

## FIS COUNCIL MEETING, 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024

### SUMMARY MINUTES

#### 1. Opening of the Meeting

President Eliasch opened the meeting at 09.00 hrs and welcome the participants.

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#### 2. Members present

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

Michel Vion, Secretary General

Observer:

Aoife Kean, FIS General Counsel  
Stephan Netzle, External Legal Counsel - online

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

The order of the agenda was amended in order to discuss item 7 “FIS Rules and Terms of Reference for Committees” before the appointments in accordance with the FIS Statutes Art. 11.3.4 (agenda item 6).

The Council approved the meeting agenda.

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### **4. Minutes from the Council Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The Council members of the former FIS Council who attended the Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 approved the minutes.

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### **5. Information and Update by the President’s**

President Eliasch informed that the hosting agreement for the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships 2029 in Lahti has been signed.

He informed that in terms of the position of Russia there have been no changes and regarding of the plan of the IOC to allow athletes from Russia and Belarus to participate as neutral athletes at the Olympic Games in Paris and also Milano-Cortina. Belarus in the meantime has requested to be treated differently and this is being considered by the IOC. FIS Council members point out, that there are still governmental restrictions in place which have to be considered as well. FIS will continue to follow the IOC guidelines and should there be any changes the FIS Council will be informed accordingly.

President Eliasch gave an updated on the Athletes’ Health Unit which is an important topic to prevent injuries. He informed that there is a project to possibly produce own cut-resistant suits that could be made available to the athletes. One positive effect could be that costs could be reduced through direct sourcing. He furthermore also mentioned that the projects for the integration of airbags and the electronic release binding are making good progress. The timeline is three to four years with the objective to have suits with integrated airbags, and an electronic release binding.

Dexter Paine raised questions regarding potential liability and testing. President Eliasch replied that this depended on the approach of the supply chain as well as on certification.

Deidre Dionne asked about the process for tendering and if there is a RFP policy in place. President Eliasch answered that there are not many suppliers and that this is work in progress.

Michael Huber points out that injury prevention is a very important topic and that there should be a better organisation to connect everyone and to strengthen the Athletes Health Unit from an organisational side. Secretary General Vion informed that there are around 40 people working with the Athletes Health Unit. He also proposed to establish an information package for the FIS Council with the current topics and priorities.

President Eliasch mentioned that FIS is working on a more commercial path in terms of development in order to get the product to the market in a faster way. He also mentioned that this is a very important topic which the Council should prioritise.

It was again confirmed that the torso airbag is mandatory for Alpine Skiing athletes on World Cup level as of the upcoming season 2024/2025.

President Eliasch mentioned the proposal for Wild Cards for Alpine events that was submitted at the last Council meeting and that there have been some further developments. Athletes who are former Olympic Champions, World Champions, overall Crystal Globe winners and Discipline Globe winners with at least five World Cup victories can be granted Wild cards and would start as 31<sup>st</sup> in the respective event.

The Council approved the concept of Wild Cards for Alpine events with the above-mentioned criteria and WADA compliance.

President Eliasch also informed regarding Zermatt-Cervinia in the Alpine World Cup calendar. FIS is currently in conversations with Zermatt and Cervinia to find the best possible solution.

Fabien Saguez pointed out that if an agreement is reached with Zermatt/Cervinia Organising Committee, a lifting of the training ban on national teams on the Theodul glacier should be discussed which was supported by several Council members.

Secretary General Vion gives an update regarding the test events for the OWG 2026 in Milano-Cortina. There are challenges for Ski Jumping where the construction of the hill will not be completed before 2025 as well as for Park & Pipe. It looks like the venues will not be ready for a test event in the upcoming season. In addition, there are currently no test events planned for the Para Snowsport disciplines. FIS will continue to monitor the situation and ensure that test events can take place also ensure the safety of the athletes.

President Eliasch gave an update on the Centralisation of Media Rights. There had been a long list of issues which has been narrowed down. One of the remaining issues is governance where there is the demand by certain NSAs of having an Executive Board with representatives of Austria, Germany, Norway, Switzerland and the USA, and the President and Secretary General of FIS. This Executive Board would take over the governance of the World Cup bypassing the Council as well as the FIS Congress. This is not possible. The decision-making has to follow democratic processes within the respective competent FIS bodies.

President Eliasch informed about the current situation regarding the signing of the hosting agreement for the World Ski Championships 2027 Crans-Montana, and Secretary General Vion explained that for the FIS Games 2028 there will be more work done during the summer.

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## 6. FIS Rules and Terms of Reference for Committees

The draft of the FIS Rules and Terms of Reference for Committees had been submitted together with the Working document.

The Council agreed to postpone the approval of the amended FIS Rules and Terms of Reference to the next FIS Council meeting and that Council member should submit their comments to the FIS Office by the End of July. An updated draft will then be established and submitted to the FIS Council in time for the Council Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Furthermore, the President proposed and it was agreed that the Athletes' Commission could appoint Athletes for Committees, Sub-Committees and Expert Groups where they do not have a member.

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## 7. Appointments in accordance with the FIS Statutes Art. 11.3.4

### FIS Technical Committees and Sub-Committees

The FIS Council discussed the nominations for the Chairs and members of the FIS Technical Committees and Sub-Committees.

The Council approved the following decisions:

- As a general guideline, FIS Council members should not be a Chair or a Member of Technical Committees or Sub-Committees
- The two Women's Committees – Alpine and Nordic – will be merged for more efficiency. The Chair and members have not been approved and Secretary General Vion will make contact with representatives of these two Committees to explain the decision and to discuss the next steps. Furthermore, additional stakeholders should be members of the new "Women's Committee".
- To dissolve the Sub-Committee Alpine Intercontinental Cups as this will be coordinated by FIS Staff. Secretary General Vion would inform the current Chair Stefano Pirola accordingly.
- To dissolve the Coordination Group for Nordic Disciplines as this will be coordinated by FIS Staff
- To postpone the approval of the nominations for the Advertising Committee and to include additional stakeholders. In addition, it was agreed that the Advertising Committee will be a "closed meeting" at the Technical Committee Meetings.
- Appeals Commission: to be carried over from the previous period
- To postpone the approval of the nomination of the Chair for the Committee for Public Relations and Mass Media to the next FIS Council meeting.

The Council approved the Chairs and members of the FIS Technical Committees and Sub-Committees not mentioned above.

The overview of the approved nominations for FIS Technical Committees and Sub-Committees can be found in the annex.

May Peus raised the question if there will also be a Freeride Committee. Secretary General Michel Vion answered that there will not be a Committee for Freeride at the time being. He furthermore mentioned that the existing sports system of the Freeride World Tour will remain

and that FIS will be working on the ICR 200 rules during the summer in order to integrate Freeride as much as possible and to submit a proposal to the FIS Council at its Autumn Meeting.

Secretary General Vion informed regarding the gender balance nominations by the NSAs which should be 70/30. 20 NSAs have nominated members for the Committees respecting the gender balance, 11 NSAs have a gender balance of 80/20 and 13 NSAs have only 10 % of one gender.

The overview of the gender balance statistics can be found in the annex.

The Council approved that the gender balance for the nomination period 2026-2028 shall be 60/40 and if the nominations by the NSAs does not fulfil this criterion the proposals will not be accepted.

### FIS Executive Committee

After discussion the Council agreed to have a secret vote on the nominations for the Executive Committee. The electronic secret voting will take place at a later date.

The Athlete Commission shall make a proposal to the FIS President who will be nominated to the Executive Committee.

### FIS Standing Committees

The Council approved the following:

- Finance Committee: the members shall be appointed after the election of the Treasurer
- Audit Committee: Chair and members will be elected by electronic voting upon proposal by the President (same time as the Executive Committee)
- Strategic Planning Committee: Fiona Stevens, Chair; Deidra Dionne, Tove Moe Dyrhaug Anna Harboe Falkenberg, May Peus, Fabien Saguez, as members. The athlete representative will be proposed by the Athletes' Commission.
- Nomination and Remuneration Committee: Rory Tapner, Chair; Jacques Pastor, Dean Gosper as members. The athlete representative will be proposed by the Athlete's Commission.
- ESG Committee: Rory Tapner, Chair; Stefano Arnhold, Pedro Farromba as members. The athlete representative will be proposed by the Athlete's Commission.
- To postpone the approval of the nomination of the Chair for the Expert Committee "Legal & Safety" to the next FIS Council meeting.
- Anti-Doping Advisory Board: to be carried over from the previous period

## **8. Any other business**

### Financial Support – proposal by Freddy Keirouz (LBN)

Freddy Keirouz explained this proposal regarding financial support and the four criteria. The proposal is to amend the criterion from registered to participating athletes to avoid NSAs just registering athletes for FIS events to be eligible for the respective financial distribution but then are not participating at the race.

The Council approved to amend the criterion from registered to participating athletes.

### Change of licence

Secretary General Vion mentioned the request for a change of licence received from Chile. The request cannot be approved as it was received after the deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### FIS Junior World Championships

The Council confirmed US Ski and Snowboard together with Lake Placid as host for the FIS Junior Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined World Championships as well as Kazakhstan Ski Association together with Shchuchinsk as host of the FIS Junior and U23 Nordic World Ski Championships 2027.

### Proposals by Technical Committees

The FIS Council at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 approved a proposal by the Cross-Country Committee regarding the amendment of Rule 3.5.1 “Currency and transfer deadlines”. This decision needed to be withdrawn and a new wording will be proposed to the FIS Council for approval.

The Council confirmed to withdraw the approval of 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

At its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 the FIS Council approved a proposal from the Sub-Committee for Alpine Youth & Children’s Questions regarding rule 607.3. After discussion with different stakeholders it was agreed to not amend the number of maximum races.

The Council confirmed to withdraw the approval of 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and to make no amendments.

### Agreement FIS/IBU

Secretary General Vion informed that FIS and IBU have decided to terminate the existing official collaboration on the Para Nordic disciplines. There is a new basic agreement in place more specifically based on the three topics classification, anti-doping and calendars which will be signed in the next weeks.

### FIS Congress 2023

Michael Huber raised the question regarding the procedure for the minutes of the FIS Congress 2023. Secretary General Michel Vion informed that the open topics with Ski Austria have been resolved and the Minutes of the FIS Congress 2023 are approved.

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## **9. Next Meetings of the FIS Council**

The Autumn Meetings of the FIS Council will take place as follows:

25<sup>th</sup> September 2024, The Circle/Hyatt Regency, Zurich (SUI)  
23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024, online

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**10. Closing of the meeting**

President Eliasch closed the meeting at 15.30 hrs.

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Oberhofen, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Michel Vion  
Secretary General