

101st Congress

25TH NOVEMBER 2023
SHARM-EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT



CONTENTS

Contents	2
Attendance	3
Present or Represented Federations	4
Agenda	9
Validation of attendance and proxies	10
Addresses	13
Ratification of the New Federations	16
Approval of the Report of the 2022 Congress held in Lausanne (SUI)	18
Approval of the Report of the 2023 Extraordinary Congress held online	20
Approval of the 2022 Annual Report of the Executive Committee	21
Financial report 2022, auditors' report, approval of the accounts, discharge to the Executive Committee and the auditors	22
Budget 2024	23
Appointment of the auditors for 2024	24
Vote to award the organisation of the World Championships	25
2025 Juniors/Cadets: candidatures of CHN/EST	
2025 Seniors: candidature of GEO	
2026 Juniors/Cadets: candidatures of BRA/UZB	
2026 Seniors: candidature of HKG	
Call for candidatures for the organisation of the World Championships	33
2027 Juniors/Cadets	
2027 Seniors	
2025, 2026 and 2027 Veterans	
Proposals submitted to the Congress, reports from the Commissions, Councils and Ethics Committee. Urgent decisions regarding the Rules	35
Progress reports from the working groups	50
Proposals from the Ukrainian Fencing Federation	51
2023 Chevalier Feyerick Challenge	62
2023 Fair-Play Trophy	63
Winners of the 2023 FIE official rankings and the Nations' Grand Prix	64
Any other business. Final Remarks	67
Annexes	68

Attendance

The meeting opened at 9:30 am.

Took place at the tribune:

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

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

Members of the Executive Committee:

Ms. Velichka HRISTEVA (BUL)
Mr. Novak PEROVIC (RSA)
Mr. Oleg PESKOV (KAZ)
Mr. Haibin WANG (CHN)
Mr. Donald ANTHONY JR (USA)
Mr. Paolo AZZI (ITA)
Mr. Yuki OTA (JPN)

Presidents of the Confederations:

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

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

Absent with apologies:

Ms. Rusni ABU HASSAN (MAS)
Mr. Bruno GARES (FRA)
Mr. Vadym GUTSAIT (UKR)
Ms. Helen SMITH (MH, AUS)

President of the Oceanian Confederation

Members of Honour:

Mr. Jacek BIERKOWSKI (POL)
Mr. Victor GROUPIERRE (ARG)
Mr. Bert M. J. VAN DE FLIER (NED)
Mr. Peter JACOBS (GBR)

Present or Represented Federations

AFGHANISTAN	Represented by Kazakhstan
ALGERIA	Omar BENADOUDA
AMERICAN SAMOA	Represented by Guam
ANGOLA	Meven PEREIRA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Rameez MASCALL
ARGENTINA	Victor Sergio GROUPIERRE (MH)
ARMENIA	Armen GRIGORYAN Samvel ABRAHAMYAN
ARUBA	Oswald LEONARD Migalda Marieta JANSEN DE CUBA
AUSTRALIA	Davide WHEELER
AUSTRIA	Ursula HINTERSEER
AZERBAIJAN	Vasif MAMMADOV
BAHAMAS	Anthony Delwhite LEWIS
BAHRAIN	Arhan SALEH FARAJ
BARBADOS	Ralph YORK
BELARUS	Represented by Russia
BELGIUM	Jeffrey DELATTRE
BELIZE	Represented by Uruguay
BENIN	Represented by Ivory Coast
BOLIVIA	Represented by Brazil
BOTSWANA	Mandlenkosi MASUKU
BRAZIL	Ricardo Pacheco MACHADO Arno Perillier SCHNEIDER
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	Nashriq MOKSIN
BULGARIA	Velichka HRISTEVA
BURKINA FASO	Djibril ZEBA
CAMBODIA	Ang SOK
CAMEROON	Marcel AMOUGOU Nadine YOUNGAP
CANADA	Yann BERNARD Lisa HUZEL
CAPE VERDE	Maria RAMOS SILVA
CHILE	Barbara BLUMEL
CHINA	Haibin WANG
COLOMBIA	Represented by Argentina
CONGO	Represented by Cameroon
COSTA RICA	Luis Alberto CRUZ MELENDEZ
CROATIA	Antonio TRCIN Irena SULJIC
CUBA	Alhajadis Ricardo BANDERA MIRANDA

CZECHIA	Vilem MADR
CYPRUS	Represented by Serbia
DENMARK	Jan SYLVEST JENSEN Louise SEIBAEK
DOMINICA	Represented by Peru
ECUADOR	Carlos ECHEVERRIA CORDOBA
EGYPT	Mohamed Tarek ELHUSSEINY Ahmed KHDER Samer HASHEM Ahmed ALMAIDANY Mohamed ABOLILA Khaled KABESH
EL SALVADOR	Juan Jose Roberto GÓMEZ Melissa Elizabeth ALVARENGA RAMIREZ
ESTONIA	Peeter JÄRVELAID Heino MÄRKIS
FRANCE	Sylvie LE MAUX Benoît PINCEMAILLE Pierre GUICHOT Julien RICHEL COOPER
GEORGIA	Merabi BAZADZE Nino JERENASHVILI
GHANA	Represented by Botswana
GERMANY	Claudia BOKEL Reka SZABO Alexander BÖHM
GREECE	Represented by Romania
GREAT BRITAIN	Hilary PHILBIN Janet HUGGINS Georgina USHER Patricia AIYENURO Peter JACOBS (MH)
GUAM	Anthony CAMACHO
GUATEMALA	Otto Rene VALLADARES BALDERRAMOS
GUINEA	Ben Daouda NASS
GUYANA	Kalam JUMAN-YASSIN Bernadette JUMAN-YASSIN
HAITI	Dukerns Louis JOSEPH
HONDURAS	Represented by Venezuela
HONG KONG, CHINA	Wing Sun YEUNG
HUNGARY	Zsolt CSAMPA Henriette Brigitte TAMAS Edina CZEGLÉDY Jeno KAMUTI
ICELAND	Represented by Bulgaria
INDIA	Rajeev MEHTA

IRAN	Alireza POURSALEMANI
IRAQ	Zeyad SALEEM Hasan AL-MUSAWI
IRELAND	Ursula KAPPUS Nuala MCGARRITY
ITALY	Maurizio RANDAZZO Vincenzo DE BARTOLOMEO Giandomenico VARALLO Giuseppe CAFIERO
IVORY COAST	Zadi Theodore GOGOUA
JAMAICA	James MCBEAN Rosa Elena ESCOBAR RAMOS
JAPAN	Kenichi CHIDA Kiyoshi WADA Yusuke AOKI
JORDAN	Naim DAHBOUR Hakam AL KAHLIDI
KAZAKHSTAN	Mirbulat ABUOV
KENYA	Fred KAMAU
KYRGYZSTAN	Represented by Mongolia
KOREA	Wan Kun OH Kiyoung KWON
KUWAIT	Abdulkarim ALSHAMLAN Alawadhi HAMAD
LATVIA	Erika AZE
LEBANON	Jihad SALAMEH Georges ZEIDAN
LIBYA	Dhw TOUMI Ezuldeen ALQADHI
LITHUANIA	Vytautas POLUJANSKAS
LUXEMBOURG	Pascal TESCH
NORTH MACEDONIA	Represented by Italy
MACAO	In Leng NG
MADAGASCAR	Represented by Guinea
MALAYSIA	Represented by Uzbekistan
MAURITIUS	Jennifer ISRAM Veena GUNPUT
MOLDOVA	Olga COJOCARI
MONGOLIA	Ganbaatar DORJSUREN
MOROCCO	Represented by Senegal
MALI	Wahabou ZOROME
MAURITANIA	Represented by Mali
MYANMAR	Represented by Nepal
NAMIBIA	Rainer VISSER
NEPAL	Sunil Kumar SHRESTHA

NETHERLANDS	Leon PIJNAPPEL Etienne VAN CANN Bert VAN DE FLIER (MH)
NEW ZEALAND	David ELDER
NICARAGUA	Represented by Costa Rica
NIGER	Represented by Burkina Faso
NIGERIA	Represented by Togo
NORWAY	Represented by Denmark
OMAN	Khalid ALSHUAIBI Khalid ALRAJHI
PAKISTAN	Salman CHOUDHRY Maryam SALMAN
PALESTINE	Dawoud MITWALI
PANAMA	Jorge VALDES
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Represented by New Zealand
PARAGUAY	Miguel Angel PAREDES FASSINO Guido Manuel INSFRAN MAYANS
PERU	Angel GARCIA
PHILIPPINES	Leah GONZALEZ Maria Cristina BATE
POLAND	Jacek SLUPSKI Tadeusz TOMASZEWSKI Jacek BIERKOWSKI (MH)
PORTUGAL	Clauso NEVES Frederico VALARINHO
PUERTO RICO	Juan Carlos RAMIREZ CONCEPCION Hipolito Antonio VAZQUEZ CORIANO Amgad BADAWI
ROMANIA	Marius FLOREA Roxana BARLADEANU Anca Ioana Ileana IONESCU
RUSSIA	Ilgar MAMEDOV Ekaterina KONDRATEVA
RWANDA	Represented by South Africa
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA	Ahmed ALSABBAN Abdullah ALSUNAID
SENEGAL	Mbagnick NDIAYE Oumar MAIGA
SERBIA	Vukasin STOSIC
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	Attila ERSEK
SLOVENIA	Represented by Croatia
SOUTH AFRICA	Louise LOMBARD
SPAIN	Antonio GARCIA HERNANDEZ Jose Luis ABAJO GOMEZ Marco Antonio RIOJA PEREZ Jose Luis ALVAREZ GIL DE TEJADA

SRI LANKA	Ajith SIYAMBALAPITIYA
SWITZERLAND	Lars Henrik FRAUCHIGER
SWEDEN	Otto DRAKENBERG Ana Verónica VALERO-COLLANTES
SYRIA	Ahmad ALREFAAI Hussain SHAKER
CHINESE TAIPEI	Kovacs LIN Jay LIU
TAJIKISTAN	Khisrav NASIMOV
TURKMENISTAN	Meret MEREDOV
THAILAND	Chanchai YOSSUNDARA Arnon KLUENSUWAN
TOGO	Katema Massaberma LAMEGA
TUNISIA	Mohamed Sofiane CHAOUACHI Ziad FERIANI
TÜRKIYE	Muminhan BILGIN Murat ATALI Abdussamet ARSLAN
UKRAINE	Mikhail ILYASHEV Olena SHEVCHUK
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	HH. ENGR. Sheikh Salem Sultan S. AL QASIMI
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Ivan LEE Rita COMES Jennifer YAMIN Jeremy SUMMERS Donald ALPERSTEIN
URUGUAY	Diamante PEIRANO Lourdes TRAPOTE
UZBEKISTAN	Abdusamadov MAKHSUD Gulnora SAIDOVA
VENEZUELA	Francisco Rafael MARÍN ALVAREZ
VIRGIN ISLANDS	Represented by Aruba
YEMEN	Mohammad NASSER

Agenda

1. Validation of attendances and proxies
2. Addresses
3. Ratification of new federations
4. Approval of the Report of the 2022 Congress held in Lausanne (SUI)
5. Approval of the Report of the 2023 Extraordinary Congress held online
6. Approval of the 2022 Annual Report of the Executive Committee
7. Financial report 2022, auditors' report, approval of the accounts, discharge to the Executive Committee and the auditors
8. Budget 2024
9. Appointment of the auditors for 2024
10. Vote to award the organisation of the World Championships:
 - 2025 Juniors/Cadets: candidatures of CHN/EST
 - 2025 Seniors: candidature of GEO
 - 2026 Juniors/Cadets: candidatures of BRA/UZB
 - 2026 Seniors: candidature of HKG
11. Call for candidatures for the organisation of the World Championships:
 - 2027 Juniors/Cadets
 - 2027 Seniors
 - 2025, 2026 and 2027 Veterans

Coffee break
12. Proposals submitted to the Congress, reports from the Commissions, Councils and Ethics Committee. Urgent decisions regarding the Rules

Congress photo and lunch
Continuation of item 12
13. Progress reports from the working groups
14. Proposals from the Ukrainian Fencing Federation

Coffee break
15. 2023 Chevalier Feyerick Challenge
16. 2023 Fair-Play Trophy
17. Winners of the 2023 FIE official rankings and the Nations' Grand Prix
18. Any other business.

Final Remarks
End of the Congress

1. Validation of attendances and proxies

Nathalie Rodriguez: Good morning, everyone. We are going to start with the roll call. When I call your Federation, please raise your hand, and you will receive a voting device. After this, we will move to the proxies.

Algeria	Guinea	Palestine
Angola	Guam	Poland
Antigua and Barbuda	Guyana	Portugal
Antigua and Barbuda is not here?	Haiti	Puerto Rico
Armenia	Hong Kong, China	Qatar. Qatar. Is everything fine? Is anyone injured?
Argentina	Hungary	No. So, is Qatar here?
Aruba	Indonesia. Indonesia?	
Australia	Indonesia is not here.	Romania
Austria	India	South Africa
Azerbaijan	Iran	Russia
Bahamas	Ireland	Senegal
Barbados	Iraq	Serbia
Belgium	Italy	Sri Lanka
Botswana	Jamaica	Switzerland
Brazil	Jordan	Slovakia
Bahrain	Japan	Sweden
Brunei Darussalam	Kazakhstan	Syria
Bulgaria	Kenya	Thailand
Burkina Faso	Korea	Tajikistan
Cambodia	Saudi Arabia	Turkmenistan
Canada	Kuwait	Togo
Chile	Latvia	Chinese Taipei
China	Libya	Tunisia
Côte d'Ivoire	Lebanon	Türkiye
Cameroon	Lithuania	United Arab Emirates
Cape Verde	Luxembourg	Uganda. Uganda? Uganda is not here? So Uganda is not here.
Costa Rica	Macao	
Croatia	Moldova	Ukraine
Cuba	Mongolia	Uruguay
Czechia	Mali	USA
Denmark	Mauritius	Uzbekistan
Ecuador	Namibia	Venezuela
Egypt	Netherlands	Vietnam. Vietnam? Not here? Vietnam is not here?
El Salvador	Nepal	
Spain	New Zealand	
Estonia	Oman	
France	Pakistan	Yemen
Great Britain	Panama	
Georgia	Paraguay	
Germany	Peru	
Guatemala	Philippines	

Is there any Federation that I did not call? I am repeating those countries which did not answer.

Antigua and Barbuda, are you here? Not here.

Indonesia, are you here? Indonesia is not here.

Qatar, is Qatar here? Qatar is not here.

Uganda, is Uganda here? Uganda is not here.

Vietnam. Is Vietnam here? Vietnam is not here.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, we will now move to the proxies.

- Afghanistan has given a proxy to Kazakhstan. Does Kazakhstan accept? Kazakhstan? Yes. You accept the proxy.
- American Samoa has given a proxy to Guam. Does Guam accept? Yes. Thank you.
- Benin has given a proxy to the Ivory Coast. Does the Ivory Coast accept? Yes.
- Belize has given a proxy to Uruguay. Does Uruguay accept? Where is Uruguay? Uruguay? So, you accept the proxy.
- Bolivia has given a proxy to Brazil. Does Brazil accept?
- Belarus has given a proxy to Russia. Does Russia accept?
- Congo has given a proxy to Cameroon. Does Cameroon accept?
- Colombia has given a proxy to Argentina. Does Argentina accept?
- Cyprus has given a proxy to Serbia. Does Serbia accept?
- Dominica has given a proxy to Peru. Does Peru accept?
- Ghana has given a proxy to Botswana. Does Botswana accept?
- Greece has given a proxy to Romania. Does Romania accept?
- Honduras has given a proxy to Venezuela. Does Venezuela accept?
- Iceland has given a proxy to Bulgaria. Does Bulgaria accept?
- Virgin Islands has given a proxy to Aruba. Does Aruba accept?
- Kyrgyzstan has given a proxy to Mongolia. Does Mongolia accept? Yes, there.
- Madagascar has given a proxy to Guinea. Does Guinea accept? Where is Guinea? There.
- Morocco has given a proxy to Senegal. Does Senegal accept? Yes.
- Malaysia has given a proxy to Uzbekistan. Does Uzbekistan accept? Yes.
- North Macedonia has given a proxy to Italy. Yes. Thank you.
- Mauritania has given a proxy to Mali. Does Mali accept?
- Myanmar has given a proxy to Nepal. Does Nepal accept? Yes.
- Nicaragua has given a proxy to Costa Rica. Does Costa Rica accept?
- Niger has given a proxy to Burkina Faso. Does Burkina Faso accept? Where is Burkina Faso? Here. Yes.
- Norway has given a proxy to Denmark. Does Denmark accept? Yes.
- Nigeria has given a proxy to Togo. Does Togo accept?
- Papua New Guinea has given a proxy to New Zealand. Does New Zealand accept?
- Rwanda has given a proxy to South Africa. Does South Africa accept? Okay.

So, this was the last proxy.

Someone in the audience: Excuse me, Nathalie.

Nathalie Rodriguez: To whom did you send it?

Someone in the audience: To Croatia.

Nathalie Rodriguez: But did you send it to us? Sorry, it is correct.

- Slovenia has given a proxy to Croatia. Sorry, it is correct. It was not printed.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So far, we have one hundred thirty-five Federations present or represented, which means one hundred six Federations present and twenty-nine Federations represented. But I am told that Antigua and Barbuda are on their way to come. So as soon as... they arrived, very good.

Now we have one hundred thirty-six present or represented with Antigua and Barbuda.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Sorry?

Antonio Trcin (CRO): May we have a voting box for Slovenia?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, you will receive it. Please give a voting box to Croatia, who will vote for Slovenia. So, you should have two boxes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: If another Federation arrives, I will announce it. Before we move to the next item, I have some reminders for you.

As every year, the voting will be done electronically. You all have received the explanation on the voting device. The system is the same. It did not change. It guarantees that the votes are quick and secret, and the results of the votes will be displayed on the screen. Congress participants who wish to speak must ask for the floor and then come to the microphones installed in one of the hallways. Congress participants must announce their Federation and their name. During lunch, the Honour Commission will meet to propose the Challenge Chevalier Feyerick award. This Commission should consist of the Members of Honour present at the Congress and the Interim President.

I would also like to remind you regarding the majorities.

- The decisions of Congress are reached by a simple majority vote cast.
- The decisions of Congress regarding the Statutes are reached by two-thirds of the votes cast.
- The majority regarding the Rules is the simple majority of the votes cast.
- And in case Congress must, in exceptional cases, make a decision on issues that are not on the agenda and not planned by the Statutes, the decisions must be reached by a majority of three-fourths of the votes cast.

I would also like to remind you of the rules regarding speeches.

- For each item on the agenda, each President of a National Federation, or his/her representative, each Member of Honour and each Member of the Executive Committee can express their opinion a maximum of twice and for a maximum of two minutes each time.
- In addition, the Members of the Commissions, Councils, and Committees concerned by a specific item being discussed may express their opinion once, either by the President of the Commission, or by his or her representative, or with the agreement of the President of the Commission. Thank you.

2. Addresses

Nathalie Rodriguez: The floor is now to the Interim President for the *Addresses*.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Thank you. Thank you, Nathalie.

Dear Members of Honour, Dear Members of the Executive Committee, Dear Members of Commissions and Councils, Dear Presidents and the Representatives of the National Federations, Dear Mr. President of the Egyptian Fencing Federation, Abdelmoneim Elhamy ElHusseiny, and Vice-President of International Fencing Federation,

On behalf of the International Fencing Federation, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2023 FIE Congress. We are happy to be able to have our Congress in person with the majority of the National Federations represented here today in order to serve our Mission – the development and promotion of fencing. As members of a sports organisation, we are here to deal with sports and fencing issues. In addition, in times of increasing tensions around the world, we are here to underline the strength of sports to bring people together.

Egypt has been the host country of the FIE events in the past with great success. As a host to our Congress this year, we can only anticipate an equally successful organisation and the warm hospitality we have experienced on all occasions. On behalf of the FIE and the FIE Executive Committee, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Egyptian Fencing Federation, especially President Abdelmoneim Elhamy ElHusseiny. Also, warm thanks for all the support to the Egyptian government and especially to the Ministry of Sports, Dr. Ashraf Sobhy, who supports this project and provides economical organisation and substantial support. Thank you very much.

These are my opening remarks. I will continue after. I give the floor to the President of the Egyptian Fencing Federation, Mr. Abdelmoneim Elhamy ElHusseiny.

Abdelmoneim Elhamy ElHusseiny (EGY): Thank you, Mr. President.

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, I welcome you all to my country, Egypt. I am very happy to be with the distinguished FIE family.

I will give you some more time to deal with the translation. Today, I will speak in Arabic because in Egypt we speak in Arabic, so I will continue my speech in Arabic if you allow me.

Once again, may God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. I welcome you all to my country, Egypt, and I express my gratitude and happiness that I am here today among my large family, the international fencing family.

During the last period, Egypt has hosted major events in the sport of fencing. Starting in 2019, we hosted the Veterans' World Championships. In 2021, we hosted the Junior World Championships. Under very difficult circumstances related to COVID-19 in 2022, we hosted the Senior World Championships, and today, we are hosting the international FIE family at the Congress in the city of Sharm El-Sheikh, the city of peace.

I wish you all a happy stay in Egypt, and I hope that our meeting today as one family will be a purely sports meeting, and God willing, it will be a successful meeting. A successful one! Thank you once again, and welcome to Egypt. Thank you.

Applause.

Video-address of the Minister of Youth and Sports of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear guests of Egypt,

I would like to express my great happiness and pride in announcing that Egypt will host the activities of the meeting of the Executive Committee and the Congress of the International Fencing Federation in one of the most important and famous tourist cities in the world. Al Salam City, Sharm El-Sheikh, on November 24 and 25.

Hosting these events certainly reflects Egypt's strong commitment to promoting sports and sporting heritage overall. It also signifies an unparalleled leap and remarkable development in the Egyptian sports system during the era of the new Egyptian Republic. This progress is thanks to the comprehensive support and sponsorship provided by His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

We are proud to host such important meetings for the first time in Sharm El Sheikh and in Egypt.

I would like to thank President Abdel Moneim Al-Husseini, President of the Egyptian Fencing Federation, Vice-President of the International Fencing Federation and the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Fencing Federation, for their tremendous efforts in developing the sport, promoting its dissemination, and actively contributing to supporting the international fencing community. This is based on the strong relationships and trust that the Egyptian sports system enjoys on the global level.

I want to mention here that the Egyptian government, working in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Egyptian Fencing Federation, has spared no effort to ensure the success of this event by providing all the necessary facilities. I would like to confirm that Egypt is fully prepared to host the various events and competitions of the International Fencing Federation and provide an ideal experience for all attendees.

The fact that Egypt is hosting this meeting, along with the Executive Committee and Congress Sessions of the International Fencing Federation, and various other meetings during this significant event, including those of the African Union and the Arab Union, highlights Egypt's commitment to fostering international sports collaboration and strengthening connections between nations and sports organisations.

I would like to thank the President of the International Fencing Federation, Mr. Emmanuel Katsiadakis, for attending this event. I would also like to thank General Khaled Fouda, the Governor of South Sinai, for his support and collaboration in hosting this event, along with other sporting activities in Al Fayrouz

In conclusion, I express my sincere gratitude to all the participants from different countries worldwide in the Executive Committee and Congress meetings of the International Fencing Federation. We wish you a pleasant stay in your country, Egypt, and wish your meetings every success.

Thank you all.

Applause.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH):

Dear Colleagues, now we go to the real Congress discussion.

Let me repeat, it is a true pleasure to have you here at this Congress in Egypt, in this beautiful place. This is an opportunity to have a discussion about fencing and the International Fencing Federation and make decisions for the sole and best interest of the sport of fencing.

Several crises and the unstable international situation have been affecting countries and individuals around the world. The sports world and fencing have also been affected. The FIE has been exposed to an unprecedented situation, working on serious and sensitive issues that had required particular attention. In order to deal with these issues, the FIE had to be involved in the CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport) and Lausanne Tribunal for the cases raised by the Ukrainian Fencing Federation, supported by Swedish and Finnish Federations, the IOC Ethics Commission, and the FIE Ethics Committee, some individuals' and National Federations' statements in media. Some National Federations do not respect and challenge the democratic decisions taken by Congress; individuals, unfortunately, who sent anonymous death threats to our staff.

If we look at the demands on the FIE, I am sure everyone in this hall will recognize the strain under which it has worked. Hopefully, you will also recognize the amount of time, work, energy, and dedication these situations required.

To eliminate any potential ambiguity, the FIE is recognized as an active, faithful, and conscientious member of the International Olympic Committee, following the IOC's directives, and rigorously pursuing the Olympic values and spirit. In many of our decisions, we need to implement the recommendations or decisions of the Olympic movement. Nevertheless, we always act in compliance with the FIE Statutes, the FIE Rules, and the Administrative Rules of the FIE. The FIE always implemented the principle of non-discrimination so that no fencers would be deprived of participating in the FIE competitions. As a basic principle for the FIE, competitions and events, they are assigned only to the National Member Federations which ensure free access to all competitors and officials as provided in Chapter 9 of the FIE Administrative Rules. The FIE has been constantly working and fighting to absorb the negative pressure while ensuring a fully efficient environment as a result.

The FIE was fully functional. The FIE Executive Committee met on numerous occasions to address all issues and manage the FIE. The FIE implemented the IOC recommendations and directives as advised by many Federations during the 2022 Congress. The FIE online extraordinary Congress was successfully and validly held. The FIE held a successful World Championships in Milan, one of the best of the last years. All exciting programmes of the FIE were implemented: organisation of events, broadcasting, promotion of events, preparation of the 2024 Olympic Games, reporting and providing all the required information to the IOC and to LA 2028 in view of the inclusion of fencing in this competition; academies, equipment support, financial support of Federations and Confederations, etc. Therefore, I would like to state it in very clear terms. The FIE is a non-governmental and autonomous sport organisation. It is not a political organisation. I repeat it: it is not a political organisation. Its mission, which is recognized by the IOC, is to manage the sport of fencing worldwide. The FIE Congress has to deal with sports and fencing issues. There is no room for unfair and divisive interventions with the sole aim of serving interests. We must not allow anyone to damage the reputation, reliability, and autonomous status of the FIE. We must not import conflicts in the world into our community. All of us are in the same family, the fencing family. We should not forget that in its history, the fencing family has overcome all challenges thanks to the values of common sense, goodwill, friendship, fair play, and mutual respect. We must, we must therefore be an example. Sport is a powerful tool for unity and peace for now and for the future. With your permission, I will stop here. Thank you very much.

Applause.

3. Ratification of the New Federations

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is the *Ratification of New Federations*. Yesterday, the Executive Committee approved the provisional affiliation of the Federation of Montenegro. And we would like to ask Congress to approve this new Federation in the FIE.

So, if you agree, we will move to the vote to provide final affiliation to the Federation of Montenegro. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The Federation of Montenegro is a new member of the FIE.
Applause.

I would like to highlight an item that the Interim President could not say at the end of his speech that this year...

Ana Irene Delgado Guerra (PAN): Excuse me, Nathalie.

Someone in the audience: They [Some Federations] did not vote.
[Discussion in the audience]

Nathalie Rodriguez: We are asking the Federations to vote. We cannot force you to vote, but you came here for this.
[Discussion in the audience]

Nathalie Rodriguez: Sorry.
[Discussion in the audience]

Nathalie Rodriguez: Do you mean that you had to press *valid* twice?

Someone in the audience: Yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Why? Because the first time it did not work?
[Discussion in the audience]

Nathalie Rodriguez: Okay, can we reopen the vote on this, and we will see.
[Discussions in the audience]

Nathalie Rodriguez: The vote is open; we reopen the vote on the same item. So, when you vote *yes* or *no* or *abstention*, you have to press *valid* twice. Is that correct, Mr. Modoux?

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): What is the matter?

Nathalie Rodriguez: No, you have to press *valid*.
[Discussions in the audience]

Nathalie Rodriguez: When we do a test vote and will open again. So, when you will vote, You will press *1*,

2 or 3. Then wait until you see *yes* or *no* or something else on your screen. Then you will press *valid*. But you have to wait until it displays on the screen, on your screen.

Do you still have any problem? Sir, if you want to speak, please take the microphone because I cannot hear you from here. That gentleman says that he has a problem. Here.

Someone in the audience: I have a question, if I can vote...and then I press it. It is good, yes, and then I must press it again. And then, at this point ...

Nathalie Rodriguez: Okay, please, stay here. Close the voting and reopen the test voting.

I will test it myself. So, we reopen the voting. I press *1*. So, it is twice. It is twice. It is not two votes, but you have to confirm twice. I tested myself, and it is true. But, but only one vote. Maybe we can reopen the vote on the ratification of the Montenegro Federation. So, let's close this vote. We finish with this vote, and you re-vote for Montenegro. And please vote. If you have received a voting device, it is because you have to vote.

So, the vote is closed.

[Discussions and exclamations in the audience]

Nathalie Rodriguez: Tell me what was not clear when I said, "Please vote." Shall I push each button on each box so that you vote? Please.

So, Montenegro was approved, but at least we had zero *no* and zero *abstention*, at least. Yes, Sir.

Microphone, please.

Someone in the audience: Can I suggest that we are shown an image of what to get? I sat next to the Bahamas, and when the vote was open his screen was totally different from mine. So, when he pressed his screen, and I pressed mine, and that happened over there, we saw two totally different scenarios. I have voted three times, my screen has looked different every single time, and I am voting correctly.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Maybe you should change your voting device. Maybe the voting device is damaged.

Someone in the audience: Well, I do not mind doing that, but if somebody can say what we are supposed to see on the screen at each move that might assist everybody.

Nathalie Rodriguez: As I said, you will have the word *vote* on your screen. Then you have to press *valid*. Then you press *1*, *2*, or *3*, and then *valid* a second time. But change your box in case the box is damaged.

4. Approval of the Report of the 2022 Congress held in Lausanne (SUI)

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is the *Approval of The Report of the 2022 Congress held in Lausanne*. Yes, please.

Hilary Philbin (GBR): Nathalie, for the last vote, we had 117 votes. But at the top of the screen, it said the majority was 59, but surely it should have been 58.

Nathalie Rodriguez: But it is the majority.

Hilary Philbin (GBR): 58 would still be a majority, would it not?

Nathalie Rodriguez: 58 is not the majority.

Hilary Philbin (GBR): Okay, fine.

Nathalie Rodriguez: We will open the vote on item #4 of the agenda, the Approval of the 2022 Congress Report. The Congress was held in...

Yann Bernard (CAN): Nathalie?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes.

Yann Bernard (CAN): I am Yann Bernard from Canada. Before the vote on the Report of the Lausanne 2022 Congress, I note that the votes were reported but without giving the figures. So, from a simple report, it is impossible to know by what majority or how many people voted for, voted against, or abstained. I see people have translation devices that do not work.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Translators, please. Did the translation start or not?

Persons in the audience: No, no, no.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Okay, I will translate it into English. It is better. Ah, it is starting. Okay.

Yann Bernard (CAN): All right, so I will start again. I am Yann Bernard from Canada. I noticed that in the 2022 Report, the voting results were reported as the proposal passed or the proposal was rejected, but the number of votes was not reported. I know from having spoken to you about it that we have this data. I suggest that we include in an annex for each proposal adopted, rejected, etc., the number of votes because sometimes, when we re-read the acts of Congress a few years later or a year later, it may be important to know whether it was mainly approved or almost defeated. In short, it is customary in these official documents to keep a record of the number of votes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: This is true. We discussed this item yesterday, so I said that the future reports of the Congresses will include all the reports provided by electronic voting as an annex to the Congress report. However, I would like to highlight that it has been like this for a while. We have never provided the results of votes in the past Congresses. This is the first time we have had this request, but it is fine. We will include all the results for

each vote as an annex to the Congress report, as provided by the company in charge of the votes. So, we will include this information in the report, starting with the report of this year.

So, we open the vote.

The vote is closed.

The report is approved.

5. Approval of the Report of the 2023 Extraordinary Congress held online

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is item #5, the *Approval of The Report of the 2023 Extraordinary Congress held online*.

We are going to open the vote on this item.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The report is approved.

6. Approval of the 2022 Annual Report of the Executive Committee

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is the *Approval of the 2022 Annual Report of the Executive Committee*, and the floor is to the Interim President.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): I believe that you all have the report. And we tried, during this year, as I said in my speech, I had not finished the last few words when I handed it over to Nathalie, to make a lot of work, incredible work during this year. Also, with the help of the International Olympic Committee because we are a very close member of it. We did a lot of work, and we went through these difficult sequences this year, and will ensure that our Federation will advance. I do not know if anyone would like to ask anything, but I think even under these difficulties, it was still a good year for our sport.

I would like to inform you that during the past year, we lost many of friends from our family. I want to ask you to stand up for a minute of silence in memory of these people, these friends in fencing.

(Movie and a minute of silence.)

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Thank you very much. There are too many.

Nathalie Rodriguez: We are going to open the vote on the *Approval of the 2022 Annual Report of the Executive Committee*.

We open the vote.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The report is approved.

7. Financial report 2022, auditors' report, approval of the accounts, discharge to the Executive Committee and the auditors

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item is item #7. It is the *Financial report 2022, auditors' report, the approval of the accounts*. And the floor is to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Ferial Salhi (ALG): Hello, everybody! You have all received the financial documents for the 2022 financial year. I will speak more slowly. Perhaps you did not have the translation. We started with a budget of more than 10 million Swiss francs. We spent 7,741,541 CHF. Do you have a translation?

People in the audience: No, No.

Ferial Salhi (ALG): Now, yes? In English, it is not easy. French translation is working now. So, we had a budget of 10 million Swiss francs, and we only spent 7,741,541 CHF. We ended up with a capital of 29 million Swiss francs. I would like to know if you have any questions to ask and if you have received the auditors' report as well. So, if you do not have any questions to ask, we can vote.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, if you have no questions, we can move to the vote on the 2022 Financial report, the report of the auditors, the approval of the accounts, and discharge to the Executive Committee and the auditors.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The accounts are approved.

8. Budget 2024

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item is item #8, *Budget 2024*, and the floor is to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Ferial Salhi (ALG): With the Executive Committee, we have lowered the budget for the year 2024. We will have a budget of 6,950,000 CHF. All the programmes of the International Federation related to the sports department will be maintained.

We have lowered administration costs. And I hope we do not have additional expenses like we had this year on legal fees and so on. So, we are going to start with a budget of 6,950,000 CHF. Do you have any questions?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Okay, so we can move to the vote on this item. And we open the vote on *the 2024 Budget*.

The vote is closed.

The budget is approved.

9. Appointment of the auditors for 2024

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item is the *Appointment of the auditors for 2024*, item #9, and the proposal is to renew Ernst & Young for another year. We open... Yes.

Yann Bernard (CAN): Does the microphone work? I represent Canada; my name is Yann Bernard. My question is more aimed at our Treasurer. I noted from the official documents from last year that Ernst & Young have been our auditor for many years. The question is: isn't it good governance from time to time to consider different auditors to ensure even greater autonomy and an even greater image of independence? Is there a process to receive submissions to reassess whether it is possible to use other auditors from time to time? It is very important for me to emphasize that this question is in no way intended to raise doubts about the way our finances are managed, nor about the work of our current auditors.

Ferial Salhi (ALG): Indeed, we could choose other auditors, but it is the Congress that decides. The decision is up to Congress to renew confidence in our auditors or to select others.

Nathalie Rodriguez: This is the reason we are asking Congress to renew them, or not.

Yann Bernard (CAN): Yes, however, I understand that there is only one option presented to Congress, and generally, for Congress to be able to decide to select another company, it would be necessary to have an idea of the cost. Is it more expensive, what kind of company is it? There is really no other option before Congress today than to vote *yes* or *no* and put itself in a difficult position of not having an appointed auditor.

Nathalie Rodriguez: I think that for the future, if you wish us to present several companies, you should tell us in advance, maybe not on the day of the Congress when the Executive Committee comes up with a proposal. You know, Ernst & Young is a very reputable company that has always been very strict, we worked hard at the FIE and they will not let us do anything wrong. If you want to change company, why do not you propose other companies? And why did not you approach us with that proposal before the Congress? I do not mind changing.

Yann Bernard (CAN): This is not a proposal; I am asking if the organisation itself could simply think about it.

Nathalie Rodriguez: In that case, please, send us that kind of proposal in advance.

Yann Bernard (CAN): So, I am doing it now. I suggest that a reflection with a view to next year be made on the part of our finance managers. This is the only aim of my remarks.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Okay, so for next year, we will ask the other auditors for quotes, and analyse what the FIE's costs will be, and then we will come with that proposal to the Congress.

Ferial Salhi (ALG): But you should know that Ernst & Young are the auditors of most of the International Federations. So, they have been chosen for that reason.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you, so we open the vote on the appointment of Ernst & Young as auditors for next year, for a one-year term.

And the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

So, Ernst & Young will be happy to know that they have been renewed for 2024.

10. Vote to award the organisation of the World Championships:

- **2025 Juniors/Cadets: candidatures of CHN/EST**
- **2025 Seniors: candidature of GEO**
- **2026 Juniors/Cadets: candidatures of BRA/UZB**
- **2026 Seniors: candidature of HKG**

Nathalie Rodriguez: We move to the next item, which is item #10, the *Vote to award the organisation of the World Championships*.

So, we will have to vote on:

- The Junior and Cadet 2025 World Championships. We have the candidatures of the Federations of China and Estonia.
- For 2025 still, the Senior World Championships, we have the candidature of Georgia.
- For the 2026 Junior and Cadet World Championships, we have the candidatures of the Federations of Brazil and Uzbekistan.
- And for 2026, Senior World Championships, we have the candidature of the Federation of Hong Kong, China.

In order to determine who is going to present first and who will be second, I would like to invite the Federations of China, Estonia, Brazil, and Uzbekistan to come here to the Tribune. We will make a draw.

Nathalie Rodriguez: There is an announcement, I think, for the 2026 Junior and Cadet World Championships, regarding the candidatures of Brazil and Uzbekistan. Mr. Logvin and Sheikh Salem want to make an announcement.

Vitaly Logvin (MEX): Good morning, Dear President, Dear Members of the Executive Committee, Dear Delegates. Yesterday, the two leaders of the Pan-American Fencing Confederation and the Asian Fencing Confederation, joined by the National Fencing Federation of Uzbekistan; we were looking at the situation for those candidates for the next World Championships. The reason is that we are looking at two candidates from Asia for 2025 and 2026, sat down and friendly made a decision with the National Fencing Federation of Uzbekistan and Gulnora Saidova, who you know very well. She is an intelligent woman who is working a lot for the development of fencing in Asia, and also around the world. She will make an announcement for you right now, explaining what we have decided on a friendly basis, because what is more important is that it was decided friendly, in the big family of fencing, and that we prefer to compete on the piste. So, we decided which candidate should be nominated for the next World Championships, and it was a friendly decision. Gulnora, please.

Gulnora Saidova (UZB): Good morning, Everybody. Firstly, I am really pleased to be here and to meet many friends from around the world. As you know, we were the candidates for the 2026 Junior and Cadet World Championships. But we clearly understand that the competition should be organised not only in one country or part of the world, but around the world. So, we decided to give our voice, our right to organise the next World Championships, and cancel our candidature in favour of Brazil. Thank you.

Applause.

Sheikh Salem Sultan S. Al Qasimi (UAE): I want to add one point. I want to thank the Uzbekistan Fencing Federation for their cooperation and for supporting Brazil in hosting the competition. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you.

Applause.

Ricardo Pacheco Machado (BRA): Good morning! For us, Uzbekistan's position is a great pleasure and surprise. We are ready to hold a very nice, very beautiful competition, in the same place where we held the Olympic Games. So, thank you very much, Uzbekistan. See you all in 2026. Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, we will now move to the presentations of the 2025 Junior and Cadet World Championships. Estonia will present first, and China will present second. I ask the representatives of the Federation of Estonia to come. Sorry, I did not see you.

Presentation of Estonia

Heino Märks (EST): Thank you. Dear Fencing Friends, my name is Heino Märks, and I represent the Estonian Fencing Federation. So, I will continue in English. Could you please start this slideshow?

[Video presentation]

Please start PowerPoint. We had two. There was a PowerPoint presentation.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Can we have the second presentation?

Heino Märks (EST): It is lost in space. It is okay. I can just say a few things. Okay, PowerPoint seems to be lost in space. I will highlight some topics.

Flights. We have very good flight connections to get to Tallinn. We have many daily flights from Istanbul, Amsterdam, Paris, London, Frankfurt, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, Oslo, and Riga. Especially if you come from Asia, we have the right flights via Helsinki. You get your flight to Helsinki, and it is 15 minutes from Helsinki to Tallinn.

Accommodation and Transportation. The competition venue is 10 minutes by car from the airport to the accommodation of the official hotels. A three-star hotel is located 252 meters from the venue, and four-star hotels are about 500 meters from the venue. No local transportation is needed, and we have more than 1,500 beds in those hotels. And if any extra rooms are needed, we have other hotels in Tallinn, one three-star hotel with more than 300 rooms and two four-star hotels, and transportation will take about five minutes.

Prices. You will find the prices in our bid documents: a single room in a three-star hotel is approximately 80 euros and a double room is 90 euros. The four-star rate is about 100-110 euros, depending on the level. Movenpick is a bit more expensive. So, if you have any questions, I can shortly answer them so as not to delay my Chinese colleague's presentation. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you very much. We now request that the Federation of China come to the speaker's booth.

Presentation of China

Haibin Wang (CHN): First, I want to invite our delegate from the city of Wuxi.

Applause.

Haibin Wang (CHN): Dear Interim President, Dear All Colleagues, Dear International Fencing Family, it is a great honour to be here to introduce the city of Wuxi as a candidate for the 2025 Junior and Cadet World Championships. As many of you already know, Wuxi is a fencing city that has successfully organized large international competition events, including the 2018 Senior World Championships, the 2023 Senior Asian Championships, and others. In addition, the City of Wuxi is not only known for organizing competitions but will also become the center of fencing protection, manufacturing, innovation, and fencing education in the future. So today, I am honoured to introduce the city of Wuxi. Please watch the videos.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Some seconds of patience, thank you very much.

Haibin Wang (CHN): Sorry about these technical issues.

Video presentation.

Applause.

Haibin Wang (CHN): Thank you. Today, we open a new chapter. We continue to face challenges for the continued support of international fencing and global fencing. Now let me introduce Mr. Wu Wen-Lung, Deputy Secretary-General of Wuxi People's Government. Please.

Applause.

Wu Wen-Lung (CHN): Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. Sorry for some problems with our video, but we will give you a good presentation later. Thank you.

It gives me a great honour to make a presentation on behalf of Wuxi, China, located in the Chinese Yangtze River delta. Wuxi is adjacent to Shanghai and is crowned as the shining "Pearl of Taihu Lake", a prosperous land of the Jiangnan region with a long history, magnificent natural scenery, and economic prosperity. Wuxi has been vigorously developing fencing sports, especially for teenagers. A total of 30 primary schools offers fencing courses.

In 2018, we successfully hosted the Fencing World Championships, which presented spectators around the world with a top fencing piste, a full-fledged venue, hospitality, high-level services, and orderly organisation. Our confidence also comes from the successful hosting of the 2022 National Fencing Championships and the 2023 Asian Fencing Championships, as well as many other large international sports events.

We sincerely wish the FIE will award Wuxi the 2025 Junior and Cadet Fencing World Championships. And we will spare no effort to create a safe, wonderful, and successful event.

First, the Venue and the Facilities. Wuxi owns a competition mansion covering over 40,000 square meters, which enjoys first-class conditions, including various types of function rooms and well-equipped facilities.

Second, Accommodation and Reception. Situated in the most flourishing area of Wuxi, the renewed abundant resources of hotels are in its surroundings, and it sees a number of star-rated hotels nearby.

Third, Transportation Conditions. Wuxi has built a sound, comprehensive transport system comprising an international airport, several railway stations, sufficient buses, and subways, which facilitate the provision of convenient transportation.

Fourth, Security and Medical Services. Wuxi is one of China's best cities in terms of public security and is home to several high-level hospitals, which are capable of providing first-rate international medical services.

Fifth, Sightseeing and Tourism. Wuxi is bestowed with rich tourism resources and numerous scenic spots and hospitable citizens. It is one of the most popular tourist destinations in China. We sincerely invite all participating teams to go on a tour of Wuxi city.

Six, Competition Time. We suggest the 2025 Junior and Cadet Fencing World Championships be scheduled for April in accordance with formal practice, but the exact time is subject to the arrangements of the FIE.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a common aspiration of 7.5 million people of Wuxi to host the 2025 Junior and Cadet Fencing World Championships.

Welcome to Wuxi! Welcome to China! Welcome to Asia!

Thank you all very much.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you very much. And now we will move to the vote.

- If you want to vote for the candidature of China, you press 1.
- If you want to vote for the candidature of Estonia, you press 2.
- And press *valid, valid.*

The vote is open.

Ben Daouda Nass (GUI): Hello.

Ana Irene Delgado Guerra (PAN): Nathalie, he wants to speak.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes.

Ben Daouda Nass (GUI): Okay. The voting has started. I have a little problem. First, I have to vote twice, for myself and for Madagascar.

Nathalie Rodriguez: You have received two boxes.

Ben Daouda Nass (GUI): No. No, I received...

Nathalie Rodriguez: You did not receive two boxes?

Ben Daouda Nass (GUI): I only received one.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Well, we will give you a second one.

Ben Daouda Nass (GUI): Can you give it to me now?

Nathalie Rodriguez: This is not a problem.

Ben Daouda Nass (GUI): Okay.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The vote is closed. China has been chosen for the organisation of the 2025 Junior and Cadet World Championships.

Applause.

We now move to Georgia's candidature for the Senior 2025 World Championships, and I ask the representative of Georgia to come to the Tribune. Yes, please.

Presentation of Georgia

Nino Jerenashvili (GEO): Good afternoon, Mr. President, and Mrs. Nathalie Rodriguez.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Push the microphone's button.

Nino Jerenashvili (GEO): Dear Mr. President, Dear Mrs. Nathalie Rodriguez, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I represent the Georgian Fencing Federation. I am Nino Jerenashvili, Secretary-General, and I would like to present to you this short, brief presentation about the Senior World Championships 2025.

The first question is: Why is the Georgian Fencing Federation going to present such a great competition? Because the World Championships is the highest sports competition, its holding is of great importance for our country. Firstly, fencing will become more popular as leading countries of the whole world will come to Georgia. Secondly, it is an opportunity for us to show our strengths and that we can host such a great event and hold this event in Tbilisi. Also, we have the great experience of holding two such competitions as U-23. In 2017, we organised the Senior European Championships. After 2020, it was a very difficult situation because of COVID. So, after that, when many European countries cancelled World Cups, we tried to organise such events in Tbilisi. So, we think it is our chance to hold the World Championships in Tbilisi.

As I already said, the host city will be Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, and one of the municipalities located in the Eastern part of Georgia, in the Tbilisi basin. Tbilisi is one of the oldest European capitals and has been a cultural, political, and economic centre.

We are going to hold this event in the new Sports Palace, which is located near the high-rise building of the Tbilisi State University. It has three halls: one hall seats 3,600 spectators, the second hall – 600, and the third – 10,000 spectators.

We have two airports in Georgia. The biggest is Shota Rustaveli Tbilisi International Airport. The second is Kutaisi International Airport, near Tbilisi, approximately two hours away. The Kutaisi International Airport services flights of Wizz Air, which is a low-cost company. Wizz Air has direct flights to Kutaisi from many countries, such as Hungary, Spain, and others. We will be very happy if you approve our candidature, and the World Championships will be in Tbilisi in 2025. Now, I want to play a short clip about Tbilisi. Please start the clip.

[Video presentation]

Thank you very much for your attention.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. We are now moving to the vote.

We open the vote on Georgia's candidature for the 2025 Senior World Championships.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

Georgia is awarded the 2025 Senior World Championships.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. We move to the 2026 Junior and Cadet Championships, and we have the candidature of Brazil. Brazil is requested to come and make its presentation. Thank you very much.

Presentation of Brazil

Ricardo Pacheco Machado (BRA): Good morning, once again. Also thank you, once again, thank you very much, Uzbekistan, for having renounced the candidacy in favour of Brazil. For us, it is an honour. I am the President of the Brazilian Confederation. Vice President Arno Schneider will make the presentation.

Arno Perillier Schneider (BRA): Thank you, everyone.

First of all, welcome to Brazil 2026! One of the most beautiful sceneries in the world, the city of Rio de Janeiro, is known not only for the beach and enjoyment of views of the mountains and the tropical climate, but also for the people known for their hospitality. We really enjoy having not only fencing but also sports events inside of Brazil. Next slide, please.

Rio de Janeiro. Today, the city of Rio de Janeiro has around 6 million people. It has tropical weather, and temperatures range between 24-25 degrees in the World Championships season. It is an iconic tourist place, and we genuinely enjoy hosting all the nations inside Brazil. And to let you know, Brazil has no problems issuing a visa for all the countries of the world. Next slide.

We have an international airport with flights for many regions of the world: Europe, all of America, and Asian-directed flights. The only issue is Oceania. We do not have direct flights, but you can transfer inside of Europe or Asia to come to Brazil. Next one.

We have quite a history, not only in fencing but also in sports events. In Brazil, we organised the Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games, especially in Rio, the World Cups, the Grand Prix, the World Championships for team events in 2016, and also the Military Games and the soccer World Cup. Next slide.

Olympic Park. The part that most countries largely know is the Olympic Park, which is the legacy of the Games. We will use two Arenas. We hosted basketball and judo during the Games. It is Carioca Arena 2 and Carioca Arena 1. Carioca Arena 1 seats around 10,000 if it is at its full capacity. Next one.

This is the place where we hosted fencing and where we hosted basketball during the Rio 2016 events. For the Paralympics, also, we had wheelchair fencing and hockey for wheelchairs. Next one, please.

The infrastructure. We have three, four, and five-star hotels around the Arena within only 10 minutes distance. It makes the transportation situation very easy after arrival in Rio. The food is very accommodating for the majority of countries. We have different kinds of cuisine as well as international food inside, especially in Barra da Tijuca, that will be the place for the World Championships. Next one, please.

The competition will be held between April 3rd and April 12th, 2026. In the Carioca Arena 1, we will have the semifinals, finals, and direct elimination. And at the Carioca 2, we will have the pools and the first qualifiers.

The capacity for the people is around 3,100 people in Carioca 2, you can see the seats, and there will be free entrance. Next one.

Now, a small video to enjoy a bit of Rio.

Video presentation.
Applause.

Welcome to Rio de Janeiro and thank you again to Uzbekistan!

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: We will now move to the vote on the 2026 Junior and Cadet World Championships with the Brazil's candidature and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

Brazil will organise the 2026 Junior and Cadet World Championships.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: We move to the presentation of the candidature of Hong Kong, China, for the 2026 Senior World Championships.

Presentation of Hong Kong, China

Wing Sun Yeung (HKG): President and the Executive Committee of the FIE, All the Fencing Federations of the world, I am proud and happy to be here to present our 2026 World Fencing Championships in Hong Kong. Ever since I proposed that we try to host the 2026 Fencing Championships a couple of years ago, we were

all very excited, and everything was under preparation. Now, we even got more support from the government as our new Chief Executive of Hong Kong has decided to support more international events. So, we are really happy about that.

Hong Kong is an international city, easy to access by everybody. So, I trust this will be a convenient space for everybody to come. To keep everything short, let me present a little bit about our venue.

Our venue will be the AsiaWorld-Expo, which is just right next to the airport. It is very close to the airport. And then, there are four or five hotels all around the airport area. From the airport area to downtown Hong Kong, it takes only about 26 minutes of a train ride, so it is very close and convenient.

We will be hosting our events at the World Expo. We have rented more than 30,000 square feet or square meters of floor space. As you can see, we have a training hall, a preliminary hall, and a final hall. The final hall is a large hall with an auditorium for over 10,000 people, but of course, we are not going to use it all. Maybe I will just show you the floor plan of the venue. Next slide, please. Okay.

As you can see on the far right, that is our final hall; then, we have a training hall and a preliminary hall altogether. And I will show you more details. The following slide, please.

This will be our training hall with 24 training pistes and all the rooms for the National teams. So, this is about 8,000 square meters. Next slide, please.

Just the floor plan of the training hall. Next slide, please.

In the preliminary hall, we have over 10,000 square meters for the competition with 32 pistes. Next, please.

This is the layout of the preliminary hall. Next, please.

This will be our final hall, which is over 10,000 square meters. And please, next.

We will have the final area on the left and the warm-up training area on the right side. Next. Is it all? No. Yes. Okay, that is all on the floor plan and everything. And now we are going to show the venue.

Video presentation.

This will be all for my presentation. I hope you enjoyed it, and we are looking forward to seeing you all in Hong Kong in 2026.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you very much.

We will now open the vote on the candidature for the 2026 Senior World Championships, and the vote is open. The vote is closed.

Hong Kong, China, will organise the 2026 Senior World Championships.

Applause.

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

- **2027 Juniors/Cadets**
- **2027 Seniors**
- **2025, 2026 and 2027 Veterans**

Nathalie Rodriguez: Before we move to a well-deserved coffee break, I would like to make a *Call for candidatures for the organisation of the next World Championships*.

I have to inform you that for the 2027 Junior and Cadet, we have already received a letter from the French Federation announcing their candidature. Also, still from the French Federation, the Veteran World Championships 2026. I would like to know if there are other candidates for these World Championships.

So, we have 2027 Junior and Cadet, 2027 Seniors, and 2025, 2026, 2027 Veterans.

I think also Tunisia is a candidate for the Veterans 2025. Can you confirm? Tunisia? Yes. 2025 Veterans World Championships. Yes, Estonia.

Heino Märks (EST): We would like to organise in 2027.

Nathalie Rodriguez: For the Juniors?

Heino Märks (EST): Seniors.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, 2027 Seniors, Estonia. Yes.

Gulnora Saidova (UZB): Uzbekistan, 2026 Seniors.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Microphone, please, because I cannot hear you well.

Gulnora Saidova (UZB): Uzbekistan 2026 Senior World Championships. Seven, sorry, 2027.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Uzbekistan, 2027 Seniors.

Sheikh Salem Al Qasimi (UAE): 2027 Seniors.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Also. UAE also 2027 Seniors.

Murat Atali (TÜR): Türkiye is a candidate for the 2027 Cadets and Juniors.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Anyone for the 2027 Veterans? Yes.

Roxana Barladeanu (ROU): Romania would like to announce its candidacy for the Junior and Cadet World Championships 2027.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Very good. Anyone else? Thank you very much. After the Congress, we will send you the candidature forms so that you can fill them out and provide all the information.

Thank you very much. And now, a coffee break.

Coffee Break.

12. Proposals submitted to the Congress, reports of the Commissions, Councils, and Ethics Committee. Urgent decisions regarding the Rules.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Please take your seats; we are going to resume the meeting. 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.*

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

Proposals for the amendment of the Statutes, with the opinion of the Commissions, Ethics Committee, and the Executive Committee

Proposal #1 is from the Swedish Fencing Federation. The Legal Commission was not in favour and the Executive Committee was not in favour of the proposal. Yes.

Ana Valero-Collantes (SWE): Ladies and gentlemen, dear delegates,

Today, we gather to discuss an important step forward for our International Fencing Federation. It is an exciting moment where we blend our rich tradition with the possibilities of modern innovation.

I am honoured to speak to you about the importance of embracing change and why livestreaming should become a part of our journey.

Before we dive into this, let us remember that we are not alone in this adventure.

Many other international sports federations and organisations are already using livestreaming to connect with their global communities. For example, the International Olympic Committee shares major announcements through livestreaming. Some others live broadcast crucial meetings, including elections and other significant events.

So, why should we, the International Fencing Federation, also consider livestreaming?

First, it is about reaching out globally. Livestreaming helps us break down geographical barriers, making fencing accessible to anyone, no matter where they are. It is about transparency and trust. Livestreaming shows our commitment to being open about our decisions. When people can see and hear our discussions, it builds trust with our stakeholders.

Second, it is about the next generation. Livestreaming speaks the language of young people. It invites them to join our fencing family, inspiring new fencers, officials, and fans.

Third, it is about securing vital financial support. Livestreaming presents us with the opportunity to find new partners and sponsors, offering us the resources necessary to expand the reach of fencing on a global scale.

Fourth, it is about using data for better decisions. Livestreaming provides valuable data that helps us understand our viewers and improve our offerings.

Fifth, it is about inclusivity. Livestreaming allows everyone, no matter their situation, to be part of our events and discussions.

Sixth, it is about promoting fencing. Livestreaming lets us showcase our sport's inner workings, attracting new enthusiasts and athletes.

Innovation is not just an option; it is our responsibility to keep fencing relevant in the modern world. Let us seize this opportunity, not as followers, but as leaders who can make fencing shine even brighter on the global stage.

I ask you, dear delegates, to vote in favour of livestreaming during our congresses. Together, we will bring a new era of transparency, engagement, and global participation to the International Fencing Federation.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Please remember that for the Statutes, you need two-thirds of the votes for the proposal to pass.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal did not pass.

Proposal #2 is from the Legal Commission, which has revised its proposal. The Executive Committee was in favour of the revised proposal from the Legal Commission with some minor modifications for the sake of clarity.

So, we are voting on the revised proposal of the Legal Commission, which was also revised by the Executive Committee.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #3 is also from the Legal Commission. The Medical Commission was not in favour, but the Legal Commission revised its proposal, and then the Executive Committee considered the opinions of the Medical and Legal Commissions and made a revised proposal.

So, we vote on the final proposal of the Executive Committee. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #4 is from the Legal Commission. The Legal Commission has revised its proposal, and the Executive Committee also revised it.

We are voting on the final proposal from the Executive Committee. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #5 is also from the Legal Commission. The Promotion Commission has revised the text. The Legal

Commission has revised the text. And the Executive Committee has provided a final text, considering the opinion of the Promotion and Legal Commissions.

We vote on the proposed text from the Executive Committee. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #6 is from the Legal Commission. The Refereeing Commission was not in favour, so the Legal Commission revised its proposal, and the Executive Committee has provided a final proposal.

So, we are voting on the final proposal from the Executive Committee. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #7 is from the Legal Commission. The Rules Commission was not in favour, so the Legal Commission revised its proposal, and the Executive Committee proposed a new final text. So, we vote on the final proposal from the Executive Committee... Yes.

Giuseppe Cafiero (ITA): Cafiero, on behalf of the Italian Federation, I am also a member of the Rules Commission that has already given a non-favourable opinion on this point. I want to underline that in any government, in any normal country, the government and the ministries make the laws, and the judges and the technical people apply the rules. If we assign the judges as the only people qualified to prepare the laws they must apply, this is the wrong way of considering the matter. The two categories must remain independent. The present text gives the possibility to become members of the Commission only to referees and members of *Directoire Technique* in a limited quantity. This is against the spirit of the division of power. Thank you.

Applause.

Kiyoshi Wada (JPN): Madam CEO, the Japanese Federation. So, our Federation, in principle, is favourable to the proposal, except for the last point, which requested to be a member of this Commission for at least two mandates. And this part caused the rigidity of the composition of members. So, if we vote, I suggest you first vote if we include this part. Afterward, vote on this entire paragraph. Thank you so much.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, if you have read the opinion of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee agreed to the criteria introduced for the Rules and Promotion Commissions, but also included that if the persons do not meet the criteria, one of the other criteria can be – being a member of the Commission for at least two mandates. You have voted this for all the other Commissions: Legal, Promotion, and Refereeing, so there is no reason to make an exception for the Rules Commission.

Kiyoshi Wada (JPN): So it is correct. So, when we looked at these clauses, other parties had not raised the issue, and only our concerned member challenged this part. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, we are going to vote on the final proposal of the Executive Committee, and if it does not pass, then it does not pass.

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

We move to *Proposal #8*, which is also a proposal from the Legal Commission. The SEMI Commission revised it; then, the Legal Commission revised its proposal. And the Executive Committee provided a final text for this Commission.

We open the vote on the proposal from the Executive Committee. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #9 is a proposal from the Executive Committee. The Legal Commission was in favour. The Athletes' Commission was in favour. And if the text is adopted, it will be implemented at the next elections of the Athletes Commission in 2025.

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

Proposal #10 is from the Legal Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

So, we move to the vote on *Proposal #10*. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #11 was withdrawn, so we are moving to *Proposal #12*.

Proposal #12. This is a proposal from the Women and Fencing Council. The Legal Commission was in favour, and the Executive Committee was in favour.

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

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

The next proposal is *Proposal #13* from the Women and Fencing Council. The Legal Commission has revised the proposal, and the Executive Committee is in favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission.

We move to the vote on the revised proposal from the Legal Commission. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

This was the last proposal regarding the Statutes. **We now move to the proposals regarding the Rules.** So, for the Rules, the simple majority applies.

Proposals for the amendment of the Rules, with the opinion of the Commissions, Councils, and the Executive Committee

Proposal #1 is a proposal from the Women and Fencing Council. The Rules Commission was not in favour, and the Executive Committee revised the proposal.

We vote on the revised proposal from the Executive Committee. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #2 is from the Rules Commission; the SEMI Commission was in favour, and the Executive Committee was in favour.

We move to the vote on *Proposal #2*. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #3 is a proposal from the Women and Fencing Council. The Veterans' Council was in favour. The Rules Commission was not in favour, saying that the Administrative Rules already cover it, but actually it is not. The Executive Committee is in favour of the proposal.

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

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #4 is from the Women and Fencing Council. The Rules Commission was in favour. The Medical Commission was in favour. The Refereeing Commission was not in favour. The SEMI Commission was in favour. The Veterans' Council was in favour. The Women and Fencing Council has revised its proposal, and the Executive Committee took into account all the revised texts and proposed a final text, which takes into account the specificity of the proposal.

We vote on the revised proposal from the Executive Committee. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #5 is from the Women and Fencing Council. The Refereeing Commission was not in favour. The Rules Commission was not in favour. The Executive Committee has proposed a revised text.

And we vote on the revised text from the Executive Committee. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #6 is from the Women and Fencing Council, and it has been withdrawn. Can you confirm? Yes, confirmed. So, it is cancelled, it is withdrawn, so we move to the next proposal, which is *Proposal #7*.

Proposal #7 is from the Rules Commission. It is a very long proposal because it removes the current text of the Veterans World Championships in order to create a new Chapter and of course also provides updating of the Rules. So, it is very, very, very, very long. There were also some modifications made by the Refereeing Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal with the modifications from the Refereeing Commission.

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

Someone in the audience: Excuse me.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Sorry, yes? Can we please have a technician fix the microphone? It is working now.

Giuseppe Cafiero (ITA): Cafiero on behalf of the Italian Federation. I want to recall to this Assembly that a few years ago, the book of organisation was made like we are now proposing. Veterans were put at the end of the book in a separate chapter. The working group that was established a few years ago by the Commission and some other experts worked hard to revise the Book of Organisation and the Technical Book to make them consistent and give a logical way of examining the matter.

On this occasion, the Veterans were taken away from a separate chapter and integrated into the other categories. That is, at each step of the book, we mention and indicate the Rules for Seniors, Juniors, Cadets, and Veterans. I do not understand why, and I already expressed this in the Rules Commission, we should now take them out and put them apart in a separate chapter like a reduction of dignity and importance of this category. Exactly the contrary to what we have made when we have integrated them, giving them equal importance as to the other categories in the books.

Apart from the complication in terms of revising numbers, figures, and references, that this is a technical matter, strategically, we are not doing a favour to this category because we are showing that they are something else. That is exactly the opposite of the effort that we have made for many years to demonstrate that Veterans have equal importance, maybe not technical, but in terms of Rules to the other categories. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Mr. Cafiero, I would like to highlight that the aim was not at all to put the chapters on the Veterans at the end of the book. This is not the case at all. The different Rules regarding Veterans were in different parts of the Organisation Book. The aim was actually to gather them and make some modifications, which were also requested by the Veterans Council. So, I would like to give the floor to the President of the Rules Commission.

Giuseppe Cafiero (ITA): Just to be precise, why are we not doing the same for all the other categories, collecting all the Rules for each category in a separate chapter as it was in the past that we considered not rational?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Mr. Cafiero, you are a member of the Rules Commission. So, please ask the Rules Commission about this.

Ziad Feriani (TUN): Thank you very much, Nathalie. I would like to remind Mr. Cafiero that he is a member of the Rules Commission. And he participated actively in this modification. And he was also there, when we voted, he agreed to this change. As well as... I wrote everything, Mr. Cafiero. We recorded everything regarding the

votes. It was also at the request of the Veterans Council. We preferred to put a separate chapter also to give them the chance to have their separate and very clear Rules. But I also ask others that this type of discussion takes place inside the Commission. When we have voted in a Commission, there is no longer any point in coming back to Congress and disrespecting all that. Thank you very much.

Nathalie Rodriguez: I would like to remind you that the Veterans Council is in favour of that proposal and to gather all the elements in a chapter. Yes. Please.

Someone in the audience: I need a new device, please.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Ah, yes, but please go there. Thank you. We are opening the vote on that proposal with a slight modification from the Refereeing Commission.

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

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

So, we move to the vote. The vote is open.
The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #9 is from the Rules Commission. The Executive Committee is in favour, and if the proposal passes, the corresponding text in the Administrative Rules will be removed in order to avoid duplication of texts.

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

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #10 is from the Veterans Council. The Rules Commission was in favour of the proposal but not with item 2.b). The Executive Committee is in favour of the proposal, but without item 2.b), as it would duplicate the number of delegates from the Veterans Council at the World Championships.

So, we are going to vote on the proposal without item 2.b). And the vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #11 is from the Rules Commission. The Refereeing Commission was in favour, and the Executive Committee was in favour.

We move to the vote and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #12 is from the Rules Commission, and the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We move to the vote.
The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #13 is from the Rules Commission, which was revised by the Rules Commission, the Refereeing Commission, and the SEMI Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal of "four or eight pistes" in the summary table.

So, we vote on the revised final text from the Executive Committee.

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

Proposal #14 is from the Rules Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal. Actually, it is not truly a modification but more an explanation.

We open the vote on *Proposal #14*, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #15 is from the Rules Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour.

So, we move to the vote, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #16. The Executive Committee is in favour of the proposal but starting from the season 2024-2025 so as not to impact the Olympic qualification, which is currently taking place.

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

Please vote because I could see from the last votes that some Federations do not vote. And please follow the process. I know it is tiring. I know this is after lunch, but we need you to vote.

Laughter in the audience.

The vote is closed.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The number of votes is improving.

Laughter in the audience.

Nathalie Rodriguez: But we can still improve.

Laughter in the audience

So, *Proposal #16* passed.

We move to *Proposal #17*, which is also a very long proposal because it is an updated Table of Contents, and also a revised Index. The Executive Committee was in favour, and the Rules Commission made one correction on the numbering, part E for the Veterans.

So, we move to the vote, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

We are decreasing the number of votes, so we should improve.

The proposal passed.

The following proposal is *Proposal #18*, and this is an updated Index of the Organisation Rules. It is also a long proposal. The Executive Committee was in favour.

So, we move to vote on this proposal, and the voting is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

There are around 15 Federations that do not vote. This is bad.

Proposal #19 was removed by the Rules Commission.

Proposal #20 is from the SEMI Commission. The Rules Commission was in favour, and the Executive Committee was in favour.

So, we move to the vote. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #21 is from the Rules Commission. The proposal is very long. The Refereeing Commission was not in favour of additional texts and proposed some revisions. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal from the Rules Commission.

So, we vote on the proposal from the Rules Commission with slight modifications from the Refereeing Commission.

And we open the vote. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #22 is from the Rules Commission. The Refereeing Commission is not in favour because it thinks that everything is already clear in the Rules. The Executive Committee is in favour of the proposal.

So, we move to the vote. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #23 is from the Rules Commission. The Refereeing Commission was in favour, the Rules Commission made a new correction, and the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Rules Commission.

So, we move to the vote. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #24 is from the Rules Commission. The Medical Commission did not agree with the proposal. The Athletes' Commission disagreed with the proposal. The Executive Committee agrees with the Medical Commission's comments on health risk and is not in favour of the proposal. Yes.

Jeremy Summers (USA): Jeremy Summers, President of the Medical Commission. We would just like to say that for the Medical Commission, we unanimously opposed the Rules Commission's proposal to reduce the medical timeout from five minutes to three minutes for a trial at the Junior World Championships in 2024. Our stance is underscored by the lack of or limited and inconclusive data and the absence of data available at the FIE events, altering any Rule change in the Medical Commission for FIE events. We look forward to a joint proposal for the Rules Commission to collect that available data.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, we move to the vote on this proposal. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal did not pass.

Proposal #25 is from the Refereeing Commission. The Rules Commission was in favour, and the Executive Committee was in favour.

So, we move to the vote. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #26 is from the Refereeing Commission. The Rules Commission was in favour, and the Executive Committee was in favour.

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

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #27 is from the Rules Commission. The Refereeing Commission said that it is not in favour because the Organisation Rules are clear. The Rules Commission was in favour, but with a new correction. And the Executive Committee is in favour of the proposal as revised by the Rules Commission.

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

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #28 is from the Fencing Federation of Jamaica. The Refereeing Commission was not in favour. The Coaches' Council was not in favour. The SEMI Commission was not in favour. The Athletes Commission agreed in theory, but it would like the language to be changed and the proposal to be specified. The Rules Commission was not in favour, and the Executive Committee was not in favour.

So, we move to the vote. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal did not pass.

Proposal #29 is from the Rules Commission. The Refereeing Commission made a revised proposal. The SEMI Commission was in favour. The Rules Commission was in favour of a new correction. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Rules Commission.

So, we move to the vote. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #30 is from the Rules Commission. The Refereeing Commission was in favour. The SEMI Commission was in favour, and the Executive Committee was in favour. Regarding the SEMI Commission's request, it should be considered as a future proposal to be dealt with by the Rules Commission.

So, we move to the vote. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #31 is from the Refereeing Commission. The Executive Committee would like to postpone this proposal in order to establish a working group to work on this proposal. The President of the Refereeing Commission agreed to establish a working group in order to present a final proposal after the working group's review. So, we will not vote on this proposal because it has been postponed. And we will establish a working group with the Refereeing Commission and the Rules Commission.

Proposal #32 is from the Refereeing Commission. The Rules Commission was in favour, and the Executive Committee was in favour.

So, we move to the vote. The vote is open.
The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #33 is from the Women and Fencing Council. There were many opinions on this. In the end, the Executive Committee came up with a revised text for this proposal, but generally agreed on the proposal and made a revision on the last sentence of the paragraph.

So, we move to the vote on this proposal with a revised paragraph from the Executive Committee.

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

Proposal #34 is from the Women and Fencing Council. So, there were many opinions. In the end, the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal, but with an amended paragraph.

So, we move to the vote on the proposal as revised by the Executive Committee. And we open the vote. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal #35 is from the Rules Commission. The Refereeing and Athletes Commissions and the Coaches' Council were in favour, and the Executive Committee was in favour.

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

Proposal #36 is from the Refereeing Commission. The Rules Commission was in favour, and the Executive Committee was in favour.

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

But we are decreasing the number of votes again and again. Please! Wake up!

Laughter in the audience

So, the proposal passed, but please, please.

Laughter in the audience

Proposal #37 is from the Rules Commission. The proposal was revised by the Refereeing Commission and then the Rules Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Rules Commission.

So, we move to the vote on the proposal as revised by the Rules Commission.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #38. The Refereeing Commission was not in favour, but the Rules Commission made a modification, and the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Rules Commission.

So, we move to the vote, and the vote is open.

After this proposal, only ten will remain. I tell you this to give you some courage.

Applause.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #39 is from the Rules Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

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

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #40 from the Rules Commission was discussed with the Refereeing Commission, which made modifications. Then, the Rules Commission reviewed the proposal and made other modifications, and the Executive Committee summarized the revisions from the Rules and Refereeing Commissions and proposed a final text.

So, we vote on the final text proposed by the Executive Committee.

We open the vote. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #41 is from the Refereeing Commission. The Rules Commission was in favour. The Executive Committee was in favour and made a modification to articles t.124.1 and t.124.2 in the Column of Articles.

So, we move to the vote, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #42 is from the Rules Commission. The Refereeing Commission made some comments and proposed some revisions. The Rules Commission made a modification. The Executive Committee was in favour of the revised proposal.

So, we vote on the proposal as revised by the Executive Committee. And we open the vote. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #43 is from the Rules Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal and just added the colour of the card to the table.

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

Proposal #44 is from the Rules Commission. It is the revised Index of the Technical Rules. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We move to the vote, and the vote is open. Only five proposals remain.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #45 is from the SEMI Commission. The Promotion, Athletes, and Rules Commissions were in favour with some modifications. The Executive Committee revised the proposal, and we vote on the proposal as revised by the Executive Committee.

We open the vote, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #46 is from the Refereeing Commission. The SEMI and Rules Commissions were in favour, and the Executive Committee was in favour.

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

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #47 is from the SEMI Commission. The Rules Commission was in favour of the proposal to remove the text in the Material books. The Executive Committee agreed with the SEMI and Rules Commissions, and the rule on chipping must be cancelled until a viable solution is found and submitted to Congress.

So, we move to the vote on this proposal. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #48 is from the SEMI Commission. The Rules Commission was in favour, and the Executive Committee was in favour.

So, we move to the vote, and the vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

Proposal #49 is the last proposal. This proposal has already been communicated to you as an urgent decision by Information Letter 3-23 and it was already implemented after the Junior and Cadet World Championships 2023. The Executive Committee was in favour.

So, we open the vote on this proposal, which was communicated to you as an urgent decision.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal passed.

We now move to **Urgent Decisions**.

Urgent Decisions regarding the Rules

Urgent Decision #1 was the last proposal that we have already voted on from the SEMI Commission. So, this has already been voted for.

Urgent Decision #2 was an urgent decision from the Executive Committee regarding articles t.1 and t.122. These decisions were communicated to the Federations in September, and the Executive Committee proposed making them valid until the end of this current season, which is 2023-2024.

So, we move to the vote on these urgent decisions from the Executive Committee.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The urgent decisions passed.

We have finished with the *Proposals and the Urgent Decisions regarding the Rules*.

13. Progress reports from the working groups

Nathalie Rodriguez: We now move to the *Progress reports from the working groups*.

You received the report from the *Environment Group*, which has done a very good job, and some of the proposals are already in place and successful.

You have also received the report regarding the Olympic qualification. The working group on *the Olympic qualification* could not find a solution for improving the current system. So, the proposal will be to renew, to have a new working group in order to try to find solutions to improve the qualification system. After this Congress, I would like the Federations who are interested in being part of that new group, to send us an email so that we can, as soon as possible, finalize the group and start the work.

Yes, Mr. Drakenberg.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Can you hear me? Yes. Thank you very much. I would not say for once, but I am very happy that you have come to that conclusion with the working group. The Swedish Federation has been bringing up the matter of Olympic qualification criteria and that they are not fair or fair enough for several years now. And, of course, we are disappointed that during the two years that have passed since the working group was established in Lausanne no progress has been made. There is still time then, of course, to find and establish new fairer qualification criteria for the 2028 Games in Los Angeles. However, we must work with speed to achieve that.

For us, in the European Fencing Confederation (EFC) that had a meeting yesterday, I understood that there was also a decision being taken during that meeting that the EFC would work actively now to come up with proposals in line with the needs that we see and bring them forward in just time to the FIE to work as productively and cooperatively as possible to make progress in this very important area.

Lastly, this is a matter of greatest importance for the longevity of fencing as an Olympic sport. I am convinced that this is one of the things that will secure fencing as part of the Olympic family in the future, making sure that all the best fencers in the world have a fair chance to participate. So, thank you for your proposal to continue the work. EFC is very committed to participate and contribute. Thank you.

Applause.

14. Proposals from the Ukrainian Fencing Federation

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item is item #14, the *Proposals from the Ukrainian Fencing Federation*. Yes, please.

Mikhail Ilyashev (UKR): Mikhail Ilyashev, President of the Ukrainian Fencing Federation.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me the floor to speak on behalf of the Ukrainian Fencing Federation regarding the proposal we submitted to the head office on the 24th of March 2023, for voting at this Congress.

Putting at stake at the beginning of this year, the suspension of membership of Russian and Belarusian Fencing Federations remains urgent today. To our deepest regret, the war waged by Russia against Ukraine and supported by Belarus has not come to an end. In a blatant disregard for the fundamental principles of international law, Russia, in alliance with Belarus, violated the territorial integrity of Ukraine and occupied the Autonomous Republic of Ukraine in 2014, supported and eventually incorporated the so-called Lugansk and Donetsk People's Republics in 2022 and broke out a full-scale war against Ukrainian territory on 24th of February 2022.

Pursuant to the orders and instructions of the Russian government, the Russian Fencing Federation illegally incorporated the so-called Regional Fencing Federations established on the annexed territories of Ukraine and now proudly demonstrates them on its website. Those are the Fencing Federation of the Lugansk People's Republic, the Fencing Federation of Donetsk People's Republic, the Fencing Federation of the Republic of Crimea, and the Sevastopol Fencing Federation.

This stands in sharp contrast with what the President of the Russian Fencing Federation said to the fencing community during the extraordinary online Congress on March 10th of this year. I now quote Mr. Mamedov: "We are not working for the government. We are only athletes." If that had been the truth, how does it come in line with the fact that the Russian Fencing Federation gladly and unquestionably executed the orders of the Russian Ministry of Sports and annexed the Regional Fencing Federations operating on the territory of another sovereign state? Mr. Mamedov's words are nothing more than the echo of constant lies and misrepresentations of the Russian government, which Belarus openly supports.

To be noted, the alliance of Russian and Belarusian governments fosters the same close relations between the Russian and Belarusian Fencing Federations. Belarusian fencers gladly participate in the all-Russian Fencing Championship, and the Russian Fencing Federation today represents Belarusian Fencing Federation in Congress. The conduct of both the Russian and Belarusian Fencing Federations certainly lifts the curtains of their non-governmental nature and once again proves that these two Fencing Federations are just structural units of their governments, support the brutal policy against Ukraine, and therefore shall bear international responsibility.

A brilliant example, which, in my opinion, shall be followed by all international sports organisations, including the FIE, was demonstrated on the 24th of June this year when the Congress of the European Fencing Confederation decided, among other things, to suspend the membership of Russian and Belarusian Fencing Federations on the grounds of Russia's and Belarus's instigation of the war against Ukraine and the Russian Fencing Federation settling of Regional Fencing Organisation, as I have mentioned before, on the territories of Ukraine. This was a big victory for the Ukrainian Fencing Federation and for all the Ukrainian fencing community. The intrusion of the Russian Fencing Federation into the internal relations of Ukraine is a vivid demonstration that Russian sport

backs politics and is far into it.

Ukraine is a sovereign state with internationally recognized borders and sovereign territory which are inviolable. By incorporating Donetsk, Lugansk, Sevastopol, and Crimean Regional Fencing Federations in its structure, the Russian Fencing Federation de facto represents fencing in two independent states: Ukraine and Russia. Such a status violates the Statutes of the International Fencing Federation. It contradicts the principle of one country, one fencing authority, according to which membership is granted exclusively to the National Federation, which is the only representative of fencing in its country.

The Ukrainian Fencing Federation submits that this is not only unlawful, but it also demonstrates a dangerous precedent for the international sports community. We need to follow the position of the International Olympic Committee, which suspended the Russian Olympic Committee from the Olympic movement for violation of the territorial integrity of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine. The International Olympic Committee made it clear that it would not tolerate vivid breaches of the Olympic Charter by the Russian Olympic Committee, which incorporated into its structure sports organisations located in integral territory of Ukraine. The IOC decision shall serve as an example of a devoted democratic position and direction for the International Fencing Federation as well.

To conclude what was already being said, the actions of the Russian and Belarusian Fencing Federations shall be treated as a series of extremely severe offenses in the meaning of the Statutes of the International Fencing Federation, showing utmost arrogance and a sense of impunity of these National Federations. The time has come for the International Fencing Federation to demonstrate its democratic position and put an end to this blatant infringement of its Statutes. The Ukrainian Fencing Federation strongly encourages all the member Federations to stay united for peace and integrity of the fencing family and vote in favour of the proposal to suspend membership of the Russian and Belarusian Fencing Federations from the International Fencing Federation. Thank you for your attention.

Applause.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Thank you, Mr. President.

When the Executive Committee of the IOC decided to suspend the Olympic Committee of the Russian Federation, the FIE sent a letter to the IOC about the situation with the National Federations and what is necessary to do about it. Because in the past some decisions were already made there. For instance, if it suspended one National Olympic Committee, the IOC could also give an instruction not to permit athletes to participate under the flags of this Olympic Committee.

In this situation with the Russian exclusion from the IOC, we sent a letter to ask what was the opinion of the IOC about the fencers, the officials, and, of course, the Federation. So, we received an answer from the Sports Director of the IOC, of course, under the discussion with the members of the Executive Board. The IOC Executive Board's decision is purely based on the action of the Russian Olympic Committee. It does not imply that the FIE should automatically and systematically take similar measures vis-a-vis their respective National Federation for the sole reason that the IOC has suspended it. The NOC received this decision, but it was not required to have the same decision in the National Federation for the athletes of the Federations. It is up to each International Federation on a case-by-case basis to examine the situation of the respective National Federations in view of the IF Statutes and if there is any violation of the International Federation Statutes to take any action they deem appropriate in accordance with the IF Statutes.

We think, with this proposition from the IOC, it depends on the decision of the International Federation, and especially it is the same in our International Federation. So, we have discussed this issue in the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee proposes to the Congress not to suspend the Russian and Belarusian Federations.

Of course, there are two different cases because, in the case of the Russian Federation, the decision should be taken with a simple majority. But for the Belarusian Federation, we need three-fourths of the votes. And concerning the athletes, the decision is to propose to the Congress that the athletes and the officials, under the recommendations of the IOC, should not be suspended but follow the IOC recommendations. This is the proposition of the Executive Committee, and we put this to your decision. We must do it in three votes. As I said before, the voting for the Russian Federation is with a simple majority. For the Belarusian Federation, we need three quarters, and for the athletes and officials it is a simple majority.

Velichka Hristeva (BUL): Can you please read the decision of the Executive Committee?

Nathalie Rodriguez: The Executive Committee yesterday made a recommendation as the Executive Committee and the FIE always followed the IOC recommendations. Based on the letter that we received from the IOC Sports Director, and based on past decisions, in particular decisions from the Extraordinary Online Congress, the recommendation of the Executive Committee to the Congress is that the Executive Committee is not in favour of the suspension of the National Federations of Russia and Belarus and is not in favour of the non-participation of athletes from Russia and Belarus. In other words, the recommendations and the opinion of the Executive Committee are not in favour of the proposals from the Ukrainian Fencing Federation. But it is up to Congress to take these decisions.

So, there are two proposals on the table from the Ukrainian Federation.

The first one is to suspend the Federations of Russia and Belarus. We asked for the opinion of the Legal Commission on what the majority should be to vote on these proposals. The Legal Commission said that for the Russian Federation, this is a simple majority. For the suspension of the Belarusian Federation, the majority is 3/4th. So, there should be two votes: one on the Federation of Russia and the second one on the Federation of Belarus.

And then, regarding the second proposal from the Ukrainian Federation on the non-participation of athletes from Russia and Belarus, it is one proposal, and the vote is made with a simple majority. So, in total, there will be three votes:

- On the suspension of the Federation of Russia,
- On the suspension of the Federation of Belarus,
- On the non-participation of the fencers and officials from Russia and Belarus.

Three proposals and three votes.

Who would like to speak on this proposal, Mr. Drakenberg, I think. So, Sweden. I would like to take the list of all those who wish to talk. So, there is Sweden; there is Canada. Who else?

Ana Irene Delgado Guerra (PAN): Barbados.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, Barbados.

Ana Irene Delgado Guerra (PAN): Venezuela.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Venezuela.

Ana Irene Delgado Guerra (PAN): Armenia.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Armenia, Russia. Any other Federation? No?

Ben Dauda Nass (GUI): Guinea.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Guatemala? No, it is Guinea.

Ana Irene Delgado Guerra (PAN): One more there. Pakistan.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Pakistan. Any other Federation?

Ana Irene Delgado Guerra (PAN): There, in the back, sorry, in the back, USA. Uruguay.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Uruguay. Any other Federation would like to take the floor, nobody else? Okay, so we will start. Yes. Sorry, can you show me the card? Is it Pakistan or Paraguay? Paraguay. Ah. So, we are closing the list now. Any other Federation would like to talk? Fine. So, we start with Sweden.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Thank you. Mr. President, Dear Fencing Participants, A number of months have passed since we had the Extraordinary Congress in March of this year. But during this period, as much as the period between the war broke out and the Extraordinary Congress in March of this year, there has been no structural change in the situation regarding the Russian aggression in Ukraine. Only more lives were shed on each side. By allowing Russian and Belarusian officials and fencers to participate in international tournaments, albeit under a neutral flag, we de facto give legitimacy to the Russian war effort, and we contribute to normalizing the aggression.

Therefore, we in the Swedish Federation insist that the FIE exclusion regime set in 2022 should be reinstated, both for Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials. It is the only way forward. Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Canada.

Yann Bernard (CAN): Thank you. This is simply a matter of information; many people wonder why two different majorities are required for the two resolutions.

Nathalie Rodriguez: As I said, we consulted the FIE Legal Commission, which said that as the IOC suspended the NOC of Russia, and this suspension is actually in the FIE Statutes, it can be voted on by a simple majority. However, regarding Belarus, the NOC of Belarus has not been suspended by the IOC, and therefore, for that proposal to pass, it would require a 3/4th of the vote. Maybe someone from the Legal Commission would like to confirm this question. Peter Jacobs, can you confirm that the Legal Commission has said that the suspension of the Russian Federation requires a simple majority, the suspension of the Belarusian Federation the three fourths and the vote on the participation of Russian and Belarusian fencers requires a simple majority?

Peter Jacobs (MH, GBR): Yes. Right. There are two conditions under which three-quarters of the majority is needed. One is if an item is not on the agenda. And the other is, and I need to remind myself, not provided for in the Statutes.

In the case of Russia, the justifications for suspending a Federation in the Statutes are covered because it is stated that if the IOC takes this action against a National Olympic Committee, the International Federation may take a comparable action against its National Federation.

In the case of Belarus, the IOC has not suspended the National Olympic Committee, and therefore, this condition is not met. And therefore, Marco Rioja and I, who studied this subject -it did not go to the whole Commission because there was no time – but we have been asked on several occasions to give advice, when it is needed urgently, to the FIE. And we concluded that because in the case of Belarus, the IOC had not suspended the Belarus National Olympic Committee, the simple vote in the FIE was not sufficient, following our Statutes. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. We move to the next Federation, Barbados.

Ralph York (BAR): Hi, good afternoon. The area of clarification I was looking for was perhaps one element that was brought up in the Ukrainian President's presentation, which was the setting up of a free breakaway of three Federations in those established regions, which are currently under the control of Russia but were previously under the control of Ukraine, including Crimea and Donetsk. Was that raised as a point during the special Congress online in March? Or is that fresh information?

Nathalie Rodriguez: The proposals from Ukraine reached the FIE after the Extraordinary Congress of March. Venezuela.

Francisco Rafael Marín Alvarez (VEN): Good afternoon. Greetings, federation friends. I hope you are listening to the interpreting colleagues who say that the voice does not reach them, and it is difficult to translate. Yes? No? That is why I mention it because... some do not make it to the translation. Well. Especially the call, again, for everyone. There is none?

People in the audience: No, no.

Francisco Rafael Marín Alvarez (VEN): That is why...

Someone at the Tribune: Channel 2.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Do you have a translation now?

Francisco Rafael Marín Alvarez (VEN): Yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, okay. Fine. Okay. Venezuela.

Francisco Rafael Marín Alvarez (VEN): Thank you, friends interpreters.

Venezuela raises its voice again to call for the points we discuss here to be related to sports. We are not the International Criminal Court. If we are going to talk about war conflicts, we are near an area where there is a great conflict, and no one names it because that is not what we came for. Do we want to talk about politics? Let

us talk about the Olympic Charter. Let us talk about what the Olympic values carry. They have recently called us for an Olympic truce within the framework of the Paris Olympic Games. The Executive Committee, through the FIE, has been respecting what the IOC mandates regarding athletes from Belarus and Russia competing under a situation of neutrality.

Every time there is a Congress, we cannot come here to question the effort that all the athletes are making. Of course, solidarity with the athletes of Ukraine. Of course, solidarity with the athletes of Russia. But Venezuela, I repeat, I did not come to talk about myself, but we also live in discrimination; they deny us visas. Recently, there was a case in a soccer match; you can see it, and we do not come here to ask for suspensions of Federations or suspensions of athletes.

So, what does the Olympic Charter command us? It commands us to preserve peace, work for peace, and for unity through sport. We want to change the world. It is not suspending Federations; it is not suspending athletes. Yes, there are serious armed conflicts. I repeat, we are close to one, and no one names it. How many conflicts are there in Africa right now, on my continent right now? But no one names them. Let us talk about sports. Let us talk about fencing. I do not share some of the comments that some colleagues have made, calling the participation of athletes irresponsible or calling the International Federation irresponsible, because athletes compete; athletes are not irresponsible. No athlete supports any war intervention. Athletes want to compete; they want to win. We are now here near the Olympic Games.

Please, let us talk about fencing. We want to make peace. Let us build it from here. Let us work on unity and those who call for international laws. With this, I close. I remind once more, the UNESCO Charter, since so many international organisations name it, the UNESCO Charter for Physical Education requires us to promote peace through sport. Let us stop using sport as a tool for political pressure. We are going to use sport as a tool of peace and unity. And Venezuela will always support peace and will always support equality, non-discrimination, and the participation of all athletes and Federations that comply with the rules. Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Armenia.

Armen Grigoryan (ARM): Dear Mr. President, Dear Colleagues, I would like to talk about a fellow sportsman, my sportsman from Armenia. He is from the Wrestling Federation. He is an Olympic Champion. He is World Champion. Last month, during an IOC meeting, he spoke about sports activity. He said that sports activities should be without politics. I agree with him 100 percent. I agree with him. We all gathered here, we are coming here to speak about our matters, to speak for fencing matters, not for politics. The Olympic movement is out of politics.

Dear Colleagues, I think today we must speak about our problems. Thank you so much for your attention. Thank you.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Russia.

Ilgar Mamedov (RUS): Dear Delegates of Congress, Dear Interim President, Dear Colleagues. First of all, I would like to say a big thank you to the majority of delegations that voted during the Extraordinary Online Congress, which was held on March 10th. Your decision made it possible for our athletes to return to the international arena. I am very grateful to you for this support. Unfortunately, the IOC recommendations did not

allow the strongest athletes to return to competitions.

I am also grateful to the FIE Executive Committee for its hard work in bringing back athletes and specialists under neutral status. I understand it was not easy. It was not easy, and it is not easy right now because you see the situation. The IOC officially recognized the International Council of Military Sport in 1991. Our strongest athletes are in CSKA and Dynamo. This system is not only in Russia. If you want to participate in the Military Games, it is like the Olympic Games for military athletes, once every four years, or you want to participate in the World Military Championships, athletes and specialists must have military ranks. This is obligatory. The same system is not only in Russia, but it is the same system in Italy, Korea, China, Poland, Ukraine, everywhere. My colleague from China and I participated in the first military games in Roma in 1995. Yes, we were military, but not military personnel. We were military athletes. Everybody knows about this.

Sooner or later, this situation will be finished. I urge those Federations that vote against us not to take the wrong steps. Otherwise, when the situation ends, you will hide your eyes. As far as I know, Ukrainian athletes participate in almost all competitions with a big number of sportsmen, which they never had before. Never, ever. The FIE supports this project. It would be right to help athletes from Iraq, Syria, Libya, and other countries who have suffered and are suffering from military conflicts if you support Ukrainian sportsmen. Inshallah, it happens. In my life, as an athlete, I have had four Olympic Games. And it was a good time when if you wanted to be in the Olympic Games, you had to be on your national team, have qualification points in your country, and go to the Olympic Games. It was in Seoul in 1988, and it was in Barcelona in 1992. Unfortunately, after the Barcelona Olympic Games, the criteria in fencing were changed.

Unfortunately, the fencing family is divided between Federations, which work for the sport, and Federations, which work for politics. This coalition could use its efforts for something useful. This part of the Federations really likes to write letters to the FIE and the IOC. Send your efforts not to divide the FIE family but to restore a fair system for all National Federations when everyone participates in the Olympic Games, not only strong fencing countries but also those countries where fencing is developing. But these are most likely dreams since it is easier destroying everything than creating something.

In conclusion, I would like to say. Today, we watched a video with our good friends who passed away last year and this year. It was very sad. Let us do something good for our sport so that you are remembered for your good deeds.

Thank you for your attention.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Guinea. No?

Someone at the Tribune: No, no.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Pakistan.

Salman Choudhry (PAK): In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Thank you, Chair.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Pakistan Federation, let me say. We abhor all kinds of violence and

acts of aggression anywhere in the world, but sport represents the human spirit. It is the epitome of human excellence and valour. It defines who we are. It transcends the boundaries of race, ethnicity, colour, creed, and even religion. As the Chair mentioned in his speech earlier in the morning, as we were listening to him, he broke down when he said these words: let us not bring politics, let us not bring other vested interests into this body, onto this floor. We are over here to make the statement that we, as human beings, represent the best part, which is through sports. After all, the Olympics have a very long history, and they have defined what civilisation is.

The third most crucial part is the application of law. While listening to the legal points, you cannot have the application of the law to two different things at the same time, with three-fourths of the majority required to oust one country and a simple majority required to oust another country. I do not think it will give the legal semblance of the right decision based on the legal principles of this forum. So, I would urge you not to get involved in these politics and let them compete under their own national flag. This is a non-governmental organisation. It does not have anything to do with governments. Thank you very much.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Uruguay.

Diamante Peirano (URU): Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

I am the President of the Uruguayan Fencing Federation. This is the oldest Federation in South America. We have been around for more than 100 years. I would appreciate the interpreters continuing now because I will switch to Spanish.

As I said, the Uruguayan Fencing Federation is the oldest Federation in South America. A Federation that is more than 100 years old. Personally, I think that the International Fencing Federation, in its decisions to date, has fully complied with what the Olympic Charter establishes.

I know the devastating effects of wars because I have seen them, and I have seen them on more than one continent. But personally, I believe that if we agree to what they are trying to achieve today, we will be making several serious mistakes. We would be crossing lines that would not allow us the possibility of turning back. We would be unfair to more than twenty-five, with those who are integrating today, to more than twenty-five war conflicts that the world has. In other words, we would have to place more than fifty countries in the international context. Furthermore, we would be unfair to those athletes from countries that do not have the possibility of requesting what is being requested in this Congress.

I consider the International Fencing Federation, made up of all the National Federations, to be a great machine intended to promote sport and the development of athletes. Unfortunately, in this machine, there are some parts that are failing for different reasons that I understand are not worth analysing because they are extremely painful. However, I believe that we must work to promote freedom for our athletes so that they can practice the sport of fencing and so that all our athletes can practice sports in an environment of equality. And from that, we can achieve brotherhood among our athletes, and what the athletes teach us, or partly teach the politicians, is how to function in a better way. I believe that every time we raise these issues in Congress, and politics are mixed with the objectives of sport, the only thing we do is harm our sport and waste time. That is all. Thank you so much.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Paraguay. Paraguay.

Discussions at the Tribune and in the audience.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, Paraguay is not in the hall.

Nathalie Rodriguez: If Paraguay is not here, then we have to close the list of the Federations because Paraguay was the last one. I repeat the votes. You have all received the proposals from the Ukrainian Federation. You have them. The first proposal will be divided into two votes. Please do not open the vote yet. I am still explaining.

- The first one is to suspend the membership of the Russian Fencing Federation.
- The second one is to suspend the membership of the Belarusian Federation.
- And the third one is not allowing athletes, coaches, and officials from Russia and Belarus to participate in FIE competitions.

So, there will be three votes. For vote number one and vote number... Yes, I ask you to remove what is on the screen. So, we have:

- *Proposal 1A* from the Ukrainian Federation to suspend the membership of the Russian Fencing Federation.
- *Proposal 1B* from the Ukrainian Fencing Federation to suspend the membership of the Belarusian Federation.
- And *Proposal 2* from the Ukrainian Fencing Federation not to allow athletes, coaches, officials, etc., from the Russian Fencing Federation and the Belarusian Federation to participate in the FIE competitions.

So, three votes: for vote #1 and vote #3, simple majority. For vote #2, majority of three-fourths. Is it clear?

Ana Irene Delgado Guerra (PAN): They want explanations one by one.

Nathalie Rodriguez: This is exactly what I just said. Yes.

Ilgar Mamedov (RUS): Nathalie, if the first and the second proposals are easy to understand, the third one is not easy. Not to allow. To allow and not to allow. Maybe you can change the first word, to allow because, for voting, it is easy to vote yes or no, but not to allow; what do I have to push? You understand this, but not everyone.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Excuse me, please read the proposals that you have received, you all have them.

Proposal 1 is to suspend the membership, and *Proposal 2* is not to allow the athletes, etc. etc. to participate in the FIE competitions. In other words, to forbid, to suspend, to whatever...

Ilgar Mamedov (RUS): Yes, yes, this is more understandable. It is my opinion. Maybe you have another opinion. Because if someone cannot push the button to recognize a new Federation, can you imagine how hard this can be? It is very important for us. Therefore, I am here.

Nathalie Rodriguez: But what we are going to ask the Federations is the following:

Do you agree with the proposals from Ukraine? This is what we are going to ask for *Proposal 1*. Do you agree? Yes, no. *Proposal 2*. Do you agree? Yes, no. *Proposal 3*. Do you agree? Yes, no.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): It is clear.

Nathalie Rodriguez: I said 1A, 1B, and 2, but there will be three votes.

Discussions and exclamations in the audience

Nathalie Rodriguez: It is written. Did you read the *Proposal*? I will read it to you.

“Not to allow athletes, coaches, officials holding Russian or Belarusian citizenship and licenses registered by the Russian Fencing Federation and/or the Belarus Fencing Federation to participate in competitions of the FIE.”

That is, all the fencers holding Russian and Belarusian citizenship and licenses registered by the Russian Fencing Federation or the Belarus Fencing Federation should not be allowed to participate in competitions. This is what is written. You just have to read.

Discussions and exclamations in the audience

So, *Proposal 1A* is to suspend the membership of the Russian Fencing Federation. In this, we ask you if you are in favour of this proposal or not in favour of this proposal. Is it clear to everyone?

People in the audience: Yes, yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: It is *Proposal 1A*. So, if you agree with the proposal, you vote yes. If you disagree with the proposal, you vote no, and if you abstain, then you abstain.

Discussions and exclamations in the audience

Nathalie Rodriguez: Please. We are going to open the vote, and you will have to vote because this is an important issue.

So, we open the vote. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

Applause.

The proposal did not pass.

Proposal 1B of the Ukrainian Federation is to suspend the membership of the Belarus Fencing Federation. For that proposal to pass, according to the Legal Commission, the three-fourths of the votes are needed.

So, we open the vote on *Proposal 1B*. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

Applause.

The proposal did not pass.

Proposal 2 from the Ukrainian Fencing Federation: not to allow the athletes, coaches, officials holding Russian or Belarusian citizenship and licenses to participate in competitions of the FIE.

So, we are going to open the vote on this proposal. The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal did not pass.

Applause.

And we now move to the coffee break.

Applause.

(Coffee Break)

15. 2023 Chevalier Feyerick Challenge

Nathalie Rodriguez: The Honours Commission met during the lunch time and was presented with the proposal from the Executive Committee to award the Challenge Chevalier Feyerick 2023 to Mrs. Ana Pascu posthumously.

Applause.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The motivation of this proposal was: "For having rendered inestimable services to the FIE and in recognition of Ana Pascu's immeasurable contribution to international fencing, her remarkable and inspirational dedication and devotion to the cause of sport and her constant wisdom, benevolence, loyalty, and fair play under all circumstances and with everyone."

Applause.

We ask the Fencing Federation of Romania to come and receive the Trophy of the Challenge Chevalier Feyerick 2023.

Award is presented.

Applause.

16. 2023 Fair-Play Trophy

Nathalie Rodriguez: The 2023 Fair-Play Trophy has been awarded by the Executive Committee based on proposals from the Fair-Play Council to:

- Maria Akshita Ciril Rajdev from India

Applause.

Award is presented.

Applause.

- Lachlan Crook from Australia

Applause.

Award is presented.

Applause.

- Mostafa Tahoun from Egypt

Applause.

Award is presented.

Applause.

17. Winners of the 2023 FIE official rankings and the Nations' Grand Prix

Nathalie Rodriguez: For the next item, which is the *Winners of the 2023 FIE official rankings and the Nations' Grand Prix*, I would like to ask the members of the Executive Committee to come to the Tribune to award the athletes. We will start with the Individual Junior fencers at each weapon:

Individual Junior Rankings

Women's Épée – Hadley Husisian from the USA
Applause.

Men's Épée – Mohammed Elsayed from Egypt
Applause.

Women's Foil – Aurora Grandis from Italy
Applause.

Men's Foil – Damiano Di Veroli from Italy
Applause.

Women's Sabre – Nisanur Erbil from Türkiye
Applause.

Men's Sabre – Colin Heathcock from the USA
Applause.

Junior Team Ranking Winners

Women's Épée – Poland
Applause.

Men's Épée – Egypt
Applause.

Women's Foil – USA
Applause.

Men's Foil – USA
Applause.

Women's Sabre – Hungary
Applause.

Men's Sabre – Uzbekistan
Applause.

Individual Senior Rankings

Women's Épée – Marie-Florence Candassamy, France

Applause.

Men's Épée – Davide Di Veroli, Italy

Applause.

Women's Foil – Lee Kiefer from the USA

Applause.

Men's Foil – Alexander Massialas, USA

Applause.

Women's Sabre – Sara Balzer, France

Applause.

Men's Sabre – Sandro Bazadze, Georgia

Applause.

Senior Team Ranking Winners

Women's Épée – Korea

Applause.

Men's Épée – France

Applause.

Women's Foil – Italy

Applause.

Men's Foil – Japan

Applause.

Women's Sabre – France

Applause.

Men's Sabre – Korea

Applause.

Nations' Grand Prix

Juniors Grand Prix of the Nations – USA

Cadets Grand Prix of the Nations – Hungary

Seniors Grand Prix of the Nations – Italy

Veterans Grand Prix of the Nations – USA

Discussions and exclamations in the audience.

Applause.

Someone at the Tribune: Nathalie, Nathalie, where is Hungary?

Nathalie Rodriguez: I have called everyone. I said: the Juniors – USA, the Cadets – Hungary, the Seniors – Italy, and the Veterans – USA.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Is Hungary here? Then we are done. Thank you very much.

18. Any other business. Final Remarks.

Emmanuel Katsiadakis (MH): Thank you, Nathalie. I would like to make two announcements.

First of all, we celebrate 110 years this year, which means that our Federation works and goes up.

And the second one is also very important for financial reasons. We are very close to signing a contract with Nike, one of the best and biggest sports companies. Nike is a company that sponsors the International Olympic Committee. Therefore, it is very important for us to have this company working with us. It is a very, very good solution for our Federation as well as for the publicity of our Federation because this company is well known all over the world in the field of sports. So, I think it is very important for us.

Another significant topic. Perhaps for many people, some things do not seem very important, but they are very important. Fencing will be included into the programme of the Olympic Games in LA after the decision of the Executive Board of the IOC. We have time for it, at least until LA 2028. And some people will be working on the qualification system because we have time to find a solution.

I would like to thank you very much for this meeting. It was a very emotional meeting for me, but also a very good one for all of us, in a good atmosphere, of course. There are some disappointments for some people, but we work with democracy, and we will continue to do it. I would like to thank very much all my colleagues in the Executive Committee for all their hard work related to this.

Already our CEO have said about our staff, how unbelievably good they are and how much they help us.

And finally, I will say the biggest thank you to the heart of our Federation, the CEO, Mme. Nathalie Rodriguez.

Applause.

The dinner is at eight o'clock at the Savoy Hotel. Again, I thank you very much you enjoy the rest of the day.

Applause.

Peter Jacobs (MH, GBR): I think we ought to take the opportunity to thank Nathalie and the FIE team for all the preparatory work they did for us here and also all the helpers from the Egyptian Federation who helped make this Congress happen.

Applause.

Annexes

