

MINUTES**1. Opening of the Meeting**

President Eliasch will open the meeting and welcome the participants.

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2. Members present

Johan Eliasch
Roman Kumpost
Aki Murasato
Flavio Roda
Matti Uusitalo
Mats Arjes
Deidra Dionne
Alex Fiva
Dean Gosper
Magdalena Kast
Urs Lehmann
Tzoko Minev
Patrick Ortlieb
Anne-Chantal Pigelet
Erik Roeste
Enzo Smrekar
Verena Stuffer
Franz Steinle
Fiona Stevens
Benjamin Tudhope
Patrick Toussaint

Michel Vion, Secretary General

Not attended:
Moses Liang-Cheng Zheng

Observers:
Aoife Keane, General Counsel
Stefan Ruf, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer
Christian Salomon, Chief Commercial Officer

Guests:
Susanna Sieff, Sustainability Director
Sandra Spitz, Sport & Event Director
Benjamin Stoll, Director Digital & Innovation

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda, which was sent out on 14th February was approved by the Council.

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4. Minutes of the FIS Council Meeting 21st December 2023, online

The minutes of the FIS Council Meeting on 21st December 2023, which were sent out on 3rd January 2024 were approved by the Council.

Enzo Smerkar's resignation from the position of FIS Treasurer which was received following the last meeting was duly added to the minutes.

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5. Update by the President

The President welcomed all the Council members to the meetings and provided an update on the following topics:

FIS Treasurer

As a result of the resignation of Enzo Smerkar as Treasurer, there is currently no Treasurer as per the Statutes.

The Council agreed not to appoint a Treasurer before the next Congress when the amendment to dissolve the position will be formally proposed.

Para Athlete Representative

President Eliasch welcomes the representative from the Para Snowsports, Benjamin Tudhope who is attending the FIS Council meeting for the first time.

The Council agreed to amend the FIS Terms and Rules of Reference for Committees (Edition 2022) to incorporate the amendments of the FIS Statutes approved by the FIS Congress 2023 in relation of the Para Athlete Representative on the FIS Council. The nomination of Ben Tudhope as Para Athlete Representative will be put forward to the FIS Congress 2024 for final approval.

FIS Organisation

President Eliasch mentioned that the organisation is making good progress and that he would like to highlight that we have first class organisation with a great group of people that are incredibly hard working, and that FIS is getting recognition from the IOC. He in particular mentioned the Youth Olympic Winter Games for which the IOC commended FIS not only for the involvement in the YOG but generally that our organisation had become much stronger and a great contributor towards the IOC. President Eliasch in particular mentioned Sandra Spitz who did a phenomenal job in Korea and thanks her also on behalf of the Council for her work.

Centralisation of Media Rights

President Eliasch mentioned that a meeting will take place on Wednesday of this week with representatives from some of the bigger countries, namely Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Norway and Italy regarding the Centralisation of Media Rights. An update will be provided following this discussion.

Athletes Health Unit

The Athletes' Health Unit will be an important department to help reduce the number of injuries through preventative measures such as the use of air bags and cut-resistant underwear as well as electronic release bindings. The research and development of these emerging technologies require funding and there a question of where that funding can come from to ensure these developments can be implemented as quickly as possible.

The airbag is mandatory for the World Cup level as of season 2024/2025 and for the FIS level as of season 2025/2026. The FIS Council at its meeting of 24th May 2023 approved the respective rule changes of the Alpine Competition Equipment accordingly.

Further information on other safety equipment will be submitted for the next Council meeting.

International Olympic Committee

The Youth Olympic Winter Games was recently successfully concluded. The relationship with the IOC is close and is working very well.

Legal Matters

President Eliasch gives an updated on the legal matters.

President Eliasch informs that the FIS has settled its disputes with Infront by (i) buying Infront's shareholding in FISMAG and (ii) settling a claim in relation to the 2021 Alpine World.

Finally, Infront and FIS have agreed to a mutual digital use agreement until the centralisation of the rights can be agreed upon.

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6. FIS Impact Programme

FIS Sustainability Director Susanna Sieff presented the newly launched FIS Impact Programme to the Council. It is meant to be flexible roadmap for all sustainability projects for FIS during the next three-year period.

The Council agreed that the Impact Programme will become very important in the future to keep the sport attractive in the media and for sponsors.

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7. FIS 100 – Anniversary 2024

Annette Braun informs regarding the planned 100-year celebration during the Spring meetings in Portoroz on 7th May. Additionally, a FIS 100 Book will be published and distributed in Portoroz and at the FIS Congress in Iceland. Finally, there is a digital activation in place to encourage snow sports fans to take part in the celebrations and FIS 100 native digital content being produced.

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8. Winter Youth Olympic Games 2024 in Gangwon (KOR)

Sandra Spitz presented fact and figures of the YOG 2024. There were 41 FIS medal events (17 men, 17 women and 7 mixed teams) at the Youth Olympic Winter Games in Gangwon in seven venues. Unfortunately, only one venue for the YOG was taken over from the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. Cross-Country was able to use the biathlon venue. FIS is especially interested in using the Athlete Role Model programme at future editions of the Junior World Ski Championships.

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9. Finance

President Eliasch introduced Aoife Keane, the new FIS General Counsel, successor of Sven Schaeffner. Aoife Keane briefly introduced herself.

Furthermore, President Eliasch introduced Stefan Ruf as new Chief Financial and Administrative Officer. President Eliasch and Michel Vion gave some background information on the predecessor of Stefan Ruf.

Stefan Ruf introduced himself briefly and provided a financial update.

He proposed to the FIS Council that FIS shift its Fiscal Year from the current calendar year format to a seasonal format that matches the rhythm of FIS' business, namely May 1 to April 30 annually. If approved the new Fiscal Year would begin in 2025. The biggest implication of the decision would mean that the International Ski Congress would need to be moved from its current period in June to a September date to allow for all the financial figures to be finalised and reported.

A few Council members said that their Federations have also shifted to a similar Fiscal Year. They also pointed out that they have been able to hold their Congress by the end of June, which may eliminate the need to shift the Congress drastically.

The Council approved the appointment of Stefan Ruf as Chief Financial and Administrative Officer and has joint signature by two.

The Council agreed to put forward a proposal to the next FIS Congress to adapt the Fiscal Year as outlined above.

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10. Update Statutory Documents

President Eliasch mentioned that the updated FIS Terms and Rules of Reference for Committees 2024 were distributed to the FIS Council together with the Agenda. The approval is postponed to the next FIS Council Meeting. He also informs, that the Ethics Code is being updated which will be an amalgamation of several documents, such as the Universal Code of Ethics, the Code of Ethics for Council Members, the Code on Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions, the Conflict of Interest Policy, Procedural Rules for the IECO and Ethics Committee. Furthermore, the Election Qualification Criteria as well as Conduct during the Elections, both documents to be issued by the Nomination and Remuneration Committee as well as the Council and Executive Committee Codes will be available for review. All these documents will be submitted to the FIS Council in due course, allowing sufficient time to provide feedback.

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11. Media & Marketing

Christian Salomon Chief Commercial Officer provided an update on the activities of FIS Media & Marketing. A key account management structure has been implemented with the aim of onboarding global partnerships across all disciplines.

In the major disciplines, the sponsorship portfolio is good, and the focus will be on filling the gaps in Nordic Combined and Freestyle and Snowboard. The focus is also on the renewal process for existing sponsors.

The team is preparing to go to the market with a new concept for FIS World Championship sponsorship rights, which will focus on exclusivity. Media rights tenders for the World Championships in 2027 and 2029 together with the FIS Games in 2028 are being developed.

Benjamin Stoll Digital and Innovation Director further reported on the progress in digital, namely a content exchange platform and the launch of FIS TV. The new social media strategy has positive numbers from a mid-season report. The FIS Junior World Ski Championships provided a good opportunity to use events with FIS rights to extend the reach on the FIS-specific channels.

The FIS App was relaunched at the start of the season and the FIS website will be relaunched shortly.

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11. Rules and Terms of Reference for FIS Committees

To give the Council members more time to review the Rules and Terms of Reference 2024, this item was deferred to a later date.

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12. The 55th International Ski Congress 2024, Reykjavik (ISL)

There will be a future meeting to go over the National Ski Association and Council proposals including the open proposals from 2023 for the upcoming Congress in Iceland.

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13. Any other business

FIS Ski Flying World Championships 2024, Kulm (AUT)

Patrick Ortlieb mentioned that the Kulm Ski Flying Championships was a successful event.

FIS Alpine World Ski Championships 2027, Crans-Montana (SUI)

The Council agreed that all the involved parties and stakeholders should work with full focus on finding a solution in the near term that meets all of the obligations of hosting a major World Championship.

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14. Next FIS Council Meeting

The date and location of the next FIS Council Meeting will be communicated in due course.

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15. Closing of the meeting

The President closed the meeting at 17:00

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION

Michel Vion
Secretary General

Oberhofen, 19th February 2024

