



103RD CONGRESS



22 NOVEMBER 2025
MANAMA, BAHRAIN





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ATTENDANCE

The meeting opened at 9:00 am.

TOOK PLACE AT THE TRIBUNE

Mr. Abdelmoneim ELHUSSEINY (EGY)

Interim President

Mrs. Gulnora SAIDOVA (UZB)

Secretary General

Mrs. Ferial Nadira SALHI (ALG)

Secretary-Treasurer

Mr. Donald ANTHONY JR (USA)

Vice-President

Mr. Novak PEROVIC (RSA)

Vice-President

Mrs. Henriette TAMAS (HUN)

Vice-President

Mrs. Nathalie RODRIGUEZ M.-H

CEO

PRESIDENTS OF THE CONFEDERATIONS

Mr. Pascal TESCH (LUX)

President of the European Confederation

Mrs. Andrea CHAPLIN (AUS)

President of the Oceanian Confederation

HH. Engr. Sheikh Salem Sultan

S. AL QASIMI (UAE)

President of the Asian Confederation

Mr. Mbagnick NDIAYE (SEN)

President of the African Confederation

Mr. Vitaly LOGVIN (MEX)

President of Pan-American Confederation

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Rusni ABU HASSAN (MAS)

Mr. Murat ATALI (TÜR)

Mr. Paolo AZZI (ITA)

Mrs. Velichka HRISTEVA (BUL)

Mr. Ruben LIMARDO (VEN)

Mr. Nikolay Ivanov MATEEV (ISL)

Mr. Arno PERILLIER SCHNEIDER (BRA)

Mr. Haibin WANG (CHN)

Mrs. Patricia AIYENURO * (GBR)

* Elected during the congress

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Mr. Yuki OTA (JPN)

Members of Honour

MEMBERS OF HONOUR

Mr. Jenő KAMUTHY (HUN)

Mr. Victor Sergio GROUPIERRE (ARG)

GUESTS

Ms. Ana Irene DELGADO (PAN)

Panama Ambassador to the OAS

Mr. Paolo ZAMPOLLI (USA)

United States Special Representative
for Global Partnerships

PRESENT OR REPRESENTED FEDERATIONS



AFGANISTAN	<i>Represented by Uzbekistan</i>	BOTSWANA	Mandlenkosi MASUKU
ALGERIA	Ferial Nadira SALHI	BRAZIL	Arno PERILLIER SCHNEIDER
ANGOLA	Meven PEREIRA	BRUNEI	Huzaimi ABD KASSIM
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	Rameez MASCALL	BULGARIA	Velichka HRISTEVA Yordan Yordanov GALABOV
ARGENTINA	Victor Sergio GROUPIERRE (MH) Cesar Julio ABATTI	BURKINA FASO	Djibril ZEBE
ARMENIA	Armen GRIGORYAN Sarkis ASSADOURIAN Samvel ABRAHAMYAN	CAMBODIA	Ang SOK
ARUBA	Tirslain JANSEN	CAMEROON	Dieudonne Marcel AMOUGOU NGUINA
AUSTRALIA	Samantha AUTY	CANADA	Yann BERNARD Lisa HUZEL
AUSTRIA	<i>Represented by Germany</i>	CAPE VERDE	Maria RAMOS SILVA
AZERBAIJAN	Vasif MAMMADOV	CHILE	David Alejandro JIMENEZ MIRA
BAHAMAS	Anthony Delwhite LEWIS	CHINA	Yina ZHU
BAHRAIN	Sheikh Ebrahim BIN SALMAN ALKHALIFA Afnan NAHED MUBARAK	COLOMBIA	William GONZALEZ TABORDA
BANGLADESH	<i>Represented by India</i>	DEMOCRATIC REP. OF CONGO	Michel MAUNZA NZUMBA
BELARUS	Vitali SOKOLOVSKI Nataliya TSERAKHAVA	COSTA RICA	Carlos GODOY
BELGIUM	<i>Represented by the Netherlands</i>	CROATIA	Mirna BOROSAK
BELIZE	<i>Represented by Honduras</i>	CUBA	Alhajadis Ricardo BANDERA MIRANDA
BENIN	Ulrich Charles DJOSSA	CZECHIA	Vilem MADR
BOLIVIA	Claudia Viviana CHACON URDININEA	CYPRUS	Maria CHRYSANTHOU
		DENMARK	<i>Represented by Sweden</i>
		DOMINICA	Cody MORRIS

PRESENT OR REPRESENTED FEDERATIONS

ECUADOR	Carlos ECHEVERRIA CORDOBA	ISRAEL	<i>Represented by Moldova</i>
EGYPT	Mohamed Tarek ELHUSSEINY Ayman ISMAIL	IVORY COAST	Jean Louis Herve BI TAH
EL SALVADOR	Juan Jose Roberto GÓMEZ Melissa Elizabeth Alvarenga RAMIREZ	JAMAICA	James MCBEAN
ESTONIA	<i>Represented by Norway</i>	JAPAN	Yusuke AOKI Kiyoshi WADA
FINLAND	Riinaliisa PITKANEN	JORDAN	Ra'ad HAROUN Eyyad MAGHAYREH
FRANCE	Rémy DELHOMME Philippe OMNES	KAZAKHSTAN	Mirbulat ABUOV
GEORGIA	<i>Represented by Armenia</i>	KENYA	Fred KAMAU
GHANA	Mohammed MAHADI	KYRGYZSTAN	<i>Represented by Turkmenistan</i>
GERMANY	Benjamin DENZER Dieter LAMMER	KOREA	Kyung Sig OH Shin Won CHOI
GREECE	Ippokratis MANOUDAKIS	LATVIA	Baiba BRANDULE
GREAT BRITAIN	Georgina USHER Patricia AIYENURO	LEBANON	Jihad SALAMEH Georges ZEIDAN
GUAM	Anthony CAMACHO	LIBYA	Dhw TOUMI
GUATEMALA	Otto Rene VALLADARES BALDERRAMOS	LITHUANIA	Vytautas POLUJANSKAS
GUINEA	Ben Daouda NASSOKO	LUXEMBOURG	Joel BIERLAIRE
GUYANA	Kalam JUMAN-YASSIN Bernadette JUMAN-YASSIN	NORTH MACEDONIA	Zoran STOJANOVIKJ Biljana KUZMANOVSKA NIKOLOVSKA
HAITI	<i>Represented by Peru</i>	MACAO	Wai Man MA
HONDURAS	Marco IZAGUIRRE	MADAGASCAR	Harinelina Jean Alex RANDRIAMANARIVO
HONG KONG	Wing Sun YEUNG Kin Pong Clerebold CHAN	MALAYSIA	Rusni ABU HASSAN
HUNGARY	Zsolt CSAMPA Edina CZEGLÉDY Jenő KAMUTHY (MH)	MAURITIUS	Aarti Prakash DESSCANN Veena GUNPUT
ICELAND	Nikolay Ivanov MATEEV	MOLDOVA	Olga COJOCARI
INDONESIA	Firtian JUDISWANDARTA	MONGOLIA	<i>Represented by Kazakhstan</i>
INDIA	Rajeev MEHTA Debendra Kumar SAHOO	MOROCCO	Mohammed NAHI Nabil RIAD
IRAN	Alireza POURSALEMANI	MONTENEGRO	Dejan DURASKOVIC
IRAQ	Abbasali FARYABI Zeyad SALEEM Abdulhadi AL-TAMEEMI	MALI	Wahabou ZOROME
IRELAND	Nuala MCGARRIY Ursula KAPPUS	MYANMAR	Kyaw Moe NAING Zhen Ren TEO
ITALY	Giuseppe CAFIERO Maurizio RANDAZZO Leonardo Donato PATTI Luigi MAZZONE Daniele GAROZZO	NAMIBIA	Dillon KOTZE
		NEPAL	Sunil Kumar SHRESTHA
		NETHERLANDS	Etienne VAN CANN Claudia BOKEL
		NEW ZEALAND	David ELDER
		NICARAGUA	William José CALDERON MARTINEZ
		NIGER	Sani HALILOU
		NIGERIA	Adeyinka SAMUEL
		NORWAY	Ole EEG
		OMAN	Khalid AL SHUAIBI

PRESENT OR REPRESENTED FEDERATIONS

PAKISTAN	Khalid MASOOD	SRI LANKA	Ajith SIYAMBALAPITIYA
PALESTINE	Dawoud MITWALI	SWITZERLAND	<i>Represented by Luxembourg</i>
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	<i>Represented by New Zealand</i>	SWEDEN	Otto DRAKENBERG Carolina HAKANSON
PARAGUAY	Miguel Angel PAREDES FASSINO	SYRIA	Yahea ALZEAN Basema ALSABBAGH
PERU	Angel GARCIA GARCIA	CHINESE TAIPEI	Kovacs LIN
PHILIPPINES	Rene Peter Paul GACUMA Leah GONZALEZ Maria Christina BATE	TAJIKISTAN	Khistrav NASIMOV
POLAND	Tadeusz TOMASZEWSKI	TURKMENISTAN	Meret MEREDOV
PORTUGAL	Jose Nuno PEREIRA	THAILAND	Chanchai YOSSUNDARA Arnon KLUENSUWAN
PUERTO RICO	Juan Carlos RAMIREZ CONCEPCION Hipolito Antonio VAZQUEZ CORIANO	TOGO	Kossivi Emmanuel ADENYOH
QATAR	Khalid Issa AL-HAMADI	TUNISIA	Mohamed Sofiane CHAOUACHI Ziad FERIANI Salah FERJANI
ROMANIA	Marius FLOREA	TÜRKIYE	Abdurrahman KARATAS Ilgin GUCLUER SUREKCIGIL
RUSSIA	Ilgar MAMEDOV Ekaterina KONDRATEVA	UKRAINE	Mikhail ILYASHEV
RWANDA	Issac NGENDAHIMANA	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	Mousa ALBLOOSHI
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA	Abdullah ALSUNAID Wasem ALHASSAN	UGANDA	Kenneth ORINGO
SENEGAL	Cecile FAYE Oumar MAIGA	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Jennifer YAMIN Felicia ZIMMERMANN Rita COMES
SERBIA	Dejan RUSKI Vukasin STOSIC	URUGUAY	Flavio DELLA CELLA PEREZ
SLOVAKIA	Tomas GINYERY	UZBEKISTAN	Makhsud ABDUSAMADOV Khalilullo SHARIPOV
SLOVENIA	<i>Represented by Croatia</i>	VENEZUELA	Francisco Rafael MARÍN ALVAREZ
SOUTH AFRICA	Louise LOMBARD	VIRGIN ISLANDS	<i>Represented by Aruba</i>
SPAIN	Pablo REJAS DEL CAMPO	VIETNAM	Le Quang PHUNG
		YEMEN	Hussein AL-SHARIF Saleem HADI

AGENDA

- 1** Validation of attendance and proxies
- 2** Addresses
- 3** Ratification of the new federations
- 4** Approval of the report of the 2024 Congress held in Tashkent (UZB)
- 5** Approval of the decisions of the Executive Committee communicated by Urgent *Letter* 6-24 and Information Letters 4-25, 7-25, 8-25 and 16-25
- 6** Approval of the 2024 annual report of the Executive Committee
- 7** Financial report 2024, auditors' report, approval of the accounts, discharge of the Executive Committee and of the auditors
- 8** Planned budget 2026
- 9** Appointment of the auditors for 2026
- 10** Vote to award the World Championships:
 - 2028 Juniors/Cadets: Candidature of the Italian Fencing Federation
- 11** Call for candidatures for the organisation of the World Championships:
 - 2027 and 2028 Veterans
 - 2029 Juniors/Cadets
- 12** FIE Strategic Plan
Working groups: progress situation
Coffee Break
- 13** 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 13
- 14** Qualification system – LA2028 Olympic Games
- 15** Election of a member of the Executive Committee
- 16** Mexico: decisions regarding the affiliation of the member federation
Coffee break
- 17** Chevalier Feyerick Challenge
- 18** 2025 Fair Play Trophy
- 19** Winners of the FIE official rankings and Grand Prix of Nations 2025
- 20** Any other business. Final Remarks.

VALIDATION OF ATTENDANCE AND PROXIES



Nathalie Rodriguez: Please take your seats. The first item on the agenda is the *validation of attendances and proxies*.

We are going to start with the validation of the Federations present. When I call the name of your Federation, please raise your hand so that I can see you. You will also receive a card for your voting device. After the validation of attendance, we will move to the validation of proxies.

Algeria	Cape Verde	Jamaica
Angola	Costa Rica	Jordan
Antigua and Barbuda	Croatia	Japan
Argentina	Cuba. Cuba.	Kazakhstan
Armenia	Cyprus	Kenya
Aruba	Czech Republic	Korea
Australia	Dominica	Saudi Arabia
Azerbaijan.	Ecuador	Kuwait. Kuwait.
Azerbaijan is arriving	Egypt	Latvia
Bahamas	El Salvador	Libya
Benin	Spain	Lebanon
Belarus	Finland	Lithuania
Bolivia. Not here,	France	Luxembourg
Bolivia is not here?	Great Britain	Macao
Botswana. Not here,	Germany	Madagascar
Botswana?	Ghana	Morocco. Morocco.
Brazil	Greece	Malaysia
Bahrain	Guatemala	Moldova
Brunei Darussalam	Guinea. Guinea	North Macedonia
Bulgaria	Guam	Mali. Mali.
Burkina Faso	Guyana	Montenegro
Cambodia	Hong Kong, China	Mauritius
Canada	Honduras	Myanmar
Congo. Congo.	Hungary	Namibia
Chile	Indonesia, Indonesia	Nicaragua
China. China	India	Netherlands
Ivory Coast	Iran	Nepal
Cameroon	Ireland	Nigeria
Democratic Republic	Iraq	Niger
of Congo	Iceland	Norway
Colombia	Italy	New Zealand

1. VALIDATION OF ATTENDANCE AND PROXIES

Oman	Africa	Chinese Taipei
Pakistan	Russia	Tunisia
Paraguay	Rwanda	Türkiye
Peru	Senegal	United Arab Emirates
Philippines	Serbia	Uganda. Uganda
Palestine. Palestine.	Sri Lanka	Ukraine.
Ok.	Slovakia	Uruguay
Poland	Sweden	USA
Portugal	Syria	Uzbekistan
Puerto Rico	Thailand	Venezuela
Qatar	Tajikistan	Vietnam
Romania	Turkmenistan	Yemen
South Africa. South	Togo	

Is there any Federation that I did not call? I'm going to repeat the federations that did not answer.

Bolivia. Is Bolivia... Bolivia has arrived.
Cuba

Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny: On the right.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Where? Ah Cuba, on the right.

Indonesia. Indonesia

Kuwait.

Morocco. Morocco is there.

Botswana? Botswana is there.

And Yemen. Yemen is not here.

Audience: He will come.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Please tell me when he comes.

Did you receive the device and the card which goes to the device? Is there any Federation that does not have them?

Nathalie Rodriguez: We now move to the proxies.

- Afghanistan has given a proxy to Uzbekistan. Does Uzbekistan accept it? Uzbekistan? Can you please raise your hand?
- Austria has given a proxy to Germany. Does Germany accept it? Yes.
- Bangladesh has given a proxy to India. Does India accept it? India? Yes.
- Belize has given a proxy to Honduras. You accept it? Yes.
- Denmark has given a proxy to Sweden. Does Sweden accept it? Yes.
- Papua New Guinea has given a proxy... Sorry, I missed one file.
- Estonia has given a proxy to Sweden, but Sweden has already a proxy. The second federation is Norway. Does Norway accept it? Thank you.

1. VALIDATION OF ATTENDANCE AND PROXIES

- Georgia has given a proxy to Armenia. Does Armenia accept it? Armenia? Yes, yes. Thank you.
- Haiti has given a proxy to Peru. Does Peru accept it?
- Israel has given a proxy to Moldova. Does Moldova accept it? Okay.
- Kyrgyzstan has given a proxy to Turkmenistan. Does Turkmenistan accept it? Yes.
- Mongolia has given a proxy to Kyrgyzstan, which is not here, then to Uzbekistan, which has already a proxy. Then the next federation is Kazakhstan. Does Kazakhstan accept it?
- Papua New Guinea has given a proxy to New Zealand. Does New Zealand accept it? Slovenia has given a proxy to Croatia. Does Croatia accept it? Yes.
- So, Switzerland had given a proxy first to Germany, but Germany has already a proxy. The next federation is Luxembourg. Does Luxembourg accept it?

[Exclamations in the audience]

Yemen arrived? Yes.

- Virgin Island has given proxy to Aruba. Does Aruba accept?
- Belgium has given proxy to the Netherlands. Does the Netherlands accept?

Indonesia arrived.

We have 123 Federations present and 16 Federations represented. The quorum has been reached.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Before we move to the next item, first, we will have to make a test vote. Second, I will ask you if you approve the decision of the Executive Committee, which decided to reopen the registration platform for the FIE Congress in order to allow federations that could not make the registration to do it within 48 hours. This allowed seven federations to register. However, among these seven, one is not present and two have given a proxy. As this item was not on the agenda of the Congress, we will ask you whether you agree with the decision of the Executive Committee. For the decision to pass, it is necessary to have a majority of three-fourths of the votes. If you do not agree, then, unfortunately, these Federations will not be able to be represented at the Congress.

So, before moving to the vote, we will make a test vote to ensure that you all understand how the device works. You have all received the document showing that you must insert the chip card into the voting device with the chip facing up.

When voting is open, you will see a green LED. You must use the numbered buttons to provide your answers, yes, no, or abstain. Then the selected answer will blink on the display. Once you have it, you want to validate your vote, just press the enter button.

1. VALIDATION OF ATTENDANCE AND PROXIES



Pay attention that once you have pressed the enter button, the vote is cast and you cannot modify it. We are now opening a test vote. The question we ask is: "Do you like chocolate?" So, we open the vote.

The vote is open.

We are going to close the vote.

So, the vote is closed.

Excellent. Many people love chocolate.

We are now moving to the vote I mentioned earlier.

The Executive Committee reopened the platform to register Federations for the Congress for 48 hours. The Executive Committee is submitting this decision for your approval. As it was not on the agenda, the Statutes require three-fourths of the votes for the decision to pass.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The decision has passed.



Recorded video message

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is *the Addresses to the Congress*. We will have several of them. The first address is from the President of the International Olympic Committee, Mrs. Kirsty Coventry.

Kirsty Coventry (President of the IOC): Dear Interim President of FIE Mr. ElHusseiny, Dear Olympic Friends, it is such a pleasure to join you, even if only virtually, for your Congress.

At the start of my presidency, one of my top priorities is to listen, to learn what's on your minds, and to hear how, together, we can make the Olympic community fit for the future. That is why I am keen to hear from your discussions at this Congress. Fencing has been part of the Olympic Games since the very beginning in 1896, and it is so inspiring to see how the International Fencing Federation continues to carry this great heritage into the future.

FIE is a valued and reliable partner for the IOC. You are driving your sport forward in innovative ways. Guided by your new Strategic Plan, you have a strong foundation for your journey of modernisation, from strengthening governance to pioneering in the digital world, from empowering athletes to promoting gender equality, or bringing fencing to more people worldwide. These are just a few of many examples of how you promote sport and its values.

On this ambitious journey to make fencing a modern and inspiring global sport, you can count on the IOC as a partner by your side, always guided by our shared Olympic values. In this spirit, I wish you a very successful Congress as you set the course for the future, from the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 to the Olympic Games LA 2028 and far beyond. And I look forward to hearing from your discussions so that together we can continue to shape our Olympic movement that is truly fit for the future.

[Applause]



Recorded video message

Nathalie Rodriguez: Mr. Ingmar De Vos, the President of ASOIF, is going to address the FIE Congress.

Ingmar De Vos (President of ASOIF): Dear Interim President Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny, Dear Presidents, Secretary Generals, and Members of the International Fencing Federation:

It's a great pleasure to address you today on behalf of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, as you gather for this important occasion, the FIE Congress 2025. Even though I cannot be with you in person in Manama, please accept my warm greetings to the entire fencing community.

Over the past Olympic cycle, fencing has achieved remarkable progress. The spectacular competitions at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games stand out as a major milestone showcased in the iconic Grand Palais. The atmosphere resonated globally. Your sport also demonstrated impressive universality with athletes from 53 National Olympic Committees, a full gender balance and medals shared across 13 countries and four continents. These achievements set a strong foundation as fencing enters a new cycle ahead of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. You are now guided by the FIE Strategic Plan 2025-2028. This Strategic Plan is ambitious, forward-looking, and strongly aligned with many of ASOIF's priorities, such as modernising governance, digital innovation, e-refereeing and biometric tracking systems. I wish you all the best with its implementation.

In my first year as an ASOIF President, I am taking the time to meet with the Summer Olympic International Federations. And I was very pleased recently to meet your Interim President and Secretary General at the recent International Federation Forum in Lausanne. Your Secretary-General, Gulnora Saidova is a proud graduate of ASOIF's Women Leadership Programme and now serves on the ASOIF Sustainability Consultative Group.

We are very pleased to have close cooperation with the FIE in Lausanne, where we share the same headquarters at the Maison du Sport. I wish you a successful and fruitful Congress as you embark on this new chapter for global fencing. Your plan charts a bold direction, one rooted in modern governance, digital innovation and strong values.

Best wishes to you all and to close, I would say: "En garde, prêts, allez".
Thank you very much.

[Applause]



Nathalie Rodriguez: Mr. Paolo Zampolli, who is the United States Special Representative for Global Partnerships, will address the Congress.

Paolo Zampolli: Hello.

Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, Mr. President, Members of the FIE Congress:
It is my utmost honour to be here representing the President of the United States of America and the Secretary of State, Marco Rubio.

One thing I have to say, my two bosses, I have never had two bosses in my life. Now I have two. One is the leader of the free world, who loves sport. The other is the fantastic Secretary Marco Rubio, who supports sport more than ever. And we will be welcoming you to the United States of America. As you know, thanks to my president, we have the FIFA World Cup coming to the United States, and then the Olympics. So, for my president sport is everything.

I am starting to learn more about sports, particularly individual sports like fencing, one competitor against another, as well as other sports that we have that are very strong also in America.

And fencing is truly, truly important. It is growing a lot.

Next year, we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States, during which we will have countless events. And we are also working to organise events related to fencing. I hope all you will be joining us. Thank you again, and I wish you the best.

And for the young people who will be competing in the United States at the Olympic Games, one thing I would like to say, echoing my president, is: "Boys play with boys, and girls play with girls". I hope that we are all on the same agenda. Thank you again for having me, and good luck.

[Applause]



Nathalie Rodriguez: Mr. Faris Mustafa Al-Kooheji, Secretary-General of the Bahrain National Olympic Committee, will address the Congress.

Faris Mustafa Al-Kooheji (BRN): Interim President Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny, Your Excellencies, and distinguished guests.

On behalf of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, welcome to the Kingdom of Bahrain. It is with great honour that our Kingdom is hosting the General Assembly of the International Fencing Federation.

In the heart of Bahraini sport, most recently, with an eight-months' notice, we hosted Bahrain's biggest sporting event ever, the Asian Youth Games. Across 28 sports, more than 4,000 athletes and 13,000 dignitaries were accommodated across 50 hotels. We created history in Bahrain – a proud achievement that would not have been possible without the support of His Majesty King Hamad, Crown Prince Sheikh Salman, and Sheikh Nasser and Sheikh Khalid. When decision makers understand and value sport, everything else becomes much easier to execute.

Personally, I have always admired fencers. It is a sport that requires explosiveness as well as strategic thinking to become a fencing champion, of course. As a former athlete in other sports, you always want to believe you can be somewhat competitive in other disciplines. So, I decided to invite my close friend, Britta Heidemann, who won a gold medal at the Beijing Olympic Games. What a grave mistake. (Laughter) I invited her and decided to fence against her in front of all the committee employees and our local federation. I was injured and lost within minutes. (Laughter) I said, let me go back to weightlifting.

The sport of fencing is in a very interesting position. It is a competitive sport, yet it can be marketed very well. We have all seen several blockbuster Hollywood movies that include fencing scenes, such as James Bond movies, highlighting the appeal of fencing. Only two weeks ago, I had the honour of being a moderator at a J.P. Morgan conference. We had three elite athletes: a gold medallist in swimming, a female Formula One driver, and, of course, Olympic fencing Champion Sara Balzer. She was an excellent ambassador for your sport.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Bahrain's Fencing Federation Sheikh Ibrahim for the hard work he has done in promoting fencing in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Please, if you need anything during your stay in the Kingdom of Bahrain, do not hesitate to reach out to me or to anyone from the Bahrain Olympic Committee. Thank you, everybody.

[Applause]

Nathalie Rodriguez: And now the Interim President will address the Congress.

Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny: In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is both an honour and a joy to welcome you all to this Congress. Today, we gather not only to deliberate on the future of fencing, but also to celebrate the unity and shared vision that binds our Olympic family together.

Allow me first to express my profound gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, may God protect and preserve him, for hosting this important event. We are deeply thankful for His Majesty's generous support and warm hospitality, which has created the perfect setting for our Assembly.

I am also pleased to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the President of the International Olympic Committee, Mrs. Coventry, for her support and for the thoughtful address she delivered to us.

Our gratitude likewise goes to the President of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), Mr. De Vos, for his inspiring message, which reflects the strong partnership and encouragement of the wider Olympic family.

We are equally honoured by the presence and support of the President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, His Highness Sheikh Khalid Bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Your valued contribution is a testament to Bahrain's commitment to fencing and the Olympic movement.

It is further a privilege to welcome His Excellency Mr. Faris Mustafa Al-Kooheji, Secretary General of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, whose warm hospitality during our meetings at the Olympic Committee headquarters we recall with deep appreciation.



I would also like to commend the dedication of Sheikh Ibrahim bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Fencing Federation, whose leadership has been instrumental in making this gathering possible. Alongside him, the valuable contributions of the Federation's General Secretary, its Board Members, and the entire working team deserve our deepest thanks. Their collective efforts have played a vital role in the successful organisation of this Assembly.

I would also like to highlight the role played by Mr. Paolo Zampolli, the United States Ambassador for Global Partnerships, and Mrs. Ana Irene Delgado, Panama's Ambassador in Washington and the International Fencing Federation's Ambassador for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

My sincere appreciation also extends to my dear colleagues of the Executive Committee, and to the entire Executive Administration of the FIE — led with the highest level of professionalism and commitment by Mrs. Nathalie Rodriguez and the outstanding FIE Team.

Dear Friends,

I invite each of you to engage actively. Your ideas, insights, and suggestions are essential to strengthening our fencing family. Let us uphold the principles of transparency, good governance, and full respect for our Statutes and the Olympic Charter.

We are one family — united by our passion for fencing and our shared responsibility to guide its future. In this spirit of unity,

I hereby declare the Congress officially open. Peace be upon you.

[Applause]

It is my honour and pleasure to present the International Fencing Federation Medal to His Excellency Faris Al-Kooheji.

[Applause] on your

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RATIFICATION OF THE NEW FEDERATIONS



Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item is *the Ratification of the New Federations*. Several federations are in the process of finalising their affiliation to the FIE. So far, their process is ongoing. So, for now, there is no federation to be ratified.

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APPROVAL OF THE REPORT OF THE 2024 CONGRESS HELD IN TASHKENT (UZB)



Nathalie Rodriguez: We move to the next item, which is *the Approval of The Report of the 2024 Congress held in Tashkent*. I am going to open the vote on item four of the agenda.

The vote is open.

We are going to close the vote.

The vote is closed.

The report was approved.

APPROVAL OF THE DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMMUNICATED BY URGENT LETTER 6-24 AND INFORMATION LETTERS 4-25, 7-25, 8-25 AND 16-25

Nathalie Rodriguez: We move to item five, which includes *several decisions of the Executive Committee communicated by Urgent Letter 6-24 and Information Letters 4-25, 7-25, 8-25, and 16-25*. You have all received these letters and these letters were also communicated with the documentation for the Congress. The vote will open on each of these letters.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, Mr. Drackenberg, you want to address the Congress?

Otto Drackenberg (SWE): Yes, I want to address the Congress because I have two objections that cover several letters.

Otto Drackenberg (SWE): The first topic that we object to in the Urgent Letters is about the FIE presidency. And the second topic is about allowing Russian and Belarusian teams to participate in FIE competitions. Do you want me to take it item by item?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, please.

Otto Drackenberg (SWE): Thank you very much.

Dear Members of the Executive Committee, Dear Congress Participants,
Mr. Alisher Usmanov was elected President of the FIE at the Congress in Tashkent on November 30, 2024. The following day, 1st of December, he let it be known that he had stepped back from the presidency even before the first meeting of the new Executive Committee had taken place. The reason was that should Mr. Usmanov act as president, while under sanctions from many governments in various parts of the world, it would cause harm to the FIE in such a way that all international fencing activities would have been paralysed. The Executive Committee decided to appoint Emmanuel Katsiadakis as Secretary General. As Secretary General, Mr. Katsiadakis was appointed Interim President during Usmanov's absence already in 2022. This decision was renewed after the 2024 Congress. And in April 2025, Emmanuel Katsiadakis resigned from the FIE Executive Committee. This time, the Executive Committee appointed Vice President Mr. Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny as Interim President.

The FIE has now been governed by INTERIM PRESIDENTS since March 2022. And the only period which the interim presidency could be considered to be legitimate and in accordance with the FIE's Statutes was from March 2022 until the Congress in 2022. This is what the FIE Statutes say. Either the president resigns or continues throughout the four years elected. There is no such thing in the Statutes as a president stepping back and self-suspending him or herself and then stepping forward again as a president. The Statutes allow for the Secretary General to serve as acting president only until the next Congress where an election of a new president must be organised.

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When Mr. Katsiadakis continued as acting president after the FIE Congress 2023 until November 2024, he did so without any support for this solution in the Statutes. When Mr. Katsiadakis, after the election in 2024, took office first as Secretary General and then as Interim President, there was no legal basis for this decision by the Executive Committee.

According to the FIE Statutes, the Secretary General is appointed by the President, a procedure that usually takes place at the first Executive Committee meeting after the Congress. Mr. Usmanov resigned before the Executive Committee meeting and could not have any influence on the decisions of the Executive Committee or appointment of offices in order to avoid severe sanctions of the FIE.

The solution to appoint Mr. Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny as President is clearly not foreseen in the FIE Statutes. The appointment of Mrs. Gulnora Saidova, acting Secretary General, albeit not appointed by the elected president, would at least have showed logical consistency.

However, in this long line of non-respect for the Statutes, we are clearly moving towards improvisation within the FIE and the level of unclarity never seen before in the history of the FIE. It is clear that an election of a new permanent president should have been organised today at this Congress.

Dear Congress Participants,

We cannot continue like this until the next ordinary elections in 2028. I have no intention of promoting chaos inside the FIE, but I would like to firmly underline that the current situation is unacceptable and needs to be improved in such a way that the Statutes are again fully respected.

Therefore, I propose that we all here today take the decision that Mr. Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny's interim presidency is only accepted until the FIE Congress in 2026. And that the Executive Committee must organise an election for the presidency at the 2026 Congress.

The FIE needs a president with a clear mandate and to return to fully adhering to our Statutes. That was the address about the FIE presidency.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Should I take the second one already or do you want to open for questions?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, please.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Okay. So that was the first address, and that's for us in Sweden, a super important address, so please don't forget it. And now I move over to my second address.

5. APPROVAL OF THE DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMMUNICATED BY URGENT LETTER 6-24 AND INFORMATION LETTERS 4-25, 7-25, 8-25 AND 16-25

Again, Dear Members of the Executive Committee, Dear Congress Participants, The Swedish Federation wishes to object to the urgent decisions taken in the Urgent Letters concerning the participation in FIE competitions of teams from Russia and Belarus.

The 10th of March 2023, the FIE Extraordinary Congress took decisions concerning the participation of athletes from Russia and Belarus. In the Information Letter #4, 2025, the Executive Committee informs member federations that it is allowing AIN teams to participate in junior competitions, starting with the championships in Wuxi.

This is contrary to the decision taken in 2023. In the Urgent Letters, we are informed that the Executive Committee has decided to also allow AIN teams with athletes from Russia and Belarus to compete in senior competitions. And this is contrary to the decision taken by the extraordinary Congress in March 2023.

Furthermore, in Information Letter #16, 2025, the Executive Committee announces that it has decided to simplify the vetting process of AIN athletes. First, I would like to state that it is clear that the two first decisions would have required an extraordinary Congress of the FIE.

Secondly, the Swedish Federation sees no apparent reason to change anything in the decision taken in the extraordinary Congress of March 2023. Russia and Belarus did not respect the Olympic truce. The IOC sanctions are still in place. The aggression from the two countries against Ukraine continues and the bloodbath in Ukraine is worse than ever.

I therefore propose that the Congress decides not to accept the decisions concerning participation of any teams from Russia and Belarus and that the FIE should fully apply the decisions of the extraordinary Congress of March 2023. If there is a problem with the cost of the vetting process, financing could be found by introducing a fee on the application process itself. Thank you very much.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. Yes, please.

Mikhail Ilyashev (UKR): President of the Ukrainian Fencing Federation. Yes, I would like to address, as well, certain letters and certain decisions to be approved here. It's not just simple approval. It is legitimising of the decision of the Executive Committee, which, in my opinion, contradicts the FIE Charter. Let me go through each letter separately.

So first of all, we have Urgent Letter 6-24, dated 4th of December 2024. The decision in question was communicated to the FIE community as follows: the Executive Committee of the FIE was informed of Mr. Alisher Usmanov's decision to voluntarily suspend the exercise of his powers. I will not continue with the quotation of this decision.

A thorough review of the FIE's Statutes confirms that the above referenced appointment was unlawful because the so-called Office of Interim President is neither defined

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nor recognised by the FIE Statutes in any form, including as an official authorised position within the organisational structure of the FIE. The FIE Statutes contain no provision that would allow the FIE Executive Committee to create a confirmed and interim presidency under the FIE Statutes.

More specifically, Article 5.3.3 of the FIE Statutes sets forth that, in the event of death or resignation of the president, the Secretary General performs the president's duties provisionally until the next Congress, during which the election of a new president will be organised. The above provision outlines that the only lawful mechanism for temporary discharging the presidential duties can be carried out by the current Secretary General assuming these powers.

Throughout the FIE Statutes, no reference has been located whatsoever to the establishment of the position of Interim president, nor any discretion of the FIE Executive Committee or any other authoritative body to appoint one. Article 5.6.1 of the FIE Statutes reads as follows: The President is the legal representative of the International Fencing Federation. If he is unable to attend any meetings or events, he is replaced by the Secretary General.

The statutory impossibility of the president attending any meetings or events shall not be equated to the president's self-suspension. If Mr. Usmanov's self-suspension was derived, for some reason, from his inability to attend any meetings or events, the only authorised representative of the president in this case would still be the Secretary General.

The introduction of a parallel or invented title of Interim president to assume representational powers on behalf of the FIE and its structural divisions and bodies should be considered a clear departure from the FIE Statutes. The appointment of Mr. Katsiadakis was not only extra- statutory but also undermined the legitimacy of any actions carried out under this fabricated title.

I can also reiterate the same point regarding the next decision of the Executive Committee, communicated in the Information Letter 7-25, dated 1st of May 2025. I think that the FIE as an important Olympic International Federation, has a right to elect its president. And I think that the person who is representing the FIE, in accordance with the Statutes, is to be decided by us – by the member federations, by the delegates at the Congress – but not by the Executive Committee. It is the statutory regulation of the FIE, and we need to follow it. Otherwise, we will become just supervisors of what is going on in the Executive Committee.

The idea that the Executive Committee can decide whatever it wants between the Congresses is not correct and is unlawful. The election of the president is the unique competence of the Congress of the FIE. And what we have is that for many, many years, instead of the president of the FIE, we have the invented title of the Interim President. And when a person is not elected by us, that person cannot be considered fully independent and act independently in favour of the FIE.

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And the last point, which is very important, and thank you to the Swedish Federation for raising this issue, is about the neutral teams. We all discuss, in competitions, the absurdity of this decision of neutral teams without a flag. But at the same time, they are receiving rankings. And behind this, we see that one of these neutral teams is from Russian Federation, and the second is from Belarus. We have the International Olympic Committee recommendations in place that only individuals from those states are entitled to participate in competitions, and only after independent and thorough review of their neutral status. What we see here is that a clear departure from the IOC recommendations. I ask members of the Congress, delegates of the Congress, to read these letters carefully once again and not approve the illegitimate decisions of the Executive Committee. Thank you.

Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny: Thank you very much.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Is there anyone else who wishes to intervene? Yes.

Mohammed Mahadi (GHA): Good morning, delegate friends. I have a few comments.

The first concerns the decision or question raised by the Swedish Federation and seconded by the Ukrainian Federation. We have elected the Executive Committee of the FIE. And every decision we vote on here as Congress is not a decision of the President of the FIE alone. The comment comes, the Executive Committee approves, comments are made, and the Congress approves. Therefore, if decisions have been taken by the Executive Committee and submitted for comment, they are then voted on by the General Assembly. Therefore, the decision by the Executive Committee to work and appoint interim executive officers to preside over our organisation is lawful because we elected this Executive Committee, and they present issues to us as the General Assembly, which has the overriding responsibility for our Federation. So therefore, I believe the objection is null and void because we elected the Executive Committee, and their actions are to be ratified by this Congress. Therefore, I don't see any problem if they have encountered a challenge or a situation, addressed it, and now seek our ratification. That is point number one.

Now, point number two is with regards to the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes. From the very beginning, I objected to the sanctions of these two countries. Why? Because it is politically motivated, which is actually against the UN Charter and the principle of the autonomy of sport. If we raise the issue of conflict, we have seen court of prudent rejection citing Israel of genocide. Are we also going to say that we are going to also suspend Israel from competing? Are we introducing conflicts and politics into our sports? I think we should invite and vote in favour of our Federations to compete with full rights, just as we allow Israel and other countries involved in conflicts to compete, because we are sportsmen. Let us do that, stay away from politization, and allow sport to lead.

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And the last, regarding the comment of the President of the Sweden Federation, he says that the Interim President and related issues would set back the activity or the performance of the FIE. No, we have just heard remarks of the President of the IOC who commended the activities of 2024, when we still had an Interim President in place. And it was also seconded by the President of the Association of the Olympic Federations, who commended our achievements and the commitment of our Secretary General and the Interim President. Therefore, let us come forward and be factual, not political. Thank you very much, and apologies for taking up your time.

[Applause]

Nathalie Rodriguez: Is there anyone else who would like to express an opinion? I would like to remind you of the following. The FIE Statutes state in Article 5.1 that the management of the FIE between Congresses is entrusted to the Executive Committee. So, between Congresses, the Executive Committee addressed the questions and issues that it had to address. However, the Executive Committee clearly stated that all decisions that it had to take during the year and between two Congresses would be submitted for approval by the Congress. So, these decisions are now submitted to you. You will vote on them one by one.

I am going to open the vote on the first letter, which you received. Urgent Letter number 6-24. You have received these letters both by email and in the documentation of the Congress.

We are opening the vote on this item, letter 6-24.

We are going to close the vote.

The vote is closed.

Urgent Letter 6-24 was ratified.

We move to Information Letter 4-25.

The vote is open.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

Information Letter 4-25 was ratified.

We move to Information Letter 7-25.

The vote is open.

We are going to close the vote.

The vote is closed.

Information Letter 7-25 was ratified.

We open the vote on Information Letter 8-25.

We open the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

Information Letter 8-25 was ratified.

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We open the vote on Information Letter 16-25, and we open the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

Information Letter 16-25 was ratified.

6

APPROVAL OF THE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nathalie Rodriguez: We now move to item six of the agenda, which is *the Approval of the 2024 Annual Report of the Executive Committee*.

As we traditionally do to pay a tribute to those our friends who passed away, we will show a movie on those who passed away during the past year.

Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny: Can I ask you, please, to stand up if you can.
(Movie and a minute of silence.)

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you very much.

We are going to open the vote on the Annual Report of the Executive Committee for the year 2024.

We open the vote.

The vote is open.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The annual report was approved.

7 FINANCIAL REPORT 2024, AUDITORS' REPORT, APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS, DISCHARGE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OF THE AUDITORS

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is *the Financial Report 2024, the report of the auditors, the approval of the accounts, and the discharge of the Executive Committee and of the auditors*. The floor is to the Secretary Treasurer.

Ferial Nadira Salhi (ALG): Dear Members of the Congress, good morning:

The 2024 accounts showed expenses of 6,078,754 Swiss francs. The most significant expenses were in administration, including rent, Executive Committee meetings, and the organisation of the congress.

Then we have the Sports Department with all the World Championship organisations for cadets and juniors, and refereeing examinations, which represented the most significant expenses. We assisted the Grand Prix organisers with Swiss Timing for an amount of almost half a million Swiss francs.

Regarding revenue, the most significant income came from the IOC, specifically from the Olympic Games, totalling 12,766,306 Swiss francs. This represents 85% of our revenue. We also had 11% of revenue from financial products, investments, and financial equivalents, amounting to 1,651,376 Swiss francs.

It is very positive to have an Olympic year. We had a profit of 8 million Swiss francs, and we would have liked to have more, of course. We spent almost 1 million Swiss francs less than anticipated.

So, we were under budget in terms of expenses and over budget in terms of revenue. This is quite good, and the highlight of the year was, of course, the Olympic Games, with perfect organisation in Paris, which had a great impact. And the expenses for the Games, while the International Fencing Federation contributed, were significantly lower than in previous Olympic Games editions.
So, do you have any questions?

Nathalie Rodriguez: If you have no question on that item, we will open the vote on item seven of the agenda.

The vote is open.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

Item seven was approved, *the financial report, the auditors' report, the accounts were approved, and discharge of the Executive Committee and of the auditors*.

With the approval of the Interim President, I would suggest to have a coffee break, if you don't mind.

Coffee Break

PLANNED BUDGET 2026

Nathalie Rodriguez: Can you please take your seats? The next item on the agenda is item eight, which is *the Planned Budget for 2026*, and the floor is to the Secretary Treasurer.

Ferial Nadira Salhi (ALG): May I have your attention, please?

For 2026, the budget has almost doubled. So, we are moving to a budget of 14,260,000 Swiss francs, compared to 6,820,000 Swiss francs for the 2025 fiscal year.

This budget, which is being presented to you, has five main points. All the aid from the International Federation is grouped under point number 5. At the administrative level, the budget will be 2,720,000 Swiss francs. For the Sports Department, 2,170,000 Swiss francs; for Television and everything related to CMTV, 2,860,000 Swiss francs. The projects and developments which we will discuss later, are budgeted at 700,000 Swiss francs.

All aid has been almost doubled, or even more. This includes aid for the Confederations and National Federations, with the participation of two athletes in the World Championships, one boy and one girl, being mandatory. There will be a support plan for organisers, prize money for athletes, and bonuses for referees.

So, this is a plan that I recommend you to adopt, because it will allow fencing to progress, and it will allow us to organise many more events and implement the International Federation's Strategic Plan.

If you have any questions, please.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Do you have any question on that budget? Yes? Can you please come to the microphone?

Ursula Kappus (IRL): Now there we are. Hello, Ursula, Ireland. I was wondering in the proposed budget, the sponsorship of 7.5 million, where that is coming from and how it's put together.

Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny: Thank you very much for your question. Please allow me to answer in Arabic.

Thank you for the question. I would like to clarify some very important facts regarding the budget and sponsorship. We all know that all sports federations face challenges in continuing as Olympic sports, and one of the challenges facing the Fencing Federation is the lack of sufficient financial support. Previously, we had the elected President, Alisher Usmanov, who donated approximately ten million Swiss francs

annually, and this is where the development of fencing began. After the President's decision to suspend his activities due to personal circumstances, it became difficult for the International Fencing Federation to continue its development, while other Federations increased their budgets and proceeded with their development plans. I won't hide the fact that the Fencing Federation has been operating for more than three years simply to survive, without any development, with a very low budget, and we currently have no sponsors. We need a development plan that guarantees our continued competitiveness with other Federations to maintain our position as an Olympic sport. This plan requires at least twenty-five million, a number we arrived at after numerous studies, because it is difficult for us to secure this amount at the moment. This was the minimum amount we determined.

We are starting the development process, and reaching the level of development we desire will require no less than fifteen million, of which seven and a half million are already secured. We have already begun this process through a special committee for resource development, in which colleagues from the Comex participated, most notably Sheikh Salem bin Sultan Al Qasimi, to whom I extend my sincere thanks, and Sheikh Ibrahim Al Khalifa from Bahrain, and my dear brother Vitaly, with whom we are beginning consultations with major companies to obtain support. Most of these companies are Arab companies located in the Gulf region and in Egypt, as well as our partners in Asia, and we thank the... the President of the Asian Federation. I can now say that we have a new group of sponsors who will be sponsoring the International Federation for the coming year, and the amount we have allocated in the budget, which is around seven and a half million, will, God willing, be the minimum, as we aspire to reach a larger amount.

This leads me to talk about Mr. Usmanov, the elected president, who received 120 votes in the previous elections, representing approximately 82 percent, which is an overwhelming majority, and who voluntarily decided to suspend his activities to preserve international fencing. No matter what I say about this man, I will not be able to do him justice. In his service to the development of fencing, his absence from the Fencing Federation is undoubtedly very impactful. Therefore, I call upon you all to work together as one so that the elected President can return to his position.

I assure our friends in Sweden who were talking about the Interim President that I am working completely independently of anyone, and here I specifically emphasise my complete independence from the elected president. I have all the necessary powers to carry out my duties, and I will not deviate from this course. I am currently serving as President with full authority, there is no interference in my work, and I am overseeing things as a former Olympic fencer. I love fencing and I respect it. I will steer the ship of fencing until the elected President returns to his place.

Here, I say that we are all one fencing family, and even if we disagree on some matters, we must now unite for the good of fencing, regardless of who agrees and who disagrees. Now is the time for solidarity, for us all to work together for the return of the elected president. The elected president, who was chosen by 120 Federations, must return to his rightful place, and we must all work together to ensure his return.

8. PLANNED BUDGET 2026

I would like to inform you that Mr. Usmanov is currently in the Kingdom of Bahrain at the special invitation of His Majesty the King, and he sends you his greetings and respects. On behalf of the vast majority who voted for President Usmanov, I extend his invitation for him to simply come and greet you, showing his respect and appreciation for those who called for his return. What we will do in the coming period, God willing, is work together to ensure the return of the elected president to steer the ship of international fencing. Thank you very much.

Ursula Kappus (IRL): Thank you very much. Just wondering, is there a list of those sponsors somewhere that you can send out or where we can see that? And sorry, thank you very much, I know finding funds is incredibly important. So, thank you all for your hard work, of course, to support fencing. But yes.

Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny: Actually, thanks is to the group. It's not myself only. We have a team. We work for this to secure this sponsorship. Yes, we have a list, and we know exactly the names, but we cannot announce now the names because it's confidential until we can sign the contract and it will be launched for all of you. So, for privacy reasons, I cannot say now the name, but I give you a clue that it's ... Two of them are from Gulf area, and one of them will be from Asia. You can wait maybe one more month because we'll start at the beginning of 2026, and you will all know at that time the names of these sponsors. Thank you very much for your understanding.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. If there are no other questions, we can move to the vote on the planned budget for 2026. The vote is open.

We are closing the vote. The vote is closed.
The budget for 2026 was approved.

Ferial Nadira Salhi (ALG): Thank you.

APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITORS FOR 2026

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is *the Appointment of the auditors for 2026*.

And the recommendation of the Executive Committee is to appoint PwC for one year for 2026.

The vote is open.

We are going to close the vote.

The vote is closed.

PwC was appointed for another year in 2026.

VOTE TO AWARD THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS:

• 2028 JUNIORS/CADETS: CANDIDATURE OF THE ITALIAN FENCING FEDERATION



Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item is the *Vote to award the World Championships*. The Executive Committee has received the full candidature of the Italian Fencing Federation for the 2028 Junior and Cadet World Championships. We would like to ask the Italian Federation to please come for the presentation of the candidature. Thank you very much.

Presentation of the Italian Federation

Good morning, everybody.

And before starting to give more details about our event, Rome 2028, I would like to show a brief video about it.

[Video presentation]

Well, this is a short video about the beauty and the magnificence of our country. And I take this opportunity, I should have some slides, but they do not work. Okay, so I take this opportunity also to introduce myself as the President of the Italian Federation. I was elected last January. And one of the first ideas, once elected, was to organise a great event in Italy. And what better city than Rome, where a great event has been missing for many years? And Rome is a synthesis of beauty, history, charm, culture, and is a symbolic city, forever a citizen of the world.

And so, it is important that you know that we have been granted visa support by the Foreign Minister of the Italian Government, and we have the endorsement of the Ministry of Sport of the Italian Government for this event. And I know that it is not necessary to say, but I would like to recall to your mind the main international events organised in the past 20 years by the Italian Fencing Federation. And of course, the main event was the Milan Senior World Championship in 2023, with more than 5,000 spectators during the event.

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And regarding the venue – it was inaugurated in 2006 and is one of the largest and most important exhibition centres in Europe. It is a futuristic centre of business and national and international relations, with a capacity of over 30,000 people and a plenary room of 1,000 square metres or surface. In five minutes, you can arrive at Fiumicino Airport, and in 30 minutes, you can arrive in the historical centre of Rome. Regarding the accommodation, there are several three- and four-star hotels around the area, located very close to the venue, including Sheraton, Marriott, and Best Western hotels. And I repeat that Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino Airport is eight kilometres from the venue.

So, to finish, I would like to conclude with the beauty and magnificence shown in those mixed pictures. And I will look forward to seeing you in April 2028. I cannot wait to welcome you to our splendid country. Thank you so much.

[Applause]

Nathalie Rodriguez: We are going to open the vote on the candidature of the Italian Fencing Federation for the Junior and Cadet 2028 World Championships. The vote is open.

We are closing the vote.
The vote is closed.

[Applause]

The Junior and Cadet World Championships for 2028 were awarded to the Italian Fencing Federation.



CALL FOR CANDIDATURES FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- **2027 AND 2028 VETERANS**
- **2029 JUNIORS/CADETS**

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is a *Call for candidatures for the organisation of the World Championships*. So, first for the 2027 Veteran World Championships. Yes.

Velichka Hristeva (BUL): Dear Friends, on behalf of the Bulgarian Fencing Federation, I would like to propose to host the Veterans Championship in 2027 in city of Burgas in Bulgaria. I hope to see you there.

[Applause]

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you.

We are also making a call for candidature for the 2028 Veteran World Championships and for the 2029 Junior and Cadet World Championships. So, if some Federations after the Congress are interested, you can still send us an email, and we will provide you with the candidature forms and all the information.

12 FIE STRATEGIC PLAN

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is *the FIE Strategic Plan* and the floor is to the Secretary General of the FIE.



Gulnora Saidova (UZB): Before I start my presentation of the Strategic Plan, I would like, again, to thank all of you and remind you that I am an elected member. I am an elected member of the Executive Committee. And for me, it does not matter which position I hold. For me, it is important that I can help fencing together with all of you.

Dear Interim President, Dear Members of Executive Committee, Dear Members of National Federations, Dear Colleagues and Dear Friends,
It is a great honour for me to present to you the Strategic Plan.

Most of you know how it was prepared. We worked hours, many hours together with the Executive Committee, with Presidents of Commissions, and with Members of Commissions. And in the end, we prepared a really great plan. The strategy is grounded in a clear vision.

This plan is modern, fair, attractive, and inspiring for the global fencing community. Our mission is equally focused on elevating fencing worldwide through effective governance, strong athlete support, athlete values, innovation, and organisation excellence. Our work is guided at every stage by FIE core values: integrity, transparency, excellence, diversity and inclusion, innovation and sustainability.



The first goal is governance: we started discussing this today, but of course, we must do many things for governance, and we will do this. The first pillar of our plan is modernising the governance of the FIE. We will revise the FIE Statutes by 2026, strengthen internal oversight, and implement term limits and conflict of interest policies. We will also advance diversity and representation, aiming for 40% gender balance in all Committees, supported by initiatives such as Youth and Gender Governance Fellowship, annual governance audits, comprehensive scorecards, and support for National Federations in ethics and election processes. We will ensure transparency and accountability.

The second goal, participation and promotion, addresses digital transformation and global visibility of fencing. The FIE will launch a digital architecture blueprint in 2025. We have already started deploying new systems for membership, competitions, refereeing, education, anti-doping, finance, media, and research between 2025 and 2027. By 2027, we expect 90% of processes to be digitalised and 100% of National Federations to be connected through unified platforms. In the new FIE mobile app – multilingual and secure – we will increase accessibility. We will integrate data analytics, real-time dashboards, and blockchain certification by 2028. Promotion will intensify through the Fencing 2.0 media strategy. We have a strong focus on Generation Z. Monthly documentary-style content, influencer partnerships, and TikTok, YouTube, and Twitch initiatives will grow the fan base and reshape the digital image of fencing.

By 2028, our target is a 50% annual growth in the digital audience and five global viral campaigns. All of us know the situation we are in now, but we can do this only together. We have started a critical and very important cooperation with Warner Bros.

And now, I would like to invite our partner, Vlad Marinescu, who will inform you about what we have done and what we will do in the near future.

[Applause]

Vlad Marinescu: Thank you, Madam General Secretary. Let's share the podium together. And let's hope the presentation works because with media, it's nice to see some images and some emotions that we've managed to capture to share with you today. A security alert is never good to see on the screen. There we go. So, it's a big pleasure and honour.

Dear Mr. Interim President, Dear Members of the Executive Committee,
Dear Presidents, General Secretaries and Officials of National Federations,
It is a big honour for me, Dear Madam General Secretary, to be invited to present to you for a couple of minutes the vision for the next period. For those who don't know, my background is that I have been involved in sport my whole life. I used to be the President of International Esports Federation.

Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny: Vlad, Vlad, please. Just one minute.

I would like to inform you that our elected President, Mr. Alisher Usmanov, has accepted my invitation, and he will be joining us in one minute. Thank you.

[Applause]

Alisher Usmanov: Hello!

Audience: Hello.

[Applause]

Alisher Usmanov: Merhaba, peace be upon you. Good morning.

It is very emotional to see you all here. And you know I have some notes because, with my English, I need to have them. But at the same time, I have a great wish to tell you a few words from my heart.

First of all, please sit down. What is happening?

Of course, I could not miss the opportunity to see you in this beautiful Manama which welcomes this Congress. And I cannot fail to express my deep respect and gratitude for the trust you placed in me when you voted for me at the last Congress in Tashkent. Thank you very much for this trust. Thank you very much for this recognition. And I am proud of our family, which unites so many countries, so many fencers, and so many federations.

And everybody knows that I suspended my duties as president to avoid placing our federation at any legal or financial risk. At the same time, after making this difficult decision, I began to fight – to fight for my name and to fight for my relatives, who was unlawfully and unfairly accused without justification. But at the same time, I want to assure you that I am not fighting only for myself or only for my relatives. I want to make it clear that this fight is not only personal. Over the past three years, we have already won 15 court cases in Germany, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and the United States. We achieved 88 court orders, and more than 1,085 newspapers closed every allegation against me. But it is not enough until now.

I hope that soon, on this basis, I can come back. I will be back to be useful and to help our Federation continue to keep its essential place in the Olympic family. And I think it is the biggest target and goal that everybody who comes to Manama must have. Because everybody sees that in this digital an artificial intellect era, every sport federation and every sport development is related to this new challenge. And of course, without increasing our technological equipment, and the spectacular elements in our sport, you cannot develop fencing as a sport that deserves to be inside the Olympic programme.

And because of this, I see great importance in this Congress today, all of you united in this hall. And I wish you all the best. I wish you to find full and comprehensive solutions to all problems. And you must know that I am always with you, with my heart and with my capacity, together with friends who particularly support me. I would like to give my deepest gratitude to the King of Bahrain, who gave the possibility to arrange this beautiful Congress, and to other countries that support me. And I wish success, I wish achievement, and I wish beauty to our sport. Thank you very much, everybody. I am very happy to see everybody, but not to create another problem that could be used. I tell you, thank you very much for your attention.

[Applause]

I wish you all the best. When you love, you do not need notes. Thank you. Thank you, my friends.

[Applause]

Vlad Marinescu: To continue from the words of the President, technology is vitally important in order to remain in the Olympic family and to thrive in bringing together the community of fencers around the world.

And I am very honoured, of course, together with our group to be involved in the creation of Fencing TV. I am sure many of you have had the chance to access Fencing TV and to watch some content, and it has been developing. So, I'd like to begin by stressing the importance of high-quality media with the short video.

[Video presentation]

One thing I want to mention before the video is that we have had so far 5,005 million minutes of playing time on the platform. All the data, all the statistics, and all of the participants – you can click on them, you can see their bout order, and you can see the results. It is becoming an interactive process where all of the people enjoying the content can watch in split-screen mode to see all the coloured pistes at the same time, listen to commentary in different languages, and follow, of course, the action live, after the event, or on delay. We managed to launch Fencing TV at the World Championship in Georgia. At this moment, we launched, during the Veterans World Championship, version 2.0, where the live data is fully operational.

And we look forward to version 3.0 being launched. That will be a mobile application that will send you push notifications so you can follow your favourite fencers and your favourite countries and know when they are competing and when they have a live match so you can watch it.

This is a lot of hard work, of course, and requires working hand-in-hand with the Sport Department, as well as with the Athletes, the TV teams and the creation of content, to be at the highest level to truly show the most beautiful form of fencing. So, to share with you a small video here – I don't know how many of you have seen it. We have had the production team on site, recording and showing the most beautiful part of fencing – the fencing family.

[Video presentation]

As you can see, the beautiful stories of the fencing family can be shared with the world and enjoyed, to bring more people to fencing, to bring more people to the values of fencing, and to always be of the highest quality, showing what is deserved from fencing – everything on Fencing TV. So that is why, for the next period, we are including production teams to go on site, to conduct these interviews, to create pieces, and to create the story behind the athlete. And this is one vitally important point regarding the plan for the future – to be watched and enjoyed by the maximum audience during the Olympic Games that will take place in Los Angeles – to build those stories and to build those heroes.

I am very happy to tell you that currently there are more than 35,000 members who have logged into Fencing TV so far. It is only the second big event, and we have not yet launched the application or major promotions. But from the Grand Prix to the World Championships and satellite events, the plan is to cover everything in fencing on Fencing TV in the first phase.



In the second phase, of course, we will ensure that all local events for the National Federations have a place to be shown and later activate commercialisation through advertising and subscription models to create revenue sharing for the National Federations. Very easy to understand – everything in fencing, by the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, should be available on Fencing TV.

And for the community, we should reach half a million people who log into this platform. We know who they are and where they are. Imagine how powerful the process is to fill a stadium when you can send a free ticket to your 30,000 members logged into Fencing TV from that particular country. I want to show you a little bit more about the content produced. We have been working not only on filming content, but also on finding creative ways to excite people to watch more. So, this is a special cut.

[Video presentation]

So, you talk about having the crew there on site filming content, and an editing team that is working hand in hand with the CMTV division to make the plan, to identify the heroes, and to make sure they are in sync with your National Federations' media officers, to know what stories to tell. You need to communicate more. You can see

that this one short 10-second clip reached four times more engagement than the other stories. But we must not forget the beauty of the sport and the values taught by it. So having such profiles filmed in the studio, professionally guided, allows us to share these values with the world.

[Video presentation]

So, this is where we unite the quality of the media, showing the most beautiful parts and the ones that were captured at the venue. These pictures were all taken here in Bahrain during the Veterans Championship. Just to give you an idea, when you have the platform to promote content and you have the creative team to create content, for the last World Championship, it is more than 1,300% – 13 times bigger in terms of impressions and video views – than it was in the previous World Championship. This is something that will continue, and has a very serious KPIs, we know that by the Olympic Games, we need to at least double every single platform. 15% per year is the minimum target, but we are working hard with the content to activate the fencing community around the world.

Now, it is very important not to forget about traditional linear broadcasting. Fencing TV is a platform dedicated to the fencing family. The people who love to watch the stories and the content and the live coverage throughout the tournaments and to follow the progress in fencing.

However, we need to also reach the masses, the people who have seen fencing at some point, or maybe fenced at some point in their lives, or just love sport. So, we need to have a very strict policy in order to make sure that at the next World Championships, the world is watching on traditional TV. Live coverage of the final blocks, news and highlights throughout the year, and we are ready and dedicated to ensure global broadcasting at a scale unseen before. What does it mean when you are broadcasting globally? Well, it means people watching fencing and learning about fencing. And more importantly, it also means that you are generating a media value, a media value that later can be commercialised.

You have heard from the Interim President that there are sponsors that are coming on board. This is what is interesting. Sponsors love fencing, the community, and the level of the people attending national, international, and continental events. But at the same time, you need to show them exposure and place them next to your brand. So, we plan to work hand-in-hand together with the General Secretary, the Executive Committee, and all of the staff to ensure that fencing is seen everywhere.

A new website needs to be developed, of course. The new website designs are ready. I didn't want to go too far into detail because I was, let's say, graced by your General Secretary, our General Secretary, to share some points in the presentation. But just to have a look, new designs that are live, loading content from the FIE database and the FIE IT system, in an easy way to navigate, with lots of data. And instead of going through every single page, I want to show you only the athlete profile, because the athletes are the most important people seen by the public, and represent your image to the children who one day want to fence.

So, for the athletes, besides the general information, you start to have information about statistics and head-to-head records and everything else that we will work on together with the IT team to integrate within the FIE IT system to create the FIE database, complete ownership of the data, while empowering the athletes to become more known and share that message.

So, finally, the mission for 2028 seems quite simple: there is a lot of work to do.

Thank you, Madam General Secretary, for the opportunity to share some words. And I want to leave you with one last short video. It is time to hit the road to the Paris, sorry, to the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

[Video presentation]

Thank you very much.

[Applause]

I wish you a great rest of the day.

Gulnora Saidova (UZB): We have already started altogether to do a great job. And of course, for such development, we need culture – from our athletes, coaches, and ourselves. And we hope that, in organising competitions, all organisers will be very careful because we want our image to be at the highest level, not as... you know what I mean, according to the quality of our competitions. You know that on the last meeting of the IOC, Madam Kirsty mentioned IT development and the use of IT in the Games, et cetera. But we want to be on the same level.

And today I would like to present something new that maybe we will use in the future, in the near future in fencing as well. And I would like to invite Daniel Kirchenberg, who will shortly inform you about this.

Daniel Kirchenberg: Hello, everyone.

As always, it is an absolute pleasure to speak with you and to be with you. And, as many of you know, we have been actively developing sports technologies. Previously, we introduced the most advanced e-learning platform in the world, which proudly teaches sport. We have also leveraged blockchain technologies to ensure data accuracy, data legitimacy, and the protection of athletes. Moreover, we have introduced new practices for better data security when processing data in sport. But beyond that, we have invested heavily a lot of resources to make this industry better and stronger, because it touches our hearts. But today, I want to introduce a new horizon. It is a field that is exploding today, yet whose roots stretch back centuries to pioneers like Leonardo da Vinci.



These pioneers laid the earliest foundations, and that horizon is robotics. But don't get me wrong, robotics is not going to replace any human in sport. Instead, it is going to become a powerful part of the existing sports ecosystem. It will unlock new dimensions of training, knowledge, and performance. With robotics, precise control, real-time commands, and expanded time resources become tools to elevate human capability rather than compete with it. And with that, I would like to welcome our special guests and Executive Members to join us today. Please give them a very warm applause, and we will welcome them right now.

[Applause]

Vitaly Logvin (MEX): Our progress is coming very quickly. And today, as the International Fencing Federation, we are pioneers when we start to test robots. Maybe in the near future, we will organise World Championships for robotic fencing. And right now, we are going to show you something that has been developed – this is a beautiful robot.

Austin, representative of the company Noetix:

President, Secretary, and all Committee Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning,

It is a great honour to present, sorry, it is a great honour to present our company, Noetix, here in the beautiful Kingdom of Bahrain, at this conference.

First, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Austin, and I am the Overseas Business Development Director of Noetix. Standing beside me are our technical staff and operators.

Our company was founded in 2023, with headquarters in Beijing, China. We are a high-tech enterprise focused on embodied intelligence, with core business areas including humanoid robots, bionic robots, and AI data collection and training. Our mission is to bring robots into every household. Our team is dedicated to applying advanced technology in sport, education, and entertainment, helping humanity explore more possibilities.

Start the desktop. Okay.

So, what do we have today?

This is our star robot, N2. N2 is the result of two years of development by our team. It integrates advanced AI visual recognition, real-time motion control, and bionic robotic art technology. It has won us numerous awards. At the World's First Humanoid Robot Half Marathon held in China this year, it took first place in the small humanoid robot category. At the World's First Humanoid Robot Games, it won gold medals in long jump and gymnastics, and a silver medal in dance.

The two N2s you see here are the very competitors that represent us and have secured multiple championship medals.

However, fencing is an elegant yet intense sport that demands speed, precision, and strategy. It is the perfect testing ground for robot technology. So N2 is not just a machine. It's an intelligent agent capable of simulating human senses and movements, even learning an opponent's style and making real-time adjustments. It is equipped with high precision sensors that can respond to attacks or defence in milliseconds.

So, I understand that the FIE is focusing on how to integrate robot technology into the ancient and classic sport of fencing. You envision that in the future, countries around the world could host robot fencing competitions. This is not merely a technical showcase, but a revolution in global sports inclusivity. Robot fencing can break down geographical and physical barriers, allowing more people to participate. We can standardise rules to promote fair competition. And most importantly, we can ignite interest among the younger generation and embed the concept into the digital era. Okay. Let's do the flip. So please look there. That is our demonstration part. So, it is the more challenging part. We will show you the robot's continuous backflips.

[Exclamations in the audience]

Yes, just wait a second.

[Exclamations in the audience]

Yes. The ground is a little bit soft. Sorry, maybe the ground is a little bit soft. So, if you want to see the backflip, we can go outside. And yes, we can do the demonstration.

Vitaly Logvin (MEX): Okay, guys, you understood, these are our first steps. In this case, we cannot fully demonstrate it, as you know, but what we just saw shows the direction. I am sure that in the next two years, we will organise a special competition for the robots. And a fencing competition. I think that you were very happy to see that. Enjoy, this is our presentation. And now we are going to continue our Congress. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

Gulnora Saidova (UZB): It means that we should not be afraid of the robot. But as we see, AI is entering our lives very deeply, and we can already meet and use it everywhere. Bye-bye.

[Applause]

If we move to the **next goal of the Strategic Plan, development and sustainability.**

The third goal focuses on financial stability. Today we discussed this. And of course, for financial stability, we should be attractive to our sponsors. We should be thinking about how we can receive value and how we can be promoted.

We are focused, within this framework, on development and sustainability, in addition to financial stability, social impact, and sustainability progress. We will diversify revenue, renegotiate broadcast rights, as mentioned by Vlad, launch the FIE e-commerce platform, and introduce a global sponsorship programme from 2026. At the same time, we will reinforce the role of fencing in peacebuilding, support programmes such as Fencing for Peace, Fencing for the Planet, partnerships with UN agencies, and sustainability standards at all FIE events. By 2028, we aim to reach 100,000 youth through the Peace Forces programmes and achieve 25% growth in sponsorship revenue.

Goal four, education and harmonisation.

This goal focuses on strengthening the athlete pathway, coaching, refereeing, and competition quality. I would like to add something about competition quality. Only together we can improve our competitions, and all of you can make your own input into the development of quality.

The FIE will open the International Coaching and Technical Referee Academy in 2026 in Budapest. The academy has already opened, but now we are building the structure for it. Standardised equipment assessment, the launch of AI-enhanced global ranking, modernised athlete monitoring, and an e-refereeing system. Even software and databases will be unified, improving consistency and fairness. Our targets include a 25% increase in certified coaches and referees, and a 50% reduction in scoring disputes by 2027.

Goal five, leadership and communication.

This goal focuses on the empowerment of national federations, athletes, coaches, and officials. We will expand leadership training, mentoring programmes, cooperation with continental confederations, and publish annual gender equality progress reports. On the point of gender equality, I would like to pay special attention and ask Mrs. Georgina Usher to give us an update on this.



Georgina Usher (GBR): Thank you very much, Madam General Secretary. Dear Interim President, Members of the Executive Committee and Presidents, and Delegates from the National Federations, Unfortunately, I bring no robots and no videos. I only bring you a very important request – to complete a survey. And I will spend a couple of minutes explaining why this is so important for the FIE and for fencing across the world. The purpose of this research is within the FIE’s commitment to grow fencing across the world, particularly in the area of women’s participation. This will provide us with the very first global and comprehensive dataset on women in fencing. It will also allow us to identify best practices and share among us solutions and strategies to grow participation.

The context of this work, it sits within the FIE Strategic Plan and it plays an important part in the FIE’s commitment to the IOC Gender Equality and Inclusion Framework. All the National Federations have been sent a link to a survey. It will take five to ten minutes, and it asks for very important numbers from your federations about how many women you have in different roles, not just as fencers, but in other roles, coaches, referees, and leadership.

Later, after this first round of the survey, we will come back and ask again to understand more about the work that you do within your own federations, the challenges and your success stories so we can share amongst all of us a plan for the future to increase gender equity in fencing. Thank you to all those countries that have already engaged.

And finally, please, on behalf of your National Federation, I encourage you to follow the link and you have, many of you, on your desk a small card, a business card with this link. Please complete this survey and help the FIE to help you grow participation for women in fencing across the world. Thank you.

[Applause]

Gulnora Saidova (UZB): Thank you. And continuing what has said Mrs. Usher, I would like to highlight that by 2028, we aim for 30% of leadership roles in National Federations to be held by women, and at least 100 trained leaders across all the continents. We really hope for your support in building our database and completing the survey regarding coaches, trainers, women, and officials. All of this information is needed to help us understand how we can support national federations, how we can help and how we can develop better.

Execution of this strategy will be coordinated, and has already started being coordinated, by the Strategic Development and Implementation Committee. This Committee includes a representative of the Executive Committee, supported by our action plan that we will present to you, bi-annual evaluations and a real-time digital dashboard to track KPIs.

The work of our plan for 2025 and 2026 prioritises digital ecosystem development, media expansion, competition standardisation, and support of national federations.

Key actions include:

- Modernising Fencing TV and launching a subscription model, expanding Eurosport Discovery coverage to more than 200 countries during competitions.
- Implementing IPI integration, multi-camera coverage, AR graphics, unified competition management, and fantasy league features.
- Designing a new website, which we already mentioned, with full integration of the athlete, coach, and referee database, introducing the unified competition contracts, KPIs, and event standards.
- Creating a digital database of licensed manufacturers and implementing standardised homologation, supporting 100 federations and 1,000 athletes annually.
- Launching the Green Fencing Sustainability Initiative and Global Dialogue Projects.

These steps ensure that the Strategic Plan does not remain theoretical, it becomes operational immediately.

By 2028, we aim to achieve a 30% increase in global participation, more than 160 countries active in major events, 15% annual digital audience growth, 40% female representation in governance bodies, a top five ranking among Olympic Federations – it will not be easy, but we will do this – a balanced budget with growing financial reserves.

Dear Colleagues,

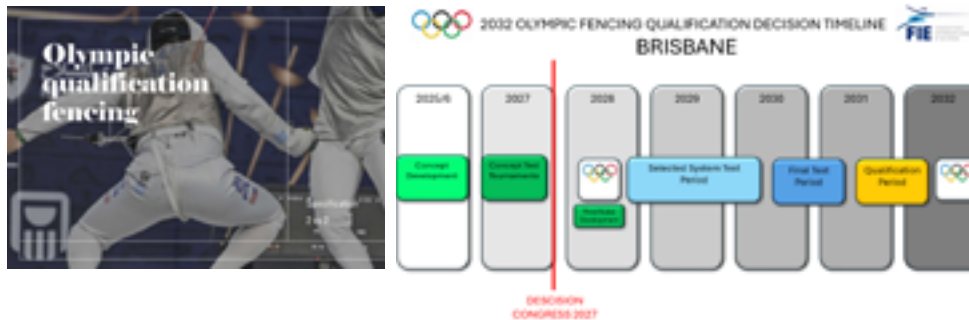
The Strategic Plan is ambitious, but it is realistic if we do it together. And the collective strength of our global fencing family will be cooperation and transparency. Together, we have the opportunity to modernise fencing, to grow our community, and to inspire the next generation with the values of our sport. Thank you to all of you and each of you for your commitment and your trust. We look forward to working with all of you and building the future for fencing. Thank you.

[Applause]

Nathalie Rodriguez: I will now ask the Chair of the Working Group on the Qualification System to make his presentation.

Working groups: progress situation

Presentation of the Working Group on the Qualification System



Haibin Wang (CHN): Hello, everyone.

It is a great honour to have the opportunity to report to the Congress on the latest progress of the working group. This is the result of the recent hard work of all the members of the working group.

First of all, I would like to emphasise that this qualification system study is specifically for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games. The proposal plan we are discussing is still a draft. It has not been tested, nor has it been approved by the FIE Executive Committee. This is the purpose of our work. We still have a maximum of 212 qualification places for the Olympic Games. The system must include all events, with six weapons for individual events, plus the teams. It must maximise national representation and increase the number of individual places so that the highest ranked fencers receive the maximum number of slots. We are trying to ensure that the best fencers from around the world compete at the Olympic Games. It is our goal.

This is the timeline. So, we have opened the discussion on all ideas until next year. We are still thinking about the system. I think it will start next year. We will choose some competitions, or local competitions, to start testing, including all weapons and all events. After the 2028 Olympic Games, we will need to make a decision on the mode of the qualification system for 2032.

The working group approved two plans that I would like to introduce.

The first one, the system will secure the simplest way to reach 40 points. In each team, two will compete against two. The total points would be 40. This working group agreed with this plan for last year. Yes, yes, these are ideas.

The second plan, sorry, this is the second one. It is 24 points, with a total of eight bouts. This system would reintroduce the older format of team fencing. So, we have two plans that have not been approved by the FIE Executive Committee or by the FIE Congress. These are ideas that are being discussed, by all the members of the working group, including representatives from all continents. So, I have introduced our work up to now. We are open to discussion over the next few months. We still have additional plans. I will present those plans. We have many plans for the future. So, we open the discussion to everyone. If you have any comments, please let me know or discuss them with all the group members. Thank you so much.

[Applause]

Nathalie Rodriguez: We now have a progress report from the Working Group on Fencing and Environment.

Presentation of the Working Group on Fencing and Environment



Arno Perillier Schneider (BRA): Hello, everyone.

Just a quick overview of what we did this year and what we plan to do for the future – the Action Plan for 2025, awareness-raising actions, agreements with local organisations, especially for competitions. We will try to improve, together with local organisers, a new strategy and provide further insight into the environment, especially for the planet. We are developing a new policy, and we have future plans, especially for equipment recycling, including what we will do with the equipment we normally use and how we will build for the future.

[Video presentation]

Arno Perillier Schneider (BRA): What we did this year is created strong connections in policy implementation and development, in line with our future plans. This year, we celebrated Fencing for the Planet in Wuxi, together with the Executive Committee. We held a roundtable in Tbilisi. We made a presentation, and I presented a plan, developed in Brazil for the World Championship, and Baiba Brandule also delivered another presentation there. Sport for Nature actions were also held in Tbilisi. Baiba presented on efficiency and new sustainability measures in Tashkent during our Congress. The Veterans Fencer Role Models in Health and Responsibility in the Future of Our Sport was held here in Manama some days ago.

Regarding policy implementation and development in competitions, we have agreements with local organisations, including the implementation of environmental guidelines developed for our fencing and environment Strategic Plan. We aligned our development plan with the Strategic Plan, the policies, and updated our environmental and sustainability strategy.



For our future plans, we will increase awareness through education programmes together with the National Federations and global campaign initiatives, explore the possibility of cooperation with different stakeholders for recycling and declining fencing equipment, and continue research in this area. We will also expand our donation of fencing gear, especially from larger countries and well-known athletes who have a lot of equipment and don't know how to manage it. In general, this is what we are doing and what we are planning to do for the future. Thank you.

[Applause]

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you very much. I have a proposal for you, either we start with the proposals for the Congress now, or we have lunch. Do you want a vote on this?

[Exclamations in the audience, laughter]

Is there any objection to this?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Vote.

You want to vote? Really?

I am sure some people will say no. Okay, I propose that we have lunch now, and then we will come back and start with the proposals for the Congress.

[Applause]

Nathalie Rodriguez: I would like to announce that the Polish Fencing Federation is celebrating its 70th anniversary!

[Applause]

13 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, URGENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE RULES

Nathalie Rodriguez: Please take your seats. So, we move to item 13 on the agenda, which are *the Proposals submitted to the Congress*. You received also the reports of the Commissions, Councils, and Ethics Committee, and there will be an urgent decision regarding the rules.

The **first proposal** is a proposal from the Executive Committee to modify the entry fees. The reason why these entry fees are proposed is that first a Cadet Individual World Cup may be introduced, and the entry fees are not existing. And second, the current entry fees have not been modified for the past 13 years, while the expenses incurred by the organisers have increased a lot. Therefore, the Executive Committee is proposing the table you have received.

So, we are going to move to the vote on that proposal from the Executive Committee and the entry fees, and the vote is open.

And I am asking you to vote, because I have seen during the last ones that some Federations do not use their rights. A right is not an obligation, but if you have a right, please use it.

We are going to close the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposals regarding the modifications of the Statutes

Nathalie Rodriguez: We now move to the Proposals regarding the modifications of the Statutes.

Proposal 1 is a proposal from the Legal Commission on Article 1.2.5. The Executive Committee was in favour.

And we move to the vote. The vote is open.

We are going to close the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

However, though 139 Federations can vote, I can see that more than 30 Federations have not voted. Please, vote. Especially for the Statutes, you know that we need a two-thirds majority.

13 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, URGENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE RULES

Proposal 2 is also from the Legal Commission. It is related to Article 1.2.7. The Legal Commission made revisions to its proposal, and the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission.

So, we are opening the vote on that proposal.

The vote is open.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

We can still improve the number of votes as 20 Federations have not voted.

Proposal 3, from the Legal Commission, on Article 2.1.1. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

So, we move to the vote.

The vote is open.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

So, the proposal has passed.

Proposal 4 from the Legal Commission, Article 3.1.a).

The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal. We move to the vote.

The vote is open.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

The next proposal from the Legal Commission on Article 3.5.1.

The Legal Commission has reformulated its original proposal. The Executive Committee is in favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 6 from the Legal Commission is related to Article 3.5.6. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

There are still twenty Federations that are not voting.

We are moving to the next proposal.

Proposal 7 from the Legal Commission on Article 5.4.5.

The Executive Committee was in favour.

We move to the vote. Can you please vote?

If you don't vote, we are going to stay here until tomorrow. And no dinner tonight.



[Exclamations in the audience, laughter]

We are closing the vote.
Improvement.

[Exclamations in the audience]

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 8 from the Legal Commission on Article 5.6.4.
The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.
We move to the vote.
We are closing the vote.
The vote is closed.
The proposal passed.

Proposal 9 from the Legal Commission on Article 5.8.1. d).
The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.
We move to the vote.
The vote is open.
You are still not voting.
We are closing the vote.
The vote is closed.
The proposal has passed.

Proposal 10 from the Legal Commission on Articles 9.1.8 -9.1.10.
The Legal Commission has revised its proposal. The Executive Committee is in favour of the proposal and of the revisions made by the Legal Commission.
We move to the vote.
We are closing the vote.
The vote is closed.
The proposal has passed.

13. PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, URGENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE RULES

Proposal 11 regarding Chapter 9, presented by the British Fencing Federation. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We move to the vote.

Please vote.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 12 from the Executive Committee, Article 10.1 on Official Competitions of the FIE.

The Legal Commission has revised the proposal, and the Executive Committee is in favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission. The Executive Committee wishes to keep the Masters and Super Masters on the list as they are official competitions.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 13 regarding Chapter 13 from the British Fencing Federation.

The proposal was revised by the Legal Commission, and the Executive Committee is in favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

We have finished with the Proposals regarding the modifications of the Statutes.

Proposals regarding the modifications of the Rules

We move to *The Modifications of the Rules*, and I have, I think, very good news.

After discussion with the President of the Rules Commission and the President of the SEMI Commission, we are proposing to vote some proposals in bloc. There are a number of proposals, which are related to the same items, or which are just corrections of Articles or just some revisions of the texts. I will announce which proposals can be voted in block.

All proposals regarding the material are only cleaning of the Material Rules. There are no modifications. Therefore, with the agreement of the President of the SEMI Commission, all these proposals regarding material can be voted in block. This is the first good news.

13 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, URGENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE RULES

Then we will have three blocks of proposals. I will list all the proposals which can be voted in block one. These proposals are **Proposals 2, 4, 10, 13, 22, 25, 26, 29, 33, 37, and 38**. This is the first block.

Of course, if somebody wants to vote on one proposal specifically, please say it. But this is a proposal from the Rules Commission, and the Executive Committee agreed to this. So, we move to the vote on the first block of these. Sorry, we will start first with Proposal 1, then we will move to the block.

Proposal 1 on Article o.2 is presented by the Executive Committee. All Commissions and Councils were in favour. We move to the vote.
We are closing the vote.

[Exclamations in the audience]

Sorry. The machines are not...
What is not working?

[Exclamations in the audience]

You cannot... press ...

[Exclamations in the audience]

We are going to reopen the vote. Please tell us if you still have the same issue.

The vote is open.
We are closing the vote.
The vote is closed.
The proposal has passed.

We now move to the block which I mentioned earlier, starting from **Proposal 2, Proposal 4, 10, 13, 22, 25, 26, 29, 33, 37, 38**. This is the first block.

We are opening the vote on these proposals. They are all listed on your screen.
The vote is open.
The vote is closed.
The proposals have passed.

We move to **Proposal 3**, presented by the Legal Commission on Article o.3.
The Executive Committee was in favour.
We move to the vote.
Please vote.
We are closing the vote, and the vote is closed.
The proposal has passed.

13 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, URGENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE RULES

So, we skip **Proposal 4** as we already voted it.

We move to **Proposal 5**, presented by the Rules Commission regarding Article o.4.1.2. The Executive Committee is in favour of the proposal as revised by the Rules Commission.

We move to the vote.

Can you please vote?

We are closing the vote and the vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 6, presented by the Rules Commission, Article o.4.10. The Executive Committee was not in favour of the proposal.

I would like to ask the President of the Rules Commission if we could rediscuss that proposal. Do you agree?

Ziad Feriani (TUN): Yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So we are not going to vote on it now.

Nathalie Rodriguez: We now move to the second block of proposals. The **Proposals are number 7, 21, and 31**.

We are opening the vote on these Proposals 7, 21, 31.

[Exclamations, discussions in the audience]

Is there a problem?

[Exclamations, discussions in the audience]

Problems with the machines? We close the vote and we reopen it.

[Discussions in the audience, and at the Tribune]

It doesn't work?

[Discussions in the audience]

We reopen. We reopen the vote on **Proposals 7, 21, 31**.

[Discussions in the audience]

We reopen.

We are closing the vote. The vote is closed.

The proposals have passed.

13 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, URGENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE RULES

We move to **Proposal 8** from the Legal Commission on Article o.15.6. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission.

So, we move to the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 9 has been cancelled by the Rules Commission, so we are not going to vote on it.

Proposal 10 was already voted on, so we move to **Proposal 11** on Article o.22.3, presented by the Rules Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Legal Commission. We move to the vote.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 12, on Article o.22.5.6 is presented by the Rules Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 13 was already voted on.

Proposal 14 was cancelled by the Rules Commission.

We move to **Proposal 15**. However, as the Executive Committee was in favour of the same proposal below, presented by the Refereeing Commission, we skip Proposal 15, and we move to Proposal 16 directly.

Proposal 16, the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal, also with the addition proposed by the Refereeing Commission in Proposal 15. We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 17 presented by the Legal Commission on Article o.27.1. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

We move to the vote.

Please vote.

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 18 on Article o.29.2 is presented by the Rules Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Rules Commission.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote. The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 19, presented by the Rules Commission on Article o.29.4. The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal and with the revisions from the Legal Commission.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote. The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 20 presented by the Executive Committee on Article o.31.

We move to the vote.

Can you please vote?

We are closing the vote. The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 21 has already been voted. The same with **Proposal 22**.

We move to **Proposal 23**, presented by the Rules Commission on Article o.38.

This proposal actually is removed, I think, by the Rules Commission, because the same proposal from the Executive Committee has already been voted on. Agreed with the President of the Rules Commission?

Ziad Feriani (TUN): Yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. So, we skip **Proposal 23**.

We move to **Proposal 24**, presented by the Rules Commission on Article o.41.2.a).

The Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal.

Can you please vote?

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposals 25 and 26 have already been voted.

So, we move to **Proposal 27** from the Rules Commission on Article o.61.1.

The Executive Committee was in favour.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

13 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, URGENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE RULES

Proposal 28 on Article o.61.3 is presented by the Rules Commission. The Executive Committee was in favour.

We move to the vote.

Once again, can you please vote? V-O-T-E.

Voter in French. Vote in English. Votar in Spanish.

(Laughter)

We are closing the vote.

Better, better. But we can improve.

Could we have a single vote where everybody votes? Just one, only one.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 29 was already voted on.

Proposal 30 was cancelled by the Rules Commission.

Proposal 31 was also already voted on.

So, we move to **Proposal 32**, presented by the Rules Commission on Article o.87.1.

The Executive Committee has revised the proposal.

We open the vote.

But it would be nice if everybody was voting. Yes, no, abstention, whatever you want, but we would like to have 139 votes, for once.

[Laughter]

Exclamations in the audience]

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

No dinner tonight. Clear.

(Laughter)

[Applause]

So, **Proposal 33** was already voted on.

We move to **Proposal 34** on Article o.95, proposal from the Executive Committee.

The Rules Commission was in favour, so we move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

13 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, URGENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE RULES

Regarding **Proposal 35**, would the Rules Commission agree to postpone that proposal to as it should be rediscussed with all the Commissions?

Ziad Feriani (TUN): Yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, we skip **Proposal 35**. We move to **Proposal 36** on Article o.99.5.

The Executive Committee was in favour. We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

You are still not voting.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 37 was already voted on. The same for **Proposal 38**.

We move to **Proposal 39** from the Rules Commission on Article o.109.2. The Executive Committee and the other Commissions were not in favour in general. Is the President of the Rules Commission in favour of postponing that proposal?

Ziad Feriani (TUN): Yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, we skip that proposal.

Proposal 40 from the French Fencing Federation on Article o.110.

So, this has been widely discussed. And the Executive Committee is proposing to discuss the concept of freezing, and the introduction of ranks points carefully and further. It is suggested to postpone that proposal for a better analysis by a group made of one member from each of the following Commissions and Councils: the Athlete Commission, Legal Commission, Medical Commission, Coaches Council, Rules Commission, Woman and Fencing Council. Does the French Federation agree to this?

Fine.

So, the proposal will be studied by a group from the Commissions.

Proposal 41 from the Rules Commission on Article o.119. The proposal was revised by the Rules Commission, the Medical Commission was in favour, and the Executive Committee was in favour of the proposal as revised by the Rules Commission.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

13 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, URGENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE RULES

We move to the technical rules, **Proposal 42**, on Article t.9.1 presented by the Refereeing Commission. The opinion of the Executive Committee is not in favour for the same reasons as the reasons from the Coaches Council. Is there someone from the Refereeing Commission here? I think that Olga Cojocari is here. Would you agree to postpone that proposal?

Olga Cojocari (MDA): Yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So that proposal is postponed.

Proposal 43 on Articles t.20, m.25.5 from the British Fencing Federation. The Executive Committee is in favour of the proposal with the amendment from the PCM Commission and with the removal of Article m.25 d).

So, we move to the vote.

We are becoming desperate because you don't vote.

[Exclamations in the audience]

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 44 presented by the Rules Commission on Articles t.22, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve and thirteen. The Executive Committee was in favour. We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 45 presented by the Refereeing Commission on Articles t.23 and t.120. The Executive Committee is in favour of the proposal to remove t.23 and to revise t.120 as proposed by the Rules and Refereeing Commissions.

We move to the vote.

I don't know how many times I asked you to vote. It doesn't seem very useful.

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

We now reach the third block of proposals that can be voted together. These are

Proposals 46, 54, 56, 57, 59, 62, 63, 69, and 72.

So, we are opening the vote on these proposals.

We are closing the vote.

The proposals have passed.

Proposal 47 from the Refereeing Commission on Article t.43. The Executive Committee was in favour.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

13 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, URGENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE RULES

Proposal 48 from the Refereeing Commission Article t.48.

The Executive Committee was in favour, and we move to the vote.

We are closing the vote. The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 49 presented by the Refereeing Commission on Articles t.49 and t.50.

The Executive Committee was in favour.

We move to the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 50 presented by the Executive Committee related to Articles t.53, t.159, t.167, t.169, and t.170. The Rules Commission was in favour.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 51 presented by the Rules Commission on Article t.50.2.3.

The Executive Committee was in favour.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 52 presented by the Refereeing Commission on Article t.51.

The Executive Committee was in favour, and we move to the vote.

Please vote.

So, we are closing the vote. The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 53 from the Refereeing Commission on Article t.52. The Executive Committee was in favour of the revisions by the Rules and Refereeing Commissions.

We move to the vote.

Please vote. Vote, please.

(Laughter)

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

13 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, URGENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE RULES

Proposal 54 was already voted on.

We move to **Proposal 55** from the Refereeing Commission on Articles t.61.3 and t.62.

We open the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 56 was already voted on, and **Proposal 57** was already voted on.

We move to **Proposal 58**, presented by the Referring Commission on Article t.71.

The Executive Committee was in favour.

We move to the vote.

Yes, please vote. Vote, please.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 59 has already been voted.

We move to **Proposal 60**. The Executive Committee was in favour.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 61, presented by the Refereeing Commission, Article t.109.

The Executive Committee was in favour.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

To motivate you, I'm informing you that we are in the finish line.

[Exclamations in the audience]

So, please remain motivated and vote.

And the good news is that next year the Congress will be held on two days. So, you will have one million proposals to vote on.

[Laughter in the audience]

13 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, URGENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE RULES

Proposal 62 was already voted on. **Proposal 63** was already voted on.

We move to **Proposal 64**, presented by the Refereeing Commission on Article t.121. The Executive Committee and other Commissions were not in favour.

Does the Refereeing Commission agree to postpone that proposal?

Thank you. So, we skip that proposal

[Exclamations in the audience]

Proposal 65 presented by the Executive Committee on Article t.124.

And we move to the vote.

[Exclamations in the audience]

Please vote, vote, please.

We are closing the vote.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 66 presented by the British Fencing Federation.

The Executive Committee was in favour.

We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote.

Proposal has passed.

Regarding **Proposal 67** from the British Fencing Federation and Proposal 68 presented by the Rules Commission. Does the British Fencing Federation agree that we skip its proposal and instead we vote on the proposal from the Rules Commission?

You agree? Thank you. So, we skip **Proposal 67** and move directly to **Proposal 68**, presented by the Rules Commission.

The Executive Committee is in favour of the revised proposal by the Rules Commission, and of the correction to item one made by the Coaches Council. There is one correction to be made on item six: "for the World Championships Coaches and Team Captains inside the field of play must wear the tracksuit of the country they are representing".

So, we move to the vote.

Shall I sing to wake you up or...?

(Laughter)

Apparently, it worked, so we close the vote.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 69 was already voted on.

We move to **Proposal 70** presented by the Refereeing Commission on Article t.158. The Executive Committee is in favour. We move to the vote.

We are closing the vote. The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

13 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE, URGENT DECISIONS REGARDING THE RULES

Proposal 71, presented by the Executive Committee on Article t.170.

We move to the vote.

Please vote. We are very near the finish line.

We are closing the vote.

The proposal has passed.

Proposal 72 has already been voted in block, and we have reached the last block. All the proposals on the material rules, which as the President of the SEMI Commission said, can be voted in block. So, for this time, please, 139 votes.

[Applause]

Please vote.

We open the vote. Please vote.

We are closing the vote.

The proposals have passed.

We move to **the urgent decision on t.122.**

So, we open the vote on the urgent proposal from the Rules Commission on t.122.

A last effort from your side. Just click.

We are closing the vote.

[Exclamations in the audience]

The proposal has passed.

And we have finished with all the propositions to modify the Statutes and the Rules.

[Applause]

We will deal with two other items and then we'll have another coffee break.

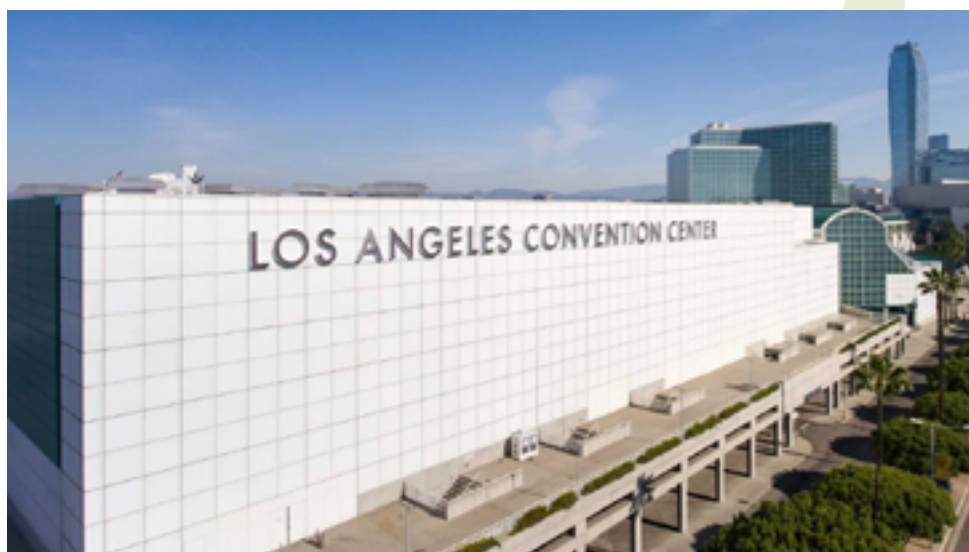


14 QUALIFICATION SYSTEM – LA2028 OLYMPIC GAMES

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is item 14, *the Qualification System for the LA2028 Olympic Games*. Do you have any comments? Do you have any questions?

Audience: No, no.

Nathalie Rodriguez: We are opening the vote.
The vote is open.
We are closing the vote.
The qualification system has passed.



15 ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item is the *Election of a member of the Executive Committee*. As you know, there are two candidates who had the same number of votes last year at the Congress, Patricia Aiyenuro from Great Britain and Philippe Omnes from France. I would like to know if the candidates wish to address the Congress. If yes, we would start by alphabetical order, by Patricia Aiyenuro, and then by Philippe Omnes. Patricia, will you please come?



Patricia Aiyenuro (GBR): Good afternoon, everybody, Interim President, FIE Executive Committee, and my esteemed Delegates and Colleagues, and Friends,

It is a pleasure for me to stand here before you. I would just like to talk about myself for a little while and say that I've dedicated my life to fencing. I really enjoy it, and I love the relationships I have made.

I have been involved in fencing for a very long time. Currently, I am a member of the Fair Play Council. I am on the EFC – I am the chair of the Diversity and Equality Commission, and President of British Fencing. I have 20 years of firsthand experience in fencing. I've been Head of delegation for numerous World Championships for Great Britain. I have been on the DT for African Zonal Championships, and for an FIE Junior World Cup in Africa as well.

I have had international experience organising competitions at EFC levels. I organised an Under-17 Cadet Sabre competition and a FIE satellite as well. So, I have experience in organising competitions. I also have project experience and also experience in the development of fencing, which is actually one of my key areas, is in the development of fencing, which I'm really excited about and keen about.

I've been one of the project team managers on an award-winning Muslim Girls Fence in Great Britain. I'm also a manager of a club, a sabre club in Great Britain, and also a fencing coach. I have developed a deep understanding of every aspect of fencing and the challenges and opportunities that we face together. I have extensive knowledge and an understanding of fencing, including its rules, competitions, and culture.

I have strong global relationships across the international fencing community and many of you are my dear friends here and I'm a worker and I just love to work, and I love fencing. So, thank you very much and thank you to all of those who are here and are supporting me. Thank you.

[Applause]

Nathalie Rodriguez: I now invite Philippe Omnes.

Philippe Omnes (FRA): Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Executive Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends in fencing,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to seek your support in becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation. I have been a fencer since the age of six. From the junior category onward, I began competing internationally, and at the age of twenty I joined the French national foil team. At that time, in competitions, champions, whether in foil, sabre, or épée, were predominantly European.

During my career, I had the opportunity to take part in four Olympic Games: Los Angeles, now almost 40 years ago, Seoul, Barcelona, and Atlanta. I became World Champion in 1990 and won the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992.

I then brought my fencer's career to an end after the Atlanta Games, at the age of thirty-six. At the same time, I trained and studied to become a fencing coach, and also to learn how to manage training centers within the Ministry of Sports. Over those years, I joined the executive board of the fencing federation and went on to serve as Technical Director for two Olympic cycles, Sydney and Athens.

Throughout these years, I have witnessed the significant evolution of fencing. I have built many relationships and friendships that I continue to maintain regularly. In 2005, I left the federation to take charge of a training center for young champions across various disciplines.

I believe this dual sporting and professional journey has given me a clear understanding of the strengths of our sport—one that carries strong values—as well as an awareness of the challenges it must face. Today, fencing has expanded globally and become increasingly international. I have observed that many fencers from all confederations now take part in competitions, and that some are winning events at World Cups and World Championships. This development is, in my view, very positive for our discipline, as it reflects not only its globalization but also strengthens its place within the Olympic program, which is a very good thing.

Today, I have more availability, and the fencing federation has appointed me as an international advisor. That is why I stand before you today: to share the experience of French fencing and to place it at the service of other federations, should they wish. I therefore respectfully ask for your support in this election, and I thank you for your attention.

[Applause]

15. ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. We are now moving to the vote.
Can you please display the numbers? So, the names are displayed by alphabetical order.

[Discussions in the audience]

So, if you want to vote for Patricia Aiyenuro, you press one. If you want to vote for Philippe Omnes, you press two.

The vote is open.
We are closing the vote.
The vote is closed.

[Applause]

Nathalie Rodriguez: Patricia Aiyenuro is elected as a Member of the Executive Committee.



MEXICO: DECISIONS REGARDING THE AFFILIATION OF THE MEMBER FEDERATION

Nathalie Rodriguez: We move to the next item, which is item number 16, Mexico: *decisions regarding the affiliation of the member federation*. And the floor will be to Donald Anthony and Novak Perovic, who will explain the situation.

Novak Perovic (RSA): Thank you, Nathalie.

We have on our agenda to answer to letter from Mr. Palmström that we received on the 16th of November. But before we go to those answers, we would like to explain to everybody some basic facts, and to give some additional information. All the member Federations have been provided with a detailed report on the situation of the Mexican Fencing Federation (FME), which is also published on the FIE website. But FIE has to deal with an unusual and exceptional situation.

First, for more than two years, Mexican fencers and referees have been alerting about their situation. They desperately asked for help and protection. We will read sections of numerous letters we received, including the letters that were sent to IOC. Second, in September 2023, the FIE Executive Committee had no other choice than to put in place an ad hoc committee to protect the participation of Mexican fencers in FIE competitions in view of the qualification for 2024 Olympic Games. Licenses and entries were insured by FIE.

In 2024, a new fencing Federation, ADNEM, was established in Mexico. The overwhelming majority of fencers and clubs left the FME and registered for ADNEM. The FIE Executive Committee appointed a panel comprising of Mr. Donald Anthony and myself, who came to Mexico in November 2024 to investigate the situation. This panel could establish the following: a significant majority of Mexican fencers, coaches and referees, regional associations and fencing clubs, resigned from FME and became affiliated to ADNEM. The panel met with Mexican fencers and referees who explained that they had very bad personal experiences and had been badly treated by the FME for years. They stated they were exposed to dramatic situations during preparation and participation in the competitions, selection process, travel conditions, and accommodations.

Donald Anthony Jr. (USA): To give an idea of some of the letters that were received and the timing that they received.

The first letter was to Emmanuel Katsiadakis, who was the FIE Interim President at the time, came from Mexico on 8 September 2023. There was a preamble, but the most relevant part of the letter is,

“We kindly request your urgent intervention as President of the International Fencing Federation to ensure the protection and fair treatment of Mexican referees. It is crucial that our affiliations with the FIE be respected, and we can continue to have opportunity to officiate international competitions without discrimination or undue interference. We need that some Mexican referees be able to take the Continental Exam as well as some members who already have FIE license to renew it and continue our careers. Time is of vital importance, as exams are in less than 10 days,

and we did not give several of us the opportunity to register. We also ask that you to serve as a bridge to ensure that the Mexican Olympic Committee honours and respects its own Statutes, which state that the decision of the International Federation takes precedence over personal whims”.

The next letter received was also to Emmanuel Katsiadakis, on 17 November 2023

“Mexico has shown growth over the years but has been stopped by the current Mexican Federation from using fencers’ full potential. It is of crucial importance to count with the FIE support to continue developing our skills as athletes and to have more opportunities to be on the international stage. We would like to request detailed and transparent information about this situation. We need to know the consequences we might encounter, and how it will be determined who is competing as members of the national team during this Olympic qualification period. We are uncertain of how the selection of team members will work or if there will be a temporary substitution for the current Federation”.

Next letter, Mexico City, 27 March 2024. This was to the IOC President, Mr. Thomas Bach.

“Dear Mr. Thomas Bach, we hope this message finds you well.

We are reaching out to you for urgent assistance regarding the critical situation we are facing with the former President of the Mexican Fencing Federation, Jorge Castro Rea, and the Mexican Olympic Committee. The most alarming issue is an article recently published in our country threatening us: the athletes, judges, and referees with legal consequences and imprisonment if we participate in the selection process for the pre-Olympic tournament in our zone. This intimidation is severely affecting Mexican athletes who feel vulnerable and unable to compete on equal terms. It is of the utmost importance that you intervene urgently to stop these harmful actions and guarantee the well-being of Mexican athletes and ensure transparency in our sport.

Dear President Bach, we openly and directly ask you as the highest authority in Olympic sports to take immediate measures to investigate and address this situation as we are very afraid of the constant threats we face, exceeding tolerable limits every day. Transparency and respect for the rules are fundamental to maintaining the Olympic values that we hold dear.

We appreciate and advance your prompt attention to this matter and your support during this very difficult time”.

Signed by numerous athletes.

Mexico City, 20 November 2024 to Emmanuel Katsiadakis,
Interim President of the FIE
Urgent appeal to defend the Olympic values and address discrimination in Mexican fencing.

"Dear Mr. Katsiadakis, I write this letter with deep concern and heavy heart, compelled by the blatant disregard for the values of Olympism and the principle enshrined in the Olympic Charter. My name is Guillermo Alducin, a Pan-American medallist and a proud member of the Mexican fencing community.

This letter seeks your urgent attention to a matter of injustice, discrimination, and abuse of power that has severely affected my fellow athletes and myself. After participating in a competition in Querétaro organised by the ADNEM, a legitimate and exclusive event embracing all categories of fencing, we were unjustly expelled from the Olympic training facilities. We were even denied entry to retrieve our personal belongings, subject to humiliation and indignity. The discrimination we faced is not limited to our category as veteran athletes but extends to racial and systematic biases. Our coach Ángel Meriño Castillo, a Cuban national and person of colour, was not only expelled but subjected to degrading racially motivated remarks when attempting to recover his belongings. Such actions are reprehensible and unworthy of any institution claiming to represent Olympic values.

ADNEM, in contrast, has supported athletes with transparency and genuine commitment funding our participation in international competitions without resorting to threats or coercion. This stands in stark contrast to the actions of individuals who seek to divide and discriminate against those who challenge their arbitrary role.

Mr. Katsiadakis, the implications of these events go beyond our personal grievances. They represent an attack on the integrity of fencing and the Olympic spirit. I appeal to you as the leader of the FIE to take a firm stance against these injustices. The value of our sport and the principles of the Olympic movement demand action to protect athletes from such abuses."

This is the last letter which is addressed to Mr. Abdelmoneim El Hussein, Interim President, FIE

Subject: Request for support and protection of Mexican fencers, 5 May 2025

"Recently, six of our fellow athletes earned their places for the Pan-American Youth Games through honest competition at the official qualifying tournament. Despite this, a coordinated attempt is being made to strip them of their rightfully earned spots. Very soon, our Senior Team is expected to participate in the Central American and Caribbean Games qualifying event.

At this critical moment, we speak not only as athletes, but as a united community. We are not isolated individuals making a protest. We are an entire generation of fencers standing shoulder to shoulder, determined to put an end to the culture of impurity that has long played our sport. We are guided by the leadership of ADNEM, which has given us structure, support, and respect. We have chosen to stand together and are committed to defending what we've earned through sacrifice and hard work.

We are raising our voices together, and we will not be silenced. Our strength comes from our unity. That strength is now being used to defend the future of fencing in Mexico. We asked the FIE to hear us, to stand with us, and to help protect the athletes who uphold the true values of sport".

And once again, signed by many athletes.

So that gives you the context of why a panel was put together and was sent to visit with the Mexican Olympic Committee. At the time that we met with the Committee, it initially started extremely tense. And during that meeting, the fact that we've had all of these letters was not addressed or how the situation of fencing in Mexico could be addressed or changed.

In July 2025, the FIE consulted the Mexican Olympic Committee in accordance with Article 2.1.1 b) 2 of the FIE Statutes regarding the FME and the ADNEM. The Mexican Olympic Committee failed to provide a proper response and did not reach out to ADNEM to get any response from them as well.

Now, to directly respond to Mr. Palmström's letter and asking the questions. I am going to respond with the questions, I think everyone has received the questions. But the first answer, the question will have to be.... well, we're going to respond to his question, which is "Please find questions below. I kindly ask the FIE to provide written answers to my questions no later than the 20th of November."

We are here and this is the time that we can respond.

The questions will be answered. When item 16 is discussed in accordance with Article 3.4, as Congress provides that for each point under discussion, each President of the Member Federation, or his or her representative, each Member of Honour, and each Member of the Executive Committee, may express his or her opinion no more than twice for a maximum of two minutes after we have read all of the answers. So, this will be open for discussion.

The first one is about reaching out to the Mexican Olympic Committee. As far as we know, being registered with the Mexican rule is a prerequisite for National Sport Federations to receive financial subsidies and national funding in general. That said, pursuant to Article 2.1.1, not 2.2.1, as mentioned several times by Mr. Palmström's letter. In order to qualify as a member of the FIE, the National Federation must have a sufficient number of attached fencers and prove that its Statutes do not clash with the fundamental rules of the FIE Statutes. And it appears that the Mexican Committee currently recognises FME, although the FME only represents a minority of fencers coaches, referees, officials, associations, and clubs in Mexico. Therefore, it no longer fulfils the requirements of Article 2.1.1 a) of the FIE Statutes for affiliation with the FIE.

Furthermore, two associations, FME and ADNEM, wish to represent fencing in Mexico. Therefore, pursuant to Article 2.1.1 b), the Mexican Olympic Committee must be consulted. This has been done. The FIE shall decide which National Federation to recognise.

Under the FIE Statute's Article 2.1.1 b), paragraph 1, a National Federation wishing to become a member of the FIE must provide a declaration from the National Olympic Committee, certifying that this group is the only one officially recognised to govern fencing in their country. However, as an exception to paragraph 1 of this role, paragraph 2 specifies that when two or more groups wish to represent their country as a member of the FIE, the Executive Committee of the FIE will be called upon to decide which Federation to recognise.

After consulting the National Olympic Committee concern, therefore, when two National Federations compete for the affiliation to the FIE, the NOC is consulted and the FIE Executive Committee decides. This is consistent with Rule 29 of the Olympic Charter, which provides that to be recognised by the National Olympic Committee, a National Federation must have been affiliated with the International Federation. The quote from the Olympic Charter is, "To be recognised by a National Olympic Committee and accepted as a member of such National Olympic Committee, a National Federation must exercise a specific and real and ongoing sports activity, be affiliated to an IF recognised by the IOC, and be govern and comply in all aspects with both the Olympic Charter and the rules of its IF".

Therefore, the affiliation of ADNEM with the FIE is a prerequisite for its recognition by the NOC, rather than the other way around. The Mexican Olympic Committee does not have the power to decide instead of the FIE, which may affiliate a National Federation, even it is not yet recognised by the Mexican Olympic Committee to govern fencing in Mexico. This is particularly true in the case of ADNEM, as the FIE recognises the National Federation exercising the specific real and ongoing sports activity of fencing in Mexico as set out in the Olympic Charter. As outlined above, ADNEM is a far more representative association of fencing stakeholders in Mexico than the FME. ADNEM fulfils the fundamental requirements of Article 2.1.1 a) of the FIE Statutes, whereas the FME no longer does so.

It is the FIE to determine this, not for the Olympic Committee of Mexico. FME and ADNEM are in the situation envisioned by Article 2.1.1 b), paragraph 2, whereby two or more Federations wish to represent fencing in their country. In that case, the FIE decides the Mexican Olympic Committee only has a consultative voice and cannot make any decision.

In general, FIE's member federations are the only ones recognised by the NOC. The present situation is exceptional. The FIE cannot ignore the fact that the FME no longer represents most fencing stakeholders, i.e. fencers, coaches, referees, officials, regional associations, and fencing clubs. The vast majority of the latter have joined ADNEM, which, as a matter of fact, is currently the National Federation leading fencing in Mexico. Sooner or later, the Mexican Olympic Committee will have to acknowledge the situation. In fact, according to the Mexican Olympic Committee's own Statutes, all of its member Federations are defined as being duly recognised and affiliated to an International Federation. That is recognised by the International Olympic Committee. And that's Article 1 and 4.

Moreover, the Mexican Olympic Committee must include as full members, all National Federations affiliated with International Federations participating in sports included in the Olympic Games Programme, Article 13. Furthermore, National Federations may not join the Mexican Olympic Committee if they are not affiliated with the corresponding Olympic IF, or which have been suspended or expelled by it, Article 13 c, a, and h."

Finally, the Mexican Olympic Committee membership shall be forfeited if a National Sports Federation is no longer recognised or is temporarily sanctioned by the corresponding International Federation, Article 25.

Therefore, upon the disaffiliation of the FME from the FIE, the Mexican Olympic Committee will most probably have to disaffiliate the FME and recognise and affiliate the ADNEM if it is recognised by the FIE. For now, it is the FIE's responsibility to affiliate the correct National Federation fulfilling the requirement for fencing representation in Mexico in the interest of the sport and of the Mexican stakeholders.

The next one, is it correct that the FME according to the FIE have 165 fencers? This is unknown to the FIE. However, according to the panel's report, we know that ADNEM has 705 or 81%, more than 81% of fencers in Mexico, of affiliated Mexican fencers, 59 affiliated coaches, 20 affiliated referees, six of them are FIE referees, 18 affiliated state regional associations, which is 58% of the number of regional associations of 31, and that affiliated regional associations and corporate, plus or minus 90 fencing clubs.

Next question is, how many attached fencers is a sufficient number according to the FIE? There is no specific rule in this regard. It is left to the FIE's appreciation. That said, it appears that 80% of fencers is sufficient for ADNEM to be the most convenient representative of fencing in Mexico.

Next question. Will the FIE start a project in order to ensure that all its member Federations have sufficient number of attached fencers? If not, why is this rule regarding a sufficient number of attached fencers only applied to FME? This rule does not apply to the FME, only to the FME. In this case, it is clear that the FME is no longer an appropriate representative of fencing in Mexico, as it no longer fulfils the requirements of Article 2.1.1 a) of the FIE Statutes. The FIE strictly adheres to the principle of equal treatment of member Federations. If the FIE becomes aware that any Federation is in a comparable situation, the same rules should apply.

Next question. If it should be the case that ADNEM has more attached fencers than the FME, should not Mexican issues be handled within Mexico and not by the FIE? If the fencers in Mexico do not agree with current leadership of the FME, I cannot see that there is anything preventing the fencers of Mexico to use the democratic rights and vote for a new leadership of the FME. Do you agree? As mentioned before, it is for the FIE rather than the Mexican Olympic Committee or any other Mexican authority to determine whether a National Federation fulfils the requirements for its affiliation. By leaving the FIE and affiliating themselves with ADNEM, domestic constituencies have exercised their right to freedom of choice, as they are no longer members of the FME. It appears that they cannot vote within the FME anymore.

Note, to address the situation in Mexico, the FIE's Executive Committee decided in July 2025 to establish an ad hoc committee entrusted with the exclusive powers and authority to achieve the mission of overseeing and management of all Mexican fencing activities and responsibilities in the relationship with the FIE, including the entire process for participation of Mexican athletes, coaches, and referees in FIE official fencing competitions. The Mexican Olympic Committee was invited to join this committee and appoint a representative. However, the Mexican Olympic Committee refused.

Item 16 on the agenda involves mostly legal issues. Has the FIE Executive Committee consulted with the FIE Legal Commission regarding item 16 and Mexico before sending out the agenda and supporting paper for item 16? If the answer is no, why not? Yes, the Legal Commission was consulted about this issue.

Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny: Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The proposal of the Executive Committee, after discussion with the President of the Legal Commission, is to submit to the vote of the Congress only question number one, which is, do you agree to disaffiliate or expel the Federación Mexicana de Esgrima - FME from the FIE? And to postpone question number two to next year, when we might receive the letter from the National Olympic Committee. So today, only question one is submitted to the Congress.

Is there any question? Yes.

Baiba Brandule (LAT): Mr. President, Dear Executive Committee Members, I think you explained the situation very well, but maybe we can hear the opinion from Mexican Federation.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Sorry. Can you repeat?

Baiba Brandule (LAT): Can we give the word and clear opinion from Mexican Federation? Because we heard only one side, I think.

Nathalie Rodriguez: We are not dealing with one side or two sides. As you can see, neither the FME, nor ADNEM are here. We are not giving the opinion of any side. None of the Federations are here.

Baiba Brandule (LAT): None of them?

Nathalie Rodriguez: None of them.

Baiba Brandule (LAT): Another question, which Federation now is affiliated with National Olympic Committee?

Nathalie Rodriguez: The FME.

Baiba Brandule (LAT): Okay, thank you very much.

Nathalie Rodriguez: So, the proposal is to deal with question one only, not question two.

We are not going to ask the Congress to affiliate ADNEM.

Question one is, do you agree to disaffiliate or expel the Federación Mexicana de Esgrima from the FIE? Question two is postponed once we will deal with the National Olympic Committee in order to get their recognition letter.

Is there...? Yes.

Participant (who did not provide her name and federation): My main concern is for the welfare of the athletes. If we are only dealing with Proposal 1, how would the FIE deal with the athletes and referees being able to participate in competition?

Nathalie Rodriguez: During the past two years and a half, since 2023, it was the FIE who ordered all the licences of the Mexican athletes and all the entries to competitions of fencers, coaches and referees. It ensured that Mexican fencers had a chance to participate in FIE competitions and to qualify for the Olympic Games. And by the way, one Mexican fencer qualified for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and participated. So, the FIE is going to continue. Yes?

Mohammed Mahadi (GHA): Good afternoon once again. We have had a situation like this in Ghana before at the Ghana Olympic Committee, which I would like to share.

We had a Federation that had an internal dispute, and then the Constitution says that we shouldn't interfere in the internal affair of the Federations. But then I made a proposal, I wasn't the Vice President of the Olympic Committee. And the proposal was, look, we cannot interfere, but then leaving the Federation within our family would also drag us with illegal consequences. They didn't listen to me, and eventually there were 13 court cases where our Olympic Committee of Ghana was even dragged in. Eventually, that Federation was pulled aside so that when you disaffiliate yourself from the Federation, you also free yourself from the legal consequences. And again, it also gives you the opportunity to allow the interim body which was set by the FIE to operate freely because they are now no longer interfering with the internal affairs of the association and would enable them to be able to have time to settle their internal dispute and reapply for reinstatement into the family. So this has happened before and to save two situations is – either we disaffiliate them for them to solve their internal problem and save the FIE from any dispute, because I read carefully the email circulated by our colleague, sorry, the Federation of the Mexican Federation, which is even questioning why the FIE is also applying for the licenses and staff of the athlete.

And secondly, they also wanted to know why their Ministry did not respond to their letters, which I believe that even the FIE doesn't know why the Ministry that they are in litigation with have not responded. So, I believe the safest thing to do is for us to stay away and disaffiliate and led them to reorganise themselves for next year. So that is what I propose, if it can be done.

Nathalie Rodriguez: I repeat that, since September 2023, the FIE has ordered the licenses and made the entries to FIE competitions of fencers, coaches and referees. Again, question two is not submitted to the Congress. Only question one yes. Yes, Mr. Drakenberg.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Before we heard from the Executive Committee on this matter, I was of the understanding that the country Olympic Committee, in this case, the Mexican Olympic Committee was a deciding factor to acknowledge Olympic sport Federations in a country so that the MOC was deciding body on this matter, but now I understood from what you were saying is they are only giving some counselling and it's actually FIE who decides whether fencing Federation in the country is allowed to be recognised. Is that correct?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Actually, the FIE must decide which Federation to affiliate. It is the prerogative of the FIE to decide which Federation to affiliate. But we are not only dealing with legal matters and statutory provisions. For more than two years now, the fencers from Mexico appealed to the FIE and to the IOC. This is the reason why we are here.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Yeah, I understand. But then I got my answer that the MOC in this case are only giving guidance. They have no authority to decide anything.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The FIE Statutes state that when two or several groups wish to represent fencing in their country, the Executive Committee shall consult the NOC concerned, which the Executive Committee did, and then it makes the final decision.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Okay.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The Executive Committee consulted the NOC. It proposed to the NOC to be part of an ad hoc committee which the NOC refused. In the end, as the Executive Committee could not unblock the situation, it decided to refer that matter to the Congress.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Because I saw a letter from the Mexican Olympic Committee just the other day saying that there is only one Mexican Fencing Federation that they acknowledge, and that is the current one.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes, the FME. Exactly.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Yeah. So, they recognise one organisation, but now we're going to decide to throw them out, decide if ...

Nathalie Rodriguez: It is up to the Congress to decide on the proposal of the Executive Committee to disaffiliate FME.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Exactly. Despite the fact that the MOC recognises them?

Nathalie Rodriguez: Yes.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Okay. Then I understand.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Due to reasons that were presented to the Congress, including by Mr. Perovic and Mr. Anthony.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): I have not studied the case for many weeks, but only for a few days. And of course, I've been discussing the matter with the Legal Counsel in Sweden, Mr. Palmström. I am afraid that this sets a dangerous precedent for other countries. Now you said that this is only about Mexico. Next time there might be some upset fencers in Denmark or Switzerland or Sweden, what do I know? Fencers get upset every now and then. And then we could have the same rally in other countries.

[Exclamations in the audience]

Nathalie Rodriguez: This situation did not happen yesterday. The FIE received many letters and requests. You can make your own opinion on what the fencers are saying by going on Facebook.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): Yes.

Nathalie Rodriguez: The FIE sent a panel to Mexico to verify the facts. It was an investigation led by Donald Anthony and Novak Perovic in November 2024. The FIE did not take for granted the documents or letters received, even the letters sent to the IOC. The panel discussed with the fencers, the NOC, the CONADE, during its investigation.

Otto Drakenberg (SWE): And I respect that. I'm not doubting and I haven't spent time on who is right and who is wrong between those. I'm only concerned about the structure that we follow, Statutes and stuff like that. But I've gotten my answers now. Thank you very much. I think we should move on. Thank you.

Nathalie Rodriguez: Thank you. For now, we only deal with question one: do you agree to disaffiliate or to expel, as stated by the Statutes, the Federación Mexicana de Esgrima - FME from the FIE?
Yes, Venezuela?

Francisco Rafael Marín Alvarez (VEN): Good afternoon, dear colleagues. I wish to ask if I understood correctly. The President of the federation is suspended for three Olympic Cycles? Did I understand correctly?

Donald Anthony Jr. (USA): The panel was not involved in the suspension that came from the Disciplinary Committee.

Francisco Rafael Marín Álvarez (VEN): Okay. Good. As stated earlier, we must concentrate on question one. For those who say that the process is incorrect, please allow me to remind that two years ago, a request to suspend two federations was presented to this Congress, the suspension of Russia and of Belarus. The Congress voted and made a decision. As explained by the Panel, there has been an investigation since 2023 and information was collected. I think we should fully rely on the Executive Committee and on the Panel that went to Mexico. They made an investigation and reached a conclusion. The Congress is the highest authority. It is up to the Congress to take a decision while guaranteeing the protection of athletes, trainers and referees of Mexico.

[Applause]

Nathalie Rodriguez: Only question one will be asked to the Congress. It is displayed on the screen and on the document you have received.

We are going to open the vote.

And as usual, one is for yes, two is for no and three is for abstention.

The vote is open.

The vote is closed.

The proposal has passed.

We are going to have a coffee break.

Coffee Break

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item on the agenda is item 17, *the Chevalier Feyerick Challenge*. Unfortunately, this year the FIE did not receive any candidatures. Therefore, we are unable to award this Challenge. But we hope that in two years' time, in 2027, we will receive candidatures.

18 2025 FAIR PLAY TROPHY

Nathalie Rodriguez: The next item, item 18, is the *Fair Play Trophy* for 2025. We invite the epee team of Argentina to receive, on behalf of the Fair Play Council and the Executive Committee of the FIE, the 2025 Fair Play Trophy.

[Applause]

This trophy will be presented by the Interim President of the FIE.

[Award is presented]

[Applause]



Nathalie Rodriguez: I am asking the President and the Secretary General of the Bahrain Fencing Federation to please come and receive the Medal of the FIE.

The FIE is awarding the President of the Bahrain Fencing Federation with the Gold Medal of the FIE. This medal will be presented by the Interim President of the FIE.

[Applause]

The FIE is also awarding the gold medal of the FIE to the Secretary General of the Bahrain Fencing Federation. This medal will be presented by the Interim President of the FIE.

[Applause]



19

WINNERS OF THE FIE OFFICIAL RANKINGS AND GRAND PRIX OF NATIONS 2025



Nathalie Rodriguez: We move to item 19, *Winners of the FIE official rankings and of the Nations Grand Prix 2025*. I invite all the members of the Executive Committee to the Tribune for these awards. We will start with the Individual Junior Individual ranking winners.

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JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS



Women's Épée – Anna Maksymenko (UKR)



Men's Épée – Mahmoud Elsayed (EGY)



Women's Foil – Matilde Molinari (ITA)



Men's Foil – Abdelrahman Tolba (EGY)



Women's Sabre – Gulistan Perdibaeva (UZB)



Men's Sabre – Vlad Covaliu (ROM)

Nathalie Rodriguez: We move to the winners of the senior rankings.

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS



Women's Épée, Sera Song (KOR)



Men's Épée, Gergely Siklosi (HUN)



Women's Foil – Lee Kiefer (USA)



Men's Foil – Chun Yin Ryan Choi (HKG)



Women's Sabre – Misaki Emura (JPN)



Men's Sabre – Jean-Philippe Patrice (FRA)

Before we call the teams, may I ask all the athletes to come to the Award wall for a group photograph, please?



Nathalie Rodriguez: Now the Junior Teams.

JUNIOR TEAM RANKING WINNERS



Women's Épée (UKR)



Men's Épée (EGY)

Nathalie Rodriguez: For Junior Women's foil, we have a very rare situation in which two Federations are ranked first.



Women's Foil – (USA & ITA)



Men's Foil (ITA)

JUNIOR TEAM RANKING WINNERS

Nathalie Rodriguez: For Junior Women's foil, we have a very rare situation in which two Federations are ranked first.



Women's Sabre (UZB)



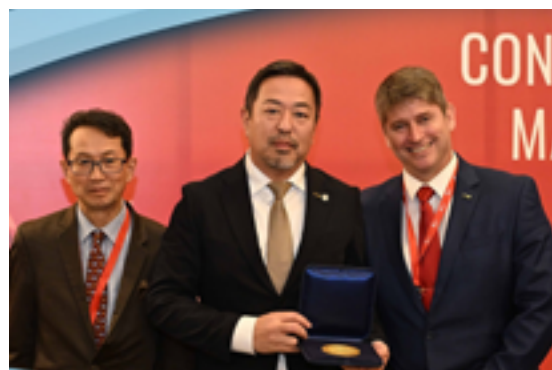
Men's Sabre (USA)

Nathalie Rodriguez: The Senior Teams winners.

SENIOR TEAM RANKING WINNERS



Women's Épée (ITA)



Men's Épée (JPN)

Nathalie Rodriguez: For Junior Women's foil, we have a very rare situation in which two Federations are ranked first.



Women's and Men's Foil (ITA)



Women's Sabre (FRA)



Men's Sabre (HUN)

19. WINNERS OF THE FIE OFFICIAL RANKINGS AND GRAND PRIX OF NATIONS 2025

Nathalie Rodriguez: The Cadets Grand Prix of Nations, the Juniors Grand Prix of Nations, and the Veterans Grand Prix of Nations are awarded to the USA. The Seniors Grand Prix of Nations is awarded to France.

NATIONS GRAND PRIX



**Cadets Grand Prix of the Nations
USA**

**Juniors Grand Prix of the Nations
USA**

**Veterans Grand Prix of the Nations
USA**

**Seniors Grand Prix of the Nations
FRANCE**



Nathalie Rodriguez: We have finished with this item.

20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS. FINAL REMARKS



Nathalie Rodriguez: Before we move to the closing of the Congress, please leave the headsets and the voting devices on your table. They will then be collected.

I would like to inform you that the dinner tonight will be outside the hotel. There will be buses leaving the hotel at 7:30, so please be in the lobby at that time.

As for me, I would like to thank the translators for the great job that they have done.

[Applause]

And I would like also to thank the personnel of the FIE for the excellent job they have done in preparation of this Congress.

[Applause]

Thank you very much.

[Applause]

And the floor is to the Interim President.

Abdelmoneim ElHusseiny: Dear Fencing family, thank you very much for attending. Thank you for your participation in this very important Congress. I wish you all the best. Again, I will repeat. We should work together. We are one team. And now allow me to officially declare the closing of the 2025 Congress. Thank you.

[Applause]

