

To the  
Members of the FIS Council / FIS Honorary Members  
National Ski Associations  
Committee Chairs

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION**

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Oberhofen, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Summary / Minutes of the FIS Council Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020**

Dear Council Members,  
Dear President,  
Dear FIS Family / Ski Friends,

In accordance with article 32.2 of the FIS Statutes we have pleasure in sending you the Summary and Minutes of the from the FIS Council Conference Call Meeting which took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.

**Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Members present
3. New Request of the Italian Winter Sport Federation, FISI in regard to the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Cortina 2021
4. Any other business
  - Approval of the FIS Accounts 2018 - 2019
  - Letter German Ski Federation, Oberstdorf 2021
  - Letter Council Members Dexter Paine and Hannah Kearney: Diversity, Inclusion, Anti-Racism
  - Appointment of the FIS Court to adjudicate Safeguarding cases
5. Closing of the meeting

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

President Gian Franco Kasper opened the Council Meeting with sombre words following the passing of Vice President Janez Kocijancic on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. His wisdom, valuable contribution and wonderful sense of humour will be greatly missed in the world of skiing and FIS. This was the first Council Meeting he was absent in his 39 years as a member since 1981. Janez Kocijancic will be duly honoured at the next FIS Congress.

## **2. Members present**

The following elected Council Members were present at the online meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020:

President Gian Franco Kasper; Vice-Presidents Mats Årjes, Aki Murasato, Patrick Smith; Members: Steve Dong Yang, Dean Gosper, Alfons Hörmann, Hannah Kearney (Athletes' Commission Representative), Roman Kumpost, Dexter Paine, Flavio Roda, Erik Roeste, Konstantin Schad (Athletes' Commission Representative), Peter Schröcksnadel, Martti Uusitalo, Eduardo Valenzuela, Michel Vion; Secretary General Sarah Lewis

Observer: Elena Vaelbe (RUS) representing Andrey Bokarev

## **3. New Request of the Italian Winter Sport Federation, FISI FIS Alpine World Ski Championships, Cortina 2021**

Council Member Flavio Roda in his capacity as President of the Italian Winter Sport Federation, FISI informed the Council that following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic where Italy was heavily impacted, they have re-engaged with all stakeholders during the past weeks.

The outcome of the discussions have been that for the athletes, partners and sponsors, the sport in general and winter sport it is not the right message to postpone the Championships until 2022 for everyone concerned. Therefore they are ready to continue with moving forwards to organise the Cortina 2021 FIS Alpine Championships with full engagement.

However in case and only if another outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic occurs at short notice which forces last minute cancellation of the Championships, FISI is requesting a contribution from FIS to support the financial risk which has to be carried solely by FISI.

He added that presently the risk from the pandemic in Italy is low with the country recovering very well and many important sport events being (re-)scheduled in 2020 and 2021.

President Gian Franco Kasper summarised the situation following the new request of the Italian Winter Sport Federation. The original proposal to postpone the Championships to 2022 has been definitively and officially withdrawn. The new proposal and request of FISI is for FIS to provide a financial guarantee contribution, but only in the case of an outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic at short notice causing cancellation of the Championships.

He thereafter stated the following procedure. Firstly for the Council to decide if FIS agrees to provide such a guarantee of up to a maximum of CHF 10 million. Secondly, if the Council agrees to support the request, then the Finance Commission should be mandated to study the appropriate source/s of the funds in the coming months to present to the Council. The financing and the amount does not have to be determined immediately since such a guarantee would only be payable in 2021 and the evolution of the FIS finances can be monitored during the upcoming months.

During a thorough discussion the Members expressed their recognition of Council Member Flavio Roda in addressing this complex matter with the many stakeholders and the authorities in Italy, as well as commending the FIS Leadership for their engagement. The Council Members particularly underlined the importance of the positive signal the confirmation of Cortina 2021 provides for the entire competition season and winter sports.

Following the summary of President Gian Franco Kasper, the Council unanimously agreed that FIS provides a guarantee of up to a maximum of CHF 10 million, whereby only in the case of an outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic at short notice causing cancellation of the Championships. The Finance Commission is commissioned to define the financing of the guarantee.

Furthermore, the Council instructed the Finance Commission to try with all means to avoid allocating any of the National Ski Association financial support as part of the guarantee. The Finance Commission should also clarify facts and figures with the Italian Winter Sport Federation in more detail.

Additionally, the Council stated that circumstances which have impacted Cortina 2021 and Italy with the pandemic that included losing the FIS Alpine Ski World Cup Finals 2020 at the last minute are exceptional. The decision to provide such a guarantee is therefore unique and an exception which will not serve as any form of precedent for any other or future World Championships. The risk guarantee is only triggered in the event of a short notice cancellation and it is not a deficit guarantee for loss of income or additional expenditure.

Secretary General Sarah Lewis informed the Council that FIS has been able to negotiate an additional insurance policy to contribute towards such a guarantee for Cortina 2021 and FISI. The amount and conditions are presently being addressed with the insurance company. This policy can then form part of the considerations by the Finance Commission.

Council Member Flavio Roda expressed the sincere thanks of the Italian Winter Sport Federation to the Council for its understanding and decision, especially to the President and Secretary General for their engagement and support to realise this solution. He underlined that the work in Cortina is progressing and on track for the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships 2021.

#### **4. Any other business**

##### **4.1 Approval of the FIS Accounts 2018 - 2019**

Due to the postponement of the FIS Congress 2020, the Council decided at its Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to submit the FIS Accounts for the 2018 - 2019 financial period to the National Ski Associations for approval in writing.

The deadline for the decision was 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 and most member National Ski Associations responded, all of whom unanimously approved the accounts without any remarks or questions, including approval of the reports of the internal and external auditors.

#### 4.2 Letter German Ski Federation and Oberstdorf 2021

President Gian Franco Kasper referred to the letter submitted by the German Ski Federation at the start of the Council Meeting with an update on circumstances with the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships 2021 in Oberstdorf (GER).

Council Member Alfons Hoermann informed the Council that the German Ski Federation and Organising Committee have excellent insurance to cover its income, including the case of an outbreak of a pandemic including Covid-19, as stated in their letter.

Nevertheless Oberstdorf 2021 may still be impacted with additional expenditure costs if the infrastructure is already built up and a last minute decision by the authorities to restrict the attendance of any spectators which represents an important source of income. He requested that FIS, the German Ski Federation and the Organising Committee jointly review the timings and figures.

Council Member Steve Dong Yang stated that the Organisers of the Zhangjiakou 2021 FIS Freestyle Ski and Snowboard World Championships support the request of the German Ski Federation to consider a similar assistance as the Alpine Championships for their events in 2021.

The Council underlined that the contribution to the financial guarantee for Cortina 2021 concerns only the case of an outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic at short notice causing cancellation of the whole Championships and that it is not a deficit contribution due to loss of income. The Members agreed that the Finance Commission should also consider the circumstances of Oberstdorf 2021 and Zhangjiaokou 2021 during its deliberations.

#### 4.3 Letter Council Members Dexter Paine and Hannah Kearney: Diversity, Inclusion, Anti-Racism

Council Members Dexter Paine stated that the situation with racial tensions in the US is at an all-time high with huge focus on diversity, inclusion and racism. There has been widespread recognition that sport needs to promote diversity and inclusion, as recently communicated by the IOC. Therefore FIS should also issue a public statement with its policy on diversity, inclusion and anti-racism and also adapt the FIS Mission and Vision to reflect the policy.

Council Member and Co-Chair of the Athletes Commission Hannah Kearney added that the athletes fully support the policy and all actions which are only positive for the sport.

The Council unanimously agreed that FIS issues such a public statement in the coming days.

For information the FIS policy that will form the statement is defined in the FIS Statutes and Code of Ethics, articles 1. and 3.5:

*The fundamental principles which shall govern all FIS activities, decisions, processes and regulations are:*

1. Transparency, Integrity, Democracy and political neutrality in all decision-making and management procedures of the FIS;
2. Respect for the spirit of sport which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play;
3. Protection of competitions against all kinds of cheating and manipulation, including doping;
4. Respect for human dignity, non-discrimination of any kind on whatever grounds, and rejection of all forms of harassment;
- 3.5.1 The persons subject to this Code may not offend the dignity or integrity of a private person, group of persons or country through contemptuous, discriminatory words or actions on account of race, colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, wealth, or any other reason.

**4.4 Appointment of the FIS Court to adjudicate Safeguarding cases**

The Council assigned the FIS Court to handle and adjudicate any cases relating to Safeguarding.

**5. Closing of the meeting**

In concluding, President Gian Franco Kasper referred to the next Council Meeting on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July to make a decision about the organisation of the FIS Congress 2020 scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

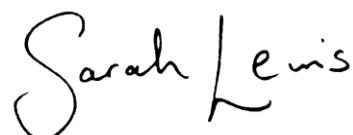
The Council affirmed its decision from 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020 that if the government regulations and particularly travel restrictions which may impact a number of FIS member National Ski Associations attendance do not permit the Congress to take place on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2020 or potentially in November, it will be carried over to spring 2021 in Portoroz (SLO), replacing the FIS Calendar Conference.

If you should have any further questions in regard to the decisions of the FIS Council, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary General.

In the meantime please stay well and keep safe.

Yours sincerely

**INTERNATIONAL SKI FEDERATION**



Sarah Lewis  
Secretary General

4<sup>th</sup> July 2020/sl