

Enclosure 2

President's Report at the 68th FIL Congress on November 20, 2020 (video conference)

Ladies and Gentlemen, sports enthusiasts,

Never before have I had to give my president's report under such difficult circumstances. The COVID-19 pandemic poses great challenges for all of us, and it forces us to take actions unlike any we have known before. Unfortunately, this is, for example, the first time this FIL Congress has had to be held without in-person participation. It had to be held in an online format by video conference. Naturally, I regret this very much personally, because it is my final FIL Congress in more than 26 years as the president of FIL.

So, it is also my final president's report to the Congress, and this time I will offer brief recaps of the past season and of our tasks along with some key points that I think are noteworthy. All other information of interest is contained in the detailed reports by the members of our Executive Board and officeholders.

Regarding the past 2019/20 season, I can report that we were able to complete all of our competitions on artificial and natural track before the COVID pandemic broke out. Sport highlights on artificial track were the very good World Championships on the 2014 Olympic track in Sochi and the interesting 3rd Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Lausanne and St. Moritz. On natural track, we successfully held the European Championships in Moscow under difficult weather conditions. At the YOG in St. Moritz, we introduced the discipline of women's doubles with the newly developed standard doubles sled with great success.

To achieve gender equality in doubles, we will also be adding this discipline for women to the FIL events calendar (initially just for juniors, but then starting in the 2021/22 season in the general class too). Our technical department developed its own standard doubles sled with a lot of dedicated effort in cooperation with a professional ski manufacturing company. In making this future-oriented decision, the FIL is taking a completely new approach to equipment development – an approach which, in my opinion, is the right one.

A very important step, which was taken just a couple of weeks ago, was the very successful pre-homologation of the new track for the Olympic Winter Games in Beijing/Yanqing. Here, I would like to offer a big thank-you to all participants and to BOCOC for its very good organization.

A highly interesting, new, artificial-ice short track with completely new technology is currently being built in Bludenz. It is suitable for luge, bobsled, and skeleton, and it is therefore being supported by both international federations, FIL and IBSF. I am convinced that this facility represents a wonderful step forward in developing our sport internationally, and I am very grateful to the Austrian Luge Federation for its tireless commitment in implementing this project. I think it will take some time before people realize what an important pioneering effort this facility actually represents.

After the Adidas company ceased its FIL sponsorship, our technical department took the initiative of developing a new, improved luge race shoe together with shoe manufacturer Rass – emphasizing safety and durability. We have extended our contracts with the Rass company and with the Texspo/GTS company – our new partner for winter apparel for our FIL officials – and this gives us planning security.

We also experienced a significant change in our main sponsors for artificial track luge. After the planned withdrawal by Viessmann, our sponsor of many years, we negotiated a goodwill extension for the upcoming season. Since we were able to retain our other long-time sponsor, Eberspächer, the advertising spaces will alternate between the two main sponsor packages in cooperation with the RGS agency. For the season after next, however, we will need to find a new main sponsor to take Viessmann's place, which will definitely not be easy.

In this context, it is certainly of interest that FIL, under the leadership Thomas Schwab, our VP Marketing, has developed a new marketing concept in cooperation with the Infront agency.

In the area of TV rights, we will soon be finalizing another contract extension with our long-term partner Sport A (German television ARD / ZDF).

In natural track luge, we were able to sign a very interesting contract with a new main sponsor from South Tyrol thanks to the good mediation work by Karl Damian. We also continue to work towards our long-standing goal of having natural track luge added to the Olympic winter games program. Whether we can achieve this for the 2026 Winter Games in Milan/Cortina will depend on many factors, some of which we have little influence over. The FIL will need to address this topic intensively in the near future. In this context, we are anticipating more information from IOC Sports Director Kit McConnell (or)

One big task was, and still is, to continue the FIL strategic plan "SLIDE 2026" which also includes recommendations for structural reform. Under the leadership of General Secretary Einars Fogelis, a total of 11 working groups (!) worked together with a professional agency to draft the strategic plan which is being presented to the Congress today for a vote. SG Einars Fogelis will explain this in more detail in his report.

We continue to be very well integrated in the various international organizations, but we have a completely new situation here too. These days, our contacts are restricted to the virtual world, and so SG Einars Fogelis and I have already participated in many video conferences, e.g., with the IOC and the Olympic Committee for the Olympic games in Beijing. Just 2 weeks ago, we had an interesting online meeting with our Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (AIOWF), in which we elected IBSF President IVO Ferriani to be the new president of AIOWF. He replaces FIS President GianFranco Kasper who withdrew. Heike Größwang, IBSF, was selected as the new AIOWF Secretary General after

the departure of Sarah Lewis. Einars Fogelis, who is still our Secretary General, was named the new auditor for AIOWF and is also assuming my previous post here.

The theme of good governance demands a lot of our work and attention and we have made great efforts in this area, attaining a good mid-place standing among all international Olympic sports federations in a study commissioned by the IOC. Here, a big thank-you goes out to Christoph Schweiger who assumed primary responsibility in this area.

One great challenge we had, and still have, is to create an events calendar for the upcoming season that takes COVID-19 conditions into account. All of our managers made tremendous efforts here, and they had to react quickly to many changes, such as relocating the World Championships from Whistler to Königssee. An extensive hygiene concept was worked out for participation in our sport events. It was also validated by a leading German virologist. Here, I would like to thank our VP Thomas Schwab and our directors Maria Luise Rainer and Christian Eigentler who guided this work. We have also appointed our own FIL hygiene manager who will assist teams at all events. I am very grateful that our Executive Director Christoph Schweiger volunteered for this post. We at the FIL have done everything imaginable to enable our sporting events to be held despite COVID-19, whereby our top priority is to protect the health of all participants.

Unfortunately, the North American luge teams of USLA and Canada will not be able to participate in the first 4 world cup races in Europe, and we at the FIL regret this very much.

Preparations are already underway for the next Olympic Winter Games in 2022, and I am certain that we can expect ideally organized Winter Games there. But the 2026 Olympic Winter Games in Milan/Cortina are already on the horizon. In this endeavor, we expect that interesting decisions will have to be made for our sport, especially with regard to our sport facilities.

In closing, I would like to make a couple of remarks from my previous Congress reports (I actually still have them all in paper form). I would like to mention a few milestones from them in reminiscing on some interesting development phases:

Back in 1986/87, we introduced the “FIL Mentors” assistance programs (with financial support from the IOC), and we hired our own FIL coaches.

In 1987, we took the important step of introducing protective safety helmets (new design by Uvex company based on requirements by our FIL experts), despite initial resistance from some national federations. A great supporter and helper back then was Walter Plaikner, Chairman of the Technical Commission.

For 10 years, from 1993 to 2013, we also had added the sport of horn sled as a separate discipline in the natural track area.

In 1996, the FIL Congress resolved to hold the FIL Congress just once every 2 years. That lasted just one trial period, and starting in 1998 the Congresses were once again held annually.

In 2018, at the initiative of our former Secretary General Svein Romstad, we set up our own sport museum in the spaces of the new FIL offices.

From my remarks, you can certainly ascertain that we at the FIL have had many different tasks to handle – and will continue to have in the future.

From a sports perspective, we can look forward to some exciting times ahead of us, and I will of course be following all of the events with great interest.

(In my final remarks before the election, I will have a few more words of thanks for my “comrades-in-arms”).

Thank you for your attention.