



TZEKO TODOROV MINEV

Year of Birth

1960

Nationality

Bulgarian

Current Position

President, Bulgarian Ski Federation (BFSKI)

FIS Council

Member since 2021

Personal Interests

Skiing, tennis, water polo (former member, Bulgarian National Water Polo Team)

BIOGRAPHY

Tzeko Minev has served as President of the Bulgarian Ski Federation since 2003. An economist by training, he co-founded First Investment Bank (Fibank), one of Bulgaria's leading financial institutions, and has built a distinguished career in finance, investment banking, and institutional management. He has served as Vice-President of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee, responsible for winter sports development, since 2019. He is married, with one son, and lives in Sofia.

INTRODUCTION

I am standing for a further mandate on the FIS Council because the work is not finished - and because the experience I bring is directly relevant to what FIS faces in the years ahead.

Since 2021, I have served on the Council through a period of significant institutional transformation: new governance structures, an evolving commercial model, a new strategic plan, and the challenge of making FIS's ambitious agenda meaningful for all its Member Associations - not only the largest and most resourced among them.

Bulgarian skiing has reached historic competitive levels during this period - a reflection of what sustained, well-governed federation leadership can produce, even from a mid-size nation without the infrastructure of the historically dominant Alpine countries. That experience - as a federation president, an event organizer, a Council member, and a professional with decades of practice in finance, institutional governance, and commercial strategy - is what I bring to this candidature.

I am asking for the trust of Member Associations who believe that FIS is strongest when it serves its full membership, and that the Council is most effective when it includes voices from across the diversity of our sport.

CAREER & FIS EXPERIENCE

President, Bulgarian Ski Federation (BFSKI) - 2003 to present. Over two decades of continuous leadership spanning the transformation of Bulgarian skiing from a developing program to a multi-discipline, internationally competitive federation.

FIS Alpine World Cup Sub-Committee - Member since 2006. Former member, FIS Commission of European Questions.

FIS Council - Member since 2021, serving consecutively; Member of FIS Finance Committee.

Chairman, Local Organizing Committee - all FIS Alpine and Snowboard World Cup events in Bansko since 2009; FIS Junior Alpine Ski Championships 2021; FIS Junior Snowboard Championships 2023.

Bulgarian Olympic Committee - Executive Board Member 2005–2019; Vice-President (Winter Sports) since 2019.

Co-founder, First Investment Bank (Fibank) - one of Bulgaria's leading financial institutions; decades of leadership in finance, investment banking, and institutional governance.

BFSKI — KEY RESULTS

Tervel Zamfirov - Olympic bronze medalist, SNB Parallel Giant Slalom, Milano-Cortina 2026. Bulgaria's first Winter Olympic medal in snowboard and first Winter Olympic distinction in 20 years. Zamfirov is also the reigning FIS World Champion in SNB Parallel Slalom (Engadin 2025) - the first Bulgarian snowboard World Champion in history.

Historic double podium - FIS Snowboard Alpine World Cup, Bansko, January 2026. Zamfirov won; Yankov finished third - the first time two Bulgarians have simultaneously reached the podium at a World Cup event. Radoslav Yankov is a Crystal Globe winner and Bulgaria's most decorated snowboard alpine athlete.

Vladimir Zografski - Bulgaria's first ski jumping World Cup podium, Lahti, March 2026 - a discipline breakthrough in a sport with no national tradition at this level.

Malena Zamfirova - Olympic debut at 16, Milano-Cortina 2026. Recipient of the European Olympic Committees' Piotr Nurowski Prize for the best young European winter sports athlete. Evidence of a functioning youth development pathway.

Albert Popov - World Cup winner, Alpine Slalom, Madonna di Campiglio, January 2025. Only the second Bulgarian alpine skier to win a World Cup race, 45 years after the first.

Bansko World Cup - BFSKI has hosted FIS Alpine and Snowboard World Cup events continuously since 2009. Bansko is confirmed as a permanent venue in the men's technical disciplines calendar through 2034.

These results span three disciplines - Alpine Skiing, Snowboard, Ski Jumping and three generations of athletes. BFSKI is also active in Cross-Country Skiing and Freestyle, making it one of the few mid-size federations active across the full spectrum of FIS disciplines.

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT MANDATE

1. FULL MEMBERSHIP

Serving the Full Membership - Resources and Voice for Smaller NSAs

FIS brings together national ski associations from around the world. The Council must represent all of them - not only the leading ones from the Alps, Scandinavia, and North America. My experience leading a mid-size federation that has competed at the highest level without the infrastructure of the major Alpine nations gives me a direct understanding of what smaller and developing NSAs need from FIS.

I will advocate for fair distribution of technical and financial support, for accessible FIS education and certification pathways for coaches and officials with limited budgets, and for Council decisions that reflect the real operational constraints of the majority of our membership. The structural guarantee of Council representation for one-vote and two-vote countries is meaningful only if it is matched by substantive engagement on the issues that matter to them.

2. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Youth Development and Long-Term Athlete Pathways

Malena Zamfirova's Olympic debut at 16, and Tervel Zamfirov's World Championship gold, Olympic bronze, and World Cup win at 20, are not miracles. They are the outcome of a structured development program built on talent, devotion, and years of work - with early competition experience and a clear pathway from junior to senior level.

I will support the expansion of FIS's Education Strategy to coaches, youth development staff, and national federation administrators, with a specific focus on ensuring that smaller NSAs have equal access to the knowledge and tools that have long been available to the major nations.

Beyond competitive pathways, FIS must continue to develop financial support and dual-career opportunities for athletes. Modern athletes need to build a sustainable life during and after their competitive years. This is not separate from performance - it is part of what a responsible international federation owes to the people at the center of our sport.

3. CALENDAR & EVENTS

Calendar and Event Organization - The Organizer's Voice on the Council

Decisions about the FIS calendar have direct consequences for national federations, local organizing committees, sponsors, and governments - consequences not always fully visible from Oberhofen. As Chairman of the LOC for every World Cup and European Cup event in Bansko, I understand the financial commitments, planning horizons, logistical realities, and climate pressures that calendar decisions impose on mid-size venues.

I will bring this organizer's perspective to Council discussions on calendar transparency and predictability - both essential for national-level sponsorship and public funding. I will also advocate for FIS to examine how the full competition pyramid - World Cup, European Cup, Continental Cup, national championships, and FIS-level races - can be strengthened through targeted investment in broadcast and marketing support.

4. ATHLETE WELFARE

Athlete Welfare and Safety

Athlete safety is the Council's first responsibility, and I support FIS's safety-first agenda without reservation. As a long-standing event organiser, I have direct operational experience managing course conditions, safety protocols, and the practical implementation of FIS safety standards at World Cup level.

I will advocate for adequate preparation time in the competition calendar - condensed schedules increase risk, and mid-size venues are often most affected when calendar pressure is applied at short notice. I will support consistent implementation of athlete welfare policies across all disciplines and geographies - the standard must be the same wherever the event is located.

CLOSING STATEMENT

I am not standing for this mandate as a formality or a continuation of a role. I am standing because I believe the Council delivers best when it includes members who bring direct operational experience, represent the full diversity of FIS membership, and engage seriously with the substance of difficult discussions - on safety, on resources, on commercial development, and on governance.

If re-elected, I commit to the same discipline and long-term thinking that has guided BFSKI for over two decades: focused on the institution, not on visibility; focused on results, not on rhetoric; focused on all its Member Associations, not only the loudest voices in the room.

I ask for your trust and your vote.

Tzeko Minev

President, Bulgarian Ski Federation · Member, FIS Council