

To the

- Members of the Sub-Committee for European Cup

For information to:

- Johan Eliasch, FIS President
- Michel Vion, FIS Secretary General
- Urs Lehmann, FIS CEO
- Sandra Spitz, FIS Sport & Event Director
- Massimo Rinaldi, Chair Alpine Committee
- Bruno Sassi, FIS Communications Manager
- Stefan Brüttsch, Commercial Partnerships Director
- Janez Fleré, FIS Alpine Technical and Administrative Coordinator
- Jordi Pujol, FIS Continental Cups Coordinator
- Wim Rossel, FIS Men Europa Cup Coordinator

Oberhofen, 11.05.2026

Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee for European Cup held on Wednesday, 06.05.2026

Dear Ski Friends,

We have the pleasure sending you today the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee for the European Cup held in Portoroz (SLO).

We kindly ask that you send any remarks to the FIS Alpine Office in Oberhofen by the **22nd May 2026**.

We would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that the minutes are available on the Member Services section of the FIS Website: www.fis-ski.com.

Thank you very much for your valuable contribution and have a nice summer.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Mandl', is written above the printed name.

Herbert Mandl
Chairman Sub-Committee for European Cup

Enclosure: mentioned

INTERNATIONAL SKI AND SNOWBOARD FEDERATION

Sub-Committee for European Cup

Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee for European Cup held on Wednesday, 06.05.2026, 08:00

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

The Chair opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all Sub-Committee Members and all present. A special welcome to all Organisers and suppliers present.

2. Roll-call

Janez Fleré (FIS) made the Roll-call (see enclosure).

3. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved.

4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held in Zurich on 25.09.2025

The minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Report of the Chairman and the Coordinators

5.1 Chairman Herbert Mandl (AUT)

The Chair noted that all in all it was a good winter season 2025/26. There were some troubles due to weather conditions. Especially on the women's speed side which led to cancelations. The Chair thanks all organisers and to all involved in the European Cup.

Special thanks to the race directors Jordi Pujol and Wim Rossel. As usual they had to deal with critical weather situations, cancelations and replacements of races. But it was a successful season with good races. The efforts for course preparations are of a high level, and it is valued by the racers. We must consider and ask some organisers to do a proper base preparation in long term before the races to guarantee good slope conditions even with challenging weather.

The organisers are still facing the challenging economic situation which also make afraid for the future. The Chair would like to suggest an overall point system over all different levels to bring more attractivity and economical value for the Continental Cup level.

Considering development of young speed skiers there were done different projects on the women side, and we see a lightly development.

The last season was the first one with higher accommodation fees and we received no complaints and is a big help for the organisers.

The Chair likes to address big thanks also to the office with Tatjana and Janez for their support.

5.2 Coordinators

Jordi Pujol (FIS)

The season started in Zinal (SUI), where the event was considered the best edition in recent years, with excellent slope preparation and very good weather conditions despite the high altitude. In Mayrhofen (AUT), one GS and one slalom were held on well-prepared slopes, providing strong training conditions. St. Moritz (SUI) hosted two downhill races after the World Cup, although visibility conditions were more difficult due to clouds.

Valle Aurina (ITA) again delivered strong slalom races with very good organisation and preparation. Sestriere (ITA) was organised at World Cup level despite difficult weather conditions with low temperatures and wind. Pass Thurn (AUT), newly

included on the women's side, was highlighted as an excellent venue with varied terrain suitable for both DH and Super-G. St. Anton (AUT) also provided excellent organisation and weather conditions.

Chamonix (FRA) stood out for its strong atmosphere, night races, and large crowds. Orcieres (FRA) demonstrated a very high organisational level, successfully preparing the slope after heavy snowfall, although one race later had to be cancelled due to fog and helicopter safety restrictions.

Other venues including Sarntal (ITA), Oberjoch (GER), Hasliberg (SUI), Oppdal (NOR), Sundsvall (SWE), Nolby (SWE), Saalbach (AUT), and the finals in Schladming (AUT) also delivered strong events overall despite some weather-related challenges. Saalbach (AUT) was especially praised for offering World Cup-level conditions for Europa Cup speed races.

It was noted that the number of injuries was lower than in previous seasons, although more injuries occurred in giant slalom. Comparisons between Europa Cup and World Cup course settings showed that many Europa Cup GS courses are set straighter and faster, with less offset, increasing speed and crash risk.

Concerns were also raised about the continuing lack of speed race organisers. Several organisers withdrew before the season started, and replacements were difficult to find. Ten Super-G races are planned for next season, but only seven downhill races are currently scheduled, particularly affecting the women's calendar.

The overall sporting level of the season was considered very strong, with several Europa Cup winners already scoring points in the World Cup. Good cooperation with coaches, organisers, TDs, and National Ski Associations throughout the season was also highlighted. Improvements in streaming production were mentioned, while additional support from FIS and organisers was identified as necessary for further development of the Europa Cup circuit.

Wim Rossel (FIS)

The Men's European Cup season was considered very successful overall, even though there were several challenges during the winter. Almost all planned races took place, with only two cancellations during the season: one downhill and one slalom. Giant Slalom races were especially strong throughout the year, with very good race conditions and organisation. Slalom races were more difficult because of changing weather and inconsistent slope preparation at some venues.

During the season review, Wim Rossel (FIS) explained that difficult slalom conditions often made it hard for athletes to ski at their best level. In the speed events, there was also discussion about the difference between European Cup and World Cup race preparation, especially in course difficulty and athlete preparation. Weather problems affected several race locations during the season, including Wengen (SUI), Crans Montana (SUI), Verbier (SUI), and Sarajevo (BIH). Organisers also mentioned that many events continue to face problems finding enough volunteers and slope workers.

Several important changes introduced this season received very positive feedback. The reduced finals quota and the new top 45 start field system were both seen as successful improvements. The new online entry system also helped communication a lot and reduced the need for WhatsApp coordination between teams and organisers. In general, the continued modernization and digitalization of the European Cup was appreciated by everyone involved.

The meeting also highlighted several successful venues during the season. Levi (FIN) opened the winter with reliable snow conditions and strong organisation. Storklinten (SWE) was praised as a very good new compact venue. Zinal (SUI) showed major improvements thanks to excellent slope preparation and full-hill watering. Santa Caterina (ITA) successfully organised important early-season

downhill races before Christmas despite difficult preparation conditions. Valloire (FRA) hosted very demanding Giant Slalom races on excellent snow surfaces, while Turnau (AUT) offered some of the best Giant Slalom conditions of the entire season. Baqueira (ESP) continued to strengthen its place in the calendar with excellent organisation and high-quality live streaming despite heavy snowfall. Sarajevo received special praise for the huge effort made under extremely difficult snow conditions.

Weather challenges were one of the main topics discussed during the meeting. The races in Wengen (SUI) had to be cancelled because of severe weather, which was disappointing for both athletes and organisers. In Berchtesgaden (GER), fog forced the cancellation of a slalom race even though the course preparation was very good. Warm temperatures in Oppdal caused the cancellation of one downhill race for safety reasons.

The finals in Saalbach (AUT) and Schladming (AUT) successfully closed the season with mostly stable conditions. Even with warm temperatures, the organisers managed the events well. Athlete performances during the finals were described as excellent, and the competitors who earned World Cup places for next season fully deserved their results.

At the end of the meeting, thanks were given to all athletes and coaches for their cooperation and professionalism during the season. Special appreciation was also expressed to all organisers and local committees for their hard work under difficult conditions. Finally, the European Cup back-office and technical teams were thanked for adapting well to operational changes and taking on additional responsibilities throughout the season. Overall, the season showed the strong level and continued development of the Men's European Cup circuit.

6. **European Cup calendars 2026/27**

Jordi Pujol and Wim Rossel presented the draft calendars for upcoming season.

9. **Presentations**

• **2026 FIS Alpine Junior World Championships, Narvik (NOR)**

The representatives from Narvik (NOR) have given a short report from the Junior World Championships. They have seen it as a challenging test on the way towards the Ski World Championships in 2029. Very difficult weather conditions and the whole mountain under construction was not easy to handle.

10. **Miscellaneous**

Wolfgang Maier (GER) is complaining the non-visible progress for the European Cup Community in terms of rising the value of the events. We are talking a long time around the same problems and asking FIS for support, but nothing is happening.

The Chair underlines the good sports level of the European Cup and proposes viewing skiing as a unified sport and implementing appropriate measures that will advance skiing as a whole.

Christian Mitter (AUT) doesn't see the situation as so dramatic and emphasizes the positive aspects of the Europa Cup. All need the series to develop young athletes.

Peter Mall (St. Anton, AUT) proposes writing a letter to the FIS on behalf of the organisers to clarify the necessary support. All organisers recognize the need to hold European Cup races, but also note the lack of financial resources.

The Hungarian representative considers the European Cup unattractive from the perspective of smaller nations. It's better to take advantage of the starting place in the World Cup.

Rudi Huber (SRS) proposes a working group with all participants from the World Cup and European Cup to develop measures or to implement existing proposals what helps to increase the economical value of the sport at all.

11. Next meeting, 29.09.-02.10.2026 in Geneva (SUI)