diggins claim victory, 20 athletes per gender, determined by the overall classification, competed over a 5 km distance in separate heats. Once one heat concluded, the next began, creating continuous excitement and a dynamic viewing experience. The winner was determined by the best cumulative time across all heats, combining speed, tactics, and strategy in a fresh way that added both intensity and unpredictability to the competition.

#### **Four Hills Tournament**

With the successful delivery of the men's edition and the women's Two-Night Tour this season, attention already turns to next year, when a new chapter in Ski Jumping history will begin. From the next edition onward, the Women's Four Hills Tournament will be officially established – a true milestone for the sport.

The legendary four venues will then host both men and women, marking a significant step toward equality and growth within Ski Jumping and adding a new dimension to one of the most iconic series in winter sports.

#### **Milestone for China in Ski Jumping**

History was made in Oberstdorf as Ping Zeng achieved the first-ever World Cup podium for China in Ski Jumping – a landmark moment for the nation and for the sport globally. This

success demonstrates the real and growing potential of snow sports in China and underscores the impact of FIS development initiatives in the region. Through long-term investment in coaching, athlete pathways, and international collaboration, FIS's efforts are now bearing fruit, with Chinese athletes increasingly competing at the highest level in various FIS disciplines.

#### **OWG26: Livigno Snow Park Challenges**

We are currently facing challenges with the Livigno Snow Park, directly affecting preparations for our Olympic Park & Pipe and Cross disciplines. Delays in snowmaking, combined with organizational difficulties linked to postponed government funding for the Organising Committee, have created a critical situation. FIS remains in close contact with MiCO and the IOC, pushing for solutions and supporting the local organizers in every possible way. All snow production must be completed by the final week of January to allow adequate time for the preparation of the venues. The situation remains tense, but our united efforts are focused on ensuring the successful delivery of these Olympic events.

#### **Strengthening Safety in Alpine Skiing**

FIS continues to prioritize athlete safety through a structured and proactive approach built on three key pillars – each now underway in a dedicated project.

1. Course Homologation
2. Increased Safety Standards
3. Enforced Education

Recognizing that ongoing education is a key factor in prevention, FIS has launched a comprehensive coach survey to assess current safety education levels within the Alpine community. The insights gained will help shape future education programs to further strengthen safety awareness and best practices.

Through these coordinated efforts, FIS reaffirms its commitment to advancing safety in Alpine Skiing – protecting athletes, improving conditions, and setting a global benchmark for responsible sport management.

FIS management will report from the Steering Committee meeting, held on January 5, 2026.

#### **AIN Update**

Following the decision of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on 2 December, FIS has received 293 individual applications for AIN (Individual Neutral Athlete) status from athletes and support personnel (02/01/2026). Each case undergoes a thorough and independent review to ensure full compliance with the FIS Individual Neutral Athlete Policy. This process includes a third-party due diligence assessment, the results of which are evaluated by the FIS Individual Neutral Athlete Eligibility Review Panel before a final decision is made.

FIS remains the only International Federation that goes the extra mile by engaging directly with athletes, while other IFs communicate exclusively through their respective sports associations in Russia. Updated AIN lists have been published regularly since the ruling, underscoring FIS's continued commitment to transparency, fairness, and integrity in accordance with international standards.

### **Stora Enso Premium Partner for Falun 2027**

Stora Enso is extending its long-standing collaboration with the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships, joining once again as a Premium Partner for the 2027 edition in Falun, Sweden. This marks the company's seventh sponsorship of the championships – a partnership that has spanned iconic events in Trondheim (2025), Planica (2023), Oberstdorf (2021), Seefeld (2019), Lahti (2017), and Falun (2015). As Premium Partner, Stora Enso will play a key role in shaping a sustainable and innovative championship experience. The company will provide renewable, wood-based, and recyclable solutions across the event – from venue structures and catering materials to prizes and giveaways – showcasing how renewable resources can replace fossil-based alternatives in major global events.

### **Alpine Documentary in Production**

Filming for the upcoming ESPN and Disney+ docuseries on our Alpine season has progressed across Sölden, Copper Mountain, Beaver Creek, Val d'Isère, and Val Gardena. The externally led production aims to capture the essence of the Alpine World Cup through the lens of several key athletes and venues.

FIS is supporting the process by facilitating access to events, teams, and organizers to help ensure the narrative reflects the true spirit of our sport. Upholding that authenticity and quality remains a clear priority, particularly as we help the production team stay on course while they continue their work with multiple partners. All athletes originally identified for the project have confirmed their participation, underlining their enthusiasm for the initiative.

The docuseries will go beyond race coverage, offering a rare glimpse behind the scenes at the commitment, precision, and teamwork that define Alpine skiing. With an ambitious timeline leading up to its Olympic release, FIS remains focused on ensuring that the finished product lives up to the high standards the sport – and its athletes – deserve.

### **FIS Bi-Weekly Newsletter Snowlines**

Since November, we have launched our new bi-weekly newsletter, Snowlines, designed to keep our global FIS family informed and connected. Each edition highlights our most important developments – from sustainability initiatives and digital innovations to sporting milestones and member achievements. The feedback so far has been extremely positive, and in 2026 we plan to expand Snowlines with more in-depth features and exclusive behind-the-scenes insights.

### **TikTok Partnership Expands for 2025/26**

Following a highly successful first collaboration last season, TikTok returns as the official entertainment partner of FIS for the 2025/26 winter sports season. Building on the record-breaking 400 million views achieved last year, this renewed partnership marks a new milestone in bringing winter sports to a global audience. This season, nine dedicated FIS TikTok accounts will be activated across all disciplines – from Alpine Skiing and Ski Jumping to Snowboard Freestyle and Para Snow Sports – offering fans front-row access to every competition. The initiative will also debut the first-ever global #wintersport campaign, inviting fans to share their own videos celebrating the spirit of winter sports for a chance to win exclusive prizes. Beyond entertainment, the partnership takes on a new strategic dimension.

FIS and TikTok are launching a dedicated athlete support program, helping athletes grow their digital presence through workshops and education sessions.

### **Digital Momentum Through the FIS CXP**

The FIS Content Exchange Platform (CXP) continues to play a central role in our digital transformation by providing athletes and National Associations with personalized competition footage from every FIS World Cup event. This initiative empowers athletes to grow their own platforms, strengthen engagement with fans, and build dynamic digital communities, while also enabling transparent and fair monetization opportunities. The results of our evolving digital strategy are exceptional. Over the past season, posts across FIS channels increased by 1670%, engagement rose by 4400%, and followers grew by 640%. A highlight of this success was a spectacular Ski Jumping clip of Daniel Huber, which reached over 100 million views and demonstrated the global appeal of winter sports in the digital age. These achievements highlight the growing impact of FIS's digital ecosystem – expanding our reach, connecting audiences worldwide, and positioning winter sports at the forefront of innovation and fan engagement.

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## **6. Launch of WSC Freeride 2027-2028 candidacy process**

The Council approved the candidacy process for the WSC Freeride 2027 and 2028.

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## **7. Update Commercial**

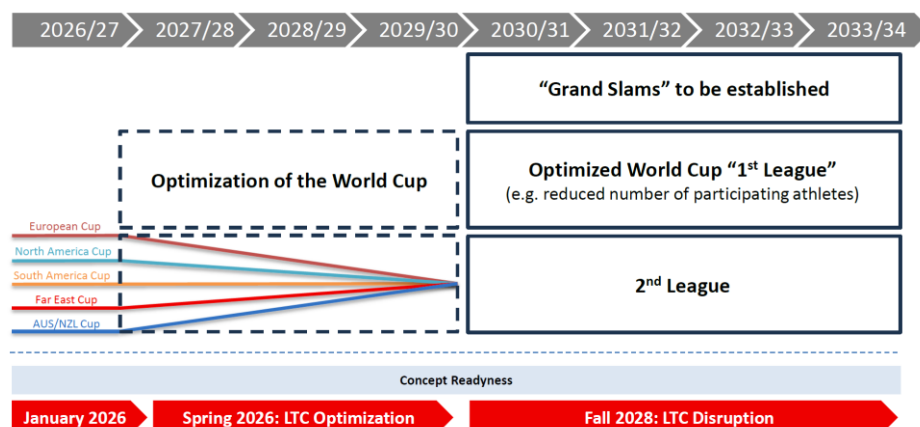
FIS Management presented updates on the following topics:

### **a) ExBo activities**

Key activities:

- A. Media Rights exploitation 2026-2030(+)
- B. WC Calendar Alpine, Nordic 2026/27
- C. Product Development
  - I. Vision of Alpine
    - a) Sport Format Enhancement
    - b) TV Product
    - c) Athletes Involvement
    - d) Digital, Social & Content Integration
    - e) Young Audience Access & Development
  - II. Vision of Nordic, SB/FS → Phase 2

## Vision for Alpine



### b) Sponsoring/Partnership

#### Initial Situation

The mission of FIS is to secure the sustainable development of the winter sports and to optimize the level of distributions to the NSAs, athletes and organizers.

Therefore FIS Management is looking for new sources and concepts to develop the financial revenue.

FIS M&M is working on the increase of the sponsorship income and proposes a new partnership concepts to be enabled to take FIS Partnership to the next level from season 2026/27.

#### WHAT

FIS Management recommends to split the inventory of FIS Alpine Ski World Cup Title Partner Assets – known as Audi sponsorship – from season 2026/27 into

- Title Sponsor Alpine
- Presenting Partner

#### HOW

FIS is carving out a selection of existing on-slope marketing inventory from the FIS Alpine Ski World Cup Title Partnership (pre-agreed with Audi), bundled into a newly established FIS Alpine Ski World Cup Presenting Partnership package.

The majority of the Council approved the concept of a Presenting Sponsor for Alpine.

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## 8. Update Sport

### a) Alpine Injury Status

The proposal concerning the Alpine Injury Status was submitted to the FIS Council together with the Working Document.

The Council approved the amendments for the Alpine Injury Status.

b) WC Calendars 2026/2027 Alpine, Nordic

The calendars 2026/2027 were submitted to the FIS Council upfront of the meeting.

The majority of the Council approved the preliminary Alpine and Nordic calendars 2026/2027.

c) Organisation Sport

FIS Management noted that the numerous committees face challenges due to limited resources, insufficient interaction, and gaps in leadership. To ensure faster decision-making and integrated strategies—also highlighted in previous marketing discussions—the organisation needs streamlined governance and a more agile structure. Instead of repeatedly citing a lack of professional resources or creating new working or expert groups, a more effective solution is proposed: appointing an Alpine Director responsible for coordination and oversight. This model is intended as a starting point, with similar roles to follow for Nordic and for Snowboard/Freestyle once readiness aligns.

d) Application JWSC

The Estonian Ski Association, in collaboration with Otepää (EST), has submitted an application to host the FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships 2027. This application is intended to replace the previously approved candidacy of Kazakhstan (Shchuchinsk), which is no longer able to deliver the event as planned due to construction delays on the Ski Jumping hills.

The Council approved the application of the Estonian Ski Association.

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## 9. Update Services

FIS Management informed on the following topics:

a) Replacement CFO

The organisation's growth has increased financial complexity, requiring a more qualified CFO to manage systems, audits, bookkeeping and cost accounting. To meet these needs, the recruitment process was accelerated, resulting in the dismissal of Stefan Ruf. Johan Bergendorff has taken over as interim CFO until a permanent successor is found.

b) New ERP System

The current accounting system Infoniqa will be replaced by the ERP System Abacus in Q1/Q2 2026.

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## 10. Any other business

No comments

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**11. Next meeting of the FIS Council**

The next meeting will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 (online).

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**12. Closing of the meeting**

President Eliasch closed the meeting at 13.30 hrs.

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Oberhofen, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Michel Vion  
Secretary General