

2023 Online Extraordinary Congress

10TH MARCH 2023

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Attendance

The meeting opened at 13:00 pm.

Members of the Bureau:

Emmanuel KATSIADAKIS (GRE, MH)
Ferial Nadira SALHI (ALG)
Ana Irene DELGADO GUERRA (PAN)
Abdelmoneim ELHUSSEINY (EGY)
Erika AZE (LAT)

Interim President
Secretary-Treasurer
Vice-President
Vice-President
Vice-President

Members of the Executive Committee:

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Paolo AZZI (ITA)
Bruno GARES (FRA)
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Yuki OTA (JPN)

Presidents of the Confederations:

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Helen SMITH (MH, AUS)
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Vitaly LOGVIN (MEX)

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

Ruben LIMARDO (VEN)

President of the Athletes' Commission

Nathalie Rodriguez (M.-H.)
Dieter LAMMER

CEO
Technical and Sports Director

Federations present or represented

AFGHANISTAN	Represented by Kazakhstan	
ALGERIA	RAOUF SALIM BERNAOUI EL HOSSINE AMEZIANE ISLAM BILEL HADI	Voting Delegate
ANGOLA	MEVEN PEREIRA	Voting Delegate
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	ILEATHEA CABRAL	Voting Delegate
ARGENTINA	VICTOR SERGIO GROUPIERRE	Voting Delegate
ARMENIA	ARMEN GRIGORYAN NATALIA BUNATYAN	Voting Delegate
ARUBA	MIGALDA JANSEN	Voting Delegate
AMERICAN SAMOA	IRENE KANE	Voting Delegate
AUSTRALIA	VINCENT ELIAS	Voting Delegate
AUSTRIA	Represented by Germany	
AZERBAIJAN	VASIF MAMMADOV	Voting Delegate
BAHAMAS	Represented by Guyana	
BARBADOS	Represented by Venezuela	
BELGIUM	PIET WAUTERS	Voting Delegate
BELIZE	Represented by Costa Rica	
BENIN	TAMEGNON JACQUES OKOUMASSOUN HYPOLITE ATIMBOSSOU	Voting Delegate
BELARUS	VITALI SOKOLOVSKI NATALIYA TSEKHAHA	Voting Delegate
BOLIVIA	VIVIANA CHACÓN URDININEA	Voting Delegate
BOTSWANA	MANDLENKOSI MASUKU	Voting Delegate
BRAZIL	ARNO PÉRIILLIER SCHNEIDER	Voting Delegate
BAHRAIN	SALEH FARHAN	Voting Delegate
BRUNEI	NASHRIQ MOKSIN	Voting Delegate
BULGARIA	VELICHKA HRISTEVA	Voting Delegate
BURKINA FASO	DJIBRIL ZEBE HYACINTHE DIARRA	Voting Delegate
CAMBODIA	ANG SOK	Voting Delegate
CANADA	YANN BERNARD DAVID HOWES	Voting Delegate
CHILE	BARBARA BLUMEL	Voting Delegate
CHINA	HAIBIN WANG SHENG LEI ZHIGANG HOU	Voting Delegate
CYPRUS	Represented by Greece	
IVORY COAST	ZADI THÉODORE GOGOUA	Voting Delegate
CAMEROUN	DIEUDONNÉ MARCEL AMOUGOU NGUINA	Voting Delegate

CONGO DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC	MICHEL MAUNZA PITCHOU BOLENGE	Voting Delegate
COLOMBIA	MARIANA VILA CARVAJALFCE	Voting Delegate
CAPE VERDE	MARIA RAMOS SILVA	Voting Delegate
COSTA RICA	LUIS ALBERTO CRUZ MELENDEZ ALBERTO CRUZ GARCIA	Voting Delegate
CROATIA	ANTONIO TRCIN IRENA SULJIC	Voting Delegate
CUBA	ALHJADIS BANDERA MIRANDA	Voting Delegate
CZECH REPUBLIC	OLDRICH KUBISTA	Voting Delegate
DENMARK	JAN JENSEN	Voting Delegate
DOMINICA	CODY MORRIS	Voting Delegate
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	LUIS BERNARDO	Voting Delegate
ECUADOR	LORENA ARROYO	Voting Delegate
EGYPT	ABDELMONEIM ELHUSSEINY	Voting Delegate
EL SALVADOR	JUAN GOMEZ MELISSA ALVARENGA	Voting Delegate
SPAIN	JOSE LUIS ABAJO GOMEZ ANTONIO GARCIA HERNANDEZ	Voting Delegate
ESTONIA	AIVAR PAALBERG	Voting Delegate
FINLAND	JOONAS LYYTINEN VARPU WIENS	Voting Delegate
FRANCE	BRUNO GARES SYLVIE LE MAUX	Voting Delegate
GREAT BRITAIN	HILARY PHILBIN GEORGINA USHER PETER JACOBS	Voting Delegate
GEORGIA	NINO JERENASHVILI	Voting Delegate
GERMANY	CLAUDIA BOKEL ALEXANDER BÖHM GORDON RAPP REKA SZABO	Voting Delegate
GHANA	MOHAMMED MAHADI	Voting Delegate
GREECE	IOANNIS LIGNOS	Voting Delegate
GUATEMALA	OTTO BALDERRAMOS	Voting Delegate
GUAM	ANTHONY CAMACHO	Voting Delegate
GUYANA	AVINASH SOMIR	Voting Delegate
HAITI	SAGINE DORCIL DUKERNIS LOUIS JOSEPH	Voting Delegate
HONDURAS	Represented by Uruguay	
HONG KONG	WING SUN ALEXANDER N WALSON YEUNG	Voting Delegate
HUNGARY	ZSOLT CSAMPA	Voting Delegate
INDONESIA	AGUS SUPARMANTO	Voting Delegate
INDIA	RAJEEV MEHTA	Voting Delegate

IRAN	ALIREZA POURSALEMANI	Voting Delegate
IRELAND	URSULA KAPPUS NUALA MCGARRITY	Voting Delegate
IRAQ	ZEYAD SALEEM HASSAN AL MUSAWI	Voting Delegate
ICELAND	NIKOLAY IVANOV MATEEV	Voting Delegate
ISRAEL	JOSEF HARARI	Voting Delegate
VIRGIN ISLANDS	ANDRES FRIEBUS JOYCE BOLANOS	Voting Delegate
ITALY	MAURIZIO RANDAZZO GIUSEPPE CAFIERO	Voting Delegate
JAMAICA	JAMES MCBEAN	Voting Delegate
JORDAN	KHALED ATIYAT	Voting Delegate
JAPAN	KIYOSHI WADA ITSUKI NISHIZAWA SHUNSUKE SAKA YUSUKE AOKI	Voting Delegate
KAZAKHSTAN	MIRBULAT ABUOV DMITRIY GRYAZNOV ELMIR ALIMZHANOV	Voting Delegate
KENYA	SIMON NDICHU STEPHEN KUYA	Voting Delegate
KYRGYZSTAN	OSMONZHAN KASYMOV	Voting Delegate
KOREA	JONG HYUNG CHO	Voting Delegate
SAUDI ARABIA	AHMED ALSABBAN	Voting Delegate
KUWAIT	ABDULLAH ALWAALAN	Voting Delegate
LATVIA	BAIBA BRANDULE	Voting Delegate
LIBYA	DHW TOUMI	Voting Delegate
LEBANON	JIHAD SALAMEH IMAD NAHAS	Voting Delegate
LITHUANIA	AIDA VENGALE	Voting Delegate
LUXEMBOURG	PASCAL TESCH GÉRARD ZENS	Voting Delegate
MACAO	U CHUN CHAN IN I LAO	Voting Delegate
MADAGASCAR	MICKAEL RAKOTONDRAMANANA	Voting Delegate
MONACO	Represented by France	
MOROCCO	MOHAMMED NAHI	Voting Delegate
MALAYSIA	AINAA FARIK	Voting Delegate
MOLDOVA	OLGA COJOCARI MIHAIL PAGHIEV	Voting Delegate
MEXICO	JORGE CASTRO	Voting Delegate
MONGOLIA	DORJSUREN GANBAATAR	Voting Delegate
NORTH MACEDONIA	ZORAN STOJANOVIC	Voting Delegate
MALI	WAHABOU ZOROME	Voting Delegate

MAURITIUS	VEENA GUNPUT	Voting Delegate
MAURITANIA	ABDALLAHI EL MOUSTAPH	Voting Delegate
MYANMAR	Represented by Uzbekistan	
NICARAGUA	WILLIAM GENET	Voting Delegate
NETHERLANDS	LEON PIJNAPPEL ETIENNE VAN CANN BERT VAN DE FLIER	Voting Delegate
NEPAL	SUNIL KUMAR SHRESTHA	Voting Delegate
NIGERIA	ADEYINKA SAMUEL	Voting Delegate
NIGER	TIEMO ADAMOU IDRISSE	Voting Delegate
NORWAY	BJØRN FAYE	Voting Delegate
NEW ZEALAND	DAVID ELDER	Voting Delegate
OMAN	Represented by Kazakhstan	
PAKISTAN	USMAN AHMED	Voting Delegate
PANAMA	SOLMORAINE AMEGLIO DE DORATI	Voting Delegate
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Represented by New Zealand	
PARAGUAY	MIGUEL ANGEL PAREDES FASSINO	Voting Delegate
PERU	MARIEL SIFUENTES CRUZ	Voting Delegate
PHILIPPINES	LEAH GONZALEZ	Voting Delegate
PALESTINE	DAWOUD MITWALI	Voting Delegate
POLAND	PIOTR GIRDWOYN	Voting Delegate
PORTUGAL	CLAUSO NEVES	Voting Delegate
PUERTO RICO	JUAN CARLOS RAMIREZ CONCEPCION	Voting Delegate
QATAR	KHALID AL HAMADI MASSIMO OMERI	Voting Delegate
ROMANIA	MARIUS FLOREA ROXANA BARLADEANU	Voting Delegate
SOUTH AFRICA	MICHAEL STAFFORD LOUISE LOMBARD	Voting Delegate
RUSSIA	ILGAR MAMEDOV EKATERINA KONDRATEVA	Voting Delegate
RWANDA	PAUL OGAA PACIFIQUE MUTESA	Voting Delegate
SAMOA	HELEN SMITH	Voting Delegate
SAN MARINO	Represented by Italy	
SENEGAL	OUMAR MAIGA MAMADOU SY	Voting Delegate
SINGAPORE	JULIANA SEOW	Voting Delegate
SERBIA	DEJAN RUSKI VUKASIN STOSIC	Voting Delegate
SLOVENIA	Represented by Croatia	
SRI LANKA	SAMANTHI WEERASINGHE AJITH SIYAMBALAPITIYA	Voting Delegate
SWITZERLAND	LARS FRAUCHIGER	Voting Delegate

SLOVAK REPUBLIC	ATTILA ERSEK	Voting Delegate
SWEDEN	OTTO DRAKENBERG ANA VALERO-COLLANTES	Voting Delegate
SYRIA	AHMAD ALREFAAI	Voting Delegate
THAILAND	CHANCHAI YOSSUNDARA	Voting Delegate
TAJIKISTAN	TURAI ABDURAKHMON	Voting Delegate
TURKMENISTAN	MERET MEREDOV	Voting Delegate
TOGO	AMI BRIGITTE DJEWA	Voting Delegate
CHINESE TAIPEI	KOVACS LIN	Voting Delegate
TUNISIA	MOHAMED SOFIANE CHAOUACHI	Voting Delegate
TÜRKIYE	MURAT ATALI ABDUSSAMET ARSLAN	Voting Delegate
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	MOUSA ALBLOOSHI	Voting Delegate
UGANDA	KENNETH ORINGO	Voting Delegate
UKRAINE	SERGII MISHCHENKO NATALIIA CONRAD OLGA KHARLAN	Voting Delegate
URUGUAY	DIAMANTE PEIRANO LUIS FILARDI	Voting Delegate
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	RITA COMES GREG MASSIALAS JENNIFER YAMIN KELLY KOEHLER LORRIE MARCIL-HOLMES	Voting Delegate
UZBEKISTAN	GULNORA SAIDOVA	Voting Delegate
VENEZUELA	FRANCISCO RAFAEL MARÍN ALVAREZ	Voting Delegate
VIETNAM	LE QUANG PHUNG	Voting Delegate
YEMEN	Represented by Iraq	Voting Delegate
	SEYMOUR BAGNELL	LUMI Global
	ALEXANDER HAMPSHIRE	LUMI Global
	EDWARD GARDINER	Notary, from Cheeswrights Notaries Public
	JORGE IBARROLA	Attorney at Law, Libra Law

Agenda

1. Validation of attendances and proxies
2. Address of the Interim President
3. Decisions regarding athletes and officials from Russia and Belarus
4. Update of the Olympic qualification system

1. Validation of attendance and proxies

[Everybody is connecting and testing the sound and channel.]

Nathalie Rodriguez: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, good night to everyone. Some of you are late, we are trying to enter them as soon as possible. Before we move forward, I would like to introduce the notary, who is in the office of Lumi and I would like to give the floor to Mr. Gardiner, who is the Notary next to Lumi. Mister Gardiner?

Edward Gardiner: Thank you Nathalie and good morning, everyone. Or good... Hello to everyone. Just to confirm I am Edward Gardiner, and I am a notary of an established notarial firm in the city of London. And I will be the appointed today to oversee the online voting process and all the matters. And most importantly I will be making sure that during any voting, absolutely nothing happens to the voting platform. And most importantly that any vote submitted are totally anonymous. And I will be producing a report after the meeting. Ok, thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you Mister Gardiner. I will also introduce the FIE lawyer, who is in the FIE meeting room. So, Mr. Ibarrola.

Jorge Ibarrola: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. My name is Jorge Ibarrola, I am an attorney at law, Swiss qualified attorney at law registered with the bar of the Canton de Vaud, Switzerland. And I am here for any reasons that ... to be helpful for the holding of this general assembly. Thank you very much.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, we are going to start now with the roll call and after this with the list of proxies. Guatemala has raised the hand. Yes, Guatemala? Guatemala?

Guatemala: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: No. You have raised your hand. We start with the roll call. When I will call your federation, please unmute yourself, and say present. So, I will start. Algeria?

Algeria: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Algeria.

Algeria: Good Morning, Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Present. Thank you. Angola? Angola? Angola are you present? Can Lumi tell us if Angola is connected?

Lumi: Angola is not currently connected.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Not yet connected. Ok, I will come back to them. Antigua and Barbuda? Antigua and Barbuda are you present?

Antigua and Barbuda: Good morning. Yes, I am present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Argentina?

Argentina: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Armenia? Armenia? Is Armenia present? Lumi, is Armenia connected?

Lumi: Armenia is connected to the Lumi platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, Armenia, can you say present? So, I will come back to Armenia after. Aruba? Is Aruba present? Is Aruba connected? Lumi, is Aruba connected?

Lumi: Aruba has logged in to the Lumi platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Aruba, are you here? So, I will come back to you after. American Samoa?

American Samoa: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Australia?

Australia: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Azerbaijan?

Azerbaijan: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Belgium?

Belgium: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Benin? Benin?

Benin: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Belarus?

Belarus: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Bolivia? Bolivia? Is Bolivia connected?

Lumi: Bolivia is not connected to the Lumi platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: It is, or it is not?

Lumi: Is not.

Nathalie Rodriguez: I will come back to them. Botswana? Botswana? Is Botswana connected, please?

Lumi: Yes, Botswana is connected to the Lumi platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ok. Botswana are you present? Botswana? Is Botswana present or not?

Botswana: Botswana is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Brazil?

Brazil: Brazil is here. Brazil is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Bahrain?

Bahrain: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Brunei?

Brunei: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Bulgaria? Bulgaria? Is Bulgaria present? Is Bulgaria connected?

Lumi: Yes, Bulgaria is connected to the Lumi platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Bulgaria, are you present? I will come back to you after. Burkina Faso? Burkina Faso, can you please confirm if you are present? Burkina Faso? I will come back to Burkina Faso¹. Cambodia?

Cambodia: Yes, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Canada?

Canada: Canada, present, Nathalie.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Merci, Yann. Congo? Congo? Is Congo connected?

Lumi: Congo is not connected to the Lumi platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Chile?

Chile: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. China? China? China? Is China connected?

Lumi: Yes, China is connected to the Lumi platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. China? Can you please answer? Are you present? Ok. I will come back to China. Côte d'Ivoire?

China: Present, sorry. China is present.

1. Burkina Faso confirmed its presence in the chat.

Nathalie Rodriguez: China is present. Ok. Côte d'Ivoire? Côte d'Ivoire? Is Côte d'Ivoire connected?

Lumi: Yes, Côte d'Ivoire is connected to the Lumi platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Côte d'Ivoire, are you present? Ok, we will come back to them. Cameroon? Cameroon? Are you present? Cameroon? We will come back to Cameroon. Democratic Republic of Congo?

Democratic Republic of Congo: Present. We are present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Colombia? Colombia? Are you present, Colombia? We will come back to Colombia. Cape Verde?

Cape Verde: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Is Cape Verde present?

Cape Verde: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ok. Present, very good. Costa Rica?

Costa Rica: Costa Rica, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Croatia?

Croatia: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Cuba? – Are you present, Cuba?

Cuba: Cuba is present, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, very good. – Good. Czech Republic?

Czech Republic: Czech Republic is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Denmark? Is Denmark present? Denmark can you say if you are present?

Denmark: Yes, Denmark is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ok. Dominica? We will come back to Dominica. Dominican Republic? – The Dominican Republic is present, correct? Yes, in the chat. Ecuador? Ecuador?

Ecuador: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Egypt?

Egypt: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. El Salvador?

El Salvador: El Salvador. – Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: - Thank you. Spain?

Spain: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Estonia?

Estonia: Estonia, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Finland?

Finland: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. France?

France: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank You. Great Britain?

Great Britain: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Georgia?

Georgia: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Germany?

Germany: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Ghana?

Ghana: Ghana, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Greece?

Greece: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Guatemala? Guatemala?

Guatemala: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Guinea?

Guinea²: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Guam?

Guam: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Guyana?

Guyana: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Haiti?

Haiti: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Hong Kong?

Hong Kong: Hi, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Hungary? Hungary?

Hungary: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Indonesia?

Indonesia: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. India?

India: Yes present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Iran?

Iran: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Ireland?

Ireland: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. I called Iran before.

Iran: Yes, Nathalie. I am present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Iraq?

Iraq: Present.

2. Guinea not connected on Lumi platform, not taken into account as voting delegate.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Iceland?

Iceland: Yes, present in Budapest.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Israel?

Israel: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Virgin Islands? Virgin Islands? Ok we will come back to you after. Italy?

Italy: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Jamaica?

Jamaica: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Jordan?

Jordan: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Japan?

Japan: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Kazakhstan?

Kazakhstan: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Kenya?

Kenya: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Kyrgyzstan?

Kyrgyzstan: Yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Korea?

Korea: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Saudi Arabia? Saudi Arabia?

Saudi Arabia: Yes, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Kuwait?

Kuwait: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Present, Kuwait?

Kuwait: Present, present. Yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Latvia?

Latvia: Latvia is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Libya?

Libya: Yes, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Lebanon?

Lebanon: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Lithuania? Lithuania? Lithuania? Ok, we will come back to you. Luxembourg?

Luxembourg: Luxembourg is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Macao?

Macao: Macao is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Madagascar? Is Madagascar present?

Madagascar: We are present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Morocco?

Morocco: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Malaysia?

Malaysia: Malaysia is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Moldova?

Moldova: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Mexico? Mexico?

Mexico: Mexico present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Mongolia?

Mongolia: Mongolia, present, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. North Macedonia?

North Macedonia: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Mali?

Mali: Mali is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Mauritius? Mauritius? Mauritius ? Ok, we will come back to you. Mauritania?

Mauritania: Mauritania is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Namibia? Namibia is present? So, we'll come back to you. Nicaragua?

Nicaragua: Nicaragua present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Netherlands? Netherlands? Netherlands, are you present? So, we will come back to you. Nepal?

Nepal: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Nigeria?

Nigeria: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Niger? Niger? Niger³? So, we will come back to you. Norway?

Norway: Norway, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. New Zealand?

New Zealand: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Pakistan? Pakistan? Pakistan? We will come back to you. Panama?

Panama: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Paraguay? Paraguay? Paraguay? We will come back to you⁴. Peru? Peru?

Peru: Present. Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Philippines?

Philippines: Present.

3. Niger confirmed its presence in the chat.

4. Paraguay has confirmed its presence in the chat.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Palestine?

Palestine: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Poland?

Poland: Hello, Poland is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Portugal?

Portugal: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Puerto Rico?

Puerto Rico: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Qatar?

Qatar: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Romania?

Romania: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. South Africa?

South Africa: South Africa, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Russia?

Russia: Russia, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Rwanda? Rwanda? We will come back to you.

Rwanda: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Rwanda?

Rwanda: Rwanda is here.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Very good. Samoa?

Samoa: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Senegal?

Senegal: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Singapore?

Singapore: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Serbia?

Serbia: Serbia is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Sri Lanka? Sri Lanka?

Sri Lanka: Present. Sri Lanka present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Switzerland? Switzerland? Are you present, Switzerland? Well, I will come back to you⁵. Slovakia?

Slovakia: Slovakia is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Sweden?

Sweden: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Syrian Arab Republic? Syria? Syria? Ok, we will come back to you. Thailand?

Thailand: Thailand is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Tajikistan? Thank you. Tajikistan?

Tajikistan: Yes, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Turkmenistan?

Turkmenistan: Yes, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Togo? Togo? Togo? I will come back to Togo. Chinese Taipei?

Chinese Taipei: Taipei, present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Tunisia? Tunisia?

Tunisia: Present, Tunisia is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Türkiye? Are you present? Türkiye?

Lumi: Türkiye had logged on to the Lumi platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Türkiye? Ok we will come back to you. United Arab Emirates?

5. Switzerland has confirmed its presence in the chat.

United Arab Emirates: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Uganda?

Uganda: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Ukraine?

Ukraine: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Uruguay?

Uruguay: Uruguay present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. USA?

USA: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Uzbekistan? Uzbekistan?

Lumi: Uzbekistan are logged in to the platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Uzbekistan? Are you present? So, we will come back to you. Venezuela?

Venezuela: Venezuela is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Vietnam?

Vietnam: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ok. I will come back to the countries which did not answer. So, Côte d'Ivoire, are you there? Côte d'Ivoire? Is Côte d'Ivoire connected?

Lumi: Côte d'Ivoire is connected to the platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. So, Côte d'Ivoire, thank you for letting me know your presence. Côte d'Ivoire? Cameroon? Cameroon?

Lumi: Cameroon are logged in to the platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Mister Marcel Amougou, Cameroon, are you present? We will come back to you. Colombia? Colombia?

Lumi: Colombia is not logged in to the platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ok. Colombia is not present. Cape Verde? Cape Verde?

Lumi: Cape Verde are logged in.

Cape Verde: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ah, present. Ok. Dominica, are you present?

Côte d'Ivoire: Côte d'Ivoire is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ah! Côte d'Ivoire is present. Very good. Dominica is present. Ok. I see it in the chat. Mauritius? Are you present? Mauritius are you present? Is Mauritius connected?

Bulgaria: Bulgaria is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Lumi, is Mauritius connected?

Lumi: Yes. Mauritius is connected to the platform.

China: China is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: China is present. Ok. Thank you.

Uzbekistan: Uzbekistan is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Uzbekistan is present.

Bolivia: Bolivia is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, thank you. Bolivia is present and Bulgaria is present.

Armenia: Armenia also present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Armenia is present. Ok. Aruba?

Lithuania: Lithuania is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ok. Lithuania is present. Ok.

Lumi: Aruba is connected to the platform.

Pakistan: Pakistan also present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Dominica is present. And Nigeria is present.

Netherlands: The Netherlands is also present. Thank you.

Pakistan: Pakistan is also present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ok. Netherlands is present. Thank you. Pakistan is present fine. Aruba is present, I see in the chat.

Türkiye: Türkiye is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Türkiye is present. Thank you. I see that the Switzerland is also present. Very good. Togo is present too. I see in the chat. Colombia? Colombia?

Colombia: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Colombia is present. Cameroon? Cameroon?

Cameroon: Cameroon is present. Cameroon is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Very good. What is... Is there any country that...

Virgin Islands: Virgin Islands is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Virgin Islands is present, thank you.

Bolivia: Bolivia is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Bolivia, I know. So, Mauritius? Are you present?

Michael Stafford (RSA): Mauritius is present in the chat.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ok, thank you. And I see that... Rwanda is present.

Côte d'Ivoire: Côte d'Ivoire is present; Côte d'Ivoire is present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, thank you. Syria? Is Syria present? Syria are you present? Lumi is Syria connected?

Lumi: Yes, Syria is connected.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, Mauritius is present as I can see in the chat. Are there any countries, that is federations that I did not call? Angola are you here? Angola? Is Angola connected?

Lumi: Angola are connected to the platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Angola can you say that you are present? Angola?

Zeyad Saleem (IRQ): Madam Nathalie, Syria is present but not with audio.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Sorry?

Syria: Syria.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Oh, Syria you are here. Thank you.

Syria: Welcome.

Lumi: Nathalie just to say, Turkmenistan appears to be connected to the Zoom, but Turkmenistan is not connected to the Lumi platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Turkmenistan is not connected to the Lumi platform?

Lumi: That is correct.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, Turkmenistan, you have to connect to the Lumi platform. You are connected only on Zoom now. So, Angola is present, thank you. So, is there any country that I did not call?

Lumi: Just to confirm that Turkmenistan is now connected to the platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. So, if...

Bolivia: Miss Rodriguez, Bolivia is connected to the Lumi platform?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, yes. No problem. You are registered. Thank you. So, if all countries are called, I will now move to the proxies.

Helen Smith (MH, AUS): Nathalie, is Congo here? Congo?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Congo? Where?

Helen Smith (MH, AUS): Is it present? Because I thought they did not answer when you first call.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Lumi, is Congo connected?

Lumi: Which Congo you are referring to?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Congo. C-G-O. The other one is the Republic Democratic of Congo, I am calling Congo.

Lumi: CGO is not connected to the platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Is not connected. So, it means they are absent.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Who is present?

Mbagnick Ndiayé: The two Congo are there. Congo is there with its general secretary.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Both?

Michel Maunza (COD): Congo Democratic present.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Lumi, are CGO and COD connected?

Lumi: COD is connected; CGO is not connected.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, Congo is not connected to the Lumi platform. Congo, CGO has to connect on the Lumi platform, not only on Zoom.

Mbagnick Ndiayé: What does that mean? Madam Nathalie?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes?

Mbagnick Ndiayé: I want to understand. Which of the Congo? Democratic or Congo Brazza?

Nathalie Rodriguez: No, C-G-O, C-G-O. Not COD, C-G-O.

Mbagnick Ndiayé: Ok, but what are they connected to?

Nathalie Rodriguez: They are connected on Zoom, but not on Lumi.

Mbagnick Ndiayé: So, are they valid or are they not valid?

Nathalie Rodriguez: No, they have to connect to Lumi.

Mbagnick Ndiayé: Ah, ok. It is a problem of understanding.

Nathalie Rodriguez: COD is connected. CGO is not connected.

Mbagnick Ndiayé: Ok, I will call them. It is connection problems.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, we move now to the proxies. Afghanistan has given proxy to Kyrgyzstan. Does Kyrgyzstan accept?

Kyrgyzstan: Yes, yes, yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: You accept. Ok. Austria has given proxy to Germany. Does Germany accept?

Germany: Yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Bahamas has given proxy to Guyana. Does Guyana accept?

Guyana: Yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Barbados has given proxy to Venezuela. Does Venezuela accept?

Venezuela: Yes, I accept.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Belize has given proxy to Costa Rica. Does Costa Rica accept?

Costa Rica: Yes, we accept.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Cyprus has given proxy to Greece. Does Greece accept?

Greece: Yes, I accept.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Honduras has given proxy to Uruguay. Does Uruguay accept? Uruguay?

Uruguay: I accept.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Monaco has given proxy to France. Does France accept? Does France accept the proxy of Monaco?

France: France accepts the proxy.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Myanmar has given proxy to Uzbekistan. Does Uzbekistan accept?

Uzbekistan: Yes, we accept.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Oman has given proxy to Kazakhstan. Does Kazakhstan accept?

Kazakhstan: Yes, I accept.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Papua New Guinea has given proxy to New Zealand. Does New Zealand accept?

New Zealand: Yes, I accept.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. San Marino has given proxy to Italy. Does Italy accept?

Italy: Yes, accept.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Slovenia has given proxy to Croatia. Does Croatia accept?

Croatia: Yes, we accept Slovenian proxy.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Yemen has given proxy to Iraq. Does Iraq accept? Iraq?

Iraq: Accept, yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ok, thank you. So now, Lumi. I would like to know if Congo has connected. CGO?

Lumi: No, CGO is not connected to the voting platform.

Nathalie Rodriguez: CGO you are connected to Zoom but not to Lumi. CGO, please, connect on Lumi.

Lumi: CGO has still not connected to the Lumi platform. We are not sure if they are connected to Zoom. If someone wants to check that.

Nathalie Rodriguez: CGO is not connected to either Lumi or Zoom. If you are not logged in within 30 seconds, we will be forced to consider you as absent.

30 seconds waiting time

Nathalie Rodriguez: Good. The floor will be now to Lumi and to the notary to check and to display the number of federations present and the number of federations represented. If Congo or another federation arrives later after this, Lumi will inform us.

Lumi: Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, we have 132 federations present and 14 represented, for a total of 146 for the moment. Thank you.

Lumi: That is correct. I confirm. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, the floor is now to the Interim President, Emmanuel Katsiadakis.

2. Address of the FIE Interim President

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Dear Members of Honour, Dear Members of the Executive Committee, Dear Members of Commissions and Councils, Dear Presidents, and Representatives of the National Federations, I welcome you in Extraordinary Congress of FIE.

As you know, the Executive Committee unanimously decided during its meeting of 25th November 2022, to organise an extraordinary Congress at the beginning of March, as the Olympic Qualification period starts in April 2023, and a decision must be made on the participation or not of athletes and officials from the Russian Fencing Federation and the Belarusian Fencing Federation.

Since the 2022 Congress, several events occupied in the Olympic Movement, including an Olympic Summit on December 9th, 2022.

Following this Summit, the IOC held consultation calls with the IOC Members, the Global Network of athletes' representatives, the International Federations, and the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) on 17th and 19th January 2023.

The IOC published a press release on January 25th, 2023, indicating that:

I quote:

"With regard to the athletes with Russian and Belarusian passports, the vast majority of the participants in each of the consultation calls expressed the following:

- a) Strong commitment to the unifying mission of the Olympic Movement, requesting and encouraging it to live up to this unifying mission, particularly in these times of division, confrontation, and war.
- b) Respect the rights of all athletes to be treated without any discrimination, in accordance with the Olympic Charter.
- c) Governments must not decide which athletes can participate in which competition and which athletes cannot.
- d) No athlete should be prevented from competing just because of their passport.
- e) A pathway for athletes' participation in competition under strict conditions should therefore be further explored."

End of quote

As of today, the recommendations of the IOC of February 28th, 2022, are still in place.

However, the IOC Executive Committee shall meet from March 28th to 30th, and we expect to receive recommendations or decisions regarding international competitions.

IOC decisions regarding the Paris 2024 Olympic Games are not expected at this stage. Therefore, item 4 of the agenda cannot be dealt with today, as IOC decisions on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games from the IOC have not been made.

In January and February, the Executive Committee met several times to discuss in depth the situation of athletes and officials from the Russian and Belarusian Federations in the FIE. A vote took place, and the Executive Committee was in favour of their participation in FIE competitions. As a reminder, and as stated during the 2022 Congress, the Executive Committee does not want to exclude the Russian and Belarusian athletes from the Olympic qualification. It is, however, up to the Congress to decide.

The Executive Committee has therefore prepared the questions that are submitted to you and which you have received one week ago.

I am sure that everyone in this congress will show respect to the FIE values and its code of conduct. We are all members of the same FIE family. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Now, the last few days, we received two letters. One from Mr. Joonas Lyytinen, if I say correct the name, of the Nordic Fencing Union. And one from the Ukrainian Fencing Federation.

The letter from Mr. Lyytinen has 9 questions to be put before the Congress. We believe that they are of general interest. Therefore, we will read these questions together with our answers. And I ask from Nathalie Rodriguez: to help me to say... to start to say the questions and after I will say the answers. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, question number 1: What does the "personal eligibility" mentioned in the questions put forward to the Extraordinary Congress mean in practice, what is the process of determining this eligibility and who will make the decision on compliance to these?

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Ok. FIE administrative rules article 1.2 means that athletes who participate in FIE competitions undertake to first abide by the provisions of FIE rules and statutes, second respect the FIE adopting rules, use neither prohibited substances nor prohibited methods and agreed to undergo any in-competitions and out of competitions tests. In addition, the athletes will have to respect the Congress decisions, respect the Executive Committee decisions. Decisions as to non-compliance with these conditions will be made according to the FIE statutes and rules. IOC full recommendations, decisions are to be received at the end of March.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Question number 2: What will the consequences be if Russian and Belarusian athletes are allowed to participate and fail to be "in compliance with the conditions of neutrality"? What will be the process to investigate and validate suspected instances of non-compliance and who will make the decision on possible consequences?

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Ok, IOC statement of January 25th, 2023, the point 3.F says in the event of any athlete failing to respect the eligibility criteria or failing to respect the strict participation conditions, the IFs, special for us the FIE, and all the sports event organisers concerned should immediately remove them from the competitions. The FIE should suspend them from the further competitions and report the incident to the IOC for its consideration for further measures and sanctions. Violation of conditions of neutrality will be investigated by the FIE, taking into consideration the recommendations and decisions of IOC.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Question number 3: Several countries do not issue visas to Russian or Belarusian citizens and do not allow them to enter the country. What steps are FIE going to take to tackle this problem if international competitions are organised in these countries?

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): FIE will take all necessary steps to avoid organising international competitions in any country that does not respect the principle of equality for all athletes, including issuing visas to all participating athletes. As per article 2.6.5 of the Administrative Rules, the Executive Committee will try to relocate the competition as it did when other similar cases happened in the past. And with the refusal of visas all due to the COVID-19 measures which were not in line with the FIE rules.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Question number 4: Many governments have stated that they will withdraw monetary support from national sports organisations participating in competition with Russian and Belarusian athletes. Will FIE reimburse these financial losses to these national fencing federations?

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Terms and conditions for monetary support by governments being domestic matters of each country, the FIE does not intervene in such matters. The FIE is an autonomous non-governmental organisation which is recognized by the IOC as the organisation which governs the sport of fencing worldwide in accordance with the rules of the Olympic charter. Article 2.1.1a Statutes states the national federation must have an independent role in accordance with the principles of Olympic charter. The FIE cannot be held responsible for decisions of governments. The FIE is committed to follow the decisions of the FIE Congress and to be compliant with the IOC recommendations and decisions.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Question number 5: Several national federations are at risk of losing sponsorships from private enterprises if they participate in competitions with Russian or Belarusian athletes. Will FIE reimburse this lost revenue to the national fencing federations?

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): The FIE does not intervene in matters concerning terms and conditions regarding sponsorships of federations by private entities. The FIE cannot be held responsible for decisions of private enterprises.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Question number 6: What are the concrete plans and actions that FIE will implement for security and safeguarding if the Russian and Belarusian athletes are allowed to participate in international competitions?

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): The FIE is well aware that the safety and security of the competitions is a matter of the utmost importance in these times. In collaboration with the organisers of each competitions, the FIE undertakes to organise safe and secure competitions for everyone involved. Organising federations will have to hire a private security company at the expenses of the FIE to ensure security. Members of the Executive Committee and senior staff will also be present to support the supervisor or event manager or safeguarding officers for possible safeguarding issues.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Question number 7: What kind of consequences or penalties will athletes from other countries face from FIE if they decline to fence against Russian or Belarusian athletes in international competitions due to personal ethical and moral reasons?

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): If the athletes are absent or if they are not present on the piste, on the strip at the start of the match, the article of the rules such as o.74 or o.79 etc. apply. For other circumstances this would not be in the first instance of athletes refusing to fence against athletes of other country for personal reasons there are specific provisions in the FIE statutes and rules.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Question number 8: The IOC is trying to uncover the possibilities for Russian and Belarusian athletes to participate in tournaments again. In what way will it be beneficial for fencing to be among the first Federations to take a position?

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): The IOC is aware of the situation of each International Federation in terms of Olympic qualifications system and period. The IOC also approved the FIE Olympic qualification system. Fencing is starting its Olympic qualification in April 2023 and has no other choice than to make a decision before that period. Recommendations, decisions of the IOC are expected at the end of March. The Executive Committee does not seek to establish any benefit by proposing a vote on the questions put before the Congress. Simply put, it wishes to have in place a reliable ranking in the qualification system, if, and only if, the IOC decides that Russian and Belarusian athletes are allowed to compete in the 2024 Olympic Games. Should the IOC decide to exclude the Russian and Belarusian athletes at the Olympics, the position in the ranking will be off. No consequence.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Question number 9: Since we still have not elected a new president due to our president's self-suspension, will the bond between the FIE and Russian interests be perceived as too tight, and could damage FIE's public image and lead to loss of goodwill in the IOC and general public?

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): I am sorry... so, this is a question for me.

Nathalie Rodriguez: No, question number 9. Question number 9. Yes, number 9.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Question number 9? It is a question very close of mine. So, the FIE is an independent body with no ties to the self-suspended President. The appointment of the Interim President has been confirmed by the Congress of November 2022 and the IOC has confirmed about it. The Interim President maintains bonds of friendship and respect with the 155 members federations and the FIE does not have special interest with any of them. I am a really independent President. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, these are the answers that can be provided to the questions that were sent by the Nordic Fencing Union. Do you have any questions on this or any comments?

3. Decisions regarding athletes and officials from Russia and Belarus

Nathalie Rodriguez: So now we will move to the second letter that the FIE has received. Mr. Katsiadakis will inform about the letter of Ukraine.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Yes, yes. We received this letter from the Ukrainian Fencing Federation and the request of the Federation is the following. The first question is to exclude from the agenda for the FIE online Extraordinary Congress scheduled for 10th March 2023 the point for discussion, voting or any other actions, including directives or instructions by FIE authorities, regarding the admission of Russian and/or Belarusian fencers from the qualifying competitions to participate in the Olympic Games 2024 and any other international competitions. This is the first request.

And the second request is to refrain from deciding the matters specified in paragraph 1, until the complaint of the Ukrainian Fencing Federation is duly considered with making a final decision in accordance with the FIE ethical code and the FIE disciplinary code, including the consideration of the complaint in all instances of the Court of Arbitration for Sport and if necessary, in Swiss courts. These are the two requests from the Ukrainian Fencing Federation.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, I see that Vadym Guttsait and Pascal Tesch want the floor. So, Vadym Guttsait, the floor is yours.

Vadym Guttsait (UKR): Hello my friends, hello my colleagues, hello my fencers brothers, my family fencers. Some words about the situation. A year has passed since the Russian troops with the support of Belarus invaded the territory of independent Ukraine, violating the Olympic Truce. The basic Olympic principles and values of peaceful coexistence, friendship and mutual respect were violated. The decision and recommendation taken by the IOC to prevent Russian and Belarusian athletes from participating in international competitions were logical and absolutely fair. Introduction of sanction against violators of the Olympic charter, the international sport order, the fair restriction of the rights of athletes and entourage, they can be lifted only after correction of the violation, the end of Russia's war with the support of Belarus against Ukraine. I must emphasize that the war is supported by the head of NOC of Russia and Belarus, by the vast majority of the sport federations of these countries including fencing one, judges, coaches. In my opinion, we do not have the... Russian and Belarusian to sport arenas, while Ukraine and sport community suffers new losses. During this war, 251 Ukrainian athletes and coaches were killed. About 40'000 athletes were forced to move abroad, about 350 sport facilities were severely destroyed or damaged. The war affects every Ukrainian fencer. Someone lost their family or friends. Colleagues, someone lost their home; someone lost their training opportunities. We do not have understand what equal conditions with Russian and Belarusian athletes can be discussed in principle. The IOC recommendation on ban for Belarusian and Russian athletes is still valid. This why there is not background for us to discuss any change. I believe until war stops, we cannot let Russian and Belarusian fencers to come back to the competitions within the FIE authority in any status. I ask you to support the idea of prolongation of the ban. I thank you and I ask you for that solidarity with Ukrainians during this difficult time. Thank you so much.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Pascal Tesch, Luxemburg.

Pascal Tesch (LUX): Thank you, Madam Chairman. Thank you also, Mister President ad Interim, for these

extensive and creative answers put forward. I want to come back to question number one about neutrality. When I researched about neutrality, I inspired myself with International Red Cross. The word “neutral” comes from the Latin “neuter” and it means neither one thing nor the other. So, it could be considered someone neutral whoever refrains from participating in a conflict or altercation and abstains from any interference. The reasons for that can be numerous. So, the definition can also take various aspects. However, I missed to hear any of the reasons, any of the aspects in the explanation we heard a few minutes ago.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Thank you Pascal. So, I give again the floor to...

Nathalie Rodriguez: Excuse me, excuse me. Venezuela wants the floor.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Ah! Sorry.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Venezuela.

Francisco Rafael Marín Alvarez (VEN): Hello, good afternoon, greetings to all the fencing family. I just want to come back to the intervention I made at the last congress. Let's not turn this congress, let's not turn this working table into a political debate. I would like to emphasize, again, my country; I am not going to talk about other countries. Venezuela has been subjected to a blockade for more than five years in which people have died. Those presidents in the neighbourhood here who like to look at the figures and statistics of international organisations, look at the number of deaths in Venezuela. In the last five years, the number of displaced people as a result of the crisis has become a point of discussion for decisions that are purely political. Because it does not apply for me, as president, to ask for the sanction of the athletes of those countries that for political reasons have a blockade on Venezuela, which also generates deaths, which also generates displaced people, which also generates problems such as...

Nathalie Rodriguez: I think Venezuela has a connection problem.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Yes. There is another person.

Avinash Somir (GUY): Hello everyone, I would like to thank the FIE for supporting athletes within a difficult time. You know, future of fencing relies on family, friendship, and youth development. Athletes are not politicians and should not be treated as such. Us, as adults, we should be the mentors that set the right example of humanity and respect so that the youth can learn. So... Just wanted to thank the FIE again for doing the best that they can to support athletes in this difficult time and I appreciate all that the FIE is doing already. Thank you.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Any others?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ghana?

Mohammed Mahadi (GHA): Hello. Ok, Madame Nathalie, greeting to everyone. I sympathize with every country that has suffered the great casualties in all wars. Can you hear me?

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): We hear you, yes.

Mohammed Mahadi (GHA): Ok, I sympathize with every country that has had great losses in many, many wars in the history, going back to what happened in Afghanistan, in Iraq, in Libya and then what is going on in

Ukraine and then Palestine which is ongoing. But then the greatest achievement of sports is autonomy of sports. Which was the resolution passed by the United Nations in its 69's Congress. Now, that resolution separates us and gives us the autonomy to take decisions separately from what politicians do. If we should go on and say that we are going to sanction every athlete who has no direct involvement or has no say in national policy, because the country is in war, we suspend athletes then we are taking the path of destroying our lovely sport. I believe the mutuality and autonomy of sports should be respected and we should separate the athletes and athletes are driven by our rules and regulations of the various disciplines. I believe that if we maintain this mutuality of us being sportsmen and the politicians deal with their matters and then we play the mutual rule of communicating our solidarity in enhancing and promoting peace in our activity by opening our arms and calling everyone to demonstrate in the peace, that we can live or have coexistence with everyone by allowing our athletes from Russia and Belarus to come and compete and demonstrating solidarity and peaceful coexistence. Because by allowing them to come and compete is demonstrating to the world that we truly stand for peace as athletes. But if we keep them aside and allow the Ukrainian to compete, where is our neutrality? Fairness should be applied by allowing every athlete to compete on the FIE tournaments so we can demonstrate that indeed fencing really stands for peace and fencing really promotes coexistence and then mutuality. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. So, we will come back to Venezuela, then we have Ukraine, Sweden, and Finland. So, Venezuela, Ukraine, Sweden, and Finland. Venezuela please.

Francisco Rafael Marín Alvarez (VEN): Yes, thank you. Sorry, I had connection problems. I was saying that, given the point of neutrality, political neutrality is laid down in the UNESCO charter, in the Olympic charter and this political neutrality speaks of what the colleague from Ghana referred to. None of our athletes, none of us presidents have the capacity to influence the directives and the political guidelines of our rulers. Therefore, please, let us not turn a sporting debate into a political debate. I repeat: all my solidarity with those countries that are in a war. All my solidarity with all the lives lost because we are also experiencing it in a different way, but we are also experiencing it. However, at this moment, we are called by sport, by Olympism and by the great fencing family that we are, to set an example of peace, unity, and integration on a fencing piste. Just as in previous years, other sports have done in other conflicts. This is our opportunity to be united and at peace and not to give political responsibility to those who do not have it. Because the athletes of the world, not of any country, are not politically responsible for the actions of their rulers. So, let's talk about the Olympic Charter, let's talk about the statutes of the FIE. That is all that can be discussed here, let's talk about sport, please let's not turn this space into a political debate. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Ukraine.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): We do not hear you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: You are muted.

Olga Kharlan (UKR): Yes. Hello everyone. You can hear me, right?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes.

Olga Kharlan (UKR): Dear fencing family, I am the same Olga Kharlan, I will always be Ukrainian from Ukraine. Four months ago, I was standing in front of you and questioning which Olympic values weight more; friendship, excellence, respect. Due to agenda of today's Congress, it is evident that some of you are still questioning themselves. Do the apply of the Olympic values value more than human live? Yesterday from 12 a.m. to the

morning 7 a.m., Russians and Belarusians had blown and strike with all existent type of missiles including ballistic. 12 cities and regions of Ukraine: Kiev, Mykolaiv, Odessa, Lviv and more were under shelling, simultaneously targeted with 81, 81 missiles and 8 drones. They were infrastructures ruined, but civil victims again who did not wake up and were burned under their houses. What is the fair play in sport today? Could the fair play be more... more when, how Vadym said, the more than 300 sport facilities in Ukraine are destroyed? 231 athletes are killed in war already and you need to find the courage to train despite the life testing you hardly without electricity and heating, internet connection failures, daily air alarms. To respect to those who keep silent still, how in order of friendship to shake hands with the Russian and Belarusian fencers as fencing etiquette requires... Sorry? ... requires after bout on the strips. Knowing that just one more attack, one more fight in Bakhmut or where else in Ukraine costs another life or Ukrainian soldiers and new shelling took away one more civil life. You do know that many athletes and officials from Russia, Belarus are calling themselves sergeants, soldiers, and officers of the State institution as military forces, polices, borders services. Those who give and swear allegiance, swear allegiance to them and are paid as well as preparation is financed by their terrorist state. Is already more than one year of the war its full-scale invasion, one year of the war itself is of Ukraine. More than one year of terrorist attacks, missiles attacks, authority of crimes, murders of Ukrainians by Russians military forces. Today, speaking here, I am asking each of fencing family what future do we stand for? Yes, sure, we stand for peace, and we should point the way that Russian, Belarus participation is not possible until the war is not finished. No use of athletes in State propaganda. You might not know, but the leader of sabre women team was visiting military base in Syria as Russian armed forces captain right after the Olympics of 2016. Is in public domain. Europe faces this terrible war; the world faces this terrible war. It is not finished. We keep... We have to keep fencing crystal clear, not compromise in this war crimes executed by state, Putin's shared responsibility on individuals. Together we will win, we can win. We have to be strong and united to protect sport from terrorism and its policy on sport stages. Glory to sport, glory to peace, glory to Ukraine. Thank you for your attention.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Sweden?

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Can you hear me, Nathalie?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, I can.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Very good. Thank you and hello everyone in the FIE Congress. We, in the Swedish Fencing Federation firmly believe that given there has been no change in the situation regarding the Russian aggression in Ukraine and it is an imperative for fairness and solidarity toward the Ukrainian athletes, whose facilities has been destroyed and who have to leave the country or to stay to fight for the defence of Ukraine in which very many have lost their lives. There is no practical reason to move away from the exclusion regime for Russian and Belarusian athletes set by the FIE in its 2022 statement. The Swedish Fencing Federation also note that through their choices, actions, and ongoing invasion, Russia broke the Olympic Truce that has been continuously supported by the United Nations General Assembly since 1993. In Russia and Belarus, sport and politics are closely intertwined. We have strong concerns on how feasible it is for Russian and Belarusian Olympic athletes to compete as neutrals under the IOC conditions of no identification with their country when they are directly funded and supported by their States. The strong links and affiliations between Russian athletes and Russian military are also of clear concern. Our approach throughout has therefore never been one of discrimination simply on the bases of nationality but this strong concerns need to be dealt with by the FIE. As long as these fundamental issues are not addressed, we do not agree that Russian and Belarusian athletes should be allowed back into competition. We, the Swedish Fencing Federation, strongly therefore urge the FIE to address the questions, identify, and reconsider its proposal accordingly. We also note that Russia and Belarus have it in their own hands to pave the way for their athletes' full return to the international sports community namely by

ending the war that they themselves started. In summary, Swedish fencing is strictly against allowing Russian and Belarusian athletes to participate in FIE competitions, whether individually or in team, from the second half of April 2023. And we are strictly against allowing Russian or Belarusian officials to attend FIE competitions from the second half of April 2023. Nor should any official from Russia or Belarus be allowed to hold positions within any organisational body of the FIE. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Finland?

Joonas Lyytinen (FIN): Thank you Nathalie, dear friends. The heart of all sports is a fair competition. And under the current circumstances, there cannot be fair competitions for the Ukrainians fencers. As we heard hundreds of Ukrainian athletes have been killed by the war that was illegally started by the Russian Federation and supported by the Belarusian government. There is no possibility of having fair competition when your athletes are killed by aggressive military actions from another state. The Ukrainian facilities have been destroyed; they cannot practice. Millions of Ukrainians has been forced to leave their country. And nobody can believe that Ukrainians can compete in a fair competition under these circumstances. And the least thing we can do, is to not to allow the people representing the aggressor in sport, to compete either. The Russians athletes as I thought I said in the Congress already are also victims of the Russian Federation and of the actions of the Russian government. But that is the decisions of the Russian government and that is not something that is in our power. And if you think that we can stay neutral when another country invades and kills people and athletes and countries and destroys facilities of another country, in our fencing family, I would like to remind you, my dear friends, that the sports community and the International community was not neutral when the South African apartheid government denied humans rights and questioned the humanity of black South Africans. We took the sports community as a collective ...big... a very strong stand and excluded the South African apartheid government from international sports. And we can go through, be different injustices of yesterday and the past and think when should have acted and why we did not act in the past. But we cannot change the past, only thing we can change is the future and the current situation. And for all my friends from the global south that think they have been mistreated or neglected I would strongly suggest that you would raise your voice and ask people and ask the international sports community to take action against injustice. We will support you. The European fencing federations and the EFC has been very clear, it is a war namely affects the Europe and Europeans as we all know. And the stands of the great majority of member federations of the European Fencing Federation have been very clear. We do not see that the Russians and the Belarusians can come back to international sport at this point. And people from other zonal confederations, I would ask you to respect the will of the Europeans in this intra-European conflict. Thank you very much.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Russia?

Ilgar Mamedov (RUS): Hello everybody, dear Congress, dear colleagues, I would like to say one remark concerning our military organisation, as all, everybody has in their own country, we have military games and we have CISM, therefore we have, for example, in our country, CSKA centre sport club army. And Olga Kharlan spoke about our attitude, and it is absolutely incorrect information. In Ukraine, in Belarus, in Romania, in France, in Germany, in Korea, in China everybody has military organisations. This because without military organisations we cannot participate in military games and military world championships. If someone does not know about it, this is just information for you. And I agree with the colleague from Venezuela and from Ghana that we are athletes, we are sportsmen and how is more participations if our athletes cannot support this military problem in the two countries. How it will be if, for example, we are not participating two years more. We are not working for the government; we are only athletes. Coaches and athletes, we are all, we are always in our sport venue, we work, and we can fight only on the piste, only on the piste. And I was thinking that maybe someone does not

want to compete against us because Russian Fencing Federation is the strongest federation, fencing federation in the world. Last two Olympic games showed that we had more medals than other teams and maybe someone has a good chance to not have opponent like Russian athletes. This is a big problem in my understand. And I do not want to speak about politics again. We are athletes and I hope you understand me, you understand my words, because many, many years we are organizing the games [not audible] my relationship with you colleagues. If you remembered in the last Congress in Lausanne, I proposed to Ukrainian Fencing Federation my personal help, but they refused. How can we show to everybody that we want to have peace between our two countries? We can do it through our sport. Thank you very much.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Burkina Faso? We cannot hear you. Please open your microphone. Can you raise the sound volume of your microphone? Mister Zeba, we cannot hear you. The volume of your microphone is too low. Your microphone is off. We cannot hear you. Your microphone is off. We are going to hear Ghana, then we will come back to Burkina.

Ghana you wanted to talk. Is there anyone else who would like to take the floor?

Burkina we still cannot hear you.

Nobody else wants to take the floor. So, Botswana? And then Ghana.

Mandlenkosi Masuku (BOT): Thank you, Madam CEO, am I audible?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, who is speaking?

Mandlenkosi Masuku (BOT): Oh, Masuku, Botswana.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Botswana, fine. Thank you.

Mandlenkosi Masuku (BOT): Thank you. As much as fencing is a combat sport, is not an army and should not be associated with political differences and unrests. Fencing must be seen as a sport that promotes unity and peace and bringing all humans together. It is unfortunate that there are losses of lives, and we are sympathetic about it. But sport should bring nations together. Segregation of any athletes by virtues of political unrests in war will only fuel unrest. If fencing was the reason for the war, then FIE should take drastic measures but it is not the case. Thank you very much.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Ghana?

Mohammed Mahadi (GHA): Yes, I am back again. All I wanted to say again is that the war and wars will still continue as long as we are human beings who agree to disagree. We just hope that, in our discords, we should always value peace. Apartheid and a lot of these have been giving references. And I believe that it was an error when politics or politicians were dictating even who the head of federations should be until the passage of the UN resolution which I keep making reference to. Which separated politics from sports. I was tense in taking a political line of side-lining or punishing our athletes based on country or governmental discords. It's like throwing ourselves again and throwing the autonomy which we have won to the bin again on throwing ourselves in the hands of the politicians. Sport is a global language as our president, Thomas Bach, said. Sport is the only endeavour that brings us together regardless of our political, religious, or racial differences. Therefore, I urge and call against that. Let us give the platform to all fencers so that we can demonstrate as fencers, as FIE seeing

fencing from Belarusians and from Russians competing with their brothers, not as the enemies from Ukraine and other parts of the world. So, we do not emulate the example that we have witnessed that we cannot control, whenever Israeli athletes are competing with other Arab athletes. We should be careful in the path we are taking, and we should correct a mistake by allowing them to come and we manage the situation. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Cameroon? Your microphone is not open.

Dieudonné Marcel Amougou Nguina (CMR): Can you hear me?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, we can.

Dieudonné Marcel Amougou Nguina (CMR): So, I wanted to say that I am making the constance... Can you hear me?

Nathalie Rodriguez: We hear you.

Dieudonné Marcel Amougou Nguina (CMR): I wanted to say that I see that we are in the same situation as at the Lausanne Congress in November, where people took the floor to express their position on the Russian or Belarusian athletes. I think that it was in view of the long debates we had in Lausanne that we decided on this Extraordinary Congress. So, we would do better, we all know why we are here today. We would do better to go to the votes instead of everyone taking the floor to say that they are for or against. The ballot box will tell us, we are in a democracy. The ballot box will be able to tell us whether the majority is for or against. I think that we have been wasting time for, well, nothing, as far as I am concerned. That is it.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Niger? Your microphone.

Tiemo Adamou Idrissa (NIG): Yes, good morning. So, first of all, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. As the senior member just said, Amougou, I think it would be better to go straight to the vote than to dwell on debates that will prolong the time. And that there are other points that are perhaps more interesting. As he says, this is a democracy, so let's let the ballot box speak. Thank you very much.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. USA?

Rita Comes (USA): Thank you. I want to read a statement from USA Federation. It was in a press release by Sam Cheris, and he spoke these words during the Congress in November.

"Today is a critical day, when the member federations show whether their ethical and moral values are stronger than political experience of pleasing those who are lobbying for their votes with promises of a quid-pro-quo. I and the US Federation are firmly against permitting the competitors of any country, some of whom are in or supported by its military establishment that is committing war crimes against civilians of another country, to compete. If these athletes wish to compete let them resign any military ties and financing, renounce their citizenship, and disavow their support for the atrocities. If this sounds like drastic and extreme measures, they are. But invasion of a sovereign country and the killing of its civilians is also drastic and extreme. An extreme transgression calls for extreme responses. Many of these competitors are guilty, directly, or indirectly, of supporting actively or passively their aggressor government. Those in Russia who passively watched give tacit approval to the current reprehensible activities." Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Does anyone else wants to take the floor?

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): So, there is any other, Nathalie?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Virgin Islands.

Joyce Bolanos (ISV): Yeah. Can you hear me?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, we can.

Joyce Bolanos (ISV): Yes. We must remain neutral. If we take side, half of the countries of the world will not be competing. There is blood in every country. We must remain neutral. We are a sport under the Olympic flag. We are a family, sport should unite. If we start taking sides, then half of the countries will not be competing today. There are still conflicts around the World. In the future there will be conflicts, you know, war, there will be many wars. But we must remain neutral. We are a sport; we are a family. And think about it, if today we applied by taking sides half of the countries would not be competing. So, we must remain a sport, a family and keep... You know... When we are competing, we are a family. We must be united. And yes, you know, it is horrible, terrible what is happening, but this is the moment that we must unite as a family, and no one is... no one... most of the countries have been in conflict. And I think just very, you know... I want everybody to really think the decision we are going to take today. And that is what I have to say. We have to unite as a family and keep sport sport. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Lebanon?

Jihad Salameh (LBN): I just want to say something about what we are talking about. If we take the Olympic Charter, the fundamental principles of Olympism, there is Article 4 which says: The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the opportunity to practice sport without discrimination of any kind, of any kind. And in the Olympic spirit which requires mutual understanding, the spirit of friendship, solidarity, and fair play. So, if we base ourselves on the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter, we cannot discriminate any athlete in any form. If we are all under the Olympic Charter.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to take the floor? Nobody? Nobody wants to take the floor? Norway.

Bjørn Faye (NOR): Hello, can you hear me?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, we can.

Bjørn Faye (NOR): In a way I can agree with those who said we should vote. But I also think that since this is a democratic organisation, people should be able to have their say. I also feel that we owe an apology to the President of the Swedish Fencing Federation for the way the Congress behaved when he was talking. That was a disgrace, absolutely not a good way of showing sportsmanship and allowing different opinions to be forwarded. Ok. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Anyone else wants to take the floor? No one else wants to take the floor? Nobody else wants to take the floor?

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Ok, so its ok now? Nobody else? Do you hear me?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes. We can hear you.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): ok, so if there is no other person to take the floor, I think during this discussion and opinions of our representatives, I think the Congress will now consider this letter of Ukrainian Fencing Federation and the two propositions sent to us. So, I think the CEO takes the floor and start the procedure for these two requests.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, as the Interim President said, there are two requests from the Ukrainian Federation. And these requests are a change in the agenda. As you know it was decided in November that there would be an Extraordinary Congress to vote on these issues. The Federations have received the agenda for the Congress one month ago and the Ukrainian Federation is asking to exclude the vote on this topic and to postpone the vote on this topic. So, as we are in a case of item which is a modification to the agenda, we will include these questions in the vote. However, to reach a decision, a majority of three fourths is required. So, I remind you that request one from Ukraine is to not vote today and request two is to postpone the vote to a period which is not yet determined. Before moving to these two requests on which you will be requested to vote, I suggest that we make a test vote just to make sure that everything is clear for you and that you do not have more question on how to vote. So, I propose to make a test vote, this is not a real vote. We are not going to vote on the questions, we first move to a test vote. And I give the floor to the notary and to Lumi for the test vote, just for you to check that everything is fine. So, this is just a test question for you to test your voting device and check that everything is fine, and I give the floor to the notary.

Edward Gardiner: Thank you Nathalie. And just to remind all voting delegates that all voting will be done through the Lumi voting platform. So, the test vote is as follows: Was fencing on the programme of the 1896 Olympic Games in Athens? And the vote is now open.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, you remember that only the voting delegates have access to the Lumi voting platform. All the other delegates can see the question displayed on the screen. And I was informed by Lumi that Congo had arrived. Is that correct? Mister Gardiner, can you confirm that Congo had arrived?

Edward Gardiner: We are just checking this, thank you. Nathalie for Congo, we have the second delegate logged on, but not the voting delegate.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ok. So, Congo is absent.

Edward Gardiner: So, the poll will close in 1 minute.

The poll will close in 30 seconds. And just as a reminder that all voting needs to be done on the Lumi online voting platform.

The poll will close in 10 seconds.

The poll is now closed, and the results will be displayed shortly.

The results of the voting were as follows: **there was 130 Federations voted, there were 4 abstentions, there were 126 valid ballots. The majority required 64. Yes: 119. No: 7.** Thank you, and I hand

the floor back.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. So, we can see that 16 Federations did not vote. So, please, we ask you to vote. I think that if you are attending that Congress, it is for that reason. So now that we have... Yes, Bolivia. Bolivia?

Viviana Chacón Urdininea (BOL): Yes, Madame I did not have the chance to vote because the poll was open, but it did not let me vote.

Nathalie Rodriguez: But are you on a computer or on a telephone?

Viviana Chacón Urdininea (BOL): I am on a computer.

Nathalie Rodriguez: And do you have two screens in front of you? One for Zoom and one for Lumi?

Viviana Chacón Urdininea (BOL): Yes, yes, yes. It was on the Lumi, but it said "you are connected to the Lumi" but the poll was open. It said "the poll is open" but it could not be accessed.

Nathalie Rodriguez: No, "poll open" was written only on the Zoom platform.

Viviana Chacón Urdininea (BOL): Ah. Ok.

Nathalie Rodriguez: On the Lumi platform, you should have something else. Do you have your screen split in two? Do you have Zoom in one side and in the other Lumi?

Viviana Chacón Urdininea (BOL): No.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, is your Zoom screen full screen or can you reduce your screen?

Viviana Chacón Urdininea (BOL): Yes, I will reduce it. Pass to another person's question, I will try and if I have problems, I will call you back.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Who else? Colombia?

Mariana Vila Carvajal (COL): Nathalie, it did not let me vote. I am on an iPhone.

Nathalie Rodriguez: On the iPhone, you have to be logged in on both pages: Zoom and separately Lumi. If you are only logged in on Zoom, you cannot vote because you are not logged in on Lumi.

Mariana Vila Carvajal (COL): Ok, I am looking how to connect to Lumi. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Any other questions? Ok, so we are going to first vote on the questions from the Ukrainian Federation. The Ukrainian Federation wants not to vote today on the Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials. This is their request number one. As that question is a modification of the agenda, it cannot pass if it is not voted with three fourth of the votes. The second question is to postpone the vote until there is a final decision on their complaint. Again, as it is a modification of the agenda, it requires three fourth of the votes. So, I will give the floor now to the notary for the display of the first question from the Ukrainian Federation and to handle the vote.

Edward Gardiner: Thank you, Nathalie. I will first read out the matter they will be voting on, which is as follows:
Request 1) from Fencing Federation of Ukraine: **Do you agree to the following: To exclude from the agenda for the FIE Online Extraordinary Congress scheduled for the 10th of March 2023 the point for discussion, voting or any other actions, including directives or instructions by FIE Authorities, regarding the admission of *Russian* and/or *Belarusian* fencers for the qualifying competitions to participate in the Olympic Games 2024 and any other international competitions?**

And the vote is now open.

The vote will close in 1 minute.

The vote will close in 30 seconds.

The vote will close in 10 seconds.

The vote is now closed, and the results will be displayed shortly.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So please...

Edward Gardiner: Thank you. The results of the voting are as follows: **133 Federations voted, there were 3 abstentions, there were 130 valid ballots and the majority required is 98. Yes: 46. No: 84.** Thank you and I hand the floor back.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, the proposal did not pass. We move now to the second request from the Ukrainian Federation. And I give the floor to the notary.

Edward Gardiner: Thank you. And we now move to the next item to vote on, which is as follows:

Request 2) from the Fencing Federation of Ukraine: **Do you agree to the following: To refrain from deciding the matter specified in paragraph (1) above until the complaint of Ukraine Fencing Federation is duly considered with making a final decision in accordance with the FIE Ethical Code and the FIE Disciplinary Code, including the consideration of the complaint in all instances of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and, if necessary, in Swiss courts.**

And the vote is now open.

The vote will close in 1 minute.

The vote will close in 30 seconds.

The vote will close in 10 seconds.

The vote is now closed, and the results will shortly be displayed.

The result of the voting is as follows: **134 Federations voted, there were 4 abstentions and 130 valid ballots. The required majority is 98. Yes: 46. No: 84.** Thank you and I hand the floor back.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, request number 2) did not pass. We will now move to the 3 questions that were sent to you and on which we are going to vote today. You have received these questions and I will give the floor to the notary for question number 1).

Edward Gardiner: Thank you. And the next item to vote reads as follows, which is question 1): **Do you agree to allow athletes with an FIE Licence registered by the National Federation of Russia or Belarus and holding the respective passport (or citizenship) to participate in FIE individual competitions from the second half of April 2023, subject to possible future IOC recommendations/decisions, and in compliance with conditions of neutrality and individual eligibility?**

And the vote is now open.

The vote will close in 1 minute.

The vote will close in 30 seconds.

The vote will close in 10 seconds.

The vote is now closed, and the results will be displayed shortly.

The results of the voting were as follows: **136 Federations voted, there was 1 abstention, and 135 valid ballots. The required majority is 68. Yes: 89. No: 46.** Thank you and I hand the floor back.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, the proposal passed. We now move to the second question, and I give the floor to the notary.

Edward Gardiner: Thank you. And the second question to be voted on is as follows: **Do you agree to allow athletes with an FIE Licence registered by the National Federation of Russia or Belarus and holding the respective passport (or citizenship) to participate in FIE team competitions from the second half of April 2023, subject to possible future IOC recommendations/decisions, and in compliance with conditions of neutrality and individual eligibility?**

And the vote is now open.

The vote will close in 1 minute.

The vote will close in 30 seconds.

The vote will close in 10 seconds.

The vote is now closed, and the results will be displayed shortly.

The results of the voting were as follows: **139 Federations voted, there were 3 abstentions, there were 136 valid ballots. The required majority is 69. Yes: 85. No: 51.** Thank you and I hand the floor back.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The proposal passed. We now move to the last question, question number 3). And I give the floor to the notary.

Edward Gardiner: Thank you. And the next item to be voted on is question 3) which is as follows: **Do you agree to allow officials (referees, coaches, trainers, medical staff, technical staff, members of commissions and councils) registered by the National Federation of Russia or Belarus and holding the respective passport (or citizenship) to attend FIE competitions from the second half of April 2023, subject to possible future IOC recommendations/decisions, and in compliance with conditions of neutrality and individual eligibility?**

And the vote is now open.

The vote will close in 1 minute.

The vote will close in 30 seconds.

The vote will close in 10 seconds.

The vote is now closed, and the results will be displayed shortly.

The result of the voting is as follows: there were **138 Federations voted, there were 2 abstentions, there are 136 valid ballots. The majority required is 69. Yes: 88. No: 48.** Thank you and I hand the floor back.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, the proposal passed. So, I will give... We have finished with that item on the agenda. As said earlier, the next item will not be dealt now because we are...there is no decision from the IOC on the Olympic Games. So, we are not going to deal with that item and the floor now is to the Interim President.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Thank you Nathalie. Thank you everybody for your participation in our Extraordinary Congress. And I hope altogether to try for the best of our Federation and to stay united in the near future. And of course, we respect in any case the decisions and the recommendations or future recommendations and decisions of IOC. Thank you very much for your participation. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, with these words from the Interim President, we have now finished with the items that had to be discussed today.

And I would like to thank all of you for your collaboration in this Extraordinary Online Congress. And I would like also to thank the translators, Lumi for the voting platform, Vector.Com for the IT management, Mr. Gardiner the notary, Mr. Ibarrola the lawyer and, last but not least, all the staff in Lausanne who has done an extraordinary and very difficult job in order to organise that meeting today. I thank them very much and I thank all those who contributed to the organisation of that event. Thank you very much.

Sergii Mishchenko (UKR): Hello.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, we can hear you.

Sergii Mishchenko (UKR): Thank you very much and thank you very much for this important meeting. We will continue, of course, our efforts. And regarding the letter which we placed with Ethics Committee I believe it will be a fair proceeding as fair as the existing regulation. And I also would like to have for the record if you could prepare and then pass to us, maybe to allow the members, whether all the present delegates with their

federations have paid the annual fees. That is important to understand because, as I understand, only Delegations, Federations who paid the annual fees are allowed to vote. So, we would make a request, an official request to send us a list of the Federations who have paid the fees at the moment, until the moment of the Congress. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, the floor is to the Interim President and to the Treasurer regarding the decision that was made by the Executive Committee a few weeks ago, regarding the payment of the annual fee for the Extraordinary Congress.

Sergii Mishchenko (UKR): Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, the floor is to the Interim President and then to the Treasurer. Unmute your microphone.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Ok, now you can hear me?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, we can.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Ok. So, during the last Executive Committee it was... some questions from a few Federations who was not easy to pay for practical reasons. And we accept this... to accept to participate to this Congress for this Federations. And I think the Treasurer knows the names of these Federations, to say exactly the names of these Federations.

Ferial Salhi (ALG): Yes, in one of the last meetings, the Executive Committee decided to let all the Federations participate to the Extraordinary Congress. Because most of our Federations pay at the World Championships and it is difficult for them to make transfers and as it is an Extraordinary one, so, they have time to pay at the World Championships and before the Ordinary Congress in November.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The rule is that the annual fee should be paid one month before the Congress except when the Executive Committee allows the Federations to pay later on. This is one of the prerogatives of the Executive Committee and it has allowed this exception because the administrative rules say the annual fees should be paid in March and the invoices that was sent was for March, while the Extraordinary Congress was held also in March. So, the rule that applies is that the Federations have to pay their annual fees one month before the Ordinary Congress which will be in November and the Executive Committee, as it is its right, has accepted that annual fees would be paid during the Junior and Cadet World Championships or at the Senior World Championships. This was recorded in the list of decisions of the Executive Committee of the past weeks. And this is stated at that Congress and announced at that Congress.

Sergii Mishchenko (UKR): Hallo? Can you hear me?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes.

Sergii Mishchenko (UKR): Thank you very much for information. We would like to have that decision, the list of decisions of the Executive Committee. I think it is available on site. If not, then we will ask to send us such a decision. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The lists of decisions of the Executive Committee are not public. They are internal to the Executive Committee. And the possibility of postponing the payment of FIE annual fees is provided for in the Statutes of the FIE. This decision was made by the Executive Committee several weeks ago and it is announced

at that Congress. So, the reasons why this has been postponed is that usually the Congress is held in November and therefore the annual fees must be paid one month before the Congress. However, this year we had an Extraordinary Congress which is an additional Congress of the FIE and the Executive Committee knows perfectly well that a number of Federations cannot make bank transfers. This is impossible for them. They pay in cash at the Junior and Cadet World Championships or at the Senior World Championships or one month before the Congress or in March when we issue the invoices. It is the prerogative of the Executive Committee to accept exception of payment and the Executive Committee made this decision, which is announced at that Extraordinary Congress.

Is there any other questions or comments?

Sergii Mishchenko (UKR): On my side, no questions.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Any other comment? Any other question? So, in that case I think the Interim President can close the Extraordinary Congress. Please unmute.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Now do you hear me?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Ok. Thank you. I repeat, Nathalie, first of all, thank you very much for your help and all the staff. You already said thank you very much for all the participants in this Extraordinary Congress. And without to have any other items, I close this Extraordinary Congress. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you everyone. Have a good afternoon, evening, and night.

DECISIONS OF THE 2023 FIE ONLINE EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS
Cf. Information letter 2-23 of 4th April 2023

146 federations took part in the online Extraordinary Congress of 10th March 2023, of which 132 were present and 14 were represented.

The following decisions were made:

1. To allow athletes with an FIE Licence registered by the National Federation of Russia or Belarus and holding the respective passport (or citizenship) to participate in FIE individual competitions from the second half of April 2023, subject to possible future IOC recommendations/decisions, and in compliance with conditions of neutrality and individual eligibility.
2. To allow athletes with an FIE Licence registered by the National Federation of Russia or Belarus and holding the respective passport (or citizenship) to participate in FIE team competitions from the second half of April 2023, subject to possible future IOC recommendations/decisions, and in compliance with conditions of neutrality and individual eligibility.
3. To allow officials (referees, coaches, trainers, medical staff, technical staff, members of commissions and councils) registered by the National Federation of Russia or Belarus and holding the respective passport (or citizenship) to attend FIE competitions from the second half of April 2023, subject to possible future IOC recommendations/decisions, and in compliance with conditions of neutrality and individual eligibility.