

100th Congress

26TH NOVEMBER 2022
LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

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Attendance

The meeting opened at 10:00 am.

Took place at the tribune:

Mr. Emmanuel KATSIADAKIS (MH, GRE)
Mrs. Ferial Nadira SALHI (ALG)
Mrs. Ana Irene DELGADO GUERRA (PAN)
Mr. Abdelmoneim ELHUSSEINY (EGY)
Mrs. Erika AZE (LAT)
Mrs. Nathalie RODRIGUEZ M.-H.
Mr. Dieter LAMMER

Interim President
Secretary-Treasurer
Vice-President
Vice-President
Vice-President
CEO
Sports and Technical Director

Members of the Executive Committee:

Ms. Velichka HRISTEVA (BUL)
Mr. Novak PEROVIC (RSA)
Mr. Oleg PESKOV (KAZ)
Ms. Rusni ABU HASSAN (MAS)
Mr. Donald ANTHONY JR (USA)
Mr. Paolo AZZI (ITA)
Mr. Yuki OTA (JPN)
Mr. Bruno GARES (FRA)

Presidents of the Confederations:

Mr. Giorgio SCARSO (ITA)
Mrs. Helen SMITH (MH, AUS)
HH. Engr. Sheikh Salem Sultan S. AL QASIMI (UAE)
Mr. Mbagnick NDIAYE (SEN)
Mr. Vitaly LOGVIN (MEX)
Mr. Ruben LIMARDO (VEN)

President of the European Confederation
President of the Oceanian Confederation
President of the Asian Confederation
President of the African Confederation
President of Pan-American Confederation
President of the Athletes Commission

Absent with apologies:

Mr. Vadym GUTSAIT (UKR)
Mr. Haibin WANG (CHN)

Member of the Executive Committee
Member of the Executive Committee

Members of Honor:

Mrs. Helen SMITH (AUS)
Mr. Peter JACOBS (GBR)
Mr. Emmanuel KATSIADAKIS (GRE)
Mr. Carl BORACK (USA)
Mr Sam CHERIS (USA)

Present or Represented Federations

AFGHANISTAN	Represented by Kazakhstan
ALGERIA	Moussa HAMMACHE
AMERICAN SAMOA	Represented by Australia
ANGOLA	Aida PEREIRA Meven PEREIRA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Ileathea CABRAL
ARGENTINA	Victor Sergio GROUPIERRE
ARMENIA	Armen GRIGORYAN Samvel ABRAHAMYAN
ARUBA	Migalda Marieta JANSEN DE CUBA Ezzedean VROLIJK
AUSTRALIA	Vincent ELIAS
AUSTRIA	Ursula HINTERSEER Peter BRIGOLA
AZERBAIJAN	Vasif MAMMADOV
BAHRAIN	Ebrahim ALKHALIFA
BARBADOS	Ralph YORK
BELARUS	Vitali SOKOLOVSKI Nataliya TSERAKHAVA
BELGIUM	Piet WAUTERS
BELIZE	Represented by Costa Rica
BENIN	Tamegnon Jacques OKOUMASSOUN Charles Ulrich DJOSSA
BOLIVIA	Solange HERRERA CLAROS
BOTSWANA	Represented by Angola
BRAZIL	Mirani FERNANDES Arno PERILLIER SCHNEIDER
BRUNEI	Represented by Mongolia
BULGARIA	Velichka HRISTEVA
BURKINA FASO	Represented by Mali
CAMBODIA	Chhay DUONG
CAMEROON	Marcel AMOUGOU Marie Gabrielle Elodie NKODO ETENDE
CANADA	Ping (Michelle) WANG Yann BERNARD Lisa HUZEL Jessica Zi Jia GUO
CAPE VERDE	Maria RAMOS SILVA
CHILE	Maria EBERL
CHINA	Represented by Kyrgyzstan
COLOMBIA	Afranio Luis RESTREPO VILLAROEEL
COSTA RICA	Luis Alberto CRUZ MELENDEZ

CROATIA	Antonio TRCIN Irena SULJIC
CUBA	Alhajadis Ricardo BANDERA MIRANDA
CZECH REPUBLIC	Jirí BERAN Vilem MADR
CYPRUS	Antonis FOURNARIS Constantinos TALLOTIS
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO	Pitchou BOLENGE YOMA
DENMARK	Jan SYLVEST JENSEN
DOMINICA	Cody MORRIS
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Luis Bernardo CIPRIAN SARO
ECUADOR	Lorena ARROYO Carlos ECHEVERRIA CORDOBA
EGYPT	Abdelmoneim Elhamy ELHUSSEINY
EL SALVADOR	Melissa Elizabeth ALVARENGA RAMIREZ Juan Jose Roberto GÓMEZ
ESTONIA	Aivar PAALBERG
FINLAND	Joonas LYYTINEN
FRANCE	Sylvie LE MAUX Jean Marc GUENET Laura FLESSEL COLOVIC Yannick BOREL Benoit PINCEMAILLE Julien RICHET COOPER
GEORGIA	Represented by Armenia
GHANA	Mohammed MAHADI
GERMANY	Claudia BOKEL Alexander BÖHM Reka SZABO
GREECE	Ioannis LIGNOS
GREAT BRITAIN	Hilary PHILBIN Patricia AIYENURO Janet HUGGINS Georgina USHER Peter JACOBS (MH)
GUAM	Represented by Great Britain
GUATEMALA	Otto Rene VALLADARES BALDERRAMOS
GUINEA	Represented by Senegal
GUYANA	Avinash SOMIR
HAITI	Dukerns Louis JOSEPH
HONDURAS	Marco Antonio IZAGUIRRE RODRIGUEZ
HONG KONG, CHINA	Kyle CHAN
HUNGARY	Zsolt CSAMPA Henriette Brigitte TAMAS
ICELAND	Nikolay Ivanov MATEEV

INDONESIA	Reni HAMZULIDA
INDIA	Satej Dnyandeo PATIL
IRAN	Alireza POURSALEMANI
IRAQ	Zeyad SALEEM Atheer IDEN
IRELAND	Ursula KAPPUS Nuala MCGARRITY
ISRAEL	Gregory GROSS Alexander IVANOV
ITALY	Giuseppe CAFIERO Giandomenico VARALLO Alberto ANCARANI Maurizio RANDAZZO
IVORY COAST	Zadi Theodore GOGOUA
JAMAICA	James MCBEAN Kevin JACKSON
JAPAN	Shunsuke SAKA Yusuke AOKI
JORDAN	Khaled ATIYAT Naim DAHBOUR
KAZAKHSTAN	Mirbulat ABUOV
KENYA	Alexandra MALIKA Fred KAMAU
KYRGYZSTAN	Osmonzhan KASYMOV Bermet ALYBAKOVA Nigora KARIMOVA
KOREA	Kiyoung KWON Jong Hyung CHO
KUWAIT	Rashed ALSHAMALI
LATVIA	Baiba BRANDULE
LEBANON	Georges ZEIDAN Jihad SALAMEH
LIBYA	Dhw TOUMI
LITHUANIA	Vytautas POLUJANSKAS
LUXEMBOURG	Pascal TESCH
NORTH MACEDONIA	Zoran STOJANOVIC Biljana KUZMANOVSKA NIKOLOVSKA
MADAGASCAR	Harinelina Mickael RAKOTONDRAMANANA
MALAYSIA	Rusni ABU HASSAN
MALI	Wahabou ZOROME
MAURITANIA	Represented by Morocco
MAURITIUS	Jennifer ISRAM Veena GUNPUT
MEXICO	Jorge CASTRO Ana Elizabeth GONZALEZ

MOLDOVA	Olga COJOCARI
MONGOLIA	Ganbaatar DORJSUREN
MOROCCO	Youssef FATHI Adil CHAIB
MYANMAR	Kyaw Moe NAING
NAMIBIA	Dillon KOTZÉ
NEPAL	Sunil Kumar SHRESTHA
NETHERLANDS	Leon PIJNAPPEL Etienne VAN CANN
NEW ZEALAND	David ELDER
NICARAGUA	William CALDERON
NIGER	Halilou SANI
NIGERIA	Adeyinka SAMUEL
NORWAY	Bjørn FAYE
OMAN	Samira ALSHUKAILI Rumaitha AL BUSAIDI
PAKISTAN	Usman AHMED
PALESTINE	Dawoud MITWALI
PANAMA	Jorge VALDES
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Represented by New Zealand
PARAGUAY	Guido Manuel INSFRAN MAYANS
PERU	Represented by Paraguay
PHILIPPINES	Maria Cristina BATE Leah GONZALEZ
POLAND	Tadeusz TOMASZEWSKI Jacek SLUPSKI Jacek BIERKOWSKI
PORTUGAL	Frederico VALARINHO Clausó NEVES
PUERTO RICO	Juan Carlos RAMIREZ CONCEPCION Hipolito Antonio VAZQUEZ CORIANO
QATAR	Fahad AL-MULLA Abdulla AL-MAADEED
ROMANIA	Marius Cristian BARLADEANU Anca Ioana Ileana IONESCU Roxana BARLADEANU Marius FLOREA
RUSSIA	Ilgar MAMEDOV Mariia SERENKO
RWANDA	Represented by Niger
SAMOA	Represented by Canada
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA	Ahmed ALSABBAN Abdullah ALSUNAID
SENEGAL	Mamadou SY Oumar MAIGA

SERBIA	Dejan RUSKI Vukasin STOSIC
SINGAPORE	Represented by Hong Kong, China
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Represented by Czech Republic
SLOVENIA	Rok PONIKVAR
SOUTH AFRICA	Louise LOMBARD Michael STAFFORD
SPAIN	Jose Luis ABAJO GOMEZ Jose Luis ALVAREZ GIL DE TEJADA Antonio GARCIA HERNANDEZ
SRI LANKA	Ajith SIYAMBALAPITIYA Percy FONSEKA
SWITZERLAND	Olivier CARRARD Janine LAMON Christian BAROZZI Lars Henrik FRAUCHIGER
SWEDEN	Otto DRAKENBERG Ana VALERO-COLLANTES
SYRIA	Ahmad ALREFAAI Hussain SHAKER
CHINESE TAIPEI	Kovacs LIN
TAJIKISTAN	Turai ABDURAKHMOM
TURKMENISTAN	Represented by Uzbekistan
THAILAND	Chanchai YOSSUNDARA Arnon KLUENSUWAN
TOGO	Represented by Ghana
TUNISIA	Ziad FERIANI Salah FERJANI Mohamed Sofiane CHAOUACHI
TÜRKIYE	Murat ATALI Mehmet Onursal CIN
UGANDA	Represented by Kenya
UKRAINE	Olga KHARLAN Sergii MISHCHENKO Nataliia CONRAD
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	Mousa ALBLOOSHI
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Samuel David CHERIS (MH) Rita COMES Carl BORACK (MH) Jennifer YAMIN
URUGUAY	Luis FILARDI
UZBEKISTAN	Gulnora SAIDOVA
VENEZUELA	Francisco Rafael MARÍN ALVAREZ
VIETNAM	Le Quang PHUNG
VIRGIN ISLANDS	Represented by Uruguay
YEMEN	Mohammed AL-SALEHI

Agenda

- 1.** Validation of attendance and proxies
- 2.** Addresses
- 3.** Ratification of the new federations
- 4.** Ratification of the Executive Committee's decisions regarding the appointment of the Interim President
- 5.** 2021 Annual Report of the Executive Committee
- 6.** 2021 Financial report, auditors' report, approval of the accounts, discharge to the Executive Committee and to the auditors
- 7.** 2023 Budget
- 8.** Appointment of the auditors
- 9.** Vote to award the organisation of the World Championships:
 - 2024 Juniors/Cadets, candidature of KSA
- 10.** Call for candidatures to organise the World Championships:
 - Juniors/Cadets 2025, 2026
 - Seniors 2025, 2026
 - Veterans 2025, 2026
- 11.** Proposals submitted to Congress, reports from the Commissions, Councils and Ethics Committee. Urgent decisions regarding the Rules. Progress reports from working groups
- 12.** Decisions regarding athletes and officials from Russia and Belarus
- 13.** Nominations of Members of Honour
- 14.** 2022 Fair-Play Trophy
- 15.** Winners of the 2022 FIE official rankings and Nations Cups
- 16.** Any other business

1. Validation of attendance and proxies

Nathalie Rodriguez: Good morning, everyone. Please take your seats. We are going to start the Congress. We are going to start with the Validation of attendance and proxies. When I call your federation, please raise your hand, and a voting device will be given to you. After the attendance, we will move to the proxies.

Algeria	Germany	Nicaragua
Angola	Ghana	Netherlands
Antigua and Barbuda	Greece	Nepal
Argentina	Guatemala	Nigeria
Armenia	Guyana	Niger
Aruba	Haiti	Norway
Australia	Hong Kong, China	New Zealand
Austria	Honduras	Oman
Azerbaijan	Hungary	Pakistan
Bahamas - Bahamas is not here.	Indonesia	Panama
Barbados	India	Paraguay
Belgium	Iran	Philippines
Benin	Ireland	Palestine
Belarus	Iraq	Poland
Bolivia	Iceland	Portugal
Brazil	Israel	Puerto Rico
Canada	Italy	Qatar
Bahrain	Jamaica	South Africa
Bulgaria	Jordan	Romania
Cambodia	Japan	Russia
Congo - Congo is not here.	Kazakhstan	Senegal
Chile	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Ivory Coast	Kyrgyzstan	- Sierra Leone is not here.
Cameroon	Korea	Serbia
Colombia	Saudi Arabia	Slovenia
Democratic Republic of Congo	Kuwait	Switzerland
Cape Verde	Latvia	Sweden
Costa Rica	Libya	Syria
Croatia	Lebanon	Thailand
Cuba	Lithuania	Tajikistan
Cyprus	Luxembourg	Chinese Taipei
Denmark	Madagascar	Tunisia
Czech Republic	Morocco	Türkiye
Dominica	Malaysia	United Arab Emirates
Dominican Republic	Moldova	Ukraine
Spain	Mexico	Uruguay
Egypt	Mongolia	USA
Estonia	North Macedonia	Uzbekistan
El Salvador	Mali	Venezuela
Finland	Mauritius	Vietnam
France	Myanmar	Yemen
Great Britain	Namibia	

Is there any Federation that I did not call? Sorry, which country? Ecuador.

Any other Federation? Yes? Sorry? China is not here and has given a proxy. We will move to the proxies after I have finished with the federations present. So, is there any Federation that is present that I should have called?

Nathalie Rodriguez: I will now move to the proxies.

- Afghanistan has given a proxy to Kazakhstan. Does Kazakhstan accept? Yes.
- American Samoa has given a proxy to Australia. Does Australia accept? Thank you.
- Belize has given a proxy to Costa Rica. Does Costa Rica accept? Here.
- Botswana has given a proxy to Angola. Does Angola accept?
- Brunei Darussalam has given a proxy to Mongolia. Does Mongolia accept? Yes, there.
- Burkina Faso has given a proxy to Mali. Does Mali accept? Yes.
- China has given a proxy to Kyrgyzstan. Does Kyrgyzstan accept?
- Georgia has given a proxy to Armenia. Does Armenia accept?
- Guinea has given a proxy to Senegal. Does Senegal accept? Senegal, where is Senegal? Yes.
- Guam has given a proxy to Great Britain. Does Great Britain accept?
- Virgin Islands has given a proxy to Uruguay. Does Uruguay accept? Yes.
- Mauritania has given a proxy to Morocco. Does Morocco accept? Where is Morocco? Yes.
- Peru has given a proxy to Paraguay. Does Paraguay accept?
- Papua New Guinea has given a proxy to New Zealand. Does New Zealand accept? Yes.
- Rwanda has given a proxy to Niger. Does Niger accept? Where is Niger?
- Samoa has given a proxy to Canada. Does Canada accept?
- Singapore has given a proxy to Hong Kong. Does Hong Kong accept? Hong Kong? Yes.
- Sri Lanka has given a proxy to Nepal. Does Nepal accept? Yes.
- Slovakia has given a proxy to the Czech Republic. Does the Czech Republic accept? Thank you.
- Turkmenistan has given a proxy to Uzbekistan. Does Uzbekistan accept? Thank you.
- Togo has given a proxy to Ghana. Does Ghana accept? Where is Ghana?
- Uganda has given a proxy to Kenya. Does Kenya accept? Accepted.

So, we have one hundred twenty-three Federations present and twenty-two represented, totaling one hundred forty-five.

2. Addresses

Nathalie Rodriguez: We now move to the second item of the agenda, The Addresses to the Congress, and I invite the President of the Swiss Federation to come to the tribune.

Lars Frauchiger (SUI): Dear Mr President, Dear members of the Executive Committee, Commissions and Councils, Dear delegates, fencing family, FIE personnel, Dear friends, It is a pleasure to meet here in Lausanne for an Annual Congress. I wish to welcome all of you here in Switzerland.

It is a great honour for me to address Congress again. Last year we were still struggling with a lot of Covid issues. The competitions had just resumed at the international level. A lot of efforts had been made in terms of security and measures against Covid. The organisers of the competitions had a great responsibility. For the athletes and the delegations, it was not always easy. But we stood together, and fencing became possible again at the international level. On top of that, we all had to work for the number of fencers in our Federations to rise again. We had to fight against the problem of losing the number of fencers who no longer came to training. We had to do everything to bring them back. We had to fight for our members. It took us a lot of work, and I think we all succeeded. For this, I am also proud of our fencing family.

Today, Covid is still present. We see it right here, but we face other, maybe bigger problems. We suffer from the energy crisis, inflation, and war – problems we did not see coming one year ago. We also do not know how this will develop in the future. But nevertheless, our sport, sport in general, still exists. We love our sport, and we want to be joyful. We want to be able to meet, to train, to compete. But can we close our eyes to the world around us? This Congress will discuss this matter later. I sincerely hope for the right decision.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the office of the FIE for organizing this Congress one more time. Dear Madame Rodriguez, dear Nathalie! Many thanks to you and your team for this effort and big work. And thank you for the work for the FIE and our sport in general. I know the last years were not easy at all. Your team and you did an amazing job.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you very much.

Lars Frauchiger (SUI): I wish you, I wish us a good Congress. Let's work for our sport. Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The floor is to the Interim President.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Dear Friends and Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, On behalf of the International Fencing Federation, I welcome you all in Lausanne for the 2022 Congress.

This Congress is an historical Congress because it is the 100th Congress in the history of the International Fencing Federation.

Applause.

It is such a great pleasure to be with you again, in person, and to enjoy this gathering of people from all parts of the world. Our agenda is very heavy today and contains various very important items.

So my speech will be short because we have a lot of work. I am certain that our Congress will conduct its work on that basis and will do its best to ensure the smooth continuation of the FIE and our sport, leading to its further development in the future. I understand that the FIE constitutes a global family made up of many different cultures, points of view, of course, and backgrounds. But above all, a family, we are a family. Always say this because we need it. And it is this diversity that creates our strength. It comes from an understanding of combining each other's best qualities and collaborating with each other, always in the spirit of solidarity, respect, and unity.

Standing united will allow us to face any obstacle and move forward, always protecting the interest of our Federation and our sport, of course.

I am convinced of the strong foundation on which our fencing community is based and confident that fencing will reach new heights in the future. I wish us a very successful Congress. Thank you very much.

Applause.

3. Ratification of the New Federations

Nathalie Rodriguez: We move to the next item, which is the Ratification of the New Federations. We will skip this point because though we received some applications this year, they are still in process. So, we have no new Federations to ratify.

Just a reminder, the voting will be done electronically, and you have received on your table the explanation on the voting device, which you know perfectly by now.

The Congress participants who want to speak must announce their Federation and name and then come to the microphones installed in each alley.

The Commission of Honours, which is made of all the Members of Honour present at the Congress will meet just after the photo of the Congress during the lunch break.

4. Ratification of the Executive Committee's decisions regarding the appointment of the Interim President

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is the Ratification of the Executive Committee's Decisions Regarding the Appointment of the Interim President. You all have received the urgent letter regarding this item, and if you do not have any questions, we are going... Yes?

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Good morning, everyone. Good morning, Mr. President, and Fellow Fencers and Friends of Fencing. On this point, I would like to ask, as the President of the Swedish Fencing Federation, why, since the self-suspension of Mr. Usmanov was enforced earlier this year, why has there not been an appointment of a new Secretary-General knowing, that our current President, Mr. Katsiadakis or Interim President, if you will, has then stepped down from the position as Secretary-General and assumed the Interim Presidency? We are currently missing a Secretary-General. Why has there not been an appointment for such a position?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Because the Interim President also assumes the role of Secretary-General.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Assuming you would answer that, and interpreting the Statutes of the FIE, we in Sweden interpret them in a way that we cannot have two Presidents at one time. There is no part of the Statutes of the FIE that enables someone to self-suspend oneself. Therefore, according to us, we only have one President now, and the President now of the FIE is Mr. Katsiadakis, who started off as Secretary-General and then took over as President when President Usmanov took his self-suspension, and therefore, we are missing a Secretary-General at the moment.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Not exactly.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): That is exactly how we interpret it. I would be very surprised if all of you would agree with me because you have never agreed with me. But that is how we interpret the Statutes, and we are allowed to make interpretations, Madam.

Nathalie Rodriguez: I sometimes agree with you, not always, I agree.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): No, I was not referring to you, Madam, to the audience.

Nathalie Rodriguez: No, but there is a gap in the FIE Statutes on that issue, and an interpretation is not a clear text. We do not have it, Congress and the FIE did not plan for that situation. So we can interpret it, that's clear. What we are asking now is the Congress to ratify the decision of the Executive Committee, which was sent to all Federations at the beginning of March.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): And then my reply to that is that the Swedish Federation is absolutely against that, and we think that Mr. Katsiadakis should be appointed the real President, if you will, not Interim, until the next presidential elections in 2024, and swiftly a new Secretary-General should be appointed.

Nathalie Rodriguez: This is, again, an interpretation because Alisher Usmanov has been elected by the Congress; he self-suspended himself. And the Executive Committee made the decision to appoint the Secretary-General of the FIE as Interim President.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): We believe that is against the Statutes. And we also know that from the past when similar situations have occurred in the Executive Committee, for instance, a number of years ago when there was a change in political leadership in China, at the same time, there was an Executive Committee member from China who then suddenly could not travel and meet up in the Executive Committee meetings for a repeated or prolonged period of time, then that person was removed from the Executive Committee because of no show, and currently, we can conclude that the former President, Mr. Usmanov, is not showing up at the meetings, and therefore, cannot be the President of the Executive Committee and the FIE.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Not exactly. It is true that in the past, one Chinese member of the Executive Committee was absent. The Statutes say that in case of absence after two years, two years, then that person is considered as having resigned. And this is why, at that moment, the next member non-elected of the Executive Committee came into the Executive Committee. It was after two years, and this is what the Statutes say, two years.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Then we can agree on that part of the Statutes. That at least leaves me with the problem that there is no definition that there is no such thing as self-suspension with the right to come back. And that is why Mr. Katsiadakis must be appointed President of the FIE until the next elections.

Nathalie Rodriguez: I think it is up to Congress to decide if they want to ratify the decision of the Executive Committee or not.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Absolutely. So now I have made my voice heard. It is all being recorded. And I can just encourage all of you; I remember a year ago I was here talking about Olympic qualifications, it is not the topic I will mention now, again. But I was speaking in extreme silence. You could hear needles fall. I just remind you that in a few years, things might be different in the world, and things might be different in the FIE. This is always good to think ahead on which side you want to end up with. So, there with those words, I do not rest my case, but I will stand down. Okay, thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: I would like to remind you of the decision of the Executive Committee, which you received on March 2nd. "The Executive Committee accepted and ratified the decision of Mr. Alisher Usmanov to suspend the exercise of his duties as President of the FIE. Pursuant to the FIE Statutes, the Executive Committee unanimously appointed the Secretary-General of the FIE, Mr. Emmanuel Katsiadakis, as Interim President. Mr. Emmanuel Katsiadakis has accepted and will therefore assume all the duties provided for in the FIE Statutes and Rules." We are going to open the vote. If you agree with the decision of the Executive Committee, you will vote yes. If you disagree, you will vote no.

The vote will open.

[Exclamations in the audience]

Please open the vote.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The vote is open. I can confirm.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis: Nathalie, can you confirm?

Nathalie Rodriguez: It is working. I can confirm. If you have two voting devices, you vote with both because you have a proxy.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Just a second. We stop the vote. We are going to make a test to make sure that all is working. So, we are going to make a test and check that you don't have any problem. So, the test vote is open. Is everything working? Do you have any problem with the voting device? Nobody has any problem? So, we close the vote, and we will see the results. It is interesting that for a test vote, we have 17 no.

(Laughter)

Okay. So, it looks like it works. And some people didn't want to vote, which was fine for a test. So now we will return to the real vote, and you have to vote this time.

We open the vote on item 4. If you agree with the decision of the Executive Committee, you vote yes; if you do not agree, you vote no.

I wish to remind you that the decisions of the Congress are reached by a simple majority vote cast. And that the total number of votes cast must be at least equal to the majority of all the Federations present or represented at the Congress.

The vote is closed. Item 4 is ratified. I think we can congratulate Emmanuel Katsiadakis.

Applause.

5. 2021 Annual Report of the Executive Committee

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is the 2021 Annual Report of the Executive Committee, which you all have received, and the floor is to Mr. Katsiadakis.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): During this year, we lost a few people from our fencing family. I would like to ask you to stand up for a few minutes, for a few moments, in memory of these friends who passed away.

(Movie and minute of silence)

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Thank you very much.

Nathalie Rodriguez: You have already received the Annual Report of The Executive Committee, and if you do not have any questions, we will open the vote on the Annual Report 2021.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The Annual Report 2021 is approved.

6. 2021 Financial report, auditors' report, approval of the accounts, discharge of the Executive Committee and of the auditors.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is the 2021 Financial report, the auditors' report, the approval of the accounts, and the discharge to the Executive Committee and to the auditors, and the floor is to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Ferial Salhi (ALG): Good morning everyone. What should be noted about 2021 is that we came out positive because we had a revenue surplus. Our receipts were 20,753,629 CHF, and expenses were 8,123,611 CHF. We also ended up with a capital of 37,018,011 Swiss francs.

There is an error in the transcription and translation into English, as there was actually a profit of 12 million. Do you have any questions to ask?

Nathalie Rodriguez: If you do not have any questions, we are going to open the vote on this item.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

Item 6 is approved.

7. 2023 Budget

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item is the Budget for 2023, and the floor is to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Ferial Salhi (ALG): For 2023, we had to reduce the budget because we no longer have the same resources. So, it is a budget that is reduced, but essentially on the CMTV part and the part of the employees, because the employees who left the International Federation have been replaced by service providers. These are the major changes. Do you have any questions?

Nathalie Rodriguez: If you do not have any questions... yes. You should maybe keep the microphone, Mr. Drakenberg.

(Laughter)

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Budget 2023, background information. We have over the past years in FIE, we have run an expense budget in a non-Olympic year of about 10 million Swiss francs while receiving annual donations of a single individual of about 5 million Swiss francs. The FIE appears to have reserves of around 20 million Swiss francs. The benefactor is Mr. Usmanov, whose status in the FIE is unclear, at least to me. He has suspended himself from exercising his duties as President of the FIE and has been subject to severe restrictions and sanctions issued by at least ten nations in the free world since February 2022. He is now being investigated by countries prosecutors' offices in various countries for tax evasion and money laundering. This puts the FIE in dire financial straits if all funds are associated with Mr. Usmanov and are frozen.

I have a couple of questions that I would like answers on, and if I cannot get those answers today, I will return and request those answers. These questions are addressed to the Treasurer of the FIE, and I ask that they be recorded in the minutes of the Congress. And as I said, if any of the information is not readily available today, which I, of course, have respect for, I ask that the Treasurer submit the requested information in writing no later than ten calendar days after the closing of today's FIE Congress.

First, question - As of today, November 2022, how many bank accounts and how much does the FIE have, and in which bank and country are they located? And who are the signatories on the accounts?

Question #2 - Who has control and discretion in the use of these funds?

Question #3 - Are reserve funds part of Mr. Usmanov's frozen assets, and if so, how far back do restrictions on these funds apply?

Question #4 - There is no doubt that as of March 2022, sanctions are in place that cannot be circumvented until the sanctions against Mr. Usmanov are lifted. What measures has the FIE Executive Committee proposed or adopted to deal with the sudden freezing of these funds and a possible international investigation for tax evasion and money laundering led by the German Federal Prosecutor's Office?

Question #5 - What about the fiscal and financial responsibility of an association that depends almost exclusively on the generosity of a single individual?

Question #6 - What are the immediate plans to face the cash flow crisis in the medium term and long term?

Question #7 - What is the role of Mr. Usmanov and his associates in the FIE? Is it acceptable to maintain indirect links of FIE Management with one or more persons subject to international sanctions, and especially if in a state of self-suspension?

Question #8 - This is the final question. Right now, the most urgent issue is to establish where the reserves are. Who controls them for the distribution? What about funds already dispersed from such accounts after March 2022?

Do you want me to repeat any of the eight questions?

Nathalie Rodriguez: No, as you did not send us your questions in advance, we will have to gather the information and provide it at a later stage. But I can already provide you with some information.

The FIE currently has three banks: one in Switzerland, one in Africa, in Egypt, one in Asia, in the United Arab Emirates. And we are possibly searching for a bank for the Pan American continent, this to avoid the rising bank charges and taxes when we are making payments.

The amounts that are in the FIE bank accounts are currently 30 million Swiss francs. This money is actually the reserve that the FIE constituted with the subsidies we had received from the International Olympic Committee: 15.1 million after the Olympic Games in Tokyo and 15.1 million from the Rio Olympic Games. This money belongs to the FIE completely.

The persons who, according to the Statutes can handle these assets are the Interim President, the Secretary-Treasurer, and I am authorized to make payments for the daily expenses.

These are the main answers that we can provide so far. None of our assets belong to anyone else than the FIE, and none of our assets are frozen.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Thank you, Madam.

Nathalie Rodriguez: You are welcome.

Applause.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Will you commit to providing the answers within ten days, or what do you think is a reasonable time for coming back to Congress?

Nathalie Rodriguez: We will do it as quickly as possible, as usual.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): With that, I say thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: You are welcome. So, if you have no more questions on the budget, we are opening the vote.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The budget is approved.

8. Appointment of auditors

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item, item 8, is the nomination, the Appointment of the auditors, and we propose to renew Ernst and Young, which for years have audited our accounts.

We open the vote on item 8.

The vote is closed.

Ernst and Young are re-conducted for another year.

9. Vote to award the World Championships

2024 Juniors/Cadets, candidature of KSA

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item is the Vote to award the World Championships. So, this year we have the candidature of the Federation of Saudi Arabia for the Junior and Cadet World Championships 2024, and I invite the Federation to come to the tribune to make a presentation on its candidature.

I would also like to precise that the Executive Committee has received a letter from the Federation mentioning and they have the full support of the government on their candidature, that all participants will be granted a visa and a lot of them will even receive an e-visa on arrival. And that all Federations, male and female, will be able to participate. So, the floor is to the Federation.

Abdullah AlSunaid (KSA): Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. President, Dear FIE members, It is a great pleasure and honour to be with you here today.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FIE for giving us, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the opportunity to represent our capital city Riyadh as a candidate city to host the Cadet and Junior World Championships. Words cannot describe what you might expect if Saudi Arabia could host this prestigious and important event. Therefore, may I present this video, which I hope will catch the essence of what you might expect from our nation.

*[Video presentation]
Applause.*

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are conscious that article 10.4.1 of the Statutes mentions that the Junior and Cadet World Championships should be held during the first two weeks of April. However, due to a month-long worldwide and national celebration ending just after the first week of April, we will be able to start the competition on Friday, the 12th of April, through Saturday, the 20th of April. As a result of these days, we are kindly requesting approval from Congress on our proposed calendar, changing from the 12th to the 20th of April 2024. I will leave the microphone now to Mr. President of the Saudi Fencing Federation, Mr. Ahmed AlSabban. Thank you.

Applause.

Ahmed AlSabban (KSA): Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. President and Dear fellow FIE members, It is a great pleasure to be with you tonight, representing my country Saudi Arabia.

I would like to thank you for giving us this amazing opportunity. I look forward to seeing you in Saudi Arabia in 2024 and experience the beauty of this yourself. Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: We are going to open the vote on this item, even if we have only one candid... Sorry, yes. Shall I install a microphone at your table?

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): I need to talk about this point before the Congress goes to vote, and the severity of what I am saying forces me to take the podium again, although it feels very much now as a one-man show, but I do not take that blame on myself.

So after recent events inside and outside of fencing, the FIE needs to take care and not to further damage the image of fencing in the world. Saudi Arabia is a country at war. Furthermore, the country has a poor reputation when it comes to human rights. The international organization...

[Exclamations in the audience]

the international organization, Human Rights Watch, is explicit, and I quote. "Saudi Arabia spends billions of dollars hosting major entertainment, cultural and sporting events as a deliberate strategy to deflect from the country's image as a pervasive human rights violator."

In the presentation of the Federation of Saudi Arabia, there was no mention of the critical human rights questions that needs an answer. For example, how welcome will LGBTQ fencers be? What restrictions...

[Exclamations, noise in the audience]

What rest ...?

[Exclamations, noise in the audience]

My plane leaves tomorrow afternoon, so if you want to continue to be undemocratic, take your time.

Someone in the audience: Excuse me, excuse me. ...to send to your place.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): What restric...?

[Exclamations, noise in the audience]

Someone in the audience: Excuse me. We want to stop. Excuse me, please stop.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): What restrictions will be ap...? What restrictions will be applied for female participants? How will the security situation be during the course of the Championships, in view of the fact that the country is at war?

Abdelmoneim Elhamy ElHusseiny (EGY): Excuse me, excuse me, now we are here to speak on the sport. Nothing to do with what you are going to say now. Please stop it immediately.

Applause.

Someone in the audience: Yes.

Applause.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): We ...

Abdelmoneim Elhamy ElHusseiny (EGY): Mr. President, please...

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): The Swe...

Abdelmoneim Elhamy ElHusseiny (EGY): You should stop immediately.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): No. You should know who you are talking to Mr. Elhamy, then you would not say that to me because I will never refrain from speaking my word in a democratic world.

[Exclamations, noise in the audience]

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): We, in the Swedish Federation...

[Exclamations, noise in the audience]

Abdelmoneim Elhamy ElHusseiny (EGY): Mr. President...

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): We urge the Congress not to take a decision before the questions I just raised are answered. Therefore, the Swedish Federation suggests that the decision on this proposal is transferred by the Congress to the Executive Comex, which should be responsible for taking an informed decision or finding a replacement for the organiser of these Championships.

Upon taking the decision, the Comex must communicate to all member Federations its assessment of the risks that participating LGBTQ fencers or female fencers will be subject to emotional suffering due to the legislation of the country where the Championships are held and the risks and threats to the brand of fencing that the choice of organizing Federation will cause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, to answer Mr. Drakenberg. Visas will be provided to all participants from all Federations, male and female. We have that letter.

If the Congress wants to award the World Championships to the Federation, the member Federation of Saudi Arabia, you will vote yes. If you do not want to do it, you will vote no.

Applause.

We open the vote.

The vote is closed.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The 2024 Junior and Cadet World Championships are awarded to the Federation of Saudi Arabia.

Applause.

10. Call for candidatures for the organisation of the World Championships:

- **Juniors/Cadets 2025, 2026**
- **Seniors 2025, 2026**
- **Veterans 2025, 2026**

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item is the Call for candidatures for the organization of the World Championships 2025 and 2026 for the Junior and Cadets, the Seniors, and the Veterans. Is there any Federation which would be interested by a candidature for these events.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Sweden?

(Laughter) Applause.

Aivar Paalberg (EST): Hello. The Estonian Fencing Federation would like to organise the Junior and Cadet World Championship in 2025.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Estonia, 2025. Thank you, we will send you the candidature form for this, but you have time.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes.

Kyle Chan (HKG): Hi. Hong Kong would like to organise the 2026 World Championship for Seniors.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: You still have time. Yes?

Mohamed Soufiane Chaouchi (TUN): The Tunisian Fencing Federation would like to organise the 2026 World Championship for the Veterans in the Island of Djerba.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Any other announcements? You still have time to do it until the end of the Congress and also in the coming days. Thank you. Yes.

Arno Perillier Schneider (BRA): Brazil wants to propose for 2026, using the legacy from the Games.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Which one, Junior, Senior, or Veterans?

Arno Perillier Schneider (BRA): Junior and Cadets.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you.

Jorge Castro (MEX): Mexico would like to propose its candidature to organise the 2025 World Championship for the Junior and Cadets in Cancun.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Excellent. I suggest now having a few minutes for the coffee break.

(Coffee Break)

11. Proposals submitted to Congress, reports from the Commissions, Councils, and Ethics Committee. Urgent decisions regarding the Rules. Progress reports from working groups

Nathalie Rodriguez: Please take your seats; we are going to resume the meeting. Can you please take your seats? We are moving to the next item of the agenda, which is Proposals submitted to Congress, reports of the Commissions, Councils, and Ethics Committee, and urgent decisions regarding the Rules. I would like to remind you that you have a voting device, and you must use it and vote.

Nathalie Rodriguez: We are starting with the modifications to the Statutes.

Proposal #1 from the Legal Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission; if you have no comments, then we can move to the vote.

The vote is open.

Please remember that for the Statutes, two-thirds of the votes are needed for the proposal to pass. The number of the Proposal is #1, as written on the screen, article 1.2.7.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #2 from the Legal Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal. We are opening the vote on Proposal #2.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #3 from Sweden.

The Legal Commission was against, and the Executive Committee was not in favour of the proposal. Sweden is asking for the floor.

Ana Valero-Collantes (SWE): The aim of this proposal is to have a clarification for the Statutes article that we already have. This is the aim of this proposal, and we think because it is not regulated the process of expulsion or suspension in the article, so this is a proposal. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, as I said, the Legal Commission was against the proposal, and the Executive Committee was not in favour of the proposal. We open the vote on this proposal. So, if you agree with the proposal, you vote yes. If you disagree with the proposal, you vote no.

The vote is closed.

The proposal did not pass.

Proposal #4 from the Legal Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal, and we are going to open the vote on this proposal.

The vote is open.
The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #5 from the Legal Commission. The Legal Commission proposed that we think again about this proposal to make Congress manageable, and it suggested delaying this proposal until 2023. The Executive Committee agreed with the Legal Commission and would like to postpone this proposal to the next year in order to discuss how Congress could be managed. So, we will have to wait to vote on this proposal. We will move directly to Proposal #6.

Proposal #6 from the Legal Commission, and the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.
We move to the vote, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #7 from the Legal Commission, which has revised its proposal, and the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission.
We open the vote on this proposal. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #8 from Sweden. There were various comments on this proposal, and the Executive Committee was not in favour of the proposal. So, we are... yes, Sweden.

Ana Valero-Collantes (SWE): Thank you very much for the opportunity. In sports organizations, term limits are increasingly used at the national and international levels today. Why is it not valid for the FIE? The IOC has 12 years of term limits. Several International Sports Federations have introduced term limits, among them important players like FIFA, International Athletics, International Tennis Federation, International Cycling Union, and International Ice Hockey Federation. The use of term limits is highly recommended by organizations in modern sports' good governance like IPACS and organisations like Play the Games and numerous others.

Both Associations of Summer and Winter Olympic International Federations have recommended that all Olympic International Federations should introduce term limits for their Presidents or other key positions. It promotes better governance and avoids monopoly of power around a few individuals. The perceptions and problems with the comments from all the Commissions having an opinion can be perceived as a conflict of interest for some individuals. Therefore, it is up to the Congress today to decide how to implement this decision for the reason we suggest. Our suggestion is to start counting the time limit from the 2024 elections. Thank you very much.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. So, the Legal Commission, the Ethics Committee, and the Executive Committee were not in favour of this proposal. We are opening the vote on this proposal. If you agree with the proposal, you vote yes; if you don't agree with the proposal, you vote no.

The vote is open.
The vote is closed.
The proposal did not pass.

Proposal #9 from the Legal Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.
We open the vote on this proposal.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #10 from the Legal Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as it would potentially allow a larger representation of zones and genders. The Ethics Committee had proposed to postpone this proposal until 2023, when the Code of Procedure will be established. We are not going to vote on Proposal #10, which will be postponed until Congress 2023. We move to Proposal #11.

Proposal #11 from the Legal Commission, and the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

The vote is open.
The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #12 from the Swedish Federation. From Sweden, sorry. The Legal Commission was against the proposal, and the Executive Committee was not in favour of the proposal. Yes, please.

Ana Valero-Collantes (SWE): Thank you very much. We had a similar proposal before that the Congress approved. For that reason, we withdraw our proposal. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, Proposal #12 is withdrawn.

We move to Proposal #13 from the Legal Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission.

We move to the vote, and the vote is open.
The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #14 from the Legal Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission.

We move to the vote on this proposal, and the vote is open.
The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #15 from the Legal Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission.

We move to the vote on this proposal, and the vote is open.
The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #16 from the Legal Commission, the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We move to the vote, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #17 from the Legal Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We move to the vote, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #18 from the Legal Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission.

We move to the vote on this proposal, and the vote is open. The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #19 from the Legal Commission, and the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We move to the vote on this proposal, and the vote is open. The vote is closed. The proposal passed.

And we have finished with the proposals regarding the Statutes.

We are now moving to the proposals regarding the Rules.

Proposal #1 from the Refereeing Commission. The Commissions were in favour, and the Executive Committee was also in favour.

We move to the vote on this proposal.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #2 from the Rules Commission, which has been revised by the Medical Commission. Both the Refereeing Commission and the Executive Committee favour the proposal as revised by the Medical Commission, except that in article t.170, the word injury should not be scratched.

We are opening the vote on this proposal, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #3 from the Legal Commission, and the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We open the vote on this proposal, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #4 from Sweden. The Executive Committee was not in favour of the proposal. Sweden, please.

Ana Valero-Collantes (SWE): Thank you very much. The aim of our proposal is that we believe that the Executive Committee should not be in place to change the selection of referees. For this issue, we do have the experts in the Refereeing Commission since there is no expertise in these matters among the 28 members. However, we appreciate and accept the arguments of the Legal Commission and the Executive Committee. We will return with a new proposal for coming Congresses. Therefore we will withdraw our Proposal #4. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, the proposal is withdrawn.

Proposal #5 from the Veterans Council. The Executive Committee, in principle, is in favour of the proposal. However, as this proposal may involve some changes, which have to be tested, the Executive Committee proposes that a test be done in 2025 during the Veteran World Championship to assess the implementation consequences and impact on the organisers. And then, if no major problems are noted, it will become final. However, if some adjustments have to be made based on the experience of 2025, then we will come back with an adapted proposal. The proposal is to make a test on that new text and new proposal in 2025 during the Veterans World Championships and then to see if nothing has to be changed. We vote on conducting a test in 2025, being in principle in favour of the proposal.

We open the vote on this proposal.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #6 from the Rules Commission, and the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We move to the vote on this proposal, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #7 from the Rules Commission, and the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We move to the vote, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #8 from the Rules Commission, and the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We open the vote, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #9 from the Federations of Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Senegal. The Executive Committee was not in favour of the proposal as the qualification system provides compulsory quotas for all FIE zones with one specification for team qualification. Therefore, increasing the coefficient for the zonal championships would not offer more qualifications to each zone. So, if you are in favour of the proposal, you vote yes; if you are not in favour of the proposal, you vote no.

The vote is open on this proposal. Yes? We stop the vote, please.

Wahabou Zorome (MLI): Hello, Everybody. I am the President of the Malian Fencing Federation. I would like to try to explain the motivations that led us to make this proposal. In fact, the zonal competitions, the zonal Championships, are the most important after the World Cup and the others. So, we think it is a better platform for the continents of Africa, Asia, and America to be able to benefit from specific points and to qualify for a major tournament like the Olympics. That said, we know that other continents organise 75% more tournaments than us. So we make a plea for these points to be brought to what is in the request that we made. Thank you for everything. Thanks very much.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: We are going to reopen the vote on this proposal. If you agree with the proposal, you vote yes; if you do not agree, you vote no.

The vote is open. Please remember that for the Rules, the proposals pass with a simple majority.
The vote is closed.

Applause.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #10 from the Rules Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal and of the modification to the drawing.

We open the vote on this proposal.
The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #11 from the SEMI Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal with the addition made by the SEMI Commission.

We move to the vote on this proposal, and the vote is open.
The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #12 from the Refereeing Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal with the revisions from the Rules Commission.

We move to the vote, and the vote is open.
The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #13 from the Refereeing Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We open the vote on this proposal, and the vote is open.
The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #14 from the Refereeing Commission. The drawings have been redesigned and were appended at the end of the proposals. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We open the vote, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #15 is a duplication of Proposal #16. We will not vote on Proposal #15 but move directly to Proposal #16 from the Refereeing Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #17 is a proposal from the Executive Committee on non-combativity. The Refereeing Commission was in favour, the Athletes Commission was in favour, and the Promotion Commission was in favour. The Rules Commission was in favour with some corrections, and the Executive Committee was in favour with the additions from the Rules Commission.

We move to the vote and open the vote for this proposal.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #18 from the Rules Commission. This proposal is actually an Urgent Decision made with the Rules Commission. Therefore, we are not going to vote on Proposal #18 as we will vote on the Urgent Decision.

We move to Proposal #19 from the Refereeing Commission. This proposal is also an Urgent Decision, so we are not going to vote on this proposal. We will vote on the Urgent Decision. We move to Proposal #20.

Proposal #20 from the SEMI Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #21 from the SEMI Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We open the vote on this proposal, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #22 from the SEMI Commission. As we still have not found a suitable solution, we discussed with the SEMI Commission on the chipping issue. We are searching for a cheaper solution for the manufacturers. Therefore, if you do not mind, we will put a hold on this proposal and on the current text in the Rules until the Congress 2023. We will work with the SEMI Commission on a suitable proposal for 2023. So, if you do not mind, this proposal remains on hold, and the current text of the Rules remains on hold also until we have found a better and cheaper solution for the manufacturers in 2023.

Do you have any objection to this? Thank you.

Proposal #23 from the SEMI Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We open the vote. The vote is open. The vote is closed. The proposal passed. Proposal #23 passed.

We move to Proposal #24 from the SEMI Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We open the vote, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #25 from the SEMI Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal with the revisions from the SEMI and Rules Commissions.

We vote on this proposal, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #26 from the SEMI Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal with the revisions from the SEMI and Rules Commission.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed on Proposal #26.

The proposal passed.

We now move to the Urgent decisions regarding the Rules.

Urgent Decision #1 is a proposal from the Rules Commission and the Refereeing Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal and urgent decision. Yes. Sorry, yes.

We open the vote on Urgent Decision #1, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Urgent Decision #2 is a proposal from the Executive Committee on the calendar.

We open the vote on this proposal.

The vote is open. The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

The last urgent decision from the SEMI Commission has already been dealt with, with the relevant proposal. We have finished with the Proposals regarding the Rules.

It's time now for the photo and lunch. Please follow the FIE photographer, Augusto Bizzi, who will show you where the photo of the Congress will be taken. Then, we will have lunch. After the photo, Members of Honour should please come back here to discuss the nominations of Members of Honour to be proposed to the Congress.

Thank you very much.
Have a very good lunch.

Applause.

(Lunch)

Nathalie Rodriguez: Please take your seats. We will resume the meeting, and we are now dealing with the Progress reports from the working groups.

The working groups met online several times during the year, and they established a progress report of their work. However, the work is still ongoing. There were meetings after the reports were issued, and new meetings will be held at the beginning of next year.

We believe we will be able to present to the next Congress final proposals for your consideration. Do you have any questions on this? Thank you.

I would like to inform you that Sri Lanka has arrived. Sri Lanka had given a proxy to Nepal. So, Nepal now will no longer vote for Sri Lanka. Thank you.

12. Decisions regarding athletes and officials from Russia and Belarus

Nathalie Rodriguez: We move to item #12 of the agenda, Decisions regarding athletes and officials from Russia and Belarus, and the floor is to Emmanuel Katsiadakis.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): So, as a preamble, let me remind you the following. The FIE is a non-governmental and autonomous organisation, and its role is to manage and rule the sport of fencing worldwide.

The FIE ethical code states that the FIE family members will work to maintain harmonious relations with the authorities of the countries of the member Federations in accordance with the principles of universality and political neutrality. The FIE family shall take all necessary measures to ensure security on the premises where the competitions are held, primarily considering the physical and moral well-being of everyone involved in this event.

The FIE Statutory aims include:

- to ensure that international competitions open to member Federations are organised with the FIE rules, and
- to establish rules and appropriate measures to protect athletes' health and prevent any abuse.

Therefore, it is the duty of the FIE Executive Committee to protect the integrity of FIE competitions and to ensure the security of athletes and participants. After the incidents that occurred in various competitions at the end of February, and following the IOC recommendation, the Executive Committee initiated, with a heavy heart, the following decision that was published on the FIE website. "On March 2nd, and following the IOC recommendation, the FIE Executive Committee decided not to invite or allow the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials in FIE competitions until further notice."

The Executive Committee's decision was not a sanction; it aimed and allowed to protect the integrity of FIE competitions and to ensure the security of all athletes and participants. As of today, the IOC recommendation is still in place. However, we all know that we will start the Olympic qualification in four months. The Olympic Games are within the jurisdiction of the IOC, and it belongs to the IOC to decide on the participation in the Games, and the qualification path is within the responsibility of the FIE to be approved by the IOC.

The Executive Committee does not want to exclude the Russian and Belarusian athletes from the Olympic qualification. Therefore, the Executive Committee unanimously decided during its meeting of 25 November 2022, to organize an online extraordinary Congress at the beginning of March 2023, to make decisions regarding the possible options for the Olympic qualification.

The Executive Committee will meet in January 2023 to establish proposals that will be submitted to the online Extraordinary Congress.

And finally, the Executive Committee unanimously submits to the Congress the following motion: "Do you accept that the Executive Committee continues with its decision of March 2, 2022, for the time being, while reviewing and reconsidering the situation in case of any new circumstances?" Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: I assume that some Federations wish to express their opinions. In case there are a lot of Federations, we will have to make a list so that they can speak in turn.

So, for a better understanding of Congress, let me clarify once again. There will be an extraordinary virtual Congress at the beginning of March in order to discuss the Olympic qualification of the Russian and Belarusian athletes. It is a decision of the Executive Committee, which was made unanimously yesterday.

As of today, the Executive Committee unanimously submits to Congress the following motion: "Do you accept that the Executive Committee continues with its decision of March 2, 2022, for the time being, while reviewing and reconsidering the situation in case of any new circumstances?"

Please say your name if you wish to take the floor. I cannot see very well because of the lighting.

[Remarks in the audience]

No. First, I am going to make a list of all the Federations that want to take the floor. So, Ukraine is wishing.

Sergii Mishchenko (UKR): Hello. Ukraine, Sergii Mishchenko, Vice-President.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes.

Sergii Mishchenko (UKR): Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Who else would like to take the floor? Can you please say your name? I cannot see very well because of the lighting.

Olga Kharlan (UKR): I am sorry. Olga Kharlan, Ukrainian fencer.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Your name, please, and Federation. Niger. Sweden. Ghana. Belarus. Venezuela. Russia.

Nobody else? Sorry? The USA. Great Britain. Member of Honour Peter Jacobs.

Anyone else would like to take the floor? Nobody else? Fine.

Senegal. Is that all? Yes. Finland. Nobody else? So, we will start with Ukraine.

Sergii Mishchenko (UKR): May I take the microphone?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, of course.

Sergii Mishchenko (UKR): Your Honour Interim President, Dear Members of FIE, National Federations. First of all, I asked for a word to thank all the Federations, international organizations, and individuals who, in this difficult time for Ukraine, extended their help to our fencers. To their families during a very difficult period for Ukraine. Many thanks to FIE, many thanks to European Fencing Confederation, National Federations, and all those who extended help and provided roofs, shelter, training facilities, and the ability to travel and participate in international competitions.

Why the Ukrainian Federation and Ukrainian fencers needed this and are still in need? They needed it because of the war, which was waged against Ukraine. It is a vicious, aggressive war, and Ukrainian fencers are suffering a lot. There is no safe place in Ukraine now. Fencers who would like to train often have to break the training lessons because of the signals of the air attack warning. The places are cold because there is no electricity. And

because of all that, it is very difficult to continue any serious regular training in our country.

That's why we were fully supporting the International Olympic Committee Executive Board's recommendation regarding banning Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials from international competitions. This is a true and just decision. It is not only for the sake and because of what happened in Ukraine. It is also in the interest of the Olympic community and in accordance with the Olympic principles to be helped and to be respected. There are many arguments now that, for example, what has been proposed and implemented by the International Olympic Committee Executive Board is inefficient and is not working, but it's not true.

There are wars. Historically, there have been many wars, and during those wars, no one in the Olympic movement took such a decision. But there is a straightforward answer to it. First of all, are we happy that there are many wars, and do we want to have more wars? No. The answer is no. The question is can we do something as an Olympic community to try to stop the wars and prevent more wars? The answer is yes. And the actions which now taken by the Olympic community, by the International Olympic Committee, are a small step to prevent wars, to bring the end of the war maybe ten minutes closer to us or ten days closer to us.

The second argument is that these actions, which have already been taken, have very little effect. But I believe it is not true because, first of all, dozens of International Federations who follow the International Olympic Committee's recommendations are already a very important force in the world sport. Secondly, you probably don't even imagine how helpful it is to Ukrainian people, to Ukraine, that we feel the solidarity of the Olympic movement.

That is why I strongly urge you, ask you, appeal to you to continue with the application of the recommendations of the International Olympic Committee as it is now proposed by our Board. I believe that following this recommendation at the moment and closely monitoring the situation will help us a lot. So please keep with the recommendations of the International Olympic Committee Executive Board until the war ends, until the decision will be fully satisfying to world peace, to the Ukrainian people, and to the fencing community. Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ms Kharlan.

Olga Kharlan (UKR): Dear Olympic Fencing Family, Thank you for giving me the floor. I can be emotional, I will be short, so please let me finish. Many of you know me for many years. I am Olga Kharlan, and I am Ukrainian. I am from Ukraine. Taking the floor, I would like to thank the National Federations for your generous support provided to the national team of Ukraine. Today's life is essential for us. Your help is the true value of the Olympic solidarity and Olympic principles and actions, which our Federation is guided by in its activity to. I am here to make a voice and appeal of Ukrainian fencers and fencers from all over the world to be heard.

Athletes are the core of the Olympic-centered system and the heart of the peaceful world for sports development. What does the athlete feel coming to compete? Everyone knows that mental balance is fragile, but it is not only the key to win. For us Ukrainians, it is a key to survive; nine months of war, nine months of missile attacks, nine months of ruins of cities, civil and sports infrastructure, and the loss of sports friends and their family members. My Beijing 2018 teammate, an Olympic champion, Elena Komarova's father, was killed by this war in Mykolaiv city. Dying kids, athletes, and coaches, nine months of forced immigration, away from home, months of electricity shutdowns causing lights to go off, hitting the Internet, and even a war lockdown.

Now ask yourself a question. What is fair play in the sport today? Which Olympic values weigh more: friendship,

excellence, respect, or friendship to those who keep silent and shelter their tyrant head at state and public events? Do we have to pay respect to them? Do we have to let show them excellence in competitions to promote the power of terrorist state recognized so by international institutions such as NATO and the European Union Council? What is the highest value, the right to live or the right to compete? When the Ukrainians were standing it all, where were the Russian and Belarusian athletes all these nine months, and what did they do while we felt touching support from all the Europe and the world fencing family and friends?

Nine months ago, Russia violated the Olympic Truce, not for the first time, and Belarus also by providing its borders for the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Does the Olympic Charter have a selective approach to some countries or personal responsibility? I think not.

The quote that Russian and Belarusian athletes are not responsible for their government does not help when the social polls show that 80% of the Russian Federation citizens support their government and the war as a tool, as genocide in Ukraine. Did you see what Russian Federation did in Bucha, Izyum, Irpin, Mariupol, and Mykolaiv, my motherland? Will you be able to shake hands with the Russian Federation or Belarusian athletes, then?

As you may know, many Russian and Belarusian athletes are army or police, or state border service contractors. They are still there for all these nine months. What will happen if they receive an order? Mr. Pozdnyakov, the Chairman of the Russian Olympic Committee and Olympic champion fencer, is a colonel of the Russian army that is shelling every day my native city Mykolaiv. Sofya Velikaya is a ruling party athlete and Putin's representative. It is not a secret that Russian athletes are the propaganda tools for whitening and keeping the face of Russian government crimes. Should we, the fencing world, provide the stage for this face? I think not. Fencing is a noble sport based on respect and fair play, observing its history's rules and Olympic values.

Together we are able to stop the aggressors' countries' politics and their state propaganda through the sport of international stages. I think, yes. Sport is a place for people who bring peace, unconditional peace without twisted values. Stand with Ukraine. Thank you for your attention.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Niger.

Halilou Sani (NIG): Hello. Thank you for giving me the floor. Really, I understand everything that happens in the world. Niger is also a victim. I have the right to remind you that in the Sahel, many people are killed. In Yemen, many people are killed. In Eritrea, many people are killed. In Ethiopia, many more people are killed. Do you think we should bring political issues into this room? If so, then let's do it. Thanks.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Sweden.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Sweden thinks it is a very wise idea of the Executive Committee to postpone the decision regarding athletes and officials from Russia and Belorussia. And we insist that once the postponement has been done, the decision whether to include again or continue to exclude these athletes should be taken either by the Executive Committee or by an extraordinary physical Congress, the reason being that the extraordinary virtual Congress would not be the best and most democratic way of taking this kind of decision. Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Ghana.

Mohammed Mahadi (GHA): Dear Delegates, I would like to call attention to a few things. I would recall in one of the series of Olympic Games, there was a situation whereby an Algerian fencer was banned for ten years for refusing to shake hands with one of our brothers, who is also, I think, an Israeli fencer. Sorry, Israeli judoka. He was banned because the IOC, sorry, the IJF, that is, the International Judo Federation, said that his actions were introducing politics into sports. That issue was taken to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Therefore, if today we are also turning the line from politics to sports, we are undermining the autonomy of sports. The autonomy of sports separates politics from sports. In any decision we are going to take, we should stick to the autonomy of sports, which is the pride and the milestone we have achieved as an organisation.

I think it is about time to call the Russian and Belarusian fencers and officials back to the stage, to come and compete as a family because we are not politicians, we do not influence, and we do not have any influence in politics. And I want to remind you of the situation that happened between CONI and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Italy. I just read this article regarding the case with the law they are introducing that nearly led to Italy being banned from Tokyo 2020. But it was clear that the Minister mentioned that sports and politics are definitely two different things. So, my humble appeal is to let's get our athletes back because we cannot manage it if we keep them longer outside the competition arena; we will end up introducing the situation that happened in IJF. My humble appeal is, let's get them back. Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Belarus.

Vitali Sokolovski (BLR): Dear President, Dear Officials, and Members of the International Fencing Federation. On behalf of the Belarusian Fencing Federation, let me convey the official position of our Federation on the current situation in Ukraine, as well as on the participation of Belarusian athletes and officials in events under the auspices of the FIE.

The Belarusian Fencing Federation is a public organisation whose task is exclusively to develop and popularize fencing. Members and officials of our Federation do not take any part in political decisions and do not have the opportunity to influence them in any way. We do not support war anywhere and in any form. Athletes of Belarus, coaches, and the entire fencing community of our country want just one thing, peace and unity in the world. We have never had and do not have any conflict with the Ukrainian Fencing Federation, Ukrainian athletes, coaches, and officials, as well as with other countries in the world. On the contrary, we respect all these people very much and wish the military conflict on their territory to end as soon as possible.

There is no doubt that people in Ukraine should be given all kinds of help. Still, the question remains, how does the non-participation of Belarusian athletes contribute to helping the Ukrainian people? The answer is that the isolation of the Belarusian and Russian fencers does not contribute to this assistance in any way. I think everyone has been convinced for more than nine months that the isolation of Belarusian and Russian athletes in no way affected the events taking place in Ukraine.

The International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach made a comment during a keynote speech at the

Oceania National Olympic Committees' General Assembly in Fiji. "We will only sanction those people that are responsible for something. We will not sanction a National Olympic Committee for the actions of its government as long as the NOCs' leading individuals do not support their actions. None of you, none of you should be held responsible for the actions of your government."

We fully and completely share this position and do not consider it right in this situation to isolate innocent Belarusian fencers, coaches, and officials solely on a national basis. We believe that any decision on non-admission should be personalized and imposed taking into account the actions committed by a particular person. Once again, I would like to emphasize the fact that Belarusian athletes, coaches, and the Fencing Federation in no way influence and will not be able to influence political and military issues. Just try to answer the questions for yourself. Do you seriously consider it fair and right to apply any sanctions to athletes and coaches solely on a national basis, only because they were born in Belarus, live in Belarus, or abroad, but have a Belarusian passport?

We urge the entire international fencing community to unite and truly remain an FIE family in the most difficult times. It is necessary to prevent the incitement of discord, anger, and hatred within the sports community and be an example of solidarity and tolerance for politicians in all countries. Of course, we will respect any decision you make. However, I urge all of you not to mix sports with politics but to make decisions solely in the interests of the development of world fencing. Thank you for your attention.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Venezuela.

Francisco Rafael Marín Alvarez (VEN): Good afternoon to the Executive Committee and to all Brother Federations. I want to reflect on what my previous colleagues have said about not mixing politics with sports. Venezuela has been economically isolated and blocked for more than four years, and we have experienced firsthand discrimination and xenophobia. Our athletes and coaches have stopped attending competitions because the governments of other countries have denied us visas, even though the Federations have always been ready to help us. But for being a small country in South America, we go unnoticed. We have experienced what it means to want to attend competitions and not be able to participate in them due to political problems.

Every April 6th is celebrated as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. Hopefully, on April 6th of next year, we can all celebrate that day for sport and peace, with the participation of athletes and officials from Russia and Belarus, because we want to change the world. Let's do it from here, and let's demonstrate unity. Nobody agrees with wars. We also suffered power outages. Our kids also have a hard time training. We also have feeding problems. We also have issues that sometimes no one knows about. The comrade from Africa said it. There are military interventions in many parts of the world, but we are not in the UN. We are at the International Fencing Federation, and here we have to discuss sport and unity and send the world a message that we can contribute to peace through sport. If we can contribute to the brotherhood, the teammates from South Africa are a great example of how violence can be changed with a game of rugby. They can teach us a lesson about that.

So, from Venezuela, we call on everyone to unite, to solidarity, to teamwork. I repeat, hopefully, on April 6th, we can all reject any kind of war and always open our arms to peace. But I repeat, nobody, nobody remembered that Venezuela has been blocked for four years, that Venezuela has been facing xenophobia for four years, that our athletes have been attacked at airports, that I, as a Federation, have been attacked at airports due to our problems with migration, due to our displacement problems.

So, we all have to deal with world problems. Politics is not the way to solve it in this space because we are not the ones who make the political decisions of our countries. We make sports decisions, and I invite you to make a decision for the sport.

I express my solidarity with the Ukrainian comrades; we have experienced it. We have experienced those power outages also under another style, but we have lived through them. We have experienced discrimination; we have also experienced attacks.

We are going to work together as we want to change the world. Let's start the change from here. Let's change it with sport and send a message that it is possible to work in peace and unity. In the same way, we will abide by the decisions issued by the International Olympic Committee, which is our rector, and we owe it to it.

Thanks to the fellow interpreters for carrying my voice, thanks to the Executive Committee for giving me the right to speak. We want to make peace. Let's do it together. Thanks.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Russia.

Ilgar Mamedov (RUS): Dear Friends, Dear Colleagues, Dear Nathalie. In addition to the COVID test, it is necessary to conduct a test for mental sanity. The behaviour of some Members of Congress is unacceptable. If you remember, Mr. Khrushchev, from the Soviet Union, made this gesture, and he was a leader. We must respect each other, even if we have a difficult time here in the FIE. The FIE Congress is a chance to elevate global understanding about the threat posed by the division of the fencing community. This situation is the most dangerous crisis our fencing family has ever faced.

Olga Kharlan is a young athlete. And if you know, I was born in Baku, and I moved from Baku to Moscow because we had a war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Here is the President of the Armenian Fencing Federation, and we have very good relations, even though we had a war in the 90s as well as two years ago. These are human relations; we must respect each other, and we are a sports family. We never talk about politics because we are not politicians.

No one has ever connected American athletes with their country's military operations. What is the difference between American athletes from the USA and athletes from Russia? Or, you do not know the history? No one urged them to protest against the decisions of their State Department and White House.

How does the non-participation of Russian sportsmen help Ukraine athletes? If politicians cannot do something to make peace, we, as a sports family, must do something. Therefore, I want to make an offer to the Ukrainian Fencing Federation. I would like to provide training and participation of their teams in competitions in the next six months. I understand that it is difficult directly, but through any intermediary, if it is possible, I can organise everything for your team. I already wanted to arrange this before the World Championships in Cairo, but unfortunately, it was dangerous for the Ukrainian side.

Our athletes have already suffered if you know. For example, the women's sabre team was the first in the ranking. Now, I just checked it on the FIE website; they have 43rd or 42nd place in the ranking. It means one more competition, and we no longer exist in the fencing. And it was the number-one team after the Olympic Games. What else can we do to not participate in competitions?

Six months ago, we had a meeting here in Lausanne when I arrived for the court hearing. We had with Manolis Katsiadakis a court meeting. It was not a real court hearing but a meeting to analyze the situation, find a solution, and a compromise. It was the first of June, and I told Manolis, "You always say that all athletes are your kids." And that was International Children's Day. "Let our kids participate in competitions." Because what I told you before, non-participation does not stop the war. Unfortunately, unfortunately does not stop. They have their plans, and we have our plans to be in the fencing family. Dear Delegates, we all remember the address of Mr. Thomas Bach, "Give peace a chance." Only sport can help us to unite people. Only through a peaceful competition, we can show the world our unity. Only if sports remain neutral, if sports stay out of politics, we have a chance to build a bright and strong future. Together. Together with you, my colleagues, thank you very much.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: USA.

Samuel Cheris (USA, MH): Mr. President, Madam CEO, Members of the Bureau, Members of the Executive Committee, Congressists. The Russian-Belarusian war has not only attacked the country of Ukraine, has not only attacked the armed forces of Ukraine, but it also attacked Ukraine's civilian population, it has attacked the athletes of Ukraine. How can we permit a country that is preventing civilian life, including the training of athletes, to come in and say we are entitled to compete because we are peaceful fencers when our country is demoralizing the athletes of another country and preventing them from training? Many of the members of the Russian and Belarusian teams are members and officers of their military. How can we allow those who personally are part of the aggression to be permitted to compete as if they were not complicit? Have they resigned from their military commissions? Have they protested against the war?

It was talked about the U.S. protest, yes. I mean, U.S. athletes, if they do not like what their government is doing, they protest. Have the Russian athletes protested? If this was merely a philosophical issue, why has a representative of the foundation for the Future of Russian Fencing been going around the world, giving out money? Allegedly to administrators to be able to attend competitions and meetings, but with the quid pro quo, here is the speech I want you to give at the Congress, here is the vote I want you to take, and here is the money that I have provided you. Will it help? Will it help to stop them from competing? I do not know. The FIE and the IOC banned South Africa from competing because of apartheid and isolated them from the sporting community. And it was one of the elements that finally caused the apartheid to end. So yes, it can have an effect. We can vote with our conscience and say if you want to join the family, be part of the family, and do not be going around killing the family. Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Peter Jacobs.

Peter Jacobs (GBR, MH): Mr. Interim President, Members of the Executive Committee, Fencing Friends. I want to put a stiff, slightly different slant on what I want to say. I want to talk about the IOC and our relationship with it because we are indeed an independent sports organisation. But we are also affiliated and members of the IOC. Do not forget that our Statutes state right at the beginning that any new Federation must be accredited with their National Olympic Committee as the sole representatives of fencing in their country.

Why do I stand up and speak in front of you? I think because maybe, in some vanity, I am the most senior FIE person here. I was first elected to a Commission 45 years ago. I have been in the Executive for 24 years and

the Treasurer; and also fenced into the Olympics and been accredited to ten others. So, I hope that my advice may, by some, be taken as useful.

And what do I see as the first priority, therefore, of the FIE? It is to be an Olympic sport. And what do I see as our second priority? To remain an Olympic sport. And what do I see as our third priority? It is not to do anything that endangers our position with the IOC and endangers our being an Olympic sport. End of story, because every one of your Federations also relies on the IOC directly or indirectly.

Not only does the FIE finances are underwritten by the IOC with its money from each Games every four years, and that is the most stable support that the FIE has. There may well be sponsors at the moment who support fencing, and there may be in the future. But who, in the end, would want to spend their energies and money supporting a sport that is not an Olympic sport and is not that well known? Who will find sponsors, and who will support the Federations? Each of your Federations relies on your National Olympic Committee, and it relies on your sport, our sport, fencing, being an Olympic sport and therefore having standing and status, and attraction. Do not endanger it.

Thomas Bach said in March that he wanted every International Olympic Federation to support the IOC in its current activities, and no more, and no less. I understand that the IOC has said exactly the same thing to the FIE in the last few weeks. So why would we attempt to risk committing a fencing suicide by going against the IOC now? Rather than supporting the Executive Committee in their decision to continue supporting the IOC as they wish, at least until March. And personally, I hope that then as well, we will continue to support the IOC in whatever they do, whether it is to maintain the current situation or to welcome the Russians and Belarusians back into fencing. Thank you very much.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Senegal.

Mbagnick Ndiaye (SEN): Thank you so much. Mr. Interim President, Madam Executive Director of the FIE, Ladies and Gentlemen Members of the Executive Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen Delegates, Dear Congressists, The problem opposing us and that concerns us today is a problem of extreme sensitivity. It is speaking or making decisions according to a situation that is born out of politics. The war in Ukraine was started by politicians and not by sportsmen. This war has terrible consequences. Athletes cannot train. In Africa, the consequences are disastrous for the populations. The cost of living has increased, like it or not.

But pose here, today, this problem of exclusion of athletes who were not at the root of this situation, athletes who are strangers to the current events, insisting on their exclusion today in 2022, is for us, who have been here for several years, a novelty.

When Afghanistan was invaded, did you make the decision to punish the invader? When Syria was invaded, did we make the decision to punish the invader? When Armenia and Azerbaijan were in conflict, did we care who was wrong, who invaded, and who did not invade? I think we are mixing two domains: politics and sports. Our goal must be to defend sports so that war does not create hatred between athletes. The sportsmen must be at the base of the reconciliation, after the catastrophes of the political decisions made.

Yes, there is war, and its consequences, on athletes but also on populations. That is what I want to say. This is why we must try to find a solution to this problem; it is not by excluding the athletes that we will find the best

solution. I honestly think as a President of a Federation and not as a Member of an Executive Committee, I think we have to know how to be reasonable. To know how to be reasonable is to ensure that we try to find the appropriate solutions to this problem. By doing what? By following the decision of the FIE Executive Committee, which is looking for ways and means, to ensure that our family is united, that our family goes in the direction wanted by the athletes and not in the direction wanted by the politicians. This is why, as a free and independent federation, free and independent, free and independent, we follow the decision of the Executive Committee of the International Federation.

Certainly, we are not here to see the fencing family divided into two, those who are for and those who are against. Wars will always take place in this world. People will always take positions, dramatic ones for some. Are we going to spend all our time at the International Federation saying, yes, there is war here, we sanction, yes, there is war here, we sanction, yes, there is war here, we sanction? Why did not we do it when Afghanistan was invaded? Why did not you, you from the FIE?

And in Africa, these undeclared invasions, these invasions that are not officially declared, harm us by creating prejudice. Why do not you look for these European countries that are invading us, these European countries, which are creating problems for us Africans?

Applause.

Why do not you want to talk about it? And because a country has invaded another country in Europe, in Europe, in Europe, you raise to say no, no, and no. Why do not you say it for Africa? Why, my dear delegates, do you not say it for Africa? Why? Do you want to divide us? Because on one side, there are those who suffer, and on the other side, there are those who invade.

I think that Senegal, as an independent country, a responsible country, follows the decision of the Committee and asks all those who have the same thought, orientation, and vision to follow the Executive Committee of the International Federation. Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Finland.

Joonas Lyytinen (FIN): Mr. President, Dear Friends, It is very true that the international community has failed many times before, it has made mistakes, and it has not made decisions when decisions should have been made, especially related to Africa, but also to other places, and Europe has had a big part in this. But the way to respond to past mistakes is not to make the same mistakes again and fail again in the same way we have failed in the past. We have heard many pleas about not mixing sports and politics in this room. I would remind everybody that in Russia, President Putin is parading the Olympic medalists in pro-war rallies, and Mr. Pozdnyakov, who is the President of the National Committee of Russia, is publicly supporting the war.

So, we may ask, who is the party mixing sports and politics here? Is it us or the parties guilty of starting this war of aggression? It is also true that Russian athletes and officials are victims. They are victims because they cannot participate in the sport they love, and they have trained for years. They are victims like the million young men who have fled Russia in order not to be mobilized and sent to fight an illegal war in Ukraine and die. They are victims like the 100,000 Russian men who have already been killed and wounded in the war in Ukraine.

But they are not victims of the decisions we have made, or the IOC has made, or the international community has made, or the United States has made, or any other party you might name. They are the victims of the decisions made by the Russian and Belarusian governments and not victims of our decisions. We have here pleas that we have to be independent, and we have to make our own decisions and not mix sports with politics. I would like to remind everybody that by excluding the Russian and Belarusian athletes for at least until March, we are not following the orders of any other external party. We are following the recommendation of the International Olympic Committee, which is the highest governing body of sports in the world. So, we, as a sports community, are making these decisions following the recommendation of the IOC. I would strongly recommend that we follow the IOC and vote for the proposition made by the Executive Committee to continue the exclusion until March and make the decision then in an extraordinary Executive Committee. Thank you very much.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, the motion that is presented to the Congress, I repeat, is the following: “Do you accept that the Executive Committee continues with its decision of 2nd March, 2022, for the time being, while reviewing and reconsidering the situation in case of any new circumstances?”

We are going to open the vote on this motion.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

Applause.

The motion of the Executive Committee passed.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The decisions were already read. We said that the Executive Committee does not want to exclude the Russian and Belarusian athletes from the Olympic qualification. Therefore, the Executive Committee unanimously decided during its meeting on 25 November, 2022, to organise an extraordinary virtual Congress at the beginning of March 2023 to make decisions regarding the possible options for the Olympic qualification. The Executive Committee will meet in January 2023 to establish proposals that will be submitted to the extraordinary Congress.

And the decision that you have just voted is that you accept that the Executive Committee continues with its decision of 2nd March, 2022, for the time being, while reviewing and reconsidering the situation in case of any new circumstances.

Applause.

The next part of the Congress will be the awards for items #13, #14, and #15, but meanwhile, there will a coffee break.

(Coffee Break)

13. Nominations of Members of Honour

Nathalie Rodriguez: Please take your seats. We are moving to the last parts of Congress. Please take your seats.

We will start the awards part with some music.

[Music is played]

This music belongs to the FIE. If you wish to have it, you are welcome. We will provide it to you. It has been composed as a tribute to all fencers in the world.

Applause.

Item #13 is Nomination of the Members of Honour. The floor is to Emmanuel Katsiadakis.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Dear Friends, following the proposition of the FIE Executive Board, the Honours Commission has met and unanimously approved the following candidates for the title of Member of Honour. Mr. Jacek Bierkowski and Mr. Victor Sergio Grouppierre.

[Exclamations in the audience]

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Jacek and Victor, please come. I know I had to lie to you, Jacek, to have you here. I apologize for this lie, but it was for the good of fencing.

[Awards are given]

Applause.

13. 2022 Fair-Play Trophy

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item is the 2022 Fair-Play Trophy award. Based on the proposal of the Fair-Play Council, the Executive Committee has nominated Sheila Liliana Tejeda of Mexico and Zsombor Keszthelyi from Hungary.

Applause.

[Awards are given]

Applause.

14. Winners of the 2022 official rankings and Nations Cups

Nathalie Rodriguez: For the next item, Winners of the official rankings and of the Nations Cups 2022, I request all members of the Executive Committee to move up to the award wall to present the medals to the athletes and teams. All the members of the Executive Committee, please, there are a lot of people who will receive medals. By the way, I would like to congratulate Yuki Ota, whose birthday was yesterday.

Applause.

Individual Junior Rankings

Women's Épée – Hadley Husisian from the USA

Applause.

Men's Épée – Zsombor Keszthelyi from Hungary

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next athlete who should prepare is Lauren Scruggs, the USA.

Women's Foil – Lauren Scruggs from the USA

Applause.

Men's Foil – Chase Emmer from the USA

Applause.

Women's Sabre – Sugar Katinka Battai from Hungary

Men's Sabre – Colin Heathcock who is now from the USA (Note: he was fencing for Germany when he won the ranking)

Applause.

Junior Team Ranking Winners

Nathalie Rodriguez: Now the Junior Teams.

Women's Épée – Israel

Applause.

Men's Épée – Egypt

Applause.

Women's Foil – USA

Applause.

Men's Foil – Italy
Applause.

Women's Sabre – France
Applause.

Men's Sabre – Egypt
Applause.

Individual Senior Rankings

Nathalie Rodriguez: Now the Individual Senior Rankings.

Women's Épée – Injeong Choi from Korea
Applause.

Men's Épée – Romain Cannone from France
Applause.

Women's Foil – Lee Kiefer from the USA
Applause.

Men's Foil – Tommaso Marini from Italy
Applause.

Women's Sabre – Anna Bashta from Azerbaijan
Applause.

Men's Sabre – Áron Szilágyi from Hungary

Nathalie Rodriguez: Áron is not here. Can we ask the Federation to receive his medal?
Applause.

Senior Team Ranking Winners

Nathalie Rodriguez: Now the Senior Teams.

Women's Épée – Korea
Applause.

Men's Épée – France
Applause.

Women's Foil – Italy
Applause.

Men's Foil – Italy

Applause.

Women's Sabre – France

Applause.

Men's Sabre – Korea

Applause.

Nations Grand Prix

Nathalie Rodriguez: The winner of the Grand Prix of the Nations for Juniors, Cadets, and Veterans is the USA.

USA, please come to receive the three medals.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The Senior Grand Prix of the Nations goes to France.

Applause.

Thank you very much.

15. Any other business

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you very much. So, we move to the last item on the agenda, which is the Various Items.

For the Second item, I will ask Jacek Bierkowski to make a presentation on the preparations for the Olympic Games. But with the First item, I will deal myself. I must admit, and I hate it, not being perfect. I have to tell you that I just forgot – it is entirely my fault – to submit to your approval the 2021 Congress Report, which you received, and which is posted on our website, but we did not vote on it. It is entirely my fault. So, if you agree, I would like you to vote on that item, in order not to forget it. So, I will open the vote on the 2021 Congress Report, which you had received, and which is posted on our website.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

Thank you very much for approving it, and my apologies.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Jacek, will you please come to the tribune? Jacek Bierkowski and Dieter Lammer are the two technical delegates for the Olympic Games, and they wanted to update you on the ongoing preparations for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

Jacek Bierkowski (POL): Firstly, I would like to say thank you to the Honour Commission for this title. It was a big surprise for me. Thank you.

Applause.

My friend Dieter Lammer and I would like to show you the situation of the preparation for the Olympic Games in Paris 2024.

Everybody remembers the Grand Palais, one of the most beautiful buildings in Paris, and this is the building we will use during our Olympic Games in Paris. You also remember that this building hosted the Senior World Championship in 2010, then we celebrated our 100th anniversary in 2013 and 105th anniversary in 2018. This is our visit in September of this year. The Grand Palais looks like this.

[Exclamations in the audience]

Not too bad, not too bad. Yes.

(Laughter)

Nathalie Rodriguez: It will be better.

Jacek Bierkowski (POL): This gentleman, maybe this is Dieter.

(Laughter)

Now back to the serious topic. This is the renovation of the Grand Palais, which is a huge, huge project. The cost

of the renovation is €500 million, and it is a huge money. Of course, the cost of the Olympic Games organised in France is just €7.6 billion. They will demolish everything, but everything must stay quite the same as many years before.

The audience of this palace is 8000 seats, including the wheelchair seats and dimensions of the field of play. This is a place where we should install the platform with a four-colored piste, and the center final piste is 46 meters in length and 60 meters wide. This is the way how the site is looking at this moment, and I'd like to ask Dieter to explain how everything should be positioned.

Dieter Lammer: Okay. Highlighted in blue, you see the venue; in the middle, you see the four-colored piste and the podium piste. On the right side is the entrance; below, you see the warmup area.

On the left side is the waiting area for the boxes. And in blue, and on the left side of the field of play, you see the final warmup area and the call room. The warmup area is on the first floor of this venue. Maybe we can see another plan also, but this is the construction right now.

Jacek Bierkowski (POL): The construction of the Grand Palais does not easily allow us to describe the competition's setup. The blue one above shows the completed condition of the call room, and the referees and the fencers come down by the stairs to the field of play – next slide.

Dieter Lammer: Here, you see the competition schedule. As usual, we start with three days of individual competitions, followed by the team competitions, as you see here on the screen. This schedule is most similar to Tokyo.

Jacek Bierkowski (POL): You can see the men's and women's weapons rotations, every day we change, it is absolutely the same condition. This is the Olympic village. I am sorry, I do not use this laser because it is forbidden in Europe. The Olympic village is a huge area that is in the north of Paris. The name of this district is Saint-Denis. The blue area you see is the dining hall, and this part is the training zone. Okay, you can see the Polyclinic, the main bus station, etc. Everything is there. The two buildings in blue are our training hall. Dieter will show you.

Dieter Lammer: Yes. This is the training hall until now. The training halls are located in two old cinemas. We have two training venues. Each training venue has eight pistes, and we will have to share the pistes for a few sessions with Modern Pentathlon. But in general, I think these venues are not too far for the athletes and for the coaches because they are located inside the Olympic village.

Jacek Bierkowski (POL): The size is also sufficient. Both studios, Studio A and Studio B are the same size; they are 432 square meters together. The repair table and the toilets should also be near these studios, and by the walls should be the benches for the coaches. Dieter is preparing a schedule for the training, so the pentathlon athletes can also use it. One more piece of information, please. The opening of the hall is scheduled for the 20th of July.

Location and the distance.

The Grand Palais is situated exactly in the center of Paris. It is close to Champs-Élysées, Place de la Concorde, and the Alexandre III Bridge, easily reachable by walk. It's a maximum of three minutes from the metro station named École-Militaire. Not too far from Franklin Roosevelt. It's a very beautiful place, as you know. Please show the next slide. The Olympic village is not far from Paris, and it is about 15 kilometers from Grand Palais, 35

minutes by bus or minibuses. The Organizing Committee, like in Tokyo, like in London, is preparing a special lane, an Olympic lane on the street, on the road to be used by the minibuses and Olympic buses without traffic. So, we hope it will not take much time to get from the Olympic village to Grand Palais.

For your information, the ITOs, delegates of the SEMI, the Medical, of the Refereeing Commissions, the Technical Commission delegation, also the FIE family will be staying at the same hotel, which is about two kilometers walk away from Grand Palais. It takes a maximum of twenty minutes to walk, and we do not need to use any local transportation. It is a very nice location, and it's very close to our venue.

Dieter Lammer: The current planning for the test event will be held in the Grand Palais on 9-10th of August next year. The test event will include individual women's foil, individual men's épée, and team women's sabre. As you can see, it is very close to the end of the World Championship, but we have no other possibilities to host this test event at this stage.

Jacek Bierkowski (POL): You see the names of the representatives of the FIE. It is Madam Nathalie Rodriguez, our Chief Executive Officer, Dieter Lammer, our Technical Delegate, the FIE Technical and Sports Director, and me. And finally, the view of Paris. If you have any questions related to the preparation of the site, we are responsible for helping you to answer any of the questions.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you very much. Thank you. Before the Interim President closes the Congress, I would like to make two remarks. First, I would like to thank our translators today for their wonderful job.

Applause.

And I would like to make a special comment on the personnel of the FIE, who have supported the fencing family for the past challenging years during the COVID. They have been fantastic; without their support, I think it would have been very difficult. And I want to tell them from the bottom of my heart, thank you very much.

Applause.

And the floor is to the Interim President.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Thank you, Nathalie. Dear Congressists, I would like to thank you very much for your participation in this Congress, historic Congress, because it was the 100th Congress in our history. I think it was successful, and a big part of this job belongs to you, for which I would like to thank you wholeheartedly. Also, I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their help with everything. I will go to thank our CEO with her heart in the headquarters, in our work, and the Sports Director. And, of course, all the staff who worked hard for this successful Congress. Again, I thank you very much for your participation and enjoy the rest of the night. Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Please leave your voting boxes on the table. For tonight, do not forget to bring your accreditation.

FILE



Annexes

