

# 95<sup>th</sup> Congress

MOSCOW, RUSSIA  
27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016





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## Attendance

The meeting opened at 10:00 am.

### Took place at the tribune:

Mr. Alisher Usmanov (RUS)	President
Mr. Frédéric Pietruszka (FRA)	Secretary General
Mr. Jacek Bierkowski (POL)	Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Giorgio Scarso (ITA)	Vice-President
Mr. Wei Wang (CHN)	Vice-President
Mrs. Ana Pascu (MH, ROU)	Vice-President
Mrs. Nathalie Rodriguez M.-H.	CEO
Mr. Krisztian Kulcsar	Sports Director

### Members of the Executive Committee:

Mr. Donald Anthony (USA)  
Mrs. Erika Aze (LAT)  
Mrs. Velichka Hristeva (BUL)  
Mr. Oleg Peskov (KAZ)  
Mr. Novak Perovic (RSA)  
Mr. Max W.F. Geuter (MH, GER)  
Mrs. Ferial Nadira Salhi (ALG)  
Mr. Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH, GRE)  
Mr. Ota Yuki (JPN) (President of the Athletes Commission)

### Presidents of the Confederations:

Mr. Stanislav Pozdnyakov (RUS)	President of the European Confederation
Mr. Vitaly Logvin (MEX)	President of the Pan-American Confederation
Mrs. Helen Smith (MH, AUS)	President of the Oceanian Confederation
Mr. Celso L. Dayrit (MH, PHI)	President of the Asian Confederation

## Attendance

### Apologies received:

Mr. René Roch (MH, FRA)  
Mr. Tamer Mohamed El Araby (EGY)  
Mr. Guk-Hyeon Kim (KOR)  
Mr. Mbagnick Ndiaye (SEN)

President of Honour

President of the African Confederation

### Members of Honour:

Mr. Samuel David Cheris (MH, USA)  
Mr. Peter Jacobs (MH, GBR)  
Mr. Stephen Higginson (MH, GBR)  
Mrs. Erika Dienstl (MH, GER)  
Mr. Bert van de Flier (MH, NED)  
Mr. Jenö Kamuti (MH, HUN)  
Mr. Adam Lisewski (MH, POL)

### VIP Guests:

The Honorable Alexander Zhukov – First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and President of the Russian Olympic Committee.

The Honorable Pavel Kolobkov – Minister of Sport of the Russian Federation.

## Federations present or represented

<b>AFGHANISTAN</b>	Ahmad Tariq ROSHANGAR
<b>ALBANIA</b>	Represented by Spain
<b>ALGERIA</b>	Raouf Salim BERNAOUI El Houssine AMEZIANE
<b>ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA</b>	Alisha FRANCIS, in the afternoon represented by Dominica
<b>ARGENTINA</b>	Omar Alejandro VERGARA Victor Sergio GROUPIERRE Jorge-Alberto MONGE Julio Cesar ABATTI
<b>ARMENIA</b>	Armen GRIGORYAN Samvel ABRAHAMYAN
<b>ARUBA</b>	Austin Edison THOMAS
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	Evelyn HALLS Andrew IUS
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	Ursula HINTERSEER
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	Yashar MAMEDOV
<b>BAHAMAS</b>	Lewis ANTHONY
<b>BAHRAIN</b>	Ibrahim Bin Salman AL KHALIFA Saleh Faraj SULTAN FARHAN
<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Represented by Kazakhstan
<b>BARBADOS</b>	Kurt Matthew STRAKER
<b>BELGIUM</b>	Piet WAUTERS
<b>BELARUS</b>	Aliaksandr HAHYEU Andrei GUBANOV
<b>BELIZE</b>	Represented by Costa Rica

## Federations present or represented

<b>BENIN</b>	Edouard TCHIAKPE
<b>BERMUDA</b>	Travis STEVENS
<b>BOLIVIA</b>	Represented by Uruguay
<b>BOTSWANA</b>	Represented by South Africa
<b>BRAZIL</b>	Gerli DOS SANTOS Arno Perillier SCHNEIDER Ricardo PACHECO MACHADO
<b>BRUNEI</b>	Mohammad Nashriq MOKSIN
<b>BULGARIA</b>	Dimitar STOYANOV Georgi TITYUKOV
<b>BURKINA FASO</b>	Amidou SAWADOGO
<b>CAMBODIA</b>	Sok ANG
<b>CAMEROON</b>	Marcel AMOUGOU
<b>CANADA</b>	Brad GOLDIE
<b>CHILE</b>	David MIRA JIMENEZ
<b>CHINA</b>	Xiangyang YUAN Yuan YUAN Tong ZHAO
<b>COLOMBIA</b>	Vladimir IWANOFF
<b>COSTA RICA</b>	Luis Alberto CRUZ MELENDEZ
<b>CROATIA</b>	Zeljiko KVESIC Reno MAROLT
<b>CUBA</b>	Rigoberto Constantino MOREJON LLANES
<b>CYPRUS</b>	Represented by Greece
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	Oldrich KUBISTA

## Federations present or represented

<b>DENMARK</b>	Jan Sylvest JENSEN Martin WIUFF
<b>DOMINICA</b>	Woodrow LAWRENCE
<b>ECUADOR</b>	Lorena ARROYO
<b>EGYPT</b>	Tamer HAZEM ZEIN Medhat EL BAKRY Mohamed EL MOTAWAKEL Gamil ELZEFTAWI
<b>EL SALVADOR</b>	Jesus Antonio MORENO SANTELIZ Melissa ALVARENGA
<b>ESTONIA</b>	Margus HANSON
<b>FINLAND</b>	Terho MUSTONEN
<b>FRANCE</b>	Isabelle LAMOUR Catherine DEFOLIGNY
<b>GEORGIA</b>	David SAKHVADZE Zaza MCHEDLIDZE
<b>GHANA</b>	Mohamed MAHADI
<b>GERMANY</b>	Dieter LAMMER Claus JANKA Wilfried WOLFGARTEN
<b>GREECE</b>	Emmanuel KATSIADAKIS
<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	Hilary PHILBIN Clare HALSTED Janet HUGGINS Georgina USHER
<b>GUAM</b>	Represented by Australia
<b>GUATEMALA</b>	Otto Rene VALLADARES BALDERRAMOS
<b>GUINEA</b>	Soriba SYLLA



## Federations present or represented

<b>GUYANA</b>	Samuel BARAKAT
<b>HAITI</b>	Louis Dukerns JOSEPH
<b>HONDURAS</b>	Marco Antonio IZAGUIRRE RODRIGUEZ
<b>HONG KONG</b>	Alexander N.W. YEUNG
<b>HUNGARY</b>	Zsolt CSAMPA Gabor BOCZKO Aron SZILAGYI Katalin TUSCHAK
<b>ICELAND</b>	Nikolay Ivanov MATEEV Gudjon Ingi GESTSSON
<b>INDONESIA</b>	Alfred Harry JODISAPUTRA Agus SUPARMANTO
<b>IRAN</b>	Fazlollah BAGHERZADEH Peyman FAKHRI Sarkis ASSADOURIAN
<b>IRAQ</b>	Zeyad Hassan JASIM Alaa A. FALAH
<b>IRELAND</b>	Philip LEE
<b>ISRAEL</b>	Uri HARLAP Gregory GROSS
<b>ITALY</b>	Giuseppe CAFIERO Antonio FIORE Gianandrea NICOLAI Giandomenico VARALLO Lionero DEL MASCHIO, President of the Mediterranean Confederation
<b>IVORY COAST</b>	Souleymane SAKHO
<b>JAMAICA</b>	James MCBEAN

## Federations present or represented

<b>JAPAN</b>	Masashi HOSHINO Mamoru SAITA Atsushi HARINISHI Yuko KATO
<b>JORDAN</b>	Na'eem DAHBOUR Hakam ALKHALIDI
<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>	Mirbulat ABUOV Rushidin KICHIKOV
<b>KIRGHISTAN</b>	Osmonjan KASYMOV Ainura TEMIRALIEVA
<b>KOREA</b>	Heon Cheol SHIN Bokyung KIM Chang Gon KIM
<b>LATVIA</b>	Klinta AZE
<b>LEBANON</b>	Ziad EL CHOUEIRI
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	Vytautas POLUJANSKAS
<b>LUXEMBOURG</b>	Pascal TESCH Anastasia VLASOVA
<b>LIBYA</b>	Represented by Algeria
<b>MACAO</b>	Lin Soi CHEK In Leng NG
<b>THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA</b>	Represented by Serbia
<b>MADAGASCAR</b>	Harinelina Jean Alex RANDRIAMANARIVO
<b>MALAYSIA</b>	Rusni ABU HASSAN Ainaa FARIK
<b>MALTA</b>	Represented by Italy
<b>MEXICO</b>	Jorge CASTRO REA

## Federations present or represented

<b>MOLDOVA</b>	Olga COJOCARI Mihail PAGHIEV
<b>MONACO</b>	Georges PRAT
<b>MONGOLIA</b>	Bat-Erdene KHOSBAYAR
<b>MOROCCO</b>	Youssef FATHI
<b>MALI</b>	Zorome WAHABOU
<b>MAURITANIA</b>	Represented by Senegal
<b>MAURITIUS</b>	Sarna RAMLOLL Veena Devi GUNPUT
<b>MYANMAR</b>	Represented by Singapore
<b>NAMIBIA</b>	Jens PINSENSCHAUM
<b>NEPAL</b>	Sunil Kumar SHRESTHA Sujan Lal SHRESTHA
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Etienne VAN CANN
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	Victoria LAMB
<b>NICARAGUA</b>	William GENET BARBERENA
<b>NIGER</b>	Idrissa AMADOU TIEMO
<b>NIGERIA</b>	Adeyinka SAMUEL
<b>NORWAY</b>	Erik STORELV
<b>PALESTINE</b>	Daoud Sobhi ALMITWALI
<b>PANAMA</b>	Jose Luis MORAN AHUMADA Ana Irene DELGADO GUERRA
<b>PARAGUAY</b>	Pedro CORNET Gisela FLORES CORNET

## Federations present or represented

<b>PERU</b>	Carlos LEVI COOK
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	Leah GONZALEZ Maria Leonor ESTAMPADOR
<b>POLAND</b>	Jacek SLUPSKI Tadeusz TOMASZEWSKI
<b>PORTUGAL</b>	Frederico VALARINHO Clauso NEVES
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>	Gregorio LIMA Juan Carlos RAMIREZ
<b>QATAR</b>	Saleh AL-HEMAIDI Ziad FERIANI
<b>ROMANIA</b>	Mihai COVALIU Marius FLOREA Anca Ioana Ileana IONESCU
<b>REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO</b>	Represented by Romania
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	Irina KNYSCH Gennady TYSHLER
<b>RUSSIA</b>	Alexander MIKHAILOV Yaroslav MALTSEV Vladislav PAVLOVIC Ilgar MAMEDOV Elena GRISHINA Semen RIKHTMAN Mark RAKITA
<b>SAMOA</b>	Imo WALTERLEE
<b>KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA</b>	Represented by Bahrein
<b>SENEGAL</b>	Oumar MAIGA
<b>SERBIA</b>	Dejan RUSKI Vukasin STOSIC
<b>SIERRA LEONE</b>	Cecilia SESAY

## Federations present or represented

<b>SINGAPORE</b>	Francis Yat Ping KWONG Zhao Rong LOO
<b>SLOVAK REPUBLIC</b>	Tatiana DROBNA Attila ERSEK Julius KRALIK
<b>SLOVENIA</b>	Tomaz PORS
<b>SPAIN</b>	Marco A. RIOJA PEREZ Antonio Garcia HERNANDEZ Jose Luis ALVAREZ GIL DE TEJADA
<b>SRI LANKA</b>	Dian GOMES Ajith KUMARA
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	Olivier CARRARD
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Lars LILJEGREN Ana VALERO-COLLANTES Per PALMSTROM Pierre THULLBERG
<b>SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC</b>	Ahmad ALREFAAI
<b>CHINESE TAIPEI</b>	Monica HO Li Shan CHEN
<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	Khizrav NASIMOV Azimjon YAKUBOV
<b>THAILAND</b>	Somded Admiral TONGPIAM Jakravudh SOMAPEE
<b>TOGO</b>	Katema Victor LAMEGA
<b>TUNISIA</b>	Salah FERJANI Zaida KHALSI Ep. DOGHRI Noureddine ROBBANA Jameleddine FERJANI
<b>TURKEY</b>	Fatih ERDOL Recep KOC

## Federations present or represented

<b>TURKMENISTAN</b>	Meret MEREDOV
<b>UGANDA</b>	Cuthbert LANDO ONYANGO
<b>UKRAINE</b>	Vadym GUTTSAIT
<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	HH.ENGR.SHEIKH SALEM Sultan S.Alqasimi Huda AL MATROOSHI Khaled IBRAHIM
<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b>	Stacey JOHNSON Carl BORACK Ianka DAKOVA
<b>URUGUAY</b>	Ariel PEIRANO Lourdes TRAPOTE
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	Mukhammad Khumoyun IBRAGIMOV Nodira ALIMOVA
<b>VENEZUELA</b>	Mariana GONZALEZ Alejandra BENITEZ
<b>VIETNAM</b>	Le Quang PHUNG
<b>VIRGIN ISLANDS</b>	Joyce BOLANOS Andres FRIEBUS
<b>YEMEN</b>	Represented by Morocco

# AGENDA

- 1.** Addresses by the President of the FIE and by the President of the Russian Fencing Federation

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- 2.** Validation of attendance and proxies

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- 3.** Ratification of the new Federations

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- 4.** Approval of the report of the 2015 Congress held in Guangzhou (CHN)

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- 5.** 2015 report of the Executive Committee

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- 6.** 2015 financial report, auditors' report, approval of the accounts, discharge to the Executive Committee and to the auditors

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- 7.** Budget for 2017

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- 8.** Designation of the auditors

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- 9.** Follow-up on the decisions made regarding articles t.17.2 and t.33.1

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- 10.** Voting to award the World Championships
  - Junior/Cadet 2018: candidature of ITA
  - Senior 2019: candidatures of GEO, HUN, POL

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- 11.** Candidatures for the World Championships
  - Juniors/Cadets 2019
  - Veterans 2019

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- 12.** Elections of the President, the Executive Committee and the Commissions

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- 13.** Miscellaneous items

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# 1. ADDRESSES

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Ladies and Gentlemen, please take your seats, we are going to start the Congress.

**Frédéric Pietruszka:** We are going to start this Congress, please take your seats.

**Alisher Usmanov:** Good morning everybody, I think we are ready to start.

Close the doors, please.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** The floor is to Frédéric Pietruszka.

**Frédéric Pietruszka:** Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, the President, President of the Russian Fencing Federation, Members of the Federations, Commissions and Councils.

Greetings to everyone and welcome to Moscow to this Congress!

After the successful performance in Rio de Janeiro, the image of our sport is increasing and with a great pleasure I declare this Congress open.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Mr. Pavel Kolobkov, Minister of Sport of the Russian Federation, who will address the Congress.

*Applause.*

**Alisher Usmanov:** I think everybody remembers this member of our family, an Olympic Champion and several times World Champion.

**Pavel Kolobkov:** I never forget about it.

*Laughter*

Good morning Dear Friends, Dear Leaders of the National Federations, Distinguished Leaders of the International Fencing Federation, Distinguished Mr. Usmanov!

It is a great honor for me to attend this Congress and to talk in front of you. Thank you very much for the invitation.

I was entrusted by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin, to read out his address to the Congress.

“To the Participants and Guests of the International Fencing Federation:

Dear Friends,

I welcome you on the occasion of the opening of the Elective Congress of the International Fencing Federation, as well as election of the President of the Federation!

Our country received the honor to organize this Congress because Russia always had a great interest towards this beautiful sport, requiring an exceptional hard work and courage. We are proud that our country has contributed greatly to fencing and its wonderful traditions and by the fact that it was also trusted to organize two World championships – in 2014 in Kazan and in 2015 in Moscow.

It is important that popularity of fencing is increasing day by day and I think this is due to the input of FIE and due to the President of the FIE Mr. Alisher Usmanov personally, who leads the Federation since 2008.

I hope that this Congress will be creative and its decisions will serve to further strengthening and promotion of fencing as one of the Olympic sports and it will help to strengthen the cooperation



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between the Russian Fencing Federation and the FIE.

Wishing you a successful work and all the best,

The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin.”

*Applause.*

**Pavel Kolobkov:** On my behalf, I would like to say that I am extremely pleased to see you here in Moscow, in my home-country and I thank you all for what you’ve have done, for what you do for the development of my beloved sport. In the last years, thanks to your work a lot has been done for the promotion of fencing, for the quality and organization of the major international events, for the development of fencing in your regions.

I would like to thank you for your support of Russia in organizing major international tournaments and I am certain that you will be satisfied with the quality of the organization of the international tournaments in Russia and with our hospitality. Russia is a very hospitable and a beautiful country and we always wait for you in my home country and I hope that you will continue supporting us in our work in future. I would like to wish you all a very successful work, important decision-making and enjoy your stay in my native city Moscow. Thank you.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Mr. Alisher Usmanov will be awarding a gift from the FIE to Mr. Pavel Kolobkov.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Please welcome Mr. Alexander Zhukov, First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and President of the Russian Olympic Committee.

*Applause.*

**Alexander Zhukov:**

Dear Mr. Usmanov, Dear Friends, Participants of the Congress!

Allow me to welcome you on behalf of the Olympic Committee of Russia. I think that fencing is one of the most popular sports in Russia and is becoming more popular all over the globe. During the recent Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, the increasing popularity of fencing has been confirmed. I think this is due to your work, your contribution to bringing the innovative technologies in the development of fencing.

Fencing today becomes more and more attractive, it is a sport that is attracting more and more athletes. I have visited Novosibirsk very recently, where they have two medal winners from the recent Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro who have received a gold and a bronze medal. And one of the fencing schools there have announced that they are open to enroll children and the competition is twenty kids per one place. I think this confirms the increase and a growth of promotion and popularity of fencing. I am confident that this Congress will make decisions contributing to the growth of popularity of this beautiful outstanding sport.

The Olympic Committee of Russia pays a lot of attention to the development of fencing and will welcome the organization of the major events in Russia: competitions and all kind of congresses. I would like to wish every success to the President of the International Fencing Federation Mr. Alisher Usmanov, and to all of you in your further work. Thank you very much!

*Applause.*

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**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Mr. Alisher Usmanov will be awarding a gift from the FIE to Mr Alexander Zhukov.

*Applause.*

I would like to ask Mr. Max Geuter to come to the tribune to read the letter that we have received from Thomas Bach, President of the IOC.

**Max Geuter (MH, GER):**

“Dear President of the International Fencing Federation, my dear friend Alisher Usmanov,

Dear Fellow Fencers,

It is my privilege and a great pleasure to greet you on the occasion of the Congress of our International Fencing Federation.

As a fellow fencer, allow me to express my personal appreciation of where our sport stands today. It is one of the most iconic Olympic sports and also one that has seen continuous development over the course of the last 100 years.

We have seen new fencing stars and champions from new countries that were not yet part of the traditional fencing powerhouses even a few years ago: at the Olympic Games Rio 2016 ten different countries were represented on the podium – a strong indication for the growing global appeal of our sport.

Fencing competitions have become more dynamic, exciting and entertaining and in this way, the popularity of fencing is spreading fast.

Let me congratulate all of you, and especially President Usmanov, for the great commitment and determination you all are showing to advance the sport that we love so much.

There is strong collaboration between our organizations. In this context, I want to thank you for your close cooperation and solidarity with the Organizing Committee Rio 2016 to make the Olympic Games in Rio 2016 such a great success for the Cariocas, the people of Brazil and for the entire Olympic Movement. These were the most watched Olympic Games in our history, with the half of the world’s population tuning into Games coverage. Your contribution played an important part in achieving this great success.

You are holding your Congress with the success of Rio 2016 still fresh in our memories. This Congress is a chance not only to look back at what you have achieved in Rio de Janeiro, but also to look to the future. The decisions you will make during this Congress will contribute to the continuous improvement of our sport. You can look to the future with confidence, with the knowledge that you are building on the solid foundation of our shared success of the Olympic Games in Rio 2016.

In this spirit, I wish you all fruitful discussions and a successful Congress.

En garde ! Allez, mes amis !

Thomas Bach.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Mr. Mikhailov will address the Congress.

**Alexander Mikhailov (RUS):**

Dear Mr. President, Guests and Delegates of the Congress,

# 1. ADDRESSES

On behalf of the Russian Fencing Federation and on my own behalf, I am pleased to welcome all the participants of the Elective Congress of the International Fencing Federation.

The 2016 was a very special year, in Rio de Janeiro we had our main event – the Olympic Games, which were held even more successfully than expected and I would like to congratulate you with this success.

The second meaningful event in our life is the Congress of the International Fencing Federation, which is held now in Moscow. We have serious critical tasks in front of us, we have to define the main path for the development of fencing for the next four years. We live in the world which is developing very fast and we have to be open for the progressive innovations.

On the other side, the history of our sport dates back to 100 years and we don't have the right to forget about fencing traditions, which proclaim dignity, integrity and beauty.

This Congress is being held in Moscow, in the capital of Russia and for us it is a great honour to host this Congress in our city. I am confident that participants and guests of the Congress will duly assess the Russian hospitality and will enjoy their stay in Moscow. I wish to participants of the Congress an active and involved work for the sake of fencing. Thank you very much.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Mr. Usmanov will give to Alexander Mikhailov a gift from the FIE.

*Applause.*

Mr. Alisher Usmanov will take the floor.

**Alisher Usmanov:** Dear Delegates, Dear Friends!

I am very happy to welcome you today to Moscow where our Elective Congress is hosted for the second time.

This Elective Congress takes place at a very emotional time for me, because the first time I was elected in Paris, and the second time you have elected me in Moscow. I think it would be right if on your behalf and on my behalf personally I express the gratitude to the Russian Fencing Federation, which has worked very hard to prepare and host this Congress and confirmed their love to fencing and fencers. Thank you very much to all of the Russian organizations who helped us to host this Congress in Moscow. Thank you again.

*Applause.*

I want to thank our honorable guests who came and demonstrated their attention to our sport. We greatly appreciate this fact and we very much respect your presence in our Congress. Thank you very much to you all.

And now as a sign of my respect to my homeland, to my country, and to our honorable guests from Russia, I will continue my speech to you in Russian. I think everybody will support me in this.

Once again welcome to Moscow!

I should mention that we have gathered this Elective Congress in Moscow for the second time. For me it is a very emotional moment because I was elected in Moscow, in my homeland, for the second term as President of this International Federation.

Thank you very much for your support, which you have granted to me during all this time and today on behalf of all of you I would like to thank all the members of the former Executive Committee who terminated their duties yesterday with a great honor and first of all I would like to thank those who did not submit their candidatures for a new term of office to the Executive Committee or those who represent the countries that wanted to substitute their representatives and to present other younger

# 1. ADDRESSES

candidates. First of all, it concerns our veteran Mr. Max Geuter.

*Applause.*

This person served fencing and our Federation for almost 50 years and he was in a leadership of our Federation. We have to remember and to respect his experience and we will cooperate with him in the future. Thank you very much, Max.

Special words of thanks should be expressed to the Secretary General of our Federation, to my friend Frédéric Pietruszka who in the last Elective cycle helped me a lot when due to some objective reasons I was not able to represent our Federation in several parts of the world. He always assisted me despite the fact that he had also some problems. I appreciate it very much and I am very thankful to you. Thank you very much, Frédéric.

*Applause.*

What can I say for myself personally? These 8 years, during which I was closely connected with the International Federation and shared the responsibility with all of you, provided me with an invaluable experience and in summary I would like to tell you that the most important thing is that our beloved sport has been moving forward.

We have increased our budget several times, I don't want to give you the figures, but as a President I have to present a report to you and tell you that the reserve fund of our Federation that I leave to you after my term in the office is 20 million Swiss francs. This money is retained and the money that we have received from the Olympic Committee did not participate in the budget of our Federation. The budget for 2016 has been closed as well. So, if the Congress decides to elect someone else, then this person will have quite a neat amount of money for the development of our sport.

There are several reasons for the submission of my candidacy for a new term. First of all, we, the fencers, have one dream – we want our sport to be represented in all its disciplines in the Olympic Games. We have been fighting for it during the last 8 years and I think now we are at the finish line when the International Olympic Committee will consider this issue in 2017 again. Consequently, I think that it would be wrong for me to stop here and to stop investing in the development of our sport. I have to go to the very end in order to ensure that all the 12 disciplines are represented in the Olympic program.

I have to note that in the Olympic family the position of fencing has grown due to the increase of attractiveness, excitement, and interest towards the TV coverage of the competitions. We have been investing quite a lot of money in the coverage. Now on the screens of the international sports channels like SBN, Eurosport, and other sport channels, fencing became quite a usual program, quite a usual thing. This is quite important for me. This is the goal I wanted to achieve. I wanted to bring fencing back to the screens, back to the TV, because without the TV it is very hard to ensure the presence of fencing in the Olympic program.

We have managed to increase the number of spectators within every Olympic Games. We don't have the exact figures for Rio yet, we should receive them soon, but we have a proof that the spectators' attention towards fencing has increased. The number of spectators in the Olympic facilities has increased and it has clearly proved that we are on the right path.

Please take into consideration the program that I have presented to all of you, you all have it, and I don't want to focus on all the details of it right now, but in principle you were all acquainted with this program in the last 8 years.

We just have to achieve our main goal and our main goal is to make fencing popular for young people and children. This is the future.

These two goals – the engagement of as many young people as possible and the participation in the

# 1. ADDRESSES

Olympic Games in all disciplines and in the full program will be our main goals for my activity for the next 4 years.

Thank you very much again for your support, for your trust, and the hope that together we will achieve the fulfillment of all our goals that we will discuss today. Thank you for your attention.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We now start with the roll call and then the list of proxies. When I call your country please raise your hand and we will provide you with the electronic voting box, as usual.

## 2. VALIDATION OF ATTENDANCE

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We will proceed to the roll call:

Afghanistan	here?	Latvia	Senegal
Algeria	Ecuador	Lebanon	Singapore
Antigua and Barbuda	Egypt	Lithuania	Sierra Leone
Argentina	El Salvador	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Armenia	Spain	Macao	Sri Lanka
Aruba	Estonia	Madagascar	Switzerland
Australia	Finland	Morocco	Slovakia
Austria	France	Malaysia	Sweden
Azerbaijan	Gabon is not here?	Moldova	Syria
Bahrein – Is Bahrein here?	Great Britain	Mexico	Thailand
Barbados	Georgia	Mongolia	Tajikistan
Belgium	Germany	Mali	Turkmenistan
Benin	Ghana	Monaco	Togo
Bermuda	Greece	Mauritius	Chinese Taipei
Belarus	Guatemala – Guatemala is	Namibia	Tunisia
Brazil	not here?	Nicaragua	Turkey
Brunei	Guinea is not here?	Netherlands	United Arab Emirates
Bulgaria	Guyana	Nepal	Ukraine
Bahamas	Haiti	Nigeria	Uganda
Burkina Faso	Hong Kong	Niger	Uruguay
Cambodia	Honduras	Norway	United States of
Canada	Hungary	New Zealand	America
Chile	Indonesia	Panama	Uzbekistan
China	Iran	Paraguay	Venezuela
Ivory Coast	Ireland	Peru	Vietnam
Cameroon	Iraq	Philippines	
Democratic Republic of	Iceland	Palestine	
Congo is not here?	Israel	Poland	
Colombia	Virgin Islands	Portugal	
Costa Rica	Italy	Puerto Rico	
Croatia	Jamaica	Qatar	
Cuba	Jordan	Romania	
Czech Republic	Japan	South Africa	
Denmark	Kazakhstan	Russia	
Dominica – Dominica’s	Kyrgyzstan	Samoa	
representatives are not	Korea	Serbia	

Did I call all countries? Are there any countries that were not called?  
We are now moving to the proxies.

## 2. VALIDATION OF ATTENDANCE

Bangladesh is giving a proxy to Kazakhstan. Does Kazakhstan accept it? Where is Kazakhstan? Yes, here.

Belize gives proxy to Costa Rica. Does Costa Rica accept? Yes.

Bolivia gives proxy to Uruguay. Uruguay accepts.

Botswana gives proxy to South Africa. Does South Africa accept?

Cyprus gives proxy to Greece. Greece accepts.

Guam gives proxy to Australia. Australia accepts.

Saudi Arabia is giving proxy to Bahrein. Does Bahrein accept? Where is Bahrein? There.

Libya gives proxy to Algeria. Does Algeria accept?

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia gives proxy to Serbia. Does Serbia accept?

Malta gives proxy to Italy. Italy accepts.

Mauritania gives proxy to Senegal. Does Senegal accept? Yes.

Myanmar gives proxy to Singapore. Just behind you. Yes.

San Marino gives proxy to Romania. Romania accepts? Yes.

Yemen gives proxy to Algeria, but Algeria has already a proxy, so the second one is Morocco. Does Morocco accept? Where is Morocco? Ah, there.

Albania is giving proxy to Italy, but Italy has already a proxy, so the second country is Spain. Does Spain accept? I know. Ok. So, one more voting device.

I have the information that Dominica has just arrived. Have you received the voting device? You did not. Please give a voting device to Dominica.

Guinea has just arrived. Guatemala has arrived.

Were all countries called? Yes.

How many boxes were given out? So, there are 141 Federations present and represented and the majority for the votes will be 71.

**Alisher Usmanov:** Dear Friends, attention please, now I give the floor to the Chief Executive of our Federation Mme Nathalie Rodriguez to explain the elective procedures for today and after that we will continue our work.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We would like to modify the agenda a little bit and to start with the election of the President and I would like to ask Mr. Cheris to come to the tribune. He will explain what should be the procedure when there is only one candidate for one position.

**Sam Cheris (MH, USA):** Statutes Section 3.6.2 notes that if there is only one candidate for a position there is no election to be held, the individual is elected by acclamation. Therefore I would move that the Congress elects Mr. Alisher Usmanov as the President for the next 4 years by acclamation.

*Applause.*

**Alisher Usmanov:** Thank you. I apologize for taking your attention for the second time. I would like to thank you for such a big acclamation, but I have a question. Is anyone against?

*Laughter*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** It's too late!

*Laughter*

**Alisher Usmanov:** Thank you. Thank you again.

*Applause.*

## 2. VALIDATION OF ATTENDANCE

**Alisher Usmanov:** I don't want to repeat what I have said before, I just want to confirm that I will put all my efforts, every possibility and capacity, and my passion for fencing to achieve every target and goal for our Federations, for our lovely sport. Thank you very much.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We come back to our agenda. Before moving ahead, I would like to remind you some simple rules. If you would like to intervene on an item in the agenda, please raise your hand, we will bring you a microphone, and please announce your name and country. This is very important for the report of the Congress.

**Alisher Usmanov:** Our distinguished guests have to leave.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** The President will accompany our guests. Thank you very much!

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** As a reminder, the decisions of the Congress will pass with a majority of the votes. Therefore, I would like also to ask you not to leave the Congress hall during voting, because each vote counts and if you leave the venue during the vote we might not be able to reach the necessary majority. So, please remain inside the room and vote. I would also like to announce that the photo of the Congress will be taken just before the lunch on the stairs of the hotel.

We move to the next item on the agenda, which is the ratification of the new Federations.



### 3. RATIFICATION OF THE NEW FEDERATIONS

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** The Executive Committee has pronounced the provisional affiliation of Haiti, which is present and if you agree we can accept the final affiliation of Haiti by acclamation.

*Applause.*

The next item is the approval of the report of the 2015 Congress, which was held in Guangzhou, China.

## 4. APPROVAL OF THE REPORT OF THE 2015 CONGRESS HELD IN GUANGZHOU (CHN)

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We have not received any remarks on this item.

You have received the instructions on how to vote: you have to push: Yes – valid, No – valid, Abstention – valid.

We are opening the vote on the approval of the report of the 2015 Congress in Guangzhou.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The report was approved. We move to item 5.

## 5. 2015 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Item 5 is the Annual report of the Executive Committee and the floor is to Frédéric Pietruszka.

**Frédéric Pietruszka:** Unfortunately, a few of our friends and colleagues have left us during the year 2015 and I would like to ask you to stand up to honor the memory of those who have passed away and to watch a video.

*[Video presentation]*

**Frédéric Pietruszka:** Thank you very much.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We are going to open the vote on Item 5, the 2015 report of the Executive Committee.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The Annual report was approved.

The next item is the 2015 financial report, the report of the auditors, the approval of the accounts, and discharge to the Executive Committee and to the auditors.

## 6. 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT, AUDITORS' REPORT, APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS, DISCHARGE TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND TO THE AUDITORS

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** The floor is to Jacek Bierkowski, the FIE Treasurer.

**Jacek Bierkowski (POL):** Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Presidents of the Federations, I present for your approval the profit and loss accounts and the balance sheet for the financial year starting on the 1st January 2015 ending on the 31st December 2015. Our accounts were approved by our auditors by Ernst & Young with positive results.

A lot of money were spent but we didn't go over our budget. Moreover, I present the proposed budget for the year 2017 for your approval. I would like to thank the President for his generous donations to FIE, exactly 7, 312 400 CHF that were planned in the budget as income and the rest came from the extra funds we had from the excess from the previous year.

I would like to kindly thank our CEO Mme Nathalie Rodriguez and her team of professionals in the Administrative and Finances Department, for their solid and devoted work. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please ask me.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We are then going to move to the vote on Item 6 – the financial report, the auditors' report, the approval of the accounts, and discharge to the Executive Committee and to the auditors.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The accounts are approved.

We move to the next item which is the budget for 2017.

## 7. BUDGET FOR 2017

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** The floor is to Jacek Bierkowski.

**Jacek Bierkowski (POL):** Every delegate, every Federation has received the budget for 2017. Please vote to approve this budget for our Federation.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Do you have any questions on that budget? If you agree we can move to the vote.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed. The Budget for 2017 is approved.

The next item is Item 8 and this is the designation of the auditors.

## 8. DESIGNATION OF THE AUDITORS

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We move to the vote on Item 8 and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

Ernst & Young are designated for another one year term.

We move to the Item 9, which is a follow-up on the decisions made regarding the Articles t.17.2 and t.33.1.

## 9. FOLLOW-UP ON THE DECISIONS MADE REGARDING ARTICLES T.17.2 AND T.33.1

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** The floor is to Krisztian Kulcsar.

**Krisztian Kulcsar:** Thank you, Nathalie, let me be quick on these 2 subjects.

Article t.17.2 is the new on guard line in sabre so as you may recall in 2015 following the proposal to reduce the on guard line distance in sabre the Congress decided to introduce the rule as a temporary rule starting from this season. The testing period started in September and is going to last until the end of this year, the 31st of December. The rule is now applied at all sabre competitions. We have appointed a group of different sabre experts of different nationalities to observe all these competitions. The role of these observers is to brief all delegations, the referees, everyone who is present at the competition, to collect all the necessary data including the score sheets at the competitions and to obtain also the opinions of the athletes, the coaches and the referees.

The next steps are the following: the test period as I've said will end on the 31st of December this year and a comprehensive report and analysis will be provided to the Executive Committee in January. The body which is responsible for making a decision on whether the rule will remain and become a permanent rule or it will be rejected is the Executive Committee. What is proposed now is to have the testing period extended until the first COMEX meeting in 2017, in February. Is there any objection to that? No objections. Thank you.

T.33.1 is the proposal related to the duration of the medical break at competitions. If you remember last year the Congress decided to test this proposal coming from the Medical Commission, and the proposal was to reduce the 10-minute break to 5 minutes.

The rule was tested and the Junior and Cadet championships in Bourges. We have received a report and a letter, a proposal from the Medical Commission to organize additional tests in the next season. Those will be the 2017 Junior and Cadet World Championship in Plovdiv and the Senior World Championship in Leipzig. As a result, we will have more test results to test the medical break changes.

Do you have any comments regarding this issue?

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Actually, the final decision on t.33.1 will be submitted during the 2017 Congress after the tests in Plovdiv and in Leipzig.

**Krisztian Kulcsar:** If this is agreed, then thank you.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** The next Item is the Item 10 and it is the vote for awarding the World Championships.

# 10. VOTE TO AWARD THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: 2018 JUNIOR/ CADET AND 2019 SENIOR

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We are going to vote on:

- The 2018 Junior and Cadet World Championships and the candidature is Verona, Italy;
- The 2019 Senior World Championships. There are three candidates – Tbilisi, Georgia, Budapest, Hungary and Torun, Poland.

We are going to start with the Junior and Cadet World Championships in 2018, but I would like to invite each of the 2019 candidature representatives to come to the tribune in order for a draw in order to determine which candidature will be presented first and then second and third. So, one representative of Georgia, one representative of Hungary, and one representative of Poland.

We are going to listen to a presentation for Verona. Then, for the 2019 Senior World Championships: the order will be as follows: Budapest will present first, then Tbilisi will present second, and then Torun will present third. The floor is to the candidature of Verona from Italy.

## Presentation of Verona, Italy

**Giorgio Scarso (ITA):**

Dear Friends, Dear Mr. President,

Italy after the World Championships of 2006 in Turin and 2011 in Catania again is appealing to you to organize a major competition, which is the World Junior and Cadet championships in 2018, and to organize it in Verona.

We are asking for your confidence in entrusting us the organization of this Championship because it is a duty of our country, a country with a very rich fencing history and tradition, and with a very developed level of fencing. It is also a great honor to cooperate with the International Fencing Federation.

Why Verona? Because it is conveniently located in the center of Italy. It is a city with the best sport facilities for such a Championships, and it is a city where we have an Organizing Committee which knows the issues of modern fencing. All these allow us to organize these Championships in 2018 on a level that will guarantee the developing of fencing. Now I want to give you more details and arguments in favour of our candidacy and I pass the floor to my colleague.

**Giandomenico Varallo (ITA):** I can speak in English, in French as you wish. I can tell you that Verona is a beautiful city. It is the fourth city most visited city in Italy by foreign tourists. We receive more than 1,800 000 foreign tourists annually and it contributes to the finances of the city. The city is not big when it comes to the size of its population, but it is beautiful and the Hotel possibilities are very large. We will not have any issues from this point of view during these Championships.

And again, I want to mention one very important thing: the airport and the railway station are only 20 minutes away from each other and are located within 15 minutes from the city. Everything is very compact and everything is very close, you can walk from the sport facility to downtown, we don't have traffic jams. We have a very good cuisine, and an excellent wine.

I think that Verona will be ideal for this championship. We have very good sport facilities, which are original for fencing competitions as these facilities belonged to Volkswagen. Now it belongs to the insurance company Cattolica. They have organized different events in this venue including their Annual Assembly with 2000 attendees, who participated in the Assembly and in the dinner, which follows the Assembly. The space is 25,000 square meters and we will be able to set up 24 heated facilities for warming up, and 20 ones for the competitions. We will be able to receive 25.000



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spectators, there will be 2 restaurants, several bars. I am confident that we will be able to organize these Championships on a very high level. Now I want to show you a video.

*[Video presentation]*

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Thank you very much and we are now going to open the vote on this item. The vote is open to award the 2018 Junior and CadetsWorld Championships.

The vote is closed.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** The 2018 Junior and Cadet World Championships are awarded to Verona, Italy. We move to the next item, which is the candidature of 2019 Senior World Championships and we will start with the presentation of Budapest.

### Presentation of Budapest, Hungary

**Áron Szilágyi (HUN):** Dear Mr. President, Honored Members of the FIE, Friends of Fencing, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For those of you who don't know me, I am Áron Szilágyi, Hungarian fencer and two times Olympic Champion. I am very grateful to be here today and to present to you our beloved capital Budapest to host the 2019 Senior World Championships.

First of all, I would like to talk about the importance of fencing in Hungary, so those of you who are not very familiar with it yet can get an impression on how fencing is in the hearts and souls of our people back at home. The Hungarian Fencing Federation has celebrated its 100 years' birthday just the year after the FIE has blown on the same number of candles on its birthday cake. We are proud that fencing is the single most successful Olympic sport in Hungary by far, with its 37 gold medals. Swimming is second with 28 medals, which means there is a lot to catch up with. Hungarians feel that fencing is a part of our heritage and whatever happens in the world of fencing is a topic of conversations in Hungary. All the major issues make the headlines back at home, just as today's decision will, either way it goes.

The special kind of attention is especially focused on Budapest due to its former location of the earlier editions of the fencing World Championships. Budapest has always been a welcoming place and it seems like the world has discovered it. In the last few years the number of tourists coming to Budapest has skyrocketed and all the prestigious travel magazines speak very highly of the beauty of Budapest, and expressing their love towards the city.

In the next three years 5 International Federations decided to award their flagship events to Hungary and four of these competitions will take place in Budapest. On top of all, the Hungarian Grand-prix has been on the Formula-1 circuit since 1986, the new national football stadium in Budapest will be one of the venues for the UEFA EURO 2020 tournament, and Budapest is also a candidate city for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games. So, we very much feel to be on the right line and are motivated to exceed everyone's expectations. The favorable conditions of Budapest to live up to everyone's expectations are given.

Geographically Budapest lies on the border between East and West which makes it a convenient destination for people coming from all directions. 42 airlines fly directly to Budapest from cities as

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far as Montreal or Beijing. Hungary is a part of the Schengen area so it's easy to move around with the Schengen visa. As the Hungarian Fencing Federation is one of the top partners of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we can efficiently aid everyone with their visa needs.

Once in Budapest, the transportation is quick and comfortable as the airport is pretty close to the venue and the official hotels. The SYMA – the Event and Congress Center lies at the major transportation hub. This transportation hub enables the individual traveler to reach some of the landmark buildings, such as the Parliament or the St. Steven's Basilica within 15 minutes. This practically means that with 2 spare hours you can literary have a lunch at any downtown restaurant or can go and take a well-deserved midday nap at your hotel.

With the three halls within the same complex, The SYMA can easily accommodate all phases of the World Championships from the eliminator phase to the table of thirty-two and down to the finals, while the neighboring sport-halls give us an ample space for training. All these spaces and halls in The SYMA have air-conditioning. With the World Championships being held at the high temperatures of summer the air-conditioning is not a luxury but a must. To secure the cool environment everywhere, not only the official hotels will be air-conditioned, but the shuttle buses, too.

It may be needless to say that with all these major events coming to Budapest more than a sufficient number of the hotel rooms in different categories is available. All the major hotel chains are present in Budapest from Hilton, Boscolo and Four Seasons, to Acqua, and Marriott brands like Sofitel, Novotel, Ritz Carlton and Courtyard – all within 15 minutes from the venue by shuttle bus.

Regarding the venue, which isn't unknown to the fencers, the two smaller halls can accommodate a minimum of twenty-two pistes and 2000 spectators, while in the main hall we can install nine pistes including the colored ones and the main piste and accommodate 5000 spectators.

Thanks to the strong position of fencing in Hungary, the high number of clubs and the support of the government – presenting the technology and the equipment should not be a problem. Hosting World Cups and the Grand Prix every year for many years now means that our Organizing team is aware of the needs of fencers, coaches, officials, and the FIE.

As the financial stability is important, we are proud to say that the government of Hungary has passed a resolution to grant 2 million EUR in support of the organization of the World Championships. But even all this money cannot buy us happiness. Spectators are crucial for every sport and are especially crucial in our sport to keep going. Based on the sport-loving nature of the Hungarians and the solid number of fencing fans around the country, we can guarantee a good number of spectators for the World Championships in Budapest. Because of our country's good location, we have a very good chance that the fencing fans from all over the Europe would also attend, as Budapest is relatively cheap and very easy to get to.

However, hosting the World Championships is not only a privilege but also an obligation to expand our sport. For this reason, the Hungarian Fencing Federation will financially support the 2-week long training camp for thirty athletes and coaches selected by the FIE before the World Championships and would also pay for the accommodation, transportation and catering during the event.

Let's just say that we have everything in place – we have the venue prepared and the catering, participants have arrived, and the funds are present in full, but we want more. We want to see a full house every day, we want to have an atmosphere so electric that the STM will stop working! Well, we don't want that. (Laughter) But you know what I mean. So, what do we need to achieve all that? People. We need more people. How do we do that? This is where the creativity comes in. I

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can promise you now that we are on – to bring you the most intriguing campaign fencing has ever seen. After all, aren't our flagship events the best opportunities to reach new audiences? One of the Hungarian Fencing Federation's top priorities would be to create a memorable fencing experience so spectators would go home as engaged supporters of our sport for a long time.

At last, I have to admit, that we are so eager to welcome you in Budapest on this occasion that in case of a successful bid, the Hungarian Fencing Federation would pay for a one night stay of all the participating National Federations every accredited person. This means that when you book your accommodation with the Organizing Committee they will automatically deduct the fee for a one night stay from the overall balance. We hope that you will use this extra night to prolong your stay and spend more time in our wonderful city, but if you will not, we will be just as happy to have you in Budapest. Thank you very much and please vote for Budapest.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Thank you very much. And now the candidature of Tbilisi.

### **Presentation of Tbilisi, Georgia**

**David Sakhvadze (GEO):** Dear Mr. President, The Presidents of the National Federations,

Dear Delegates, Colleagues and Guests,

We confirm our declared application to host the Seniors World Championships in 2019 in the capital of Georgia, Tbilisi. It is a great opportunity for us to host the elite world fencers, their coaches, staff, and the Presidents of the member National Federations.

Georgia has a rich fencing tradition and a strong intention to develop it further. This is secured by a solid will, hard work and up to date sports infrastructure. By organizing an event of such level, Georgia will become a new spot, a new fencing destination on the road map of fencing. This will be the highest compliment for the country of Georgia.

The government of Georgia, the National Olympic Committee, the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia, and the City Hall of Tbilisi express their full support for this initiative. We can assure you, that in 2019 our capital Tbilisi, one of the oldest cities of the world will be your cordial host. Thank you very much and now I would like to invite my colleague to make the presentation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to introduce our presentation. As our Secretary General has already said, Georgia has a great history of fencing and therefore I would like to start my presentation by presenting the Georgian Olympic and World Champions. The first one, you can see here on the screen, was Nugzar Asatiani, a Soviet sabre fencer who won in the 1964 Olympic Games and in 1965 became a World Champion. The second was Vladimir Aptiaouri, then Guram Kostava, and later Yuri Osipov.

Next I want to mention that our international airport is the biggest airport in Tbilisi formally known as Novo Alexeyevka Tbilisi International Airport. It is located quite far, about 70 km away from the capital-city Tbilisi and it has a contemporary and functional design to provide an optimal flow of the passengers and luggage from the parking-lot to the planes. We are currently undergoing the construction of a new international airport, which is supposed to increase the direct flights to other

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regions. As you can see here, these red lines are the direct flights from Georgia to foreign countries.

The second airport I want to mention is Kutaisi International Airport, located in the Imereti region in Kutaisi that offers cost-efficient airline services. Kutaisi International Airport services Wizz Air, a very low-cost airline operating in Eastern and Central Europe that offers direct affordable flights to and from Kutaisi to Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Greece, Lithuania, Italy and Poland. The shuttles from the airport will be provided free of cost from Kutaisi Airport to the hotels and from the hotels to Kutaisi Airport.

I would like to say a few words about our capital Tbilisi, which is commonly known by its old name Tiflis and is often mispronounced as Tblisi. It is the largest city in Georgia, located on the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Today Tbilisi is a big cultural and economic center for the whole Caucasus. Many universities, colleges and scientific centers, brand shops and hotels are located in Tbilisi. You can see some pictures on the slide.

The Sport Complex where the competitions are going to be held is divided between two halls – the Gymnastics Arena and the Volleyball Arena, which were constructed in 2015 to host the European Youth Olympic festivals and it has two separate halls and a Volleyball Arena constructed in 2015. The Volleyball Arena is located on a distance of 70m from the Gymnastics Arena. If Tbilisi is selected, the 2019 Senior World Championships will be organized in the Gymnastics halls, which will be divided in 3 parts as you can see on these pictures. Also, I would like to mention that the European Championships in 2014 were held in the Arena Tbilisi where 300 fencers participated in the tournament and our Georgian sabre fencer Sandro Bazadze won a gold medal.

Every visitor of Tbilisi will enjoy delicious Georgian cuisine, it's culture and wine.

The Georgian cuisine carries some influence of the neighboring Middle-Eastern culinary traditions. Each historical province in Georgia has its own culinary traditions, e.g. Svanetian, Imeretian, and Megrelian dishes can be mentioned. We offer a variety of the vegetarian dishes as well.

It is worth mentioning also the famous world-wide known Georgian primitivistic painter Niko Pirosmiani, who was self-taught. You can see his paintings on the screen. Pirosmiani is depicted on one of the Georgian Lari bill. This is the information I wanted to share with you. Thank you very much for your attention.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Thank you very much. Now the candidature of Poland, Torun will come to the tribune.

## **Presentation of Torun, Poland.**

Mr. President, Honorable Members of the FIE,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I would like to invite my colleagues Mr. Adam Konopka, the President of the Polish Fencing Federation, Mr. Jacek Slupski, the General Director of the Federation, and this is a surprise, we brought with us the Mayor of Torun, the city where we are going to organize the Championships, Mr. Michael Zaleski.

*Applause.*

My name is Tadeusz Tomaszewski, I am the Vice President of the Polish Fencing Federation. On

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On behalf of the Federation and on behalf of the city of Torun this is my honor and privilege to kindly ask you to grant Poland and Torun the organization of the World Championship in 2019. With respect of all candidates – Budapest and Tbilisi, which are beautiful cities, indeed, there are at least 7 good reasons why it should be Torun.

Argument #1. This is the people of Torun, people full of enthusiasm, passion, who are ready for new challenges, who are already experienced in organizing fencing competitions, people who understand the importance of rivalry, beauty and joy of the competition in fencing and who love this discipline.

Argument #2. Torun itself. The organizer of the Championship is going to be the city of Torun. By the way, yesterday I heard a very interesting interpretation of the name of the city. In English Torun means – to run, which is a very nice relation between the sport and the Polish name of the city and it should probably work as the 8th argument for us, for the competition. Torun is a marvelous medieval town, well-known for its beauty, a place where Copernicus was born, and what might be interesting for the National Federations, the city is not expensive for living and for staying. The city strongly supports the idea of the 2019 Championships. Especially, the city authorities have promised to do their best to achieve the highest sport organization and promotional level as you see the mayor of Torun is with us and it shows how deeply the city is engaged in the preparation for the Championships. Mr. Mayor is going to address you a bit later.

Torun is a city with a big experience in organizing fencing competitions. It organized the 2013 European Fencing Championship under 23 and this year the 2016 European Fencing Championships. Those who attended these competitions hopefully can confirm the excellent skills of the organizers and the perfect organization of both Championships for Seniors and Juniors. I do believe that the new President of the European Fencing Confederation, Mr. Stanislav Pozdnyakov, who was just elected in Torun would agree with this opinion. Equally important is that you will meet friendly people in Torun with great Polish hospitality, not to mention the excellent food, good wine and even better beer.

Argument #3. Sport facilities and accommodation. Torun is a relatively small city, which is its advantage since there is an access to all the sport venues, hotels, beautiful old town, many other touristic attractions. And though city is small, it offers great opportunities. There are two venues ready to organize the Championships – one of them is newly built and is very modern. They include 4 halls, 40 pistes and 15 training pistes and fulfill other necessary demands and meet all the requirements. Besides this, there are plenty of convenient hotels in Torun with good service within a walking distance to the sport halls, restaurants and the Old Town. If necessary, there will be the shuttle-buses available between the Championships' venue and the hotels.

Argument #4. Location. There is an easy access from all continents to four neighboring airports: Warsaw, Poznan', Gdansk and Bydgoszcz, and of course the air-conditioned shuttle-buses will be provided to take our guests from the airports directly to the hotels.

Argument #5. Money and Support. All the financial aspects of the competition have been set and secured. In this respect the organizers have gained strong support from the city of Torun, the Polish government, particularly the Minister of Sport, as it was during the previous European Championships, and from public and private sponsors. Also, the Polish Fencing Federation is going to be and actually already is deeply involved in the preparations and the organization of the event.

Argument #6. Sport and Social Benefits. Championships in Poland and in Torun will offer to us at the Polish Fencing Federation and to the city itself a great possibility to make fencing more popular in the Polish society and in the international sport community. We plan to broadcast this competition everyday, we expect many spectators and fans of fencing. We will do our best to make fencing

# 10. VOTE TO AWARD THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: 2018 JUNIOR/ CADET AND 2019 SENIOR

interesting for kids, meeting with them at schools and inviting them to work for the competitions on a voluntary basis.

Last but not least. Argument #7. Perhaps you don't realize but we haven't had a possibility to organize the World senior Fencing Championships in Poland for a long, actually, too long time. Last time the senior World Championships took place in Gdansk in 1963. You can see the timeline on the posters, it is easy to count that it took 53 years to have a next chance, and we have this chance today.

We assume and we hope that you share the same idea that it is now time to organize a Championship in Poland again. If you want to further successfully develop fencing in this region, we have to give a strong impulse for that. The Championships are the best way to achieve these goals. Let's meet in Torun in 2019!

*Applause.*

Now we would like to show you a short movie about the Torun and its beauty.

*[Video presentation]*

*Applause.*

It is a very short movie, but I think it's a very encouraging one. Now Mr. Mayor will say a few words about Torun.

**Mr. Michael Zaleski:** (Speaks in Polish)

*Applause.*

**Tadeusz Tomaszewski (POL):** I hope that our Russian friends could understand that, but I will translate it in English for the others. "Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the residents of the city Torun we invite you to the city of Nicolaus Copernicus, the city full of historical monuments that are put on the UNESCO heritage list, the city of fencing! You are very welcome to Torun! Thank you!"

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Thank you very much. We are moving to the vote. Before voting I will explain the procedure that was agreed with the Legal Commission: if one candidate in the first round gets the majority of votes – that is 71 votes – he is elected immediately; if no candidate has obtained the majority, then the candidate who has obtained the least votes will be eliminated and we will do a second round. In the second round, the candidate that would get the most votes, will be elected. So, the votes are displayed on the screen – for Budapest, Hungary you vote – 1, for Tbilisi, Georgia you vote – 2, and for Torun, Poland you vote – 3, and each time you have to validate your vote.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

So, no candidate got the majority of the votes, the majority being 71 votes. We are therefore going to eliminate the candidate which has the least votes, which is Tbilisi, Georgia and we are going for the second round with Budapest and Torun. I am going to open the vote, if you want to vote for Budapest – you vote – 1, if you want to vote for Torun – you vote – 3.

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The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

*Applause.*

Budapest will organize the Seniors 2019 World Championships.

**Alisher Usmanov:** Congratulations to Hungary! We are assured that this World Championship will be as successful as the one that we have arranged together before. Good luck, Budapest!

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We move to the next item, which is the request for Candidatures for the 2019 World Junior and Cadet Championships.

# 11. CANDIDATURES FOR THE 2019 VETERANS AND JUNIOR/ CADET WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Is there any candidate that would like to speak today?

Don't raise your hands all at the same time.

*Laughter*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** So far, we don't have any candidate for the Junior and Cadet 2019 World Championships. What about the 2019 Veterans World Championships? I have the information that Cairo, Egypt presented its candidature for the 2019 Veterans World Championships. Do you confirm? Thank you, it is confirmed.

Do we have another candidate? No. So, we have one candidate for the Veterans 2019 World Championship. We will vote on this issue next year during the next Congress. Thank you very much.



## 12. ELECTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE COMMISSIONS

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We move to the next item, which is the Elections. The President has been already elected and now we are going to proceed to the election of the Executive Committee. Yesterday the Executive Committee had a discussion about the procedure and it has decided that for the Executive Committee the vote will be done on paper and that for the Commissions the vote will be done by the electronic voting process with those nice devices that you already have on your tables. For the Executive Committee, you can elect 15 persons. There are voting booths on each side of the venue – 10 and 10 accordingly, and 20 Federations can vote at the same time.

I would like to have the confirmation that all candidates are maintaining their candidature or whether there are any candidates who wish to withdraw? Yes. Please take the microphone.

**Aleksander Mikhailov (RUS):** Dear Delegates, I want to withdraw my candidature because I will have to participate in the elections for the National Federation and I want to focus on my work at the National Federation and on the foundations, which I am in charge of and which contribute to the activity of the International Federation. I think by withdrawing my candidature from the COMEX, I can provide better support to the FIE in those positions. Thank you.

**Alisher Usmanov:** Thank you, and I would like to add that the Russian Fencing Federation appealed to me with a question, and a proposal – taking into consideration that two representatives of Russia are already in the Executive Committee – there is no need to submit the candidature of a third person and create a competition between different delegates, considering the reputation of the Russian Fencing Federation.

I appreciate this decision, I think it's the right decision, because today the President of the International Federation is the representative of Russia, the President of the European Confederation is also a Russian well-known Champion in fencing Mr. Pozdnyakov. I think this is enough and the decision of Mr. Mikhailov is logical and I think he expresses his love towards fencing by taking this decision. Thank you very much, Mr. Mikhailov.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Are there any other candidates who wish to withdraw their candidatures?

**Alisher Usmanov:** We heard that someone from Cameroon wants to withdraw. Is this correct?

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** No other withdrawing?

**Alisher Usmanov:** Are all the candidates present here? Who represents Cameroon? I've heard about this. What is his name? Ok.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Is there anyone else who wishes to withdraw his candidature? Nobody? Ok. We are going to modify the voting slips, of course, during that time I am sure you will enjoy your coffee-break.

**Alisher Usmanov:** I have a suggestion. Since we have to remove only the name of Mr. Mikhailov, and everyone knows this, we can keep the voting slips but no one will mark the name of Mr. Mikhailov, so we will not lose our time.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Ok. If you agree to vote with these voting slips, being understood that

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you cannot vote for Mr. Mikhailov because he has withdrawn his candidature, we can use these voting slips.

**Alisher Usmanov:** Please, this will save us time. So, we can vote and then go to lunch.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** I will call the Federations. The first 10 that I call will vote here on that side, and the other 10 will vote on the other side and then I will announce afterwards which places are free. When you receive your voting slip, then go into the voting booth, fill your choices in and then put the slip into one of the big boxes, which are placed on each side of the venue.

As usual, you put a cross in front of the name of the candidate you want to elect. As for every election and as it is written on your document please put a cross mark in front of the candidate you want to elect. You can't select more than 15 candidates for the Executive Committee. If you select more than 15 candidates, the entire ballot will not be valid. Please, don't select more than 15 candidates and put a cross in front of the name of the person you wish to elect.

It is also important to mention that the scrutinizers who will be also counting the votes after the voting is finished are: Mr. Sam Chervis, Mr. Peter Jacobs, Mr. Nouredine Robbana, Mr. Olivier Carrard, Mr. Peyman Fakhri, and Mrs Maria Leonor Estampador. Is everybody here? Yes? Good.

So, will come to that side: Afghanistan, Spain, who votes for Albania, Algeria, Antigua, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, and Azerbaijan.

Then, on the other side: Bahamas, Kazakhstan who votes for Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bermuda, Costa Rica who votes for Belize, Belarus, Uruguay who votes for Bolivia, and South Africa who votes for Botswana.

Will come to that side: Brazil, Bahrein, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Chili, China. On this side: Cote D'Ivoire, Cameroon, Congo, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba. Greece who votes for Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador – this side. Egypt, El Salvador, Spain – this side. Estonia, Finland – this side. France, Gabon – this side. Great Britain and Georgia – this side. Germany, Ghana and Greece – this side. Guatemala, Guinea and Australia for Guam – this side. Guyana, Haiti – this side. Hong Kong, Honduras – this side. Hungary – this side. Indonesia and Iran – this side. Ireland, Iraq, Iceland, Israel and Virgin Island – these side, please. Italy, Jamaica, Jordan – this side. Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Korea – this side, please. Bahrein for Saudi Arabia, Latvia, and Algeria for Libya – this side. Lebanon – this side, please. Lithuania and Luxembourg, this side, please. Macao, Madagascar – this side, please. Morocco, Moldova, Malaysia – this side, please. Mexico, Mongolia, Serbia for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Mali – this side, please. Italy for Malta and Monaco – this side, please. Mauritius and Senegal for Mauritania – this side, please. Singapore for Myanmar and Namibia – this side, please. Nicaragua, Netherlands, Nepal, Nigeria, Niger – on this side, please. Norway, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay – this side, please. Peru, Philippines, Palestine, Poland and Portugal, – this side, please. Puerto Rico, Qatar, Romania – this side, please. South Africa and Russia – this side, please. Samoa, Serbia, Senegal, Singapore – this side, please. Sierra Leone, Slovenia, and Romania for San Marino – this side, please. Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Slovakia, Sweden and Syria – this side, please. Thailand, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Togo – this side, please. Chinese Taipei, Tunisia, Turkey – this side, please. United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, Uganda – this side, please. Uruguay, Unites States of America, and Uzbekistan – this side, please. And the last ones – Venezuela, Vietnam, and Morocco for Yemen – this side, please.

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Were all the countries called? Jordan was already called, but please go ahead.

Is there any country that was not called? Ok. Now that the voting is done, the scrutinizers are going to take all the voting slips and start the counting. During that time, please, you are kindly requested to move for the photo of the Congress and then you can go to lunch. You all have on your tables the documents that mention where you will have lunch.

*Lunch Break.*

**Alisher Usmanov:** Dear All, if the lunch is finished please come back so we can continue our work. Thank you. I would like to give the floor to our CEO to announce the results of the elections.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** First, I will announce the results of the Executive Committee, and then we will have to redo the photo of the Congress, because some of you were not on the picture, because there was not enough space, but we will do it just in the lobby behind.

So, the results are the following:

1. With 93 votes – Wei Wang (China). *Bravo. Applause.*
2. With 85 votes – Donald Anthony (USA). *Applause.*
3. With 77 votes – Giorgio Scarso (Italy). *Applause.*
4. With 76 votes – Ana Pascu (Romania). *Applause.*
5. With 74 votes – Isabelle Lamour (France). *Applause.*
6. With 72 votes – Ferial Salhi (Algeria). *Applause.*
7. With 67 votes – Yuki Ota (Japan). *Applause.*
8. With 62 votes – Novak Perovic (South Africa). *Applause.*
9. With 60 votes – Velichka Hristeva (Bulgaria). *Applause.*
10. With 57 votes – Erika Aze (Latvia). *Applause.*
10. With 57 votes – Bence Szabo (Hungary). *Applause.*
12. With 56 votes – Jacek Bierkowski (Poland). *Applause.*
13. With 55 votes – Pascal Tesch (Luxembourg). *Applause.*
14. With 53 votes – Oleg Peskov (Kazakhstan). *Applause.*
15. With 48 votes – Emmanuel Katsiadakis (Greece). *Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Now please let's take the photo of the Congress outside near the place of the coffee break. Please go outside and come back.

*Break for the photo.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We are now moving on to vote on the Commissions. Let me explain the details. You are going to receive 6 papers like this, one for each Commission with the names of the candidates, and before the name of the candidate there is a number. For each Commission the first number is 11. So, you will have 2 digit numbers from 11 up to the end. You have also received and should have on your table this document, please keep it, because we are going to review it together and we are going to take our time to ensure that no one has any questions and then we are going to vote Commission by Commission. For each Commission, you will have 5 minutes. So, we have plenty of time. May I remind you that you can vote for only 10 persons per Commission. It is important.

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If you have made a mistake, you can go back and modify your last vote: just press correct and then valid. If you want to delete all your votes and start from the beginning, then you press zero, zero again and then valid. So it's actually the usual system, but instead of voting – Yes – No – Abstention or 1 – 2 – 3 you just type the numbers and valid.

The machine will also tell you that there is a mistake if you have already entered 10 names and you want to enter an additional one. If you have already entered one number and you enter it again, the machine will tell you – double.

Do you have questions? If you have any problem during the vote, you can always ask us. Please don't forget that those who have a proxy have to enter the numbers on both machines, not only on one, as you are voting for two countries. For each Commission you will have 5 minutes to enter 10 names.

We are going to give you the papers in a moment

**Unidentified person from the audience:** Excuse me, Nathalie, can we do a test run?

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** It is difficult to make a test run because it requires fictitious names. The first vote we are going to open is for the Refereeing Commission. You have your device and papers. If you want to help yourself, at the bottom of each page you can write the numbers of the people you want to elect. Then you take your device, you enter the first number, you push valid. You will receive an answer from the device saying 1= the number you have pushed. Then you go to the second vote, you enter the number and valid, the device will again tell you the vote number x = the number you have pressed. Then you go to the third vote and continue until the 10th. If you have made a mistake, you can invalidate your last vote or eliminate everything. To eliminate the last vote, you just have to press correct and then valid, and you enter your new choice, and you continue with the process. If you want to eliminate all the votes that you have entered for that Commission, then you press zero, then zero again, and then valid, and you restart the whole process again.

If during the process, you have any problem, any question, please raise your hand and I will come and help you. Is this fine for everyone? Ok. We will start now from the Refereeing Commission. Ok? So, everybody has the documents? No. Please distribute the documents as soon as possible.

Any questions? Yes, it is normal that the vote is closed, because we haven't opened it yet. Those who have a proxy have to vote on both devices. Is this clear?

I would also like to inform you that the full results of the Commissions will be given at the end of the vote for all Commissions. We are not going to provide the result after the vote for each Commission.

In case there will be a tied place in any Commission then we will open the vote again for the persons who got the same number of votes. Who has not received the papers? I see hands.

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**Francis Kwong (SIN):** Nathalie, can I ask a question? Here, here, Francis from Singapore.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Yes, please.

**Francis Kwong (SIN):** Do we have to keep the order and start voting from 11, 12, 14 and so on, or can we vote like 25, 11, 60, etc.? Does it matter?

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** It doesn't matter. You can choose the order, if you want to start from the last one and finish with the first one, it's up to you. The only thing is that you shouldn't vote for more than 10 people.

Has everybody received the documents now? Everyone has received? The Presidents of Confederations will be the scrutinizers for these elections.

We start with **the Refereeing Commission**. You have the names on the screen and you have them on paper. Ok? You vote for maximum 10 people. Ready?

The vote is open. We have 5 minutes.

Apparently, you have voted. The vote is closed.

We are now moving to the next Commission, which is **the Legal Commission**. We open the vote for the Legal Commission.

The vote is closed.

We now move to the next Commission, which is **the Medical Commission**. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

Now we are opening the vote for **the Publicity and Promotion Commission**. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

We are now opening the vote for **the Rules Commission**. The vote is open.

When I said that you have 5 minutes to use per Commission it didn't mean that you should use the whole 5 minutes. You can use less if you wish. *Laughter*

The vote is closed.

Now we are going to open the vote for **the SEMI. Commission**. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

We have finished with the Commissions. The good news is that there is only one tie in one Commission and not in each Commission. I will give you the names of the people elected Commission by Commission, and then at the end we will reopen the vote for the Legal Commission in which there is a tie for the 10th place.

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## **The Refereeing Commission:**

Ianka Dakova (USA) – with 82 votes  
Chang Gon Kim (Korea) – 79 votes  
Claus Janka (Germany) – 78 votes  
Salah Ferjani (Tunisia) – 70 votes  
Olga Cojocari (Moldova) – 68 votes  
Mohamed El Motawakel (Egypt) – 66 votes  
Jose Luis Alvarez Gil De Tejada (Spain) – 64 votes We have 3 people with 64 votes.  
Irina Knysch (South Africa) – 64 votes  
Marco Pistacchi (Italy) – 64 votes  
Katsumi Yamaguchi (Japan) – 59 votes

*Applause.*

## **The Legal Commission:**

Peter Jacobs (Great Britain) – 81 votes  
Samuel Chervis (USA) – 80 votes  
Marco Rioja Perez (Spain) – 75 votes  
Omar Vergara (Argentina) – 74 votes  
Yann Bernard (Canada) – 66 votes  
Gordon Rapp (Germany) – 61 votes  
Edina Czeglédi (Hungary) – 60 votes  
Kanako Inokuchi (Japan) – 59 votes  
Anca Ioana Ionescu (Romania) – 57 votes

Hameed Mahdi Abdulhadi (Iraq) and Pier Luigi Boscia (Italy) – 49 votes.

This is the tie for which we have to vote. For these people, we have to revote when we finish the list of all those who were elected in the Commissions.

## **The Medical Commission:**

Antonio Fiore (Italy) – 103 votes  
Catherine Defoligny-Renault (France) – 94 votes  
Maha Mustafa Mourad (Egypt) – 81 votes  
Summers Jeremy (USA) – 81 votes  
Lisa Huzel (Canada) – 75 votes  
Jenő Kamuti (Hungary) – 75 votes  
Clare Halsted (Great Britain) – 70 votes  
Sabrina Imene Halaimia (Algeria) – 69 votes  
Usama Azerjwee (Iraq) – 57 votes  
Davood Reza Shafaat (Iran) – 51 votes

Please note that in this Commission there are 5 women elected, which is 50% of the members.

## **The Publicity and Promotion Commission:**

David Baker (Australia) – 64 votes  
Victor Grouppierre (Argentina) – 55 votes  
Elena Grishina (Russia) – 49 votes

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Rigoberto Morejon Llanes (Cuba) – 49 votes  
Monica Ho (Taipei) – 48 votes  
Noureddine Robbana (Tunisia) – 45 votes  
Reno Marolt (Croatia) – 42 votes  
Joyce Bolanos (Virgin Islands) – 41 votes  
Nikolay Ivanov Mateev (Iceland) – 41 votes  
Gianandrea Nikolai (Italy) – 39 votes

### **The Rules Commission:**

Giuseppe Cafiero (Italy) – 85 votes  
Medhat El Bakry (Egypt) – 76 votes  
Janine Lamon (Switzerland) – 64 votes  
Manuel Belmonte (Canada) – 61 votes  
Ziad Feriani (Tunisia) – 59 votes  
Dieter Lammer (Germany) – 59 votes  
Rusni Abu Hassan (Malaysia) – 46 votes  
Pierre Thullberg (Sweden) – 44 votes  
Stephen Higginson (Great Britain) – 42 votes  
Abbas Ali Faryabi (Iran) – 40 votes

### **The S.E.M.I. Commission:**

Janet Huggins (Great Britain) – 78 votes  
Sarkis Assadourian (Iran) – 59 votes  
Atsushi Harinishi (Japan) – 59 votes  
Theodore LI (USA) – 58 votes  
Giandomenico Varallo (Italy) – 58 votes  
Xiangyang Yuan (China) – 56 votes  
Gamil Elzeftawi (Egypt) – 52 votes  
Semen Rikhtman (Russia) 51 votes  
Gudjon Ingi Gestsson (Iceland) – 49 votes  
Maria Wilda Eberl Lopez (Chile) – 48 votes

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** I think we can applause to all the results.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Now we are going to vote for the tie in the Legal Commission. The tie is between Abdullah Hadi Hamid from Iraq and Boscia Pier Luigi from Italy. If you want to vote for Abdullah Hadi Hamid – you vote 1, if you want to vote for Boscia Pier Luigi – you vote 2, and press valid.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The result of the vote is: Boscia Pier Luigi, Italy – 74 votes.

We have finished with the elections.

*Applause.*

**Alisher Usmanov:** Dear Delegates, we have two good news and one question. The good news

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is that for the Junior and Cadet 2019 Championship, we have one proposed candidate, which is Torun, Poland. We are more than happy if some of the Federations have enough resources to organize a competition, which in reality is very difficult. It is quite difficult to arrange.

Because of this I am approaching you to put this item as a separate topic on the agenda, as to approve this proposal we need 75% of votes and after this voting we can put Torun, Poland as a place for the Junior and Cadet 2019 World Championships.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** I would like to ask now if you agree to add this issue as a topic to the agenda of the Congress – the Junior and Cadet 2019 World Championships. If you remember earlier I have asked and there was no candidate presented to organize this competition. We need 75% of votes from the Federations presented and represented. Would you like to vote electronically? Let's do it in a simpler way. Who is against to include this issue in the agenda? No one? Ok. Quien esta en contra? Qui est contre?

**Alisher Usmanov:** Nobody.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** The candidature of Torun, Poland is now on the agenda

Do you have any objection to this candidature? Is anyone against this candidature?

**Alisher Usmanov:** Nobody.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** Then Torun will organize the 2019 Junior and Cadet World Championships

*Applause.*

**Alisher Usmanov:** Have we finished with the agenda?

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We finished with the agenda, but we have a few various items to discuss, nothing complicated.



## 14. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

### Nathalie Rodriguez:

1. The Executive Committee yesterday approved the "World Fencing Day". Every year the FIE and Fencing are going to celebrate World Fencing Day. Don't worry, it will not cost you money. (Laughter) We are going to provide many tools and we are going to advertise your celebrations on our social media.

The Executive Committee has approved that the second weekend of September every year on Saturday we will celebrate World Fencing Day all over the world. All the Federations, all the athletes, all the coaches, all the referees will be invited to celebrate in their country the World Fencing Day. We will start to celebrate World Fencing Day in 2017.

2. The second item on the agenda is the project that the FIE has with the company Axiom Zen. This is a very special project, which is fully financed by the President of the FIE, who has also provided for this project a very skillful team, which is working on the project. This team is now going to present to you the project.

**Alisher Usmanov:** You may know that there is a site called "Timeline" that already has several million users. Together with the team who creates this site we have prepared a big program to start a popularization process of fencing in Internet. Some of you may know that we have created a new Internet game named "FIE Swordplay". I think for the first year the results are not bad – we have up to one million users already. The new project collects all the experience that this company has.

Here are our American guys from the Silicon Valley. I would like to invite them here for a presentation. Please come to the tribune.

### Tamer Hassanein (President and CEO of Timeline) and James Chutter:

Thank you very much guys for having us. It is a real honour to be standing here in front of all these distinguished guests and as Mr. Usmanov has said we are a multicultural team from San Francisco, Vancouver, Toronto, Lausanne and Moscow here, and we are going to talk to you about the digital presence that we see for the FIE. The reason we feel this is so important is because there is a huge opportunity right now as a global recognition of fencing is expanding and it comes as a no surprise to anyone in the room here. A global recognition is happening in the smallest towns in South-East Asia, it's coming from the huge markets throughout the United States, all through the Latin America, South America, and obviously in more established markets here in Europe. We see this as such a huge opportunity because a lot of growth is coming from the online technologies and one quick statistics that we saw from the real Olympics is 2.71 billion minutes were streamed of the fencing competition. This is a trend that we are seeing more and more and it's a trend we really want to take an advantage of in the coming years to be able to capitalize on all the new technologies that are coming online, because people are streaming on their cellphones. I am standing here and everyone is taking pictures with their cellphones and that's great. We see more and more smart TVs, and more and more YouTube streaming. This is an ongoing trend that we want to try to capitalize on for the FIE to help fencing grow.

We are going to revamping our technology and our marketing really to capture this new audience and one of the major initiatives that we have been talking about to some of you and some of you are quite excited about is "Timeline". This is an existing world winning technology that is quite unique and exciting and what it does – it situates current events with their historical context. For a sport like fencing, that has such a rich and dynamic history, but also such an amazing live event we want to be able to situate these two things together – what is the history, what is this richness and depth of fencing along with the vibrancy of the in-the-moment sports competitions. This is where "Timeline" will come in, as a great way of telling the full story of fencing of this moment as well as the full story of fencing and its history. If it's all right I would like to show a quick one-minute demo video that tells a story of a young girl who becomes interested in fencing

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and she becomes quite a dedicated fan and takes up the sport herself. We see this as a way in our marketing and technology to take people who are interested all the way from the level of interest to becoming athletes and participating in this sport. Please take a quick minute to watch the video.

*[Video presentation]*

*Applause.*

Thank you, thank you, and as the closing line of the video said: "What if we could make this happen?" This is really why we are up here on the stage today: to help bring this idea forward because it relies on every member sitting here in the Congress, to help us put that content together, and to tell all the stories starting from the small single club all the way to the nations that you are all representing today.

In addition to "Timeline" we also will be revamping all the interactive content on the FIE website. This will be much more engaging and will be able to tell again all the up-to-the-minute statistics and facts, as well as the history, so you all will be able to participate in that and will be able to roll up all that technology to all the different markets that are represented here today.

The focus really around the marketing and technology for this year is to bring the athlete to the forefront. So, we want to be showcasing this in the moment of connections between athletes and their fans. This is just a very real and a human tangible moment for the athletes to connect with their fans. So, a couple of ways we will do this as I've mentioned: YouTube streaming – we can have fans commenting and interacting with athletes live right there, we will be forming a partnership with Snap chat as well, so we can also take the content from an athlete's phone and send it directly to his/her fan's phone, and establish that one to one connection, as well as the spread of content that happens through Facebook and Twitter. We will also be combining this with a lot of historical content as well, so we can tell as many stories as we feel fit, and we are going to rely on you guys to educate yourself of that content and some of the story-telling that you would like to have featured. This will be one example – a historical feature on women in fencing.

**Alisher Usmanov:** You know, it's very interesting to listen to you, but we need a more practical solution. What we need from you is help in creating not the historical timeline of the FIE, but a creation of a new technology through which we can spread with the Internet the popularity of our sport, our championships, and the events that we organize. And what you talk about now is the historical phase of fencing. We do have that created already.

What can you add to this? To give you a better understanding of what we need, we **must** find solutions based on our synergy – what can you add to the "Timeline" and what can we achieve from that. Thank you very much for your presentation, we very much appreciate your time. Because it's a business project we must understand what is the commodity. Please, if you have anything else to add, please continue.

**Tamer Hassanein:** Thank you. We were right at the end. I was just going to say that if you have any more comments you can reach out to us at [fencing.timeline.com](http://fencing.timeline.com). Thank you.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** The next item on the agenda is a presentation from Japan and I invite Mr. Yuki Ota to come to the tribune to make his presentation.

**Yuki Ota (JPN):** Thank you so much for giving me this great opportunity to share our presentation. Thank you, Mr. President. Now that the 2016 Olympic Games have finished and the Tokyo 2020 is ahead of us in 3 years, for the Tokyo Olympic Games we are creating a new technology, which

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shows and makes it easier to understand fencing, because many people don't understand what is going on in fencing and today I would like to show "An introduction to fencing" so it would be easier understood.

*[Video presentation]*

*Applause.*

Thank you so much. We will try our best in Tokyo for the pleasure of spectators and TV viewers. Thank you so much for electing me as an Executive Member, I will do my best to cooperate with the President and for fencing! Thank you so very much.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** The last item on the agenda – Italy has requested to make a presentation. In 2015 Italy was elected to organize the 2018 Veteran World Championships but could not make a presentation.

**Presentation of Italy:**

**Giuseppe Cafiero (ITA):**

Dear Colleagues,

Last year we got your confidence as you voted to appoint Livorno as a place for the Veterans World Championships in 2018 but this was done based on trust in our words. Now I would like to assure you that we have been working and preparing and much more will follow to make this the best possible Championship for Veterans. I would like to mention just a few points to show you our progress and how we are working on this.

Livorno is located on the Western side of Italy, not far from Florence, in Tuscany. Livorno is a medium size city. The venue is PalaModigliani, named after one of the well-known Italian painter. It's a very modern sport building providing all the necessary facilities and everything that is needed, I am not going to read all the details.

We will have 22 pistes plus pistes for warming up. There is a site under construction and a brochure, the initial draft of which we can already show. It includes all the tourist information and the logistics. Obviously, the transfer from the airport and station will be available, free transportation from the hotels, etc. The venue will be organized as a village that will include not only the pistes for fencing but all the other services that are normally aside. Here is the image of the palace, it's quite a big one. It can accommodate thousands of spectators. The program of the competition through the week is already made based on the experience of the previous Championships and I believe we are going to have a very efficient organization. The first draft of the brochure will be available soon on the site and on paper. (Is it possible to move the slide up?) You can see it is mostly in Italian because it is still under preparation but it is covering all the information that will be useful for the fencers and for the people coming along with them. I don't want to take too much of your time, just wanted to give you an update on the work we are doing. The Committee and the Italian Federation are fully committed to excellence and they are expecting all of us to be there in 2018. Thank you.

*Applause.*

**Alisher Usmanov:** We have finished with our agenda and before Nathalie and I ask the COMEX members to join us, I want to talk to the Delegates who came today and again to express my gratitude and appreciation for your confidence in me, and in my activity, and I think it sincerely demonstrates that I am moving in the right direction with your support towards common goals

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and targets that we set for our sport. Due to this, I want every one of you to ask himself, as in this hall, I am not the only one who has more money than just the salary, mostly those who are in business. As of today, I have retired from business and because of this I feel very happy now.

Sportsmen come to our COMEX like, for example, Mr. Ota. I have immediately approached him to begin this work to improve the development in technologies for television and Internet with those people who today create new Internet concepts and can make our sport a reference sport on Internet so any user who wants to see sport on Internet can deepen his interest in fencing and split his interest between football and maybe fencing, at least from time to time. To be able to achieve this, we need to create a full complex: games for kids, sport fighting for young, and memory for older people.

This is the general path that we want to pursue. 40% of people in the world now spend their lives in Internet not on television, and it's moving towards 50%. I want to call on all the Federations not to think only about their place, not only about winning the elections, but to think about the future of fencing. Everyone who is present in this hall experienced his beautiful moment when he won one touch, not one competition, but one touch. This is worth making us devoted to our sport and maintaining love towards fencing if you spend your life, your time and your efforts. This is my first approach to every Delegate, to every Federation's President. We cannot forever continue living like we have lived these past 10 years when we pay for everything, when we pay for everybody, for example, for coming to the Congress. I think everyone should be proud of the opportunity to come and participate at the biggest event of fencers. We help Federations who don't have money for this. And the last comment I have is for the big Federations in Asia, for the big Federations in America, to concentrate their attention on helping the small countries, the poor countries, to preserve those existing schools, which we need to keep as a treasury of our sport. Please, we need to join our efforts together and win. Good luck! Allez!

Thank you very much. Members of COMEX, please, if possible, stay inside. Others –, please feel free to go to your rooms and rest, and at 8 o'clock we are waiting for you at the Gala dinner, which the Russian Federation has arranged for us, it's 100 meters in hotel Four Seasons. Thank you very much to everybody.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** We will meet at 7:15pm at the lobby to leave for the Four Seasons hotel, and please leave your voting devices on the tables. Thank you very much.

**Alisher Usmanov:** My friends, again, I forgot to mention the second good news, which is very important for the sportsmen – the first good news was Torun and the second one is that our big friend and the Vice President of our Federation, I hope he will stay in this position in the future, the member of the COMEX Wei Wang has arranged a meeting for me today with a Chinese company, which wants to partner with the FIE to arrange the first Masters tournament for the best 10 or 16 athletes, these hasn't been decided yet, in China with the prize fund of 1 million dollars.

*Applause.*

If you remember, four years ago, I have said, that one day would come that we would be able to put our sport back on the screens of the televisions and on every single gadget. And here is that day when people came to us and proposed 1 million dollars to see our best athletes on the podium. Right now, I haven't said 100% yes to them, because we need to find a good place in our calendar to arrange these competitions.

The question is whether we should do it before the World Championships or after the World Championships. I suppose after. This is the question. I will wait for your proposals. I think if we do this starting first for three years in China, the first year we can only organize the individual events and later both on an individual and team levels – six best teams and ten best individuals.

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I think these is big news and we must prepare a good team of sportsmen to perform what I have promised. We can conduct the first experiment next year. Thank you, I have finished.

*Applause.*

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** One last thing before you leave. I would like to thank the translators, who have done a very good job for us. They were excellent. Thank you very much.

*Applause.*

**Alisher Usmanov:** Thank you very much. You were at your best. We have some gifts for you.

**Nathalie Rodriguez:** I would also like to thank the FIE staff for the great work that they have done. Thank you very much.

*Applause*

**Alisher Usmanov:** I would like to inform everyone that as long as I am in this capacity and have this authority, I would like to ask Nathalie to stay in her position as the Chief Executive of our Federation in the future.

*Applause.*

# ANNEXES